

**Southwest Gulf Railroad Company Construction and
Operation of the Proposed Single-Track Railroad
Resolution Plan Status: October, 2018.**

Medina County, Texas

By

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STB Finance Docket No. 34284

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This report is being submitted by Southwest Gulf Railroad Company pursuant to the requirements in Section VI.B. of the Programmatic Agreement (“PA”) in this matter requiring the submission every six months of a summary report detailing work undertaken by SGR and its contractors under the PA.

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) Ready for printing and set up (pending scheduling) 2) --- a. Complete b. Complete c. Complete 3) Seismic sensors in place 4) Scheduled for November
HDR-AR-03	UQRHD exhibition, exhibit guide, and educational materials	Ready for printing and set up (pending scheduling)
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) Ready for printing and set up (pending scheduling) 2) --- a. Complete b. Complete c. Complete 3) Scheduled for November

HDR-AR-05	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials	1) Ready for printing and set up (pending scheduling)
	2) HABS-like Level II Documentation of the primary dwelling (A)	2) ---
	a. Elevation drawings by experienced preservation architect	a. Complete
	b. Large-format photographs	b. Complete
HDR-AR-06	c. Written history and description	c. Complete
	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials	1) Ready for printing and set up (pending scheduling)
	2) HABS-like Level II Documentation of the primary dwelling (A)	2) ---
	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
HDR-AR-10	4) Structural assessment and preservation plan	4) Assessed as structurally unsound
HDR-AR-11	1) UQRHD exhibition and educational materials	1) Ready for printing and set up (pending scheduling)
	2) Vegetative buffer	2) Scheduled for 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) has been prepared by Architectural Historians Kristin Morgan and Jessica Forbes for display at the Hondo Public Library (pending scheduling). The exhibit will be accompanied by the relevant research completed for the project, large format photography, and HABS drawings.

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. 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. The

plans for the vegetative buffer have been completed and are being shared with the STB and THC. Installation of the vegetative buffers is scheduled for 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, planned vegetative buffers (mentioned above) include buffers within SGR property that will serve to insulate the historic property as much as possible from the visual and audible effects of the Project.

In summary, the majority of the mitigation measures laid out in the Resolution Plan are complete, and the remaining few are underway. Overall, the Resolution Plan is approximately 95 percent 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 pending display at the Hondo Public Library once the HABS-like Level II documentation is prepared. The HABS-like Level II documentation for structures HDR-AR-02, HDR-AR-04, HDR-AR-05, and HDR-AR-06 is pending printing and submission. For the HABS-like Level II documentation the elevation drawings, large-format photographs, written history, and description are complete. Vibration monitoring for the Project is currently underway and will continue to be monitored. The structural integrity of HDR-AR-06 has been assessed as unsound and a preservation plan cannot be developed. Lastly, the vegetation plan for the vegetative buffers has been completed and SGR will install the buffers in November, 2018.