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July 1, 2015

Christopher Moelter
Manager
ICF International
615 SW Alder Street, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97205 |

Re: An Interim Management Summary of an Intensive Linear Pedestrian Archeological Survey of the Proposed Lone Star Railroad Project, Howard County, Texas.
MAC Project Number 15-26
Prepared for: ICF International
Prepared by: Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc., Houston, Texas
July 1, 2015

Dear Mr. Moelter,