

**Southwest Gulf Railroad Company Construction and
Operation of the Proposed Single-Track Railroad
Resolution Plan Status: May 10, 2019.**

Medina County, Texas

By

Megan Koszarek, MSc

**Principal Investigator
Clayton M. Tinsley**

STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Prepared For:



Prepared By:



**17111 Preston Road, Suite 300
Dallas, TX 75248**

May 2019

The final draft of the *Resolution Plan to Resolve Adverse Effects to Historic Properties for the Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGR) Construction and Operation of Proposed Single-Track Railroad project in Medina County Texas (STB Finance Docket No. 34284)* (Resolution Plan), was completed on August 28, 2017. In the Resolution Plan, four archaeological sites and seven historic properties were determined to be potentially adversely affected by the proposed project, and mitigation of these effects was required by the Resolution Plan (Table 1).

Table 1. Adversely and Potentially Adversely Affected Cultural Resources

Site/Field Survey #	*Parcel/Address	Comments
41ME262	R3311	41ME262 partially surveyed, SHPO concurred surveyed portion was not eligible for the NRHP; unsurveyed portion of Parcel R3311 was presumed NRHP eligible
41ME261	R36257	41ME261 partially surveyed, NRHP eligibility testing needed; unsurveyed portion of Parcel R36257 was presumed NRHP eligible
41ME260	R58431	41ME260 partially surveyed, NRHP eligibility testing needed; unsurveyed portion of Parcel R58431 was presumed NRHP eligible
41ME264	R58364	41ME264 partially surveyed, SHPO determined Eligible for the NRHP; unsurveyed portion of Parcel R58364 was presumed NRHP eligible
HDR-AR-02	1253 CR 353	Structures 190–530 ft from Centerline; SHPO concurred adverse effect
HDR-AR-03	1040 CR 353	Structures 900–1,200 ft from Centerline; not surveyed; presumed NRHP eligible; likely no adverse effect
HDR-AR-04	881 CR 353	Structures 700–1,000 ft from Centerline; SHPO concurred adverse effect
HDR-AR-05	6005 FM 2676	Structures 675–815 ft from Centerline; SHPO concurred adverse effect
HDR-AR-06	FM 2676	Structures 90–170 ft from Centerline; SHPO concurred adverse effect
HDR-AR-10	944 CR 4643	Structures 340–730 ft from Centerline; not surveyed; presumed NRHP eligible; possible adverse effect
HDR-AR-11	830 CR 4643	Structures 750–770 ft from Centerline; not surveyed; presumed NRHP eligible; likely no adverse effect

*Note: Parcel IDs are denoted by the “R” numbers used by the Medina County Tax Assessor to identify parcels.

HDR undertook the initial mitigation of these resources in September 2017 (Table 2). The mitigation began with the Phase II National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility testing of archaeological sites 41ME260, 41ME261, and 41ME264. The Phase II testing of these sites concluded that all three sites are Not Eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. These results were presented in the *Phase II Testing of Sites 41ME260, 41ME261, and 41ME264 for the Southwest Gulf Railroad Company Construction and Operation of the Proposed Single-Track Railroad* (Testing Report). In August 2018, HDR received written concurrence with the finding that sites 41ME 260, 41ME261, and 41ME264 are Not Eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and the Testing Report has been accepted by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The final Testing Report was submitted to the THC on August 21, 2018.

One archaeological site (41ME262) was not tested as part of the mitigation procedures for the project. The site was surveyed within the rail corridor where parcel access had been obtained. This part of the site was determined Not Eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, but the potential extension of site 41ME262 within parcel R3311 was not surveyed. Without a survey on that parcel, the THC assumed the possible extension of site 41ME262 is eligible for listing in the NRHP until a survey can prove otherwise. As such, the Resolution Plan recommended that all construction activities avoid parcel R3311. SGR does not own parcel R3311 and completely avoided the parcel, in compliance with the Resolution Plan.

Table 2. Status of Mitigation Measures for All Potentially Adversely Affected Resources.

