

# THE WALNUT BRANCH HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL

## PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

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Note: This is a draft report which cannot be finalized until completion of the deep impact investigation which will occur during construction.

## **Abstract:**

The Center for Archaeological Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio conducted an intensive pedestrian survey along the Walnut Branch Creek in Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas during the first half of 2008. This investigation was associated with the Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail project that involves the City of Seguin and Jacob, Carter and Burgess, Inc. The project aims to revitalize a portion of Walnut Branch Creek for community betterment, tourism and the stimulation of commercial development. There are several historical structures in the environs of the creek, including the Sebastopol State Historical Structure. The archaeological investigations associated with this project were conducted under the Texas Antiquities Permit # 4734 with Jennifer L. Thompson serving as the Principal Investigator.

Thirty-seven shovel tests were excavated along the banks of Walnut Branch Creek. During these efforts three new sites were recorded. 41GU113 a multi-component site was located on a sloping terrace along the western bank of the creek. 41GU114, also a multi-component site, was located on the western descending bank of the creek. 41GU115 was located on the eastern descending bank of the creek and contained historic material. CAR does not recommend further work on the sites nor does CAR recommend that they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or formal designation as State Archaeological Landmarks.

All artifacts and records collected during the project are temporarily curated at the Center for Archaeological Research according to Texas Historical Commission guidelines.

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# Chapter 1: Introduction

The Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) was contracted by Carter and Burgess, Inc. to conduct an intensive pedestrian survey for the Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project in Seguin, Texas (Figure 1-1). The Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project is a combined effort between the City of Seguin and Jacob, Carter and Burgess, Inc. to revitalize a portion of Walnut Branch Creek for community betterment, tourism and the stimulation of commercial development. The Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail project consists of the development and implementation of a community-based amenities master plan for an approximately 2.5 mile stretch of Walnut Branch Creek. This report presents the results of the intensive pedestrian survey conducted for the project. The intensive pedestrian survey and shovel testing along the Walnut Branch Creek was completed in short intervals during the winter (February), spring (May) and early summer (June) of 2008.

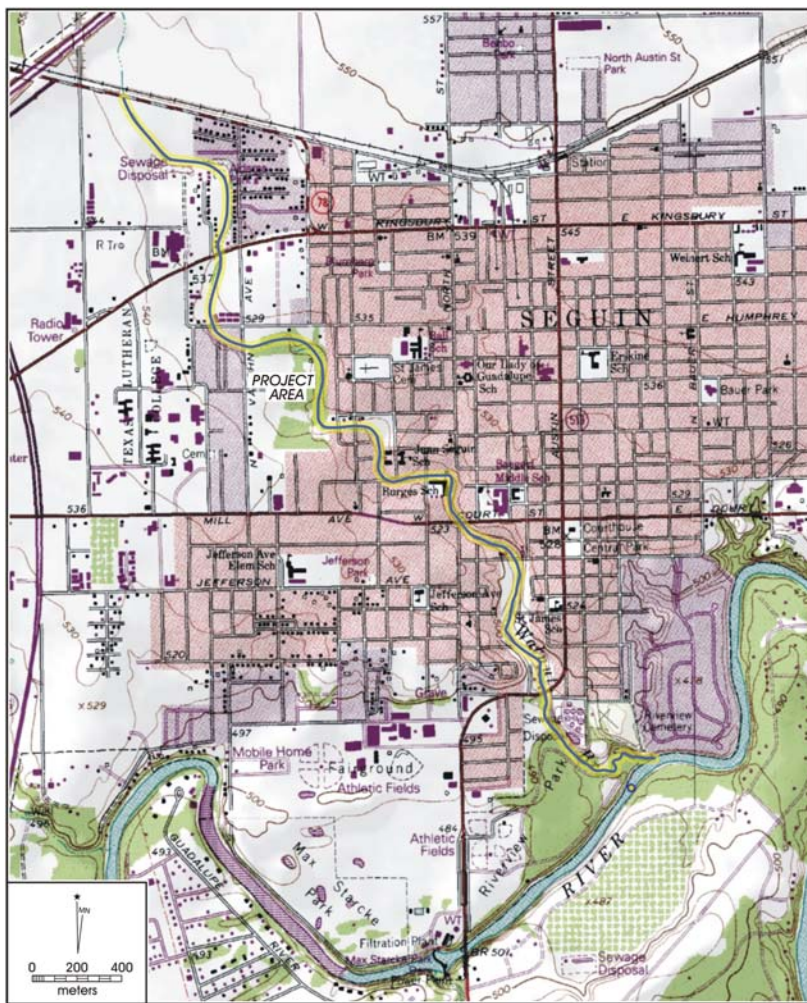


Figure 1-1. Map of the project area on the Seguin, Texas, (2997-392) USGS quadrangle map.



Archival and background research conducted prior to the survey indicated that historic and prehistoric resources are located in the environs of the project area (Ulrich and Figueroa 2007). During the archaeological survey 37 shovel tests were excavated. Three new sites were recorded but CAR does not recommend them eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or for formal designation as State Archaeological Landmarks.

The land impacted by the project is owned by the city of Sequin, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, as such the project has to comply with State Historic Preservation laws and specifically the mandates of the Antiquities Code of Texas and fall under the oversight of the Texas Historical Commission.

The restoration of the Walnut Creek Branch has the potential to impact the waterway and therefore falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). As such, the undertaking is subject to archaeological investigations as stated in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). One outcome of NHPA was the creation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation. Section 106 of NHPA stipulates that the Advisory Council must be given “a reasonable opportunity to comment” regarding the effect of any undertakings that could impact properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Archaeological investigations were conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit # 4734. Antonia L. Figueroa served as the Project Archaeologist and Jennifer L. Thompson served as the Principal Investigator. The investigations consisted of surface inspection and shallow sub-surface shovel testing. The project design was not completed at the time of the fieldwork and therefore areas identified for deep impacts were not yet determined.

This document is divided into six chapters. The remainder of this chapter presents the goals of the Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project, the project area and the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Chapter 2 discusses the project area environment as well as the culture chronology for the area. The historical properties that are located along the Walnut Branch Creek are presented in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 outlines the methods used in the field and laboratory. The results of the fieldwork are discussed in Chapter 5, followed by conclusions and recommendations in Chapter 6.

## **The Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project**

The Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project is a broad program aimed at addressing problems of flood control, erosion, and restoration of previous improvements, while providing an area of recreation for the community. The improvements will be directed by the principles of hydrology, nature, and society. One of the goals of the project will also be to improve the “structure and function of the riparian corridor, stream riffle-pool complexes, and water quality within Walnut Branch” (City of Seguin 2004). The United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE 1987) has conducted previous studies along the branch, and though they are not a participant in the current project, their studies were examined during the course of this project. The USACE has considered plans to reforest areas along the creek to provide improved habitats for local wildlife, remove invasive, non-native plants and replace them with native varieties to aid in erosion prevention and stabilization of the creek banks to prevent further bank failures. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department, with assistance from the National Parks Service (NPS), plans to create a Nature/Heritage Trail complete with picnic areas, to be used by pedestrians and bicyclists, and guided economic development that will allow for limited concessions and retail access. The City believes that these improvements will not only enhance the quality of life for its inhabitants, but also promote tourism to the area (City of Seguin 2004).

The majority of the upper reach of Walnut Branch Creek lacks habitat conducive to sustaining the local wildlife due to channelization for flood reduction. The removal of riparian plant life has allowed non-native flora to invade. Developments within the watershed have increased the water velocity within the creek channel. This has led to bank collapse resulting in the high silt load of the creek. Also, Walnut Branch contains a larger number of pools than desired due to historic dams and utility crossings. A decrease in the number and size of the pools would benefit the aquatic ecosystem.

Based on the review provided by the USACE, several measures are recommended to environmentally restore the area. First, an intensive reforestation process would occur in areas that had been cleared for agricultural purpose. Second, an in-channel wetland may be created by means of re-circulating water pumped from the lower reach or by using wastewater from the chicken processing plant, a wastewater treatment plant or a power plant. Third, the USACE suggested the creation of two off-channel wetlands to be located on parcels of land adjacent to the creek channel. Fourth, the riparian woodland would be restored in areas that were overrun by non-native plants. Fifth the historic dams and low water structures would be modified or removed

to decrease the number of pools and allow for the formation of riffles. The sixth measure would entail the re-stabilization of the creek bank, including the use of concrete or stone retaining walls or the re-sloping of the bank to a shallower grade. The last measure would involve the removal of the channel obstructions such as concrete debris and strategic placement of fallen trees and large boulders (City of Seguin 2004). In addition, the creation of the Hike and Bike Trail would require that the west bank of the creek be graded and stabilized for erosion control. A number of these measures would result in subsurface disturbances that could impact potential historic or prehistoric resources along the APE. It should be noted, however, that these recommendations have not been fully accepted for implementation, but are measures that have been recommended by the USACE (1987).

### **The Project Area and the Area of Potential Effect (APE)**

The project area is depicted on the *Seguin, Texas* 7.5 minute series USGS quadrangle map. The project area for the Walnut Branch Creek Hike and Bike Trail, and therefore the Area of Potential Effect (APE), is represented by a corridor along the Walnut Branch Creek, from its confluence with the Guadalupe River up to the creek's crossing at West New Braunfels Street. The Walnut Branch watershed is located within the Guadalupe River Basin. The entire length of the project area is approximately 2.5 miles (Figure 1-2). The estimated width of the ROW is 50 m. This makes the project area 50 acres.

The proposed hike and bike corridor was divided into northern and southern reaches. The northern reach was from West New Braunfels Street to Court Street. The southern reach spanned from Court Street south to the convergence of Walnut Branch and the Guadalupe River. The northern portion of the APE is owned by the City of Seguin, while the southern portion includes parcels that are privately owned as well as owned by the City of Seguin.

This division of the project area was made because while a clearly defined Right-of-Way (ROW) was available for the northern segment of the project area, the project easement along the southern section was just recently proposed by the design team to the City of Seguin. ROW data from Court Street to Nolte Street of southern section was provided to CAR after the completion of the survey. The ROW from Nolte Street to South Austin Street is still in the designing stage.

Prior to the survey of the southern section of the APE (Court Street to the Max Starcke Park) CAR attended a meeting with the client to discuss the proposed hike and bike route. Although, the ROW data was not available at that time, preliminary plans were discussed and it was agreed that that route surveyed by CAR would be used as the proposed route. The route surveyed by CAR stayed within 20 to 30 meters of the creek bank and outside property fences. No backhoe trenching or any other form of investigations of deeply buried deposits was conducted due in part to such areas not having been identified by the time of the fieldwork.

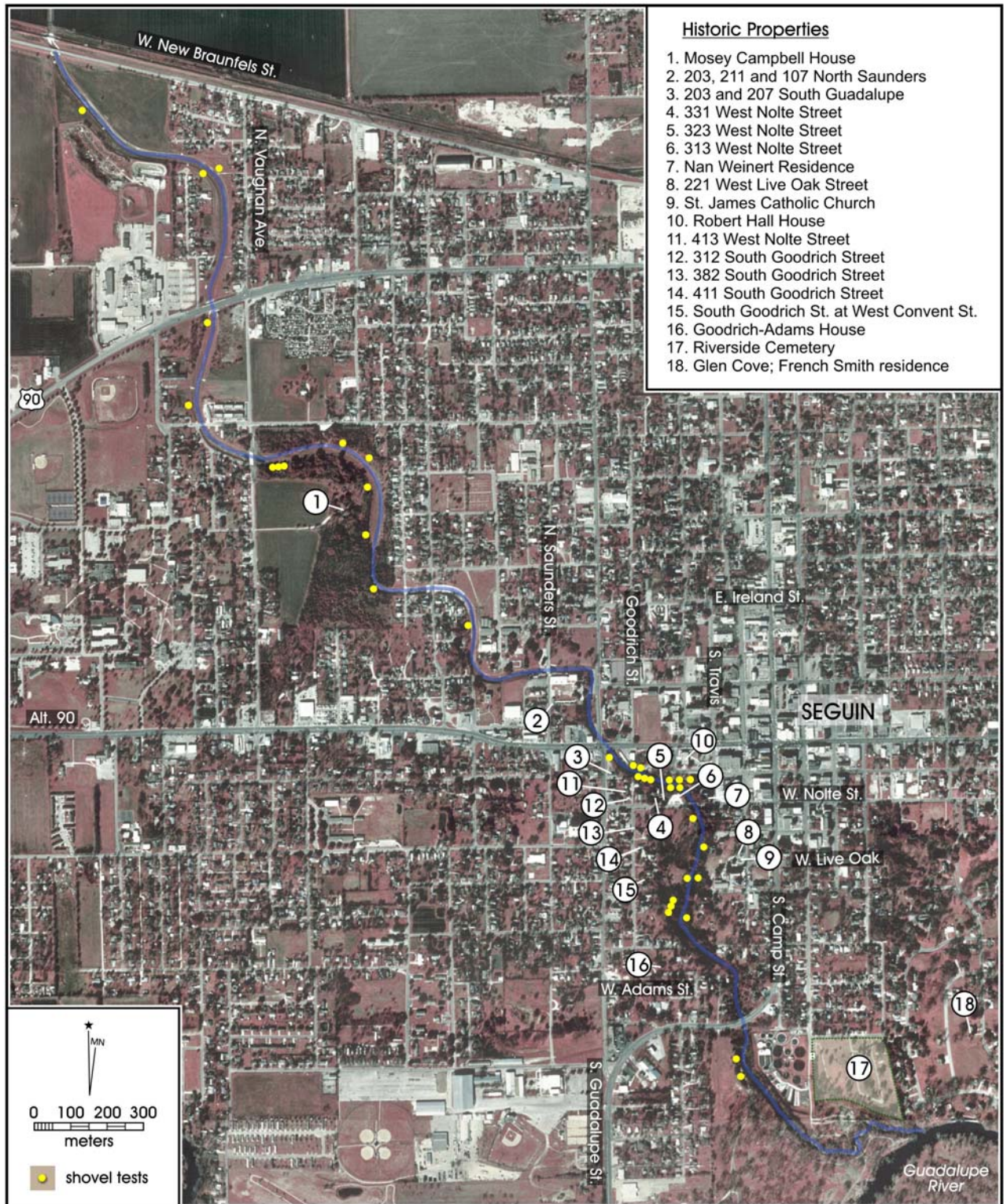


Figure 1-2. Map of the Walnut Branch APE depicting shovel tests and historic properties.

## Chapter 2: Environment and Culture Chronology

### Environment

Seguin, Texas experiences a generally mild climate. Summers tend to be fairly hot, with temperatures averaging approximately 90°F (32°C). Mild winters are typical in the area, with temperatures averaging 61°F (16°C). The annual average rainfall is approximately 33 inches (USACE 1987). Soils encountered along the APE are described as Tinn Clay (TW) that are frequently flooded (WSS 2008).

Guadalupe County is divided into two geographical regions; the Gulf Coastal Plain and the Blackland Prairie. The project area falls within the Gulf Coastal Plain geographical region (Hester et al. 1989). The tall grass prairie was once dominated by big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Bothriochloa saccharoides*), indiagrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), tall dropseed (*Sporobolus asper*), and Silveus dropseed (*Sporobolus sileanus*). Due to overgrazing, these species have been overrun by sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), hairy grama (*Bouteloua hirsute*), sedge (*Carex spp.*), Texas wintergrass (*Stipa leucotricha*), and buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*). Hardwoods common along the drainages located within this region include oak (*Quercus spp.*), elm (*Ulmus spp.*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), and pecan (*Carya illinoensis*). Along the abandoned croplands and on rangelands, common species of invading trees include mesquite (*Prosopis glanulosa*), huisache (*Acacia smallii*), oak, and elm.

Within the specific project area, predominant trees include walnut (*Juglans spp.*), pecan, sycamore (*Platanus spp.*), oak, elm, Ashe juniper (*Juniper ashei*), cottonwood, and hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*). The ecosystem of the Walnut Branch Creek is diverse, possibly containing over 189 species of trees and shrubs, 42 woody vines, 75 grasses, and 802 herbaceous plants (Fentress 1986).

The fauna supported by Walnut Branch include a diverse collection of insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Previous investigations have revealed signs of armadillos (*Dasyus novemcinctus*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger*), and a variety of small rodents. Reptiles that were noted in the area include cricket frogs (*Acris crepitans*), snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentine*), soft shelled turtles (*Apalone spp.*) and red eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta*) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003). The common fish species found in Walnut Branch include bass (*Micropterus spp.*), bullhead (*Ictalurus spp.*), Rio Grande cichlid (*Cichlasoma cyanoguttata*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*) and various minnows. The Rio

Grande cichlids are an introduced species that is relatively abundant in the creek, though the conditions are not favorable (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003).

## **Culture Chronology**

Guadalupe County has few recorded archaeological sites in comparison to other counties in Texas. A total of 99 prehistoric and historic sites, 74 historical markers, and 12 National Register Properties have been recorded in the county. Outlined in this chapter is the culture chronology for south-central Texas. According to the Southwestern Division, USACE Guadalupe County is part of the South Texas Coastal Plain and Central Texas Plateau-Prairies archaeological region (Hester et al. 1989).

### **Paleoindian Period**

The Paleoindian period marks the first signs of human populations in the New World. It coincides with the end of the Pleistocene and spans roughly from 11,500 - 8800 BP (Collins 1995 and 2004). Current research has confirmed absolute dates at three sites in Texas, the earliest is from the Aubrey site in Denton County, with radiocarbon assays of  $11,542 \pm 111$  BP and  $11,590 \pm 93$  BP (Bousman et al. 2004: 48). Environmental data suggest that climate during the Late Pleistocene was wetter and cooler than it is today (Mauldin and Nickels 2001; Toomey et al. 1993), though it became gradually drier and warmer into the Early Holocene (Bousman 1998).

Early perceptions of Paleoindian populations generally viewed hunter-gatherers ranging over wide areas in pursuit of now extinct megafauna. This view of Paleoindian peoples, much like the dating of this period, is now being reassessed. While certainly exploiting Late Pleistocene megafauna, these peoples are perhaps better characterized as generalized hunter-gatherers whose diet included small game and plants. The Lewisville site (Winkler 1982) and the Aubrey site (Ferring 2001) possess faunal assemblages with a wide range of taxa that not only include large mammals but small to medium ones as well. Little information seems to be available on the consumption of plant resources during this cultural period, though according to Bousman et al. (2004), the late paleoindian component at the Wilson-Leonard site reflects diverse exploitation of riparian, forest and grassland species. Skeletal analysis of Paleoindian remains indicates that the diets of the Paleoindian and later Archaic hunter-gatherers may not have differed so greatly (Bousman et al 2004; after Powell and Steele 1994).

Clovis and Folsom fluted projectile points used for hunting megafauna characterize early Paleoindian material culture. Projectile points, such as Plainview, Dalton, Angostura, Golondrina,

Meserve, and Scottsbluff, are also diagnostic of the late Paleoindian. Clovis material are associated with camp, lithic procurement, kill, cache, ritual and burial sites (Collins 1995). Meltzer and Bever (1995) have documented 406 Clovis sites in Texas. One of the earliest documented a Paleoindian site, 41RB1, was a small playa site near Miami in Roberts County, Texas (Bousman et al. 2004:15). According to radiocarbon assays the maximum age for the Miami site is  $11,415 \pm 125$  BP (Bousman et al. 2004: 47).

### **Archaic Period**

The Archaic period spans from ca. 8800 B.P. to 6000 BP. Early Archaic, Middle Archaic and Late Archaic sub-periods, divide this culture period. In addition, Johnson and Goode (1994) distinguish between a Late Archaic I and Late Archaic II. During the Archaic, there is a shift in subsistence with a greater emphasis on the exploitation of specific local environments. Differences between sub-periods are marked by changes in material culture and site characteristics. Hunting strategies focus mainly on medium to small game along with continued foraging for plant resources.

#### **Early Archaic**

According to Collins (1995), the Early Archaic spans from 8800 to 6000 BP. Early Archaic projectile point styles include Angostura, Early Split Stem, Martindale and Uvalde (Collins 1995). The climate during the Early Archaic is described as drier than the Paleoindian period with a return of grasslands (Bousman 1998). Megafauna of the Paleoindian period could not subsist in the new ecosystem and gradually died out. During the Early Archaic the exploitation of medium to small fauna intensified.

Data recovered from the Wilson-Leonard site reveals the continuation of projectile point forms and the use of small to medium size hearths that were also present during the Paleoindian period. The appearance of earth ovens implies another shift in subsistence patterns. Collins et al. (1998) suggest that the earth ovens at Wilson-Leonard were used to cook wild hyacinth along with aquatic and terrestrial resources. Information from Early Archaic human remains from Kerr County (Bement 1991) indicates a diet low in carbohydrates in relation to Early Archaic populations in the Lower Pecos area.

#### **Middle Archaic**

Date ranges for the Middle Archaic span from 6000 to 4000 BP Collins (1995) and Weir (1976) suggest that there was a population increase during this sub-period. Climate was gradually drying



as the onset of the Altithermal drought began. Demographic and cultural change likely occurred in response to the hotter and drier conditions. Middle Archaic projectile point styles include Bell, Andice, Calf Creek, Taylor, Nolan, and Travis. Johnson and Goode (1994) postulate that culture transmission from the Lower Pecos region explains the appearance of new point styles in the sub-period.

Middle Archaic subsistence focused on exploitation of resources clustered in riverine environments (Black 1989a). The accumulation of burned rock middens during the Middle Archaic reflects this focus on the exploitation of plant resources (Black 1989a; Johnson and Goode 1994). Current research has reassessed when the use of burned rock middens intensified. Data from Camp Bowie suggests that intensification occurred in the latter Late Prehistoric period (Mauldin et al. 2003). Little is known about burial practices during this culture sub-period, though a sinkhole in Uvalde (41UV4) contained 25-50 individuals (Johnson and Goode 1994:28).

### **Late Archaic**

The Late Archaic is the final sub-period of the Archaic and spans from 4000-1200 B.P. (Collins 2004). The Late Archaic is marked by the introduction of Bulverde, Pedernales, Kinney, Lange, Marshall, Williams, Marcos, Montell, Castroville, Ensor, Frio, Fairland and Darl projectile points. During the early part of the Late Archaic, there were fluctuations in temperature and rainfall. Populations are believed to have increased through this sub-period. This change in climate marks Johnson and Goode's Late Archaic II (1994).

Some researchers state that the use of burned rock middens ceased at this time, current research is challenging this notion (Black and Creel 1997; Mauldin et al. 2003). Skeletal evidence from Late Archaic cemeteries in Central and South Texas suggests the region saw increasing populations that may have prompted the establishment of territorial boundaries resulting in boundary disputes (Nickels et al. 1998). Human remains dating to this sub-period have been found near the Edward's Plateau. Dental evidence shows a high rate of enamel hypoplasia indicating nutritional stress at this time (Johnson and Goode 1994).

### **Late Prehistoric Period**

This period begins ca. 1200 BP (Collins 1995, 2004) and lasts until the Protohistoric Period (ca. 1250 AD). The term Late Prehistoric is commonly used to designate the period following the Late Archaic in Central and South Texas. A series of distinctive traits marks the shift from the Archaic to the Late Prehistoric period, including the technological shift to the bow and arrow and the introduction of pottery. The period includes two Phases: The Austin Phase and the Toyah Phase.

At the beginning of this period, environmental conditions were warm and dry. More mesic conditions appear to accelerate after 1000 BP (Mauldin and Nickels 2001). Subsistence practices remain relatively unchanged, especially during the Austin Phase. Projectile point styles associated with the Austin Phase include Edwards and Scallorn types while in the Toyah Phase the Perdiz projectile point is prevalent (Collins 1995).

Most researchers agree the (Austin Phase) was a time of population decrease (Black 1989:32). Radiocarbon data has revealed that a number of burned rock middens in Central Texas were used long after the Archaic and throughout the Late Prehistoric. Moreover, the “heyday of middenery began after AD 1 and peaked during the Late Prehistoric” (Black and Creel 1997:273). Radiocarbon dates from Camp Bowie middens concur with arguments set forth by Black and Creel (1997) that burned rock middens are primarily a Late Prehistoric phenomena (Mauldin et al. 2003).

Beginning rather abruptly at about 650 BP, a shift in technology occurred. This shift is characterized by the introduction of blade technology, the first ceramics in Central Texas (bone-tempered plainwares), the appearance of Perdiz arrow points, and alternately beveled bifaces (Black 1989:32; Huebner 1991:346). Prewitt (1981) suggests that this technology encroached from north-central Texas. Patterson (1988), however, notes that Perdiz points were first seen in southeast Texas by about 1350 BP, and spread to the west some 600–700 years later.

Ricklis (1995) contends that ceramics became a part of the archaeological record in Central Texas beginning about AD 1250/1300. Early ceramics in Central Texas are associated with Toyah Phase components and referred to as Leon Plain. The earliest dates for Leon Plain are relative and based on associations with “Toyah” assemblages. The Leon Plain ceramic type includes undecorated, bone-tempered bowls, jars, and ollas with oxidized, burnished or floated exterior surfaces (Ricklis 1995). Although there is a typical set of attributes associated with Leon Plain, there is notable variation within the type (Black 1986; Johnson 1994; Kalter et al. 2005). This variation is typically attributed to differences in manufacturing methods and cultural affiliation. Stable carbon and nitrogen isotope data suggests that vessels were utilized in the processing of bison bone grease/fat, mesquite bean/bison bone grease and deer/bison bone grease (Quigg et al. 1993).

Huebner (1991) suggests that the sudden return of bison to South and Central Texas during the Late Prehistoric resulted from a xeric climate in the plains north of Texas and increased grass production in the Cross-Timbers and Post Oak Savannah in north-central Texas. Together these

formed a “bison corridor” into the South Texas Plain along the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau (Huebner 1991:354–355). Settlement shifts into rock shelters such as Scorpion Cave in Medina County (Highley et al. 1978) and Classen Rockshelter in northern Bexar County (Fox and Fox 1967) have been noted during this time. Cemeteries from this period often reveal evidence of conflict (Black 1989:32).

### **Protohistoric Period**

The transitional period between the Late Prehistoric and Historic period is usually deemed as the Protohistoric period. This period is not well documented and is marked by the end of the Toyah Phase, roughly AD 1250/1300 to 1600/1650 (Hester 1995), and the beginning of Spanish explorations of the area (ca. 1528). The period is concluded with the establishment of a strong Spanish presence in the region in the late 1600s and early 1700s. Sporadic encounters between the indigenous populations and Europeans occurred at this time. Identifying this period archaeologically is problematic in that a clear set of material culture associated with this period is lacking. Protohistoric sites may have the presence of Late Prehistoric and Historic artifacts.

### **Historic Period**

The first accounts of European contact in Texas occur with the exploits of Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca during the late 1520s to mid 1530s. In 1541, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado crossed the Panhandle with his army and encountered the Plains Indians of Texas. The next year, Luis de Moscoso Alvarado entered Texas near present day Houston County. He and his troops managed to make their way back to Mexico by way of the Mississippi River and the Texas Gulf Coast.

Three Spanish ships wrecked off the coast of Padre Island in 1554. The cargo of the ships sparked salvage attempts that year, but the fact that the majority of the ships crews were killed by the local natives did not encourage settling activities at that time (Chipman 2007). Twelve years later, a group of Englishmen were stranded near Tampico, Mexico. Three of the men walked along the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic Coast to get to Nova Scotia. These men’s experience with the natives in Texas was similar to that of Cabeza de Vaca.

The development of the mining communities in Zacatecas and Chihuahua furthered sporadic entrance into Texas. Nonetheless, the Texas territory remained relatively unknown until Spain became aware of the encroaching French in the eastern portion of Texas. LaSalle’s accidental landing in Matagorda Bay in 1685 launched an intense manhunt on Spain’s part. Within the next few years, Spain authorized the establishment of a mission in East Texas. The mission was abandoned by 1693, but it had familiarized the Spaniards with Texas and its inhabitants

(Chipman 2007). By 1718, the founding of missions in Texas was in full swing. The remainder of the Eighteenth Century is commonly referred to as the “Mission Period”, and reflects the prominence of the mission system in the settling of Texas.

Though the occupation of Texas was dominated by the presidio and mission institutions, some communities of Spanish colonists popped up during the Mission Period. Families of the presidial soldiers sometimes settled near the presidio, creating communities on the frontier. In 1731, a group of Canary Islanders settled in San Antonio, creating one of the earliest Spanish settlements in Texas. By 1804, the Hispanic population of Texas was less than 5000. As the struggle to gain independence from Spain increased in Mexico, so did the influx of Americans seeking their fortunes. By the time Texas had declared independence from Mexico, the Americans in Texas outnumbered the Hispanic population (Chipman 2007).

### **The History of Seguin**

Sir Humphrey Branch was awarded a land grant from the Mexican Government in May of 1830. Branch received the grant under Empresario Green DeWitt and land commissioner José Antonio Navarro in November of 1831 (GLOSA v. 13, 589). The land grant consisted of a parcel of land along the northeast bank of the Guadalupe River, thirty-eight miles north of Gonzales. Branch and his family constructed a cabin in 1833 within the area presently know as Seguin (Gesick 2007). The next year, Branch decided to withdraw his colony and retreat to Gonzales due to the pressures of Indian attacks, difficulties of living on the frontier, and the escalating political situation in the area. He sold half of his property to Joseph S. Martin and the other half to Thomas R. Miller (GCDR: GT 384, 74).

In 1838, Joseph Martin entered into an agreement to establish a town at the present site of Seguin. James Campbell, Arthur Swift, and Matthew Caldwell became partners with Martin on this venture. On August 12, 1838, the four partners officially announced their plans, presented the plans for the town, and sold 44 shares of the new town. Caldwell, Campbell, and Swift each received one share, though Martin retained eleven. Thirty shares were sold to prospective townfolk (Ivey et al. 1977).

The town was first named Walnut Springs, after the springs that fed Walnut Branch Creek. The town’s people had met on September 22, 1938 to name the town, and to distribute the land parcels by way of drawing lots (Ivey et al. 1977). The town was precisely mapped out with lots for the city center, farming and timber; laying down rules for the dwelling dimensions and

timelines for occupying the lots. Walnut Branch was not taken into consideration when the town lots were created, resulting in the town having no ownership rights to the water source and several town lots being divided by the creek. The plan led to many problems concerning the care and use of the creek and property titles. During the initial division, town lots that bordered Walnut Branch were deeded to John W. Nichols, James Campbell, Joseph Martin, Abram Roberts and James A. Swift (GCDR A:111-159). Timber lots that framed the creek were awarded to Cyrus Crosby, Joseph Martin, James Campbell, Abram Roberts, John W. Nichols, and M. L. Beebee (GCDR A: 111-159).

Early the next year, it became known that another location in Texas already had adopted the name “Walnut Springs” which would prevent the towns people from getting a post office located at the current site of Seguin. Another meeting was held to determine the new name for the town site. On February 28, 1839, the shareholders met to decide between “Tuscumbia” and “Seguin” as the new town name. Seguin won out, with eighteen votes to seven (GCDR: Ams 65). The name Seguin was chosen to honor Col. Juan N. Seguin who had been in the Texas Calvary at San Jacinto (Kubala nd).

Local belief is that a group of Texas Rangers, commanded by Captain Jack Hays, built an adobe structure on the banks of the creek during the early years of Seguin. Other accounts indicate that they had a horse shed located at the building known as the “Captain Hall House” (Ivey et al. 1977). A local resident claims that his ancestor, Sara Day, lived in the house referred to by the town’s people as the “Ranger Station” (McDonald 2005). No documents exist that specifically indicate the location of a Ranger Station, but much of the information concerning the Texas Rangers was poorly recorded immediately following the Texas Revolution (Ivey et al. 1977).

The shareholders began building the town with houses and public buildings and received a post office in 1840 (Fitzsimon 1938). By the time Texas was annexed to the United States, the town had grown quite a bit, though many of the inhabitants of Seguin were involved in the struggles for annexation, and later the Mexican-American War. Just a few days before Guadalupe County was created in 1846, Seguin was declared the county seat (Kubala nd). The first school was created in 1849 and referred to as the “Male School”. It was one of the largest buildings constructed of Park’s concrete (limecrete) during this time. The building is still used today as part of St. Joseph’s School (Weinert 1938). In 1850, it was estimated that approximately 700 people lived in Seguin, and the town contained a gristmill, a sawmill, and two cotton gins (Fitzsimon 1938).

Seguin was incorporated with the nearby town, Guadalupe City, in 1853. John R. King was the first mayor at the time of incorporation (Kubala nd). During the same year, Seguin's first newspaper was started and called the Seguin Mercury.

The Civil War caused some tension within the town. The majority of the population was in supporter of the Confederacy due to the desire to retain the institution of slavery. The inhabitants of Seguin who opposed seceding from the US were subjected to the animosity of the supporters. Many of the Union supporters left Seguin and did not return until sympathizers were not as ostracized (Weinert 1938). Many male inhabitants of Seguin, who were supporters of the Confederacy, joined the war effort, some never to return.

Seguin remained a small town, acting as a frontier outpost for the majority of the Nineteenth Century. In 1876, the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway passed through Seguin. A train depot was established 2/3 of a mile from the center of town. The inhabitants of Seguin were not happy with the arrangement, preferring the depot to be situated in the center of town. To cope, rails were laid from the mills to transport material back and forth from the depot with greater ease (Weinert 1938). Soon after the arrival of the railroad, the population of the town began to boom once again. An excerpt from the February 20, 1890 edition of the *Seguin Enterprise* (1890) spoke of the growth of the town, and even commented on the desire for a park along Walnut Creek:

There is nothing in the world that adds more to the attractions of a town than a resort of some kind, where strangers can go and while away the hours. Such a place is being made of the park, and it has been suggested that the beautiful and romantic spot on Walnut branch, in the yard of the place bought of Mrs. Henderson by P. S. Sowell, be bought for the same purpose. This spot is just north of the residence of Judge Jas. Greenwood, and is indeed a most picturesque spot, and is located within 200 yards of the court house square. Seguin is building and coming to the front. The value of every citizen's property is fast increasing. Therefore they should feel no hesitancy in running their hands into their pockets and donating liberally toward everything that is to the advancement and interest of the town.

By 1912, the Texas Lutheran College relocated from Brenham to the Fritz Farm near Seguin. The College reached University status in 1996 (Gesick 2007).

Sequin was typically dependant on an agricultural economy. During the 1920s oil was discovered approximately fifteen miles from town, changing the economy of the town, though it was still primarily agricultural. The women of the Shakespeare Club became active in many civic concerns, one of which was the beautification of Walnut Branch. By 1933, the creek had become riddled with trash that locals had been dumping. The women pressured Sequin businessmen and Mayor Max Starcke to address the need to revitalize the creek. When funds became available from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), Chamber of Commerce President H.H. Starcke allotted some to cleaning debris and garbage from Walnut Creek. It was later decided to extend the cleaning process into a program to develop a portion of Walnut Branch into a park. Chamber members were able to secure easements along the creek from Nolte Street (at that time Market Street) to Sebastopol ranging from six feet to sixty feet. R.H. H. Hugman's services were secured as the environmental architect to design and direct the construction of the Walnut Branch Park (Burns 2003).

At the present time, Sequin's economic revitalization efforts are focused on tourism with the rejuvenation of the downtown area through projects like the Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail.

## Chapter 3: Historic Resources in the Project Area

This chapter discusses the previously recorded sites within close proximity to the APE as well as the historical properties that are located along Walnut Branch Creek. Background information on the historical structures was obtained from the Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (THC 2008).

### Previously Recorded Sites

Only three previously recorded/documented archaeological sites are found within the environs of Walnut Branch. Two of these are historic buildings, and one is a prehistoric lithic scatter.

Site 41GU7 is a prehistoric lithic scatter found on the premises of the Kubala Ranch on the south side of Seguin (THC 2008). The lithic debitage and burned rock appeared to have washed down from an adjacent hill. It is possible that the site was a temporary camp due to the lack of a sufficient water supply and the ephemeral nature of the scatter. Daniel Prikryl and Steven Kotter recorded the site in 1975 (THC 2008).

Site 41GU9 is known as the Sebastopol State Historical Site (Figure 3-1). The site is also a State Archaeological Landmark (THC 2008). Joshua Young possibly constructed the house during the 1850s for his sister, Catherine LeGette. LeGette lived in the house from the late 1850s to 1874, at which time she sold the house to her son-in-law, Joseph Polley. Two days after the house was sold to Polley, he sold it to Joseph Zorn, Jr. for the exact amount that Polley paid for it (Sauer et al. 1998). For a short time during the 1950s, the house was rented to the Ibarra family. The house remained in the Zorn family until the State of Texas purchased the building in 1978 (Sauer et al. 1998).



Figure 3-1. Photograph of the Sebastopol House ca. 1935 (HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI,1-1).



The style of construction of the Sebastopol House offers a glimpse of the use of limecrete in the area. Limecrete is a formula of concrete in which local lime is used as the bonding agent when combined with water and gravel. Dr. John Park perfected the type of limecrete that was used on the Sebastopol house. Seguin had a number of limecrete structures constructed during the mid-1800s, but Sebastopol House is one of the largest examples still standing.

The property that Sebastopol House is situated on is south of Walnut Branch creek. Accounts from some of the grandchildren that often visited the house speak of Walnut Branch as a play area, and that there was a bathhouse and fenced garden located between the house and Walnut Branch (Sauer et al. 1998). Calvert Zorn helped to perpetuate a myth that a tunnel led from the creek to the house that could be used in time of Indian attacks (Sauer et al. 1998).

After the State of Texas purchased the property, the house site underwent several seasons of archaeological testing (Sauer et al. 1998). The results of the testing aided in the preservation of the house, as well as providing insight into the social and economic background of the Zorn family. The interior decoration of the house mimics the heyday of Nettie and Joseph Zorn.

The third site recorded within Seguin is 41GU16. This is a historic structure located on the corner of East Live Oak Street and South River Street. The site is recorded as the oldest house constructed in Seguin. The building was used by 1765 as a stagecoach stop.

## **Historical Structures of Seguin**

While only three previously documented historic properties are known in the vicinity of the APE, many historic homes can be found in Seguin that are not listed as historic archaeological sites on the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. Several of these appear on the National Register of Historic Places. In this section, the homesites that are in the vicinity of the project area are briefly discussed. More in-depth information concerning the structures is presented in the historic standing structures survey report produced by Main Street Architects, Inc. Figure 1-2 in Chapter 1 depicts the location of the historical structures along the APE.

### **Mosey Campbell**

The Mosey Campbell residence is located at 607 North Vaughn (refer to Figure 1-2-1). The structure was built with slave labor in 1851 under the supervision of Mosey Campbell, a Kentucky planter. The building was constructed of native limestone, with stuccoed exterior and plastered interior. The building has been substantially altered (Figure 3-2), though the property

remained in the Campbell family for many years. In 1937, the current owner was Mrs. Henry Campbell Wallace. In 1937, she spoke of a walnut wardrobe that had been made by one of the Campbell slaves she still had in her possession. The property lies west of Walnut Branch (THC 2008).



Figure 3-2. *Photograph of the Mose Campbell House (HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI,4-1).*

### **203, 211, 107 North Saunders Street**

These three Victorian homes are located within the vicinity of the Sebastopol house (see Figures 1-2-2, 3-3, 3-4, and 3-5). The houses were constructed between 1890 and 1915. Each structure has been dramatically altered on the exterior. The building found at 107 North Saunders (see Figure 3-5) was moved from another location in Sequin. All three structures are located near the west bank of Walnut Creek (THC 2008).



Figure 3-3. *Photograph of 211 North Saunders.*



Figure 3-4. *Photograph of 203 North Saunders.*



Figure 3-5. *Photograph of 107 North Saunders.*

### **Ranger Station**

The structure referred to as the Ranger Station once stood on property adjacent to Walnut Branch. It was located on the southeast corner of Court and Guadalupe Streets (Ivey et al. 1977:2). The structure was constructed of adobe reinforced with stone, possibly ca. 1825 (Figure 3-6), and the outline of the foundation can still be seen today. Some confusion lies in the actual original ownership of the building. Locals believe that the structure was built by James Milford Day, though land grants indicate that the Day property was located to the north of this plot of land. The original land grant indicates that the property was owned by M.P. Woodhouse and the adobe structure was built by him ca. 1840.



Figure 3-6. *Photograph of the front of the Ranger Station.*

The Day structure apparently was located not too far away, which could be the cause of some confusion (Ivey et al. 1977). In 2003, Dorothy Jarmon reported that her family lived at the Ranger Station “for 12-25 years” (Jarmon 2003). Her grandfather, Richard Lee, was supposedly a descendant of Robert E. Lee “through the slaves” (Jarmon 2003). The Ranger Station was razed during the later part of the twentieth century.

### **203 and 207 South Guadalupe**

The residence located at 203 and 207 South Guadalupe appears to have been constructed ca. 1900-1910 (see Figure 1-2-3 and Figure 3-7). The location of the property abuts the west bank of Walnut Branch Creek. The building was said to be in “good” condition as of 1979 when it was used as both a residence and barber shop (THC 2008).



Figure 3-7. Photograph of 203 South Guadalupe.

### **331 West Nolte Street**

The house located at 331 West Nolte Street was constructed in the Classical Revival style in 1906 (see Figure 1-2-4). The structure has three chimneys, and is one and one-half story. It was described in 1977 as in “good” condition. The back of the house it adjacent to the west bank of Walnut Branch (THC 2008).

### **323 West Nolte Street**

The Victorian home located at 323 West Nolte Street was also constructed ca. 1885 (see Figure 1-2-5). The house is also located adjacent to the west bank of Walnut Branch. The building was

recorded as in “fair” condition in 1977 (THC 2008). Recent photographs of the structure reveal that it underwent renovations (Figure 3-8).



Figure 3-8. Photograph of 323 West Nolte Street.

### **313 West Nolte Street**

The one-story Victorian home located at 313 West Nolte Street appears to have been constructed ca. 1885 (see Figure 1-2-6). The structure has later additions and was recorded in “fair” condition in 1977. The house itself is located extremely close to the west bank of Walnut Branch (THC 2008). The location can potentially produce historic related cultural material that would erode from the property.

### **Nan Weinert Residence**

The Nan Weinert Residence is located at 215 West Nolte Street (see Figure 1-2-7). The Classical Revival style home was constructed ca. 1918, but was remodeled in 1959. There were no major exterior changes done during the remodeling (Figure 3-9). The two-story home is located along the east bank of Walnut Branch. The house at one time belonged to Nan Weinert, but was owned by R. J. Burgess, Jr. by 1979 (THC 2008).