Property	Mitigation Measure	Status
41ME262	Possible portion of site on property R3311 should be avoided	Parcel R3311 was avoided; SGR does not own this parcel and will not be developing it
41ME261	Phase II eligibility testing should be conducted	Testing complete for portion of site within Project area, final report submitted 8/21/2018
41ME260	Phase II eligibility testing should be conducted	Testing complete for portion of site within Project area, final report submitted 8/21/2018
41ME264	Phase II eligibility testing should be conducted	Testing complete final report submitted 8/21/2018
HDR-AR-02	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials 2) HABS-like Level II Documentation of the primary dwelling (A) a. Elevation drawings by experienced preservation architect b. Large-format photographs c. Written history and description 3) Vibration monitoring 4) Vegetative buffer	1) Complete 2) Complete a. Complete b. Complete c. Complete 3) Seismic sensors in place 4) Installed in November
HDR-AR-03	UQRHD exhibition, exhibit guide, and educational materials	Complete
HDR-AR-04	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials 2) HABS-like Level II Documentation of the primary dwelling (A) a. Elevation drawings by experienced preservation architect b. Large-format photographs c. Written history and description 3) Vegetative buffer	1) Complete 2) Complete a. Complete b. Complete c. Complete 3) Installed in November
HDR-AR-05	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials 2) HABS-like Level II Documentation of the	1) Complete

	primary dwelling (A)	2) Complete
	a. Elevation drawings by experienced preservation architect	a. Complete
	b. Large-format photographs	b. Complete
	c. Written history and description	c. Complete
HDR-AR-06	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials	1) Complete
	2) HABS-like Level II Documentation of the primary dwelling (A)	2) Complete
	a. Elevation drawings by experienced preservation architect	a. Complete
	b. Large-format photographs	b. Complete
	c. Written history and description	c. Complete
	3) Vibration monitoring	3) Seismic sensors in place
	4) Structural assessment and preservation plan	4) Assessed as structurally unsound
HDR-AR-10	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials	1) Complete
	2) Vegetative buffer	2) Installed in November
HDR-AR-11	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials	1) Complete
	2) Vegetative buffer	2) Installed in November

In compliance with the recommendations set forth in the Resolution Plan for all the adversely-affected architectural resources (HDR-AR-02, HDR-AR-03, HDR-AR-04, HDR-AR-05, HDR-AR-06, HDR-AR-10, and HDR-AR-11), a temporary exhibit for the Upper Quihi Rural Historic District (UQRHD) was prepared by Architectural Historians Kristin Morgan and Jessica Forbes for display at the Hondo Public Library. The exhibit panel, along with hardcopies of a corresponding exhibit guide and HABS-like Level II documentation, was delivered to the Hondo Public Library on December 10, 2018.

Architectural resources HDR-AR-02, HDR-AR-04, HDR-AR-05, and HDR-AR-06 were recommended for HABS-like Level II documentation, which includes elevation drawings, large-format photographs, and a written history and description for each resource. The elevation drawings were completed on March 27, 2018, by Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLC. Furthermore, the written descriptions for each resource are included in the survey report, *Southwest Gulf Railroad Company Construction and Operation of the Proposed Single-Track Railroad* (Fullerton et al. 2016). The large-format photographs have been prepared by Photographer Paul Chaplo and were completed on May 22, 2018.

Electronic copies of the HAS-like Level II documentation, as well as the library exhibit materials, were provided to STB and THC on November 6, 2018. In February 2019, archival-quality copies of the HABS-like documentation were submitted to THC and SGR. The THC's copy was resubmitted on April 15, 2019 due to a package-handling error.

Other mitigation measures for these resources include vibration monitoring, which is currently being conducted by Sauls Seismic, LLC for HDR-AR-02 and HDR-AR06. Resources HDR-AR-02 and HDR-AR-04 also require the installation of a vegetative buffer within 12 months of the start of construction. These buffers were installed in November 2018. In addition, the structural integrity of architectural resource HDR-AR-06 has been assessed as structurally unsound, precluding the development of a preservation plan for the resource. The STB and THC were notified in November 2017.

For architectural resources HDR-AR-10 and HDR-AR-11, SGR does not own the parcels on which the resources are located. In order to mitigate the adverse effect, these resources are included in the temporary UQRHD library exhibit discussed above. In addition, vegetative buffers (mentioned above) include buffers within SGR property that serve to insulate the historic property as much as possible from the visual and audible effects of the Project.

In summary, the mitigation measures laid out in the Resolution Plan are complete. Site 41ME262 on parcel R3311 has been avoided. The NRHP-eligibility testing of sites 41ME261, 41ME260, and 41ME264 is complete and the THC concurs that all three sites are Not Eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. As for the architectural resources, the UQRHD library exhibit is complete and has been delivered to the Hondo Public Library. Electronic and archival-quality copies of the HABS-like Level II documentation for structures HDR-AR-02, HDR-AR-04, HDR-AR-05, and HDR-AR-06 have been submitted. Vibration monitoring for the Project has been completed. The structural integrity of HDR-AR-06 has been assessed as unsound and a preservation plan cannot be developed. Lastly, the vegetative buffers were installed in November, 2018.