Figure 3-9. *Photograph of the Nan Weinert Residence.*

### **221 West Live Oak Street**

The rear wing of the residence at 221 West Live Oak Street was the original building constructed during the 1870s (see Figure 1-2-8). The original portion was constructed of limecrete. During the 1890s, modifications to the building added Victorian style architectural elements including gabled roofs and a bay window. The property on which the house is situated is adjacent to the east bank of Walnut Branch (THC 2008).

### **St. James Catholic Church and Offices**

The church is a red clay brick structure, Gothic Revival, of cathedral plan located on South Camp street (see Figure 1-2-9 and Figure 3-10). The church was constructed ca. 1873. The only alterations to this structure are the new towers at the front corners added around 1940. The roof is gabled and juxtaposed by a central tower. Brick detailing is common on the structure, most clearly seen in the alternating red and yellow bricks surrounding the Gothic arched windows as well as the dentil cornices.

The St. James Church offices are located at 510 South Camp Street. One of the structures was built ca. 1900, with its Victorian style architecture. The St. James property also includes the first schoolhouse built in Sequin (Figure 3-11). The schoolhouse was constructed of Park's Concrete

in 1850, and was recognized in 1962 as the “oldest continuously used school building in Texas” (Gesick 2007). Robert Hugman designed a pool located just behind the St. James School, in Walnut Branch Creek (Figure 3-12).



Figure 3-10. *Photograph of St. James Catholic Church.*





Figure 3-11. *Photograph of the schoolhouse at St. James Church.*



Figure 3-12. *Photograph of the pool within the vicinity of St. James Church ca. 1960.*

### **Robert Hall House**

The Robert Hall House is located to the east of Walnut Branch Creek at 214 South Travis (see Figure 1-2-10 and Figure 3-13). The structure was built in 1839 in the Greek Revival style by Robert Hall. The original portion of the structure was constructed of limecrete. Later, a two-story addition was added to the rear. The original structure had a full basement and two stone fireplaces. This structure was the first house in Seguin, Texas (THC 2008). Robert Hall was originally from Tennessee, though he came to Texas as a member of the crew of the steamboat *George Washington* in 1835. He fought in the Texas Revolution and later enlisted as a Texas Ranger. He was one of the individuals that aided in laying out the town of Seguin (Hyman 2007).



Figure 3-13. Photograph of the Robert Hall House.

Robert Hall purchased a plot of land from John G. King that consisted of League No. 15 Class No. 5 that was situated on the northeast side of the Guadalupe River (GCDR A:38). Hall was very active in real estate, being granted a league of land between Austin and Gonzales, that he sold parcels of during the mid-1800s. No document was found that indicated that Hall conveyed the property to anyone during the later portion of the Nineteenth Century. Though according to the documents relating to the division of lots of Walnut Springs, this may have been included in property deeded to Thomas R. Nichols (GCDR A:111-159). The Robert Hall House is owned by Lynn and Leta Glenewinkel and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **413 West Nolte Street**

The residence at 413 West Nolte Street was likely constructed ca. 1900 (see Figure 1-2-11). The Victorian style home was constructed with double brick thickness walls that were later covered

by stucco. The northern portion of the lot is abutting the west bank of Walnut Branch. The building was described as being in “good” condition in 1979 (THC 2008). At the time of the writing of this report, it appears that the house is occupied and in good condition (Figure 3-14).



Figure 3-14. *Photograph of 413 West Nolte Street.*

### **312 South Goodrich Street**

The one-story Victorian home located at 312 South Goodrich Street was constructed sometime between 1900 and 1910 (Figure 1-2-12). The property appears to be adjacent to Walnut Branch (THC 2008). At this time, the Victorian home appears to have been replaced with a two-story apartment-type complex (Figure 3-15).



Figure 3-15. *Photograph of 312 South Goodrich Street.*

### **382 South Goodrich**

This Victorian house located at the corner of South Goodrich and West Nolte Street was constructed in 1895 (see Figure 1-1-13). The one-story house exhibits a gabled roof, and attached front porch, and one chimney. The site was recorded in 1977 as being in “good” condition (THC 2008). The back portion of the property is adjacent to the west bank of Walnut Branch.

### **411 South Goodrich**

The original house structure at 411 South Goodrich was constructed ca. 1852 and owned by H.E. McCullough (see Figure 1-1-14). The McKnight sisters bought the house in 1865, at which time it acquired the name of the McKnight Homestead. The original portion was built of adobe and river gravel, but additions to the structure were done ca. 1910 (Figure 3-16). The House appears to be one story from the front, but in actuality it is two, with the rear of the house being built on a slope. There are six rooms and two hall in the structure (each floor has three rooms and one hall). A slave kitchen was built of the same material to the rear of the house, though it was in use as a garage as of 1937 (HABS No. Tex-346). The massing of the structure is L-form in plan with a pedimented projecting gable ell and porch inset into the “L”. The porch columns are large and stuccoed, as is the rest of the exterior. The house, known to the community as “Seven Cedars”, was later rented out apartment-style. Ms. Viola Gomez was living in the building in 1979. The house is located on the west bank of Walnut Branch, just north of the old schoolhouse (THC

2008). At the time the report was written, the house appears to have some large bushes growing around it, though it appears in relatively good condition (Figure 3-17).



Figure 3-16. Photograph of the Herron-Vaughn House ca. 1936, which was later used as Seven Cedars (HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 10-2).



Figure 3-17. Photograph of 411 South Goodrich Street.

### **Residence at South Goodrich at West Convent**

This pioneer vernacular schoolhouse, known as the Goodrich School, was constructed sometime during the 1850s (Figure 1-2-15). The property abuts Walnut Branch, north of the Goodrich-Adams house. The schoolhouse is a one-story limecrete stuccoed building with massive brick chimneys. When the schoolhouse site was recorded in 1979, it appeared to be in poor condition (THC 2008).

### **Goodrich-Adams House**

This house is located at 317 West Adams Street (Figure 1-2-16). The house was constructed ca. 1855, and the property is adjacent to Walnut Branch, just north of Starke Park. The original portion of the house was constructed of Park's Concrete (limecrete) by W. E. Goodrich.

W.E. Goodrich conveyed the property to his wife S.A. Goodrich during the early 1890s prior to his death. On December 21, 1905, C.J. Duggan sold the estate of Mrs. Goodrich to Fritz Woehler (GCDR 28:16-17). Woehler conveyed the property, along with several other lots, to Ferdinand Klein on November 1, 1906 for a sum of \$3,500 (GCDR 27:444-445). Klein, soon after purchasing the property, sold it to Henry G. Adams, along with 50 acres that extended south of the Goodrich Place to the Guadalupe River (GCDR 32:6). Adams conveyed a portion of the property to J.F. Boring in December of 1908 (GCDR 32:6), of which Boring sold to Sam Neel in November of 1918 (GCDR 54:279). The property that contains the Goodrich-Adams House was the owned by Erwin Adams in 1979.

The house had been altered over the years with the addition of a Victorian porch in the rear and a Greek detailed front porch with Corinthian columns (Figure 3-18). The house appears to be in fairly good condition (THC 2008).



Figure 3-18. Photograph of the Goodrich-Adams House taken June 29, 2007.

### **Riverside Cemetery**

Riverside Cemetery, though it appears on the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas as “Riverview Cemetery”, is located on the east bank of Walnut Branch at the confluence of the creek and the Guadalupe River (see Figure 1-2-17). The Cemetery has been use since the mid-1800s and several prominent figures related to the history of Texas and Seguin are interred there. John R. Jefferson, Jr., a Confederate Marshall of the Western District of Texas, was buried at the cemetery in 1888. Historical markers for Timothy Pickering Jones, Jonathan Douglas, and Ezekiel Smith are located at the edge of the cemetery property. Several plots are adjacent to the east bank of Walnut Branch.

### **Glen Cove; French Smith Residence**

Located within the vicinity of the Riverside Cemetery is the French Smith Residence at 315 Glen Cove Dr. (see Figure 1-2-18). The western portion of the structure was built by Paris Smith and consisted of four rooms and a hall. The original portion was constructed of logs. During the early 1850s, G.B. and T.H. Holloman purchased the property and added three rooms constructed with concrete. In 1937, the building was occupied by Mrs. T.H. Holloman (HABS No. Tex-350) (Figure 3-19). At the time the structure was recorded in 1979, G.B. Hollomon III was the property owner.



Figure 3-19. Photograph of the Smith-Hollomon House ca. 1936 (HABS TEX,94-SEGUI,14-1).

The Hollomons were one of the first contractors that arrived in Seguin. They worked closely with Dr. Parks to perfect the type of concrete structures that were typical of the early Seguin community. Mrs. T.H. Hollomon reported that her husband was an avid tree lover and would not let one be cut down on his property. General Sam Houston gave a speech under Hollomon's trees during his campaign for Governor of Texas. T.H. Hollomon died at the Battle of Elkhorn in 1862 (HABS No. Tex-350). This structure is a Seguin landmark, with many social functions held there.

### **Hugman's Walnut Branch Beautification Project**

Robert H. H. Hugman was responsible for designing the park along the bank of Walnut Branch that has now fallen into disrepair. During the 1930's, Hugman designed a park running along a section of Walnut Branch, from Nolte Street (at the time was Market) to the Sebastopol House, that much resembled his later work on the Riverwalk in San Antonio. Working with the Civilian Conservation Corps, paths along the creek were created, with footbridges at several crossings. Similar to the Riverwalk, Hugman designed stairs that would lead guests from creek level to street level. In several areas along the creek, pools were created for swimming enjoyment (Figure 3-20).





Figure 3-20. *Photograph of pool designed by Hugman, ca. 1960.*

Though no written plans of the park design have been located, local inhabitants remember most of the characteristics. The largest spring of Mountain Branch was uncovered and walled in with stone. This aided in the formation of a pool that held large goldfish, before the spring water flowed into the creek channel. Areas along the bank, especially near the south entrance to the park, were cleared of the dense foliage and covered in carpet grass (Figure 3-21). Three dams were constructed along the course of Walnut Branch. The first dam was located just north of Court Street. The next dam was located near the present County Annex parking lot. The last dam, was constructed just above Nolte Street (Figure 3-22). The Nolte Street dam formed a large pool, five feet deep, that was used for swimming. Gravel walkways were created and benches and bridges were erected along the creek. By June of 1933, the park was turned over to the City of Seguin, and citizens petitioned for the park to be extended to Austin Street. In April of 1934, the

funds were awarded and the completion of the park proceeded. Additional foot bridges were constructed. Stone benches and several niches were built into the retaining wall along the creek (Burns 2003).



Figure 3-21. *Photograph of Walnut Branch ca. 1940 showing cleared banks.*



Figure 3-22. *Photograph of the Nolte Street Bridge ca. 1935.*

The park was very popular during the early years, though a major flood destroyed sections of the retaining walls and the wooden bridges and benches. Some work was done to fix the damages, but the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works in Progress Administration had already turned their focus to more pressing tasks such as erecting the courthouse, Starcke Park, and the

water and electric works. By 1953, considerable change had occurred to Hugman's design. Sewer lines now ran underneath and through Walnut Branch, with manholes sticking up from the creek channel. A drought caused the water in the dammed pools to become stagnant and harbored large mosquito populations. Citizens feared that mosquitoes were aiding in the spread of polio. This fear led to the destruction of the three dams along the Walnut Branch Park to reduce the amount of standing water (Burns 2003).

In 1966, additional sewer lines were to be placed along the creek, creating a need to tear down some of the remaining rock walls. The walls were to be reconstructed after the placement of the lines, but the contractors failed to finish. Flooding episodes over the years led to the need for the Army Corp of Engineers to modify the creek channel to remove obstructions. The Corp of Engineers completed a full-scale channelization of portions of the creek as well as the removed many trees along in certain areas of the creek (Burns 2003).

Currently, the footbridges have washed away. No evidence of the paths along the creek banks are noticeable, and they are overgrown with dense foliage (Figure 3-23). Several retaining walls constructed of stacked stone have been washed into the creek bed. A few of the staircases leading from the creek bank remain, though it was noted that the creek has eroded the foundations (Figure 3-24). Over the course of the years, much of the easement along the creek has reverted to private ownership. The area known as the "Memorial Rose Garden" today, has several reconstructed walls. In the vicinity, a small section of the Hugman walls was reconstructed by a local inhabitant interested in the park.

With the presence of historic structures along the creek the likelihood of historic and prehistoric deposits is high. However, given the historic and modern impacts to the creek channel the finding of intact deposits is doubtful.



Figure 3-23. Current photograph of Walnut Branch within the vicinity of the Memorial Rose Garden.



Figure 3-24. Current photograph of Walnut Branch showing remains of stairs leading to the creek.

## **Chapter 4: Field and Laboratory Methods**

The length of project corridor is 2.5 miles and the estimated width of the ROW is 50 m. This makes the project area 50 acres. Based on the minimum standards of the THC guidelines, 1 shovel test per 2 acres was required. Several portions of the proposed ROW were on private property and fence lines associated with the properties were not crossed during the survey.

Shovel tests were 30 cm in diameter and extended to a depth of 60 cm, unless otherwise prevented. Shovel tests were excavated in 10-cm increments, and all soil from each level was screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth. All encountered artifacts were recovered with appropriate provenience for laboratory processing, analysis, and curation. A shovel test form was completed for every excavated shovel test. Data collected from each shovel test included the final excavation depth, a tally of all materials recovered from each 10-cm level, and a brief soil description (texture, consistence, Munsell color, inclusions). The location of every shovel test was recorded with Trimble Geo XT GPS units and sketched onto aerial photographs as a backup to GPS provenience information. Any additional observations considered pertinent were included as comments on the standard shovel test excavation form. Shovel tests were not excavated on slopes greater than 20 percent.

Backhoe trenches were not excavated along the proposed Hike and Bike Trail alignment because the immediate project impacts determined at this time did not predict disturbances exceeding 6-12 inches below grade. Design specifications at the time of the survey and writing of this report have not yet identified areas of deep impact. Furthermore, backhoe trenching on the northern section of the APE are not recommended due to heavy channelization along the creek banks.

### **Site Recording and Identification**

For the purposes of this survey, the definition of a site was as follows: (1) five or more surface artifacts within a 15-meter radius (ca. 706.9 m<sup>2</sup>), or (2) a single cultural feature, such as a hearth, observed on surface or exposed in shovel testing, or (3) a positive shovel test containing at least three artifacts within any given 10-cm level, or (4) a positive shovel test containing at least five total artifacts, or (5) two positive shovel tests located within 30 meters of each other.

If evidence of cultural materials meeting the minimum criteria for an archaeological site was encountered in a shovel test or on the surface, additional shovel tests were excavated at 10 meter intervals to define the extent of the distribution.

Site boundaries were plotted on aerial photographs and a topographic quadrangle map and location data collected with a GPS unit. Digital photographs were taken of each site and Texas site forms will be prepared for all new sites.

Any artifact recovered from shovel testing that did not meet the criteria of a site was recorded as an isolated find. The location of all isolated finds were plotted with a GPS unit and plotted on an aerial map.

### **Archaeological Laboratory Methods**

All cultural materials and records obtained and/or generated during the project were prepared in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR part 79, and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Additionally, the materials were curated in accordance with current guidelines of the CAR. Artifacts processed in the CAR laboratory were washed, air-dried, and stored in 4-mm zip locking archival-quality bags. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each label contained provenience information and a corresponding lot number written in archival ink, with pencil or laser printed. Ceramics were labeled with permanent ink over a clear coat of acrylic and covered by another acrylic coat. In addition, a small sample of unmodified debitage from each lot was labeled with the appropriate provenience data. Artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper, labeled with archivally appropriate materials, and placed in archival-quality sleeves. All field forms were completed with pencil. Upon completion of the project, all collected materials were housed at CAR.

## Chapter 5: Results of Fieldwork

This chapter presents the results of the pedestrian survey conducted by CAR along the Walnut Branch Creek. CAR crews conducted an intensive pedestrian survey along with shovel testing of the APE intermittently during February, May and June of 2008 (see Figure 1-2). The APE was divided into northern and southern reaches. The northern section included the part the APE from West New Braunfels Street to Court Street. Fourteen shovel tests were excavated along this portion of the APE that was examined February 28, 2008. The majority of the creek in this northern section of the APE had been channelized and some of the embankments have been fortified with concrete. One isolated find was identified in this section. Therefore, further archaeological investigations are not warranted in this section.

The southern portion of the APE ran from south of Court Street to the Guadalupe River. Twenty-three shovel tests were excavated along this portion of the APE and three new sites were identified and recorded (see Figure 3-1). 41GU113 and 41GU114 were located on the west bank of Walnut Branch, while 41GU115 was identified on the east bank of the creek. CAR recommends that the three sites do not warrant listing to the National Register of Historic Places and formal designation as State Archaeological Landmarks.

### The Northern Section of the APE

The northern stretch of the APE starts where the creek intersects with West New Braunfels and extended just north of Court Street. Fourteen shovel tests were excavated in this section (Table 5-1). This portion of the stream has been channelized and several segments have been lined with concrete. The soil survey for Guadalupe County (WSS 2008) indicates that the soils found in the environs of the creek consist of Tinn Clay (TW) that are frequently flooded. Soils in the area north of Kingsbury Street consisted of compact dark brown clay with the exception of Shovel Test 3 which contained mottled clay in Levels 3 through 5 (Figure 5-1). Shovel Tests 4 and 5, just south of Kingsbury Street, contained very compact soils with >50% gravels and modern trash. Figures 5-2 and 5-3 show the channelized portions of Walnut Branch north of West Kingsbury Street.

Table 5-1. Shovel Test Results

ST#	Depth (cm)	Results	APE section
1	60	negative	northern
2	60	negative	northern
3	60	negative	northern

Table 5-1. Shovel Test Results

ST#	Depth (cm)	Results	APE section
4	60	negative	northern
5	58	negative	northern
6	60	positive	northern
7	60	negative	northern
8	60	negative	northern
9	60	negative	northern
10	50	negative	northern
11	60	negative	northern
12	50	negative	northern
13	60	negative	northern
14	60	negative	northern
15	60	negative	southern
16	60	positive	southern
17	50	negative	southern
18	40	negative	southern
19	60	negative	southern
20	60	negative	southern
21	60	positive	southern
22	60	positive	southern
23	60	positive	southern
24	60	positive	southern
25	60	positive	southern
26	60	positive	southern
27	60	negative	southern
28	60	positive	southern
29	60	negative	southern
30	60	negative	southern
31	50	negative	southern
32	60	negative	southern
33	60	negative	southern
34	50	negative	southern
35	50	negative	southern
36	60	negative	southern
37	30	negative	southern





Figure 5-1. *The APE north of West Kingsbury Street (facing north).*



Figure 5-2. *The APE north of West Kingsbury Street (facing south).*



Figure 5-3. *The APE south of Medlin Street.*

Shovel Tests 6 through 12 were excavated south of San Antonio Avenue. Shovel Test 6 yielded three pieces of burned rock (Levels 1, 3 and 6; Table 5-1) in a dark brown clay matrix. It is not possible to determine whether the burned rock was prehistoric, historic or modern in age. Two additional shovel tests were excavated north (ST 13) and south (ST 14) of the positive shovel test and both were negative for cultural material. Both shovel tests contained a dark brown clay matrix similar to Shovel Test 6. The cultural remains encountered in ST 6 were considered an isolated find and further archaeological investigations in the area are not needed.

The matrix in Shovel Tests 7 and 9 was a dark grayish soil with <20% gravels. There was a high percentage of river gravels (>50%) in Shovel Tests 10 through 12. Due to the high percentage of river gravels encountered in Shovel Test 12, it was terminated at 50 cmbs. The portion of the APE between Medlin Street and Court Street, in the environs of the Sebastopol structure (41GU9), is lined with concrete and water is present in the drainage. The property on which the structure is located abuts Walnut Branch creek. The structure was constructed during the 1850s (see Chapter 3). The site sits on bedrock and a portion of the structure is cut into bedrock (THC 2008).

Moreover, this portion of the APE consists of the active creek channel with residential fences abutting the creek bank (Figure 5-4). No shovel tests were placed in this portion of the APE.



Figure 5-4. Southeast corner of Guadalupe and Court Streets (empty lot).

### **The Southern Section of the APE**

The southern section of the APE extended from Court Street to the convergence of Walnut Branch Creek with the Guadalupe River. Twenty-three shovel tests were excavated in this portion of the APE and three new sites were documented. 41GU113 and 41GU114 were located on the western bank of the creek. 41GU115 was recorded on the eastern bank of the creek.

Only four shovel tests were excavated on the eastern bank of the creek. A majority of the APE on the eastern bank was too steep for shovel tests, with a slope exceeding 20%. Furthermore, a water-waste facility is located at the far south portion of the eastern bank, just north of the Max Starcke Park. In the Scope of Work, CAR proposed six shovel tests in the area of the Ranger Station. The Ranger Station was said to have been located on the southeast corner of Guadalupe and Court Streets. Currently an abandoned building sits in the southeast corner of Guadalupe and Court Street (Figure 5-5 and 5-6). The area was surface inspected and no historic structural remnants, such as foundations, were seen. One shovel test (Shovel Test 15) was excavated in the area and no evidence of a foundation was encountered. Shovel Test 15 contained a high percentage of gravels (>50%). Furthermore, the surface of the lot was covered with gravel and fill. It is likely that grading and activities associated with pre-construction surface preparation

have severely impacted or entirely destroyed any evidence of the Ranger Station if even if it was situated on this lot.



Figure 5-5. Southeast corner of Guadalupe and Court Streets (abandoned building).



Figure 5-6. The entrance to the Memorial Rose Garden.

Four shovel tests were excavated in the Memorial Rose Garden. The landscape in the Memorial Rose Garden area terraces down to the creek. Figures 5-7 and 5-8 show the entrance of the Memorial Rose Garden and its terraced landscape.



Figure 5-7. Terraced landscape of the Memorial Rose Garden.

Three of the shovel tests were excavated just along the creek while one was excavated at a higher elevation. One shovel test (near the creek) contained dark brown silty clay. The remaining three shovel tests, excavated near the creek and on the higher elevated terrace, contained a high percentage of gravel fill (>20%). No cultural materials were noted in the shovel tests.

Shovel tests excavated in the environs of Max Starcke Park, south of South Austin Street, revealed areas of gravel fill or sandy soil. A paved road was in the area north of the park along with several piles of gravel and metal beams.

### **Newly Recorded Sites**

41GU113 was recorded just south of Court Street along the western bank of the creek. The site is on an artificial terrace that has been created by a brick retaining wall (Figure 5-8). It appears the terrace has been used as a footpath for some time and an informal trail has been created. Three shovel tests (ST 16, 23 and 26) were excavated to define the depth of deposits and their horizontal extent along the proposed trail alignment. Shovel Test 16 terminated at 22 cmbs due to impenetrable bedrock. Shovel Tests 23 and 26 were excavated to a terminal depth of 60 cmbs. Soils observed in the shovel tests consisted of a brown silty loam matrix with 25 to 45 percent

gravels throughout. Due to the slope (>20 percent) of the terrain additional shovel tests could not be excavated.

Artifacts recovered from the three shovel tests are listed in Table 5-2. The site is multi-component with the presence of historic and prehistoric material. The majority of the material consisted of burned rock (n=20). The presence of historic ceramics (n=2), lithic debitage (n=3) and glass (n=2) was minimal. Burned rock (38.2g) was recovered from all three shovel tests. Lithic debitage was found in Shovel Tests 16 (Level 1) and 23 (Level 3). The ceramics (white earthen ware and porcelain) were recovered from Shovel Test 23 in Levels 1 and 6. Clear container glass came from Shovel Tests 23 (Level 3) and 26 (Level 4). The white earthen wares date from the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. No definitive dates can be given to the prehistoric material. It is evident from the mix of prehistoric and historic artifacts, and the lack of well defined stratigraphy, that artifacts washing down slope onto the terrace and are in a secondary depositional context.

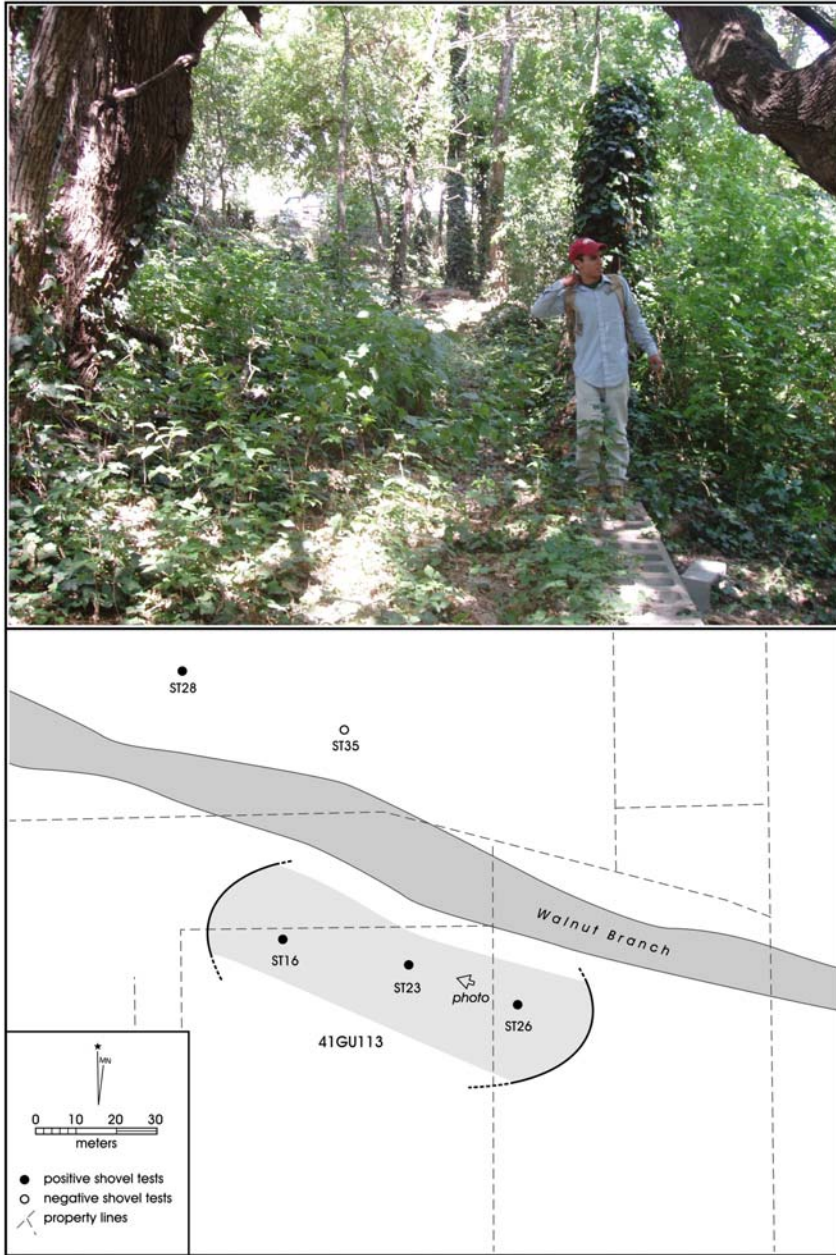


Figure 5-8. Artificial terrace on which 41GU113 is located (note field crew member standing on brick retaining wall).

Table 5-2. Artifacts Recovered from 41GU113

Shovel Test	Level	Burned rock	Ceramics	Debitage	Glass	Grand Total
16	1	4	1	1		6
	2	1				1
16 Total		5	1	1		7
23	1	1		1		2
	3	3			1	4
	4	1		0		1
	5	2		0		2
	6	2		1		3
23 Total		9		2	1	12
26	3	3				3
	4	1			1	2
	5	2	1			3
26 Total		6	1		1	8
Grand Total		20	2	3	2	27

41GU114 is located on the west bank of the creek, south of Convent Street (Figure 5-9). Shovel Tests 21, 22 and 24 were excavated on the site. North of ST 24 was a fence which impeded shovel testing in that direction. Shovel testing further to the south was not conducted due to the slope (>20 percent) of the terrain. All three shovel tests were excavated to a terminal depth of 60 cmbs. The soil observed in shovel tests consisted of dark brown to black clay.



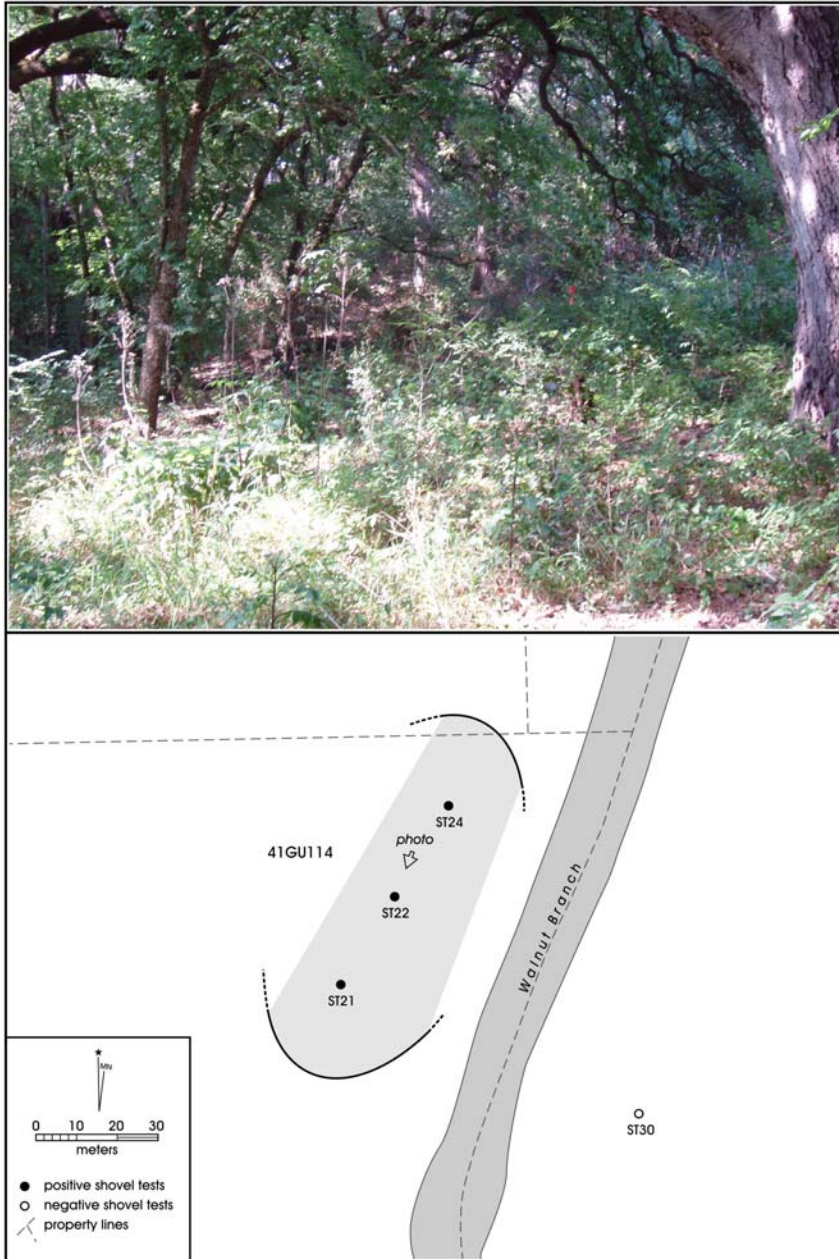


Figure 5-9. 41GU114 facing south.

41GU114 is a multi-component site. Cultural material (Table 5-3) from the site included burned rock (n=5), historic ceramics (n=3), debitage (n=1), glass (n=9), metal (n=2) and slate (n=1). The majority of the material consisted of container and flat glass (milk and clear). The three ceramic sherds recovered from shovel tests were undecorated white earthen ware. A fragment of a lead printing plate was encountered in Shovel Test 21 (Level 5). The historic material suggests the historic component is late 19<sup>th</sup> Century to early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It can not be determined if the burned rock is prehistoric, historic or modern. The mix of artifacts could be a result of

redeposition through flooding episodes of the Walnut Branch creek that is within 20 meters of the site.

Table 5-3. Artifacts Recovered from 41GU114

Shovel Test	Level	Burned rock	Ceramics	Debitage	Glass	Metal	Other	Grand Total
21	4			1				1
	5	2			7	1	1	11
	6	1	1		2	1		5
21 Total		3	1	1	9	2	1	17
22	1	1	1					2
22 Total		1	1					2
24	3		1					1
	5	1						1
24 Total		1	1					2
Grand Total		5	3	1	9	2	1	21

41GU115 is defined on the basis of a single shovel test (Shovel Test 28). The site is located on the eastern side of the creek and south of Court Street on the same property as the Creek Side Grill. The positive shovel test is bound by the restaurant establishment to the north and by a small drainage to the south (Figure 5-10). The creek is less than 5 meters west of the shovel test. An additional shovel test was excavated south of Shovel Test 28, south of the drainage. It was negative for cultural material.

The soil encountered in the shovel test was a dark brown loose silty matrix. A sandy lens was encountered at 58 cmbs. The soils appear to be loose and unstable. Because of its location on private property, cultural material from Shovel Test 28 was not collected but counts were completed in the field. This site is historic with the presence of burned rock and historic material. The artifacts noted in the positive shovel test consisted mostly of burned rock (small fragments), glass and metal (Table 5-4). Seven white earthen ware sherds were present in Level 4 (hand painted and transfer). Based on the ceramic evidence the historic material could date as early as the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Although there is a mixture of burned rock and historic material the deposits could be in a primary context. However, due the close proximity of the creek the site deposits maybe a result of flooding episodes. We do not recommend that the site is eligible for listing on the NRHP and further work is not recommended.

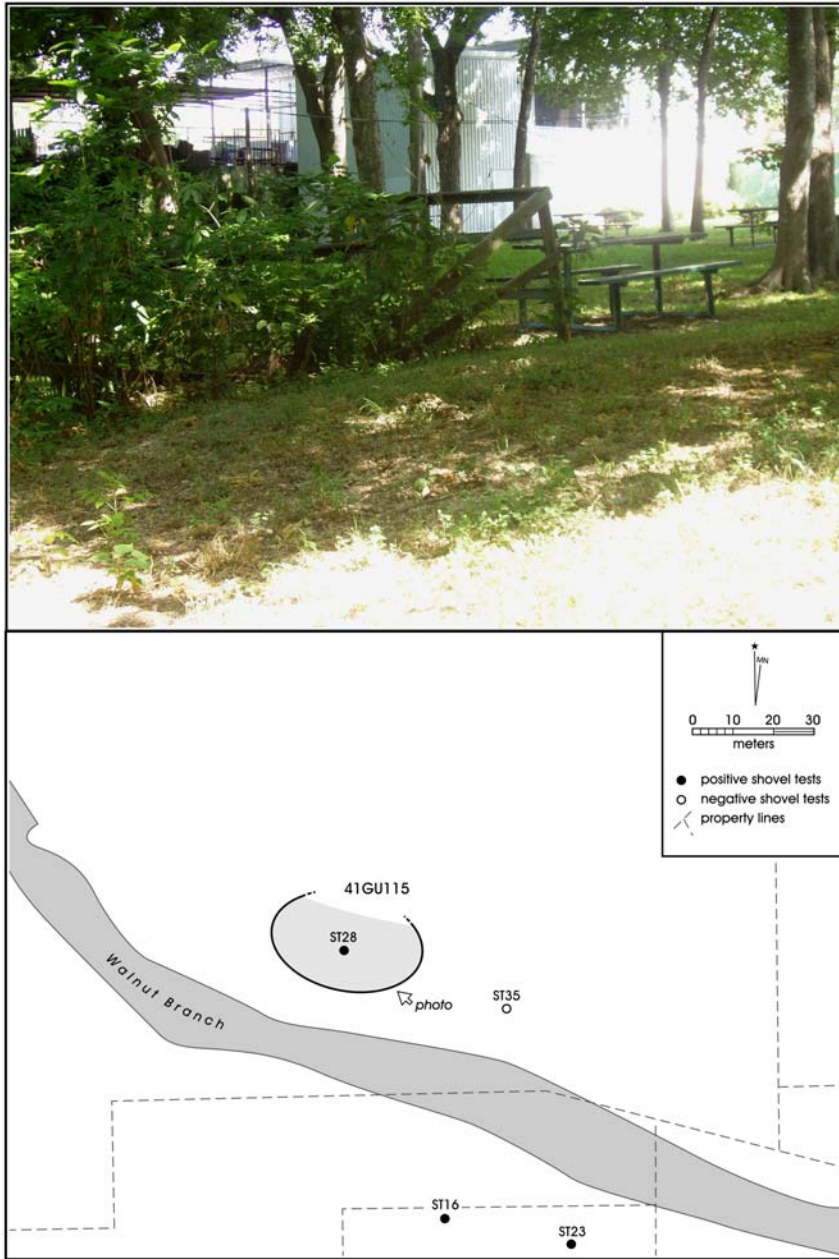


Figure 5-10. 41GU115 facing northwest.

Table 5-4. Artifacts Recovered from 41GU115.

Level	ceramic	glass	metal	burned rock	button	faunal	Grand Total
1	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
2	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
3	0	7	17	18	0	0	42
4	7	24	2	23	0	3	59
5	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Grand Total	7	34	33	41	1	3	108

## Summary

The APE was divided into two sections (northern and southern). During the archaeological investigations along Walnut Branch Creek 37 shovel tests were excavated. Fourteen shovel tests were excavated along the northern section of the APE. One isolated find was encountered on the northern section of the APE. The northern portion of the APE near the Sebastopol structure is very narrow and has been heavily impacted during historic and modern times through channelization and landscaping.

Twenty three shovel tests were excavated along the southern portion of the APE. No evidence of foundations or cultural material was found during investigations in the area of the Ranger Station. The construction of the abandoned structure that now sits on the lot where the Ranger Station is suspected to have been located has caused disturbance to the area. Shovel testing in the Memorial Rose Garden revealed no evidence of culture material.

Three new sites were encountered on the southern portion of the APE. 41GU113 and 41GU114 were located on the western bank of the creek, while 41GU115 was recorded on the east bank. 41GU113 and 41GU114 are multi-component sites with historic components that date at least to the mid to late nineteenth century. 41GU115 is a single component historic site that dates to the mid to late nineteenth century. The deposits on sites 41GU113 and 41GU114 likely represent secondary deposition. The deposits of site 41GU115 are in a primary depositional context by flooding of the Walnut Branch Creek.

## **Chapter 6: Conclusions and Recommendations**

During 2008, CAR conducted an intensive pedestrian survey and shovel testing along the Walnut Branch Creek in Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas. The APE is 2.5 miles long and encompasses the banks of the Walnut Branch Creek. The archaeological work was in association with the Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail project. The project is a concerted effort between the City of Seguin and Jacob, Carter and Burgess, Inc. to revitalize the creek.

Much of the creek has been channelized and modified. Immediate project impacts determined at this time did not foresee disturbances 6-12 inches below current grade. Design specifications at the time of the survey and writing of this report have not yet identified areas of deep impact. ROW data was available for the northern segment of the project area. The project easement along the southern section was just recently proposed by the design team to the City of Seguin. ROW data from Court Street to Nolte Street of southern section was provided to CAR after the completion of the survey. The ROW from Nolte Street to South Austin Street is still in the designing stage.

Thirty-seven shovel tests were excavated as part of the archaeological investigations. The northern section of the APE spans from West New Braunfels Street to Court Street. During the survey of this portion of the APE 14 shovel tests were excavated. No sites were identified in this portion of the APE. An isolated find, consisting of three pieces of burned rock, were recovered from ST 6.

The southern reach of the APE spanned from Court Street south to the convergence of Walnut Branch and the Guadalupe River. Three new sites were recorded while surveying this area. 41GU113 and 41GU114 are located on the western bank of the Walnut Branch Creek. 41GU115 is located on the eastern bank of the creek. Sites 41GU113 and 41GU114 are multi-component and contain historic and prehistoric materials. The materials are probably a result of flooding and erosion from the terrace above the site. Due to the lack of integrity, we do not recommend that 41GU113 is eligible for listing in the NRHP. 41GU115 consisted only of one shovel test that represents a historic site. The three sites lacked well-stratified deposits and CAR does not recommend further work at either of the three sites. Furthermore, CAR recommends that the sites do not warrant listing to the NRHP or formal designation as SAL's.

Robert H.H. Hugman designed the park along Walnut Branch during the 1930s. The design included the construction of paths and footbridges similar to those on the River Walk in San

Antonio. Heavily impacted remnants of Hugman's work along the Walnut Branch are still visible on the southern portion of the APE. Several historical structures are situated along the creek including the Sebastopol State Historic structure (41GU9). The earliest property that would have been along the creek is the Ranger Station. Remnants of the structure were not found during the survey.

Three new sites were recorded during the archaeological investigations. Based on their secondary depositional context and lack of integrity, CAR recommends that 41GU113, 41GU114, and 41GU115 are not eligible for listing in the NRPH and formal designation as SALs.

CAR does recommend, however, that if deep impacts are proposed in the design plans (e.g., extensive grading, foundation installations for walls, etc), these areas of potential disturbance be investigated by a professional archaeologist to determine the presence/absence of intact historic or prehistoric deposits. Such investigations are recommended only in areas that hitherto have not been impacted by channelization or other modern disturbances.

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## Photograph Citations

Figure 3-1. HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 1-1. Colonel Joshua Young House, 704 Mill Avenue, Seguin, Guadalupe County, TX. Historic American Buildings Survey, Marvin Eickenroht, Photographer March 1, 1934 VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST.

Figure 3-2. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-8. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-9. HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 14-1. Hollomon House, 315 Glen Cove Drive, Seguin, Guadalupe County, TX. Historic American Buildings Survey, Arthur W. Stewart, Photographer December 11, 1936 NORTHWEST ELEVATION (FRONT).

Figure 3-13. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-14. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-15. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-16. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-17. HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 4-1. Mosey Campbell House, Seguin, Guadalupe County, TX. Historic American Buildings Survey, Arthur W. Stewart, Photographer April 29, 1936 SOUTH ELEVATION (FRONT).

Figure 3-18. HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 10-1. Herron-Vaughn House, South Goodrich Street, Seguin, Guadalupe County, TX. Historic American Buildings Survey, Arthur W. Stewart, Photographer May 12, 1936 WEST ELEVATION, FRONT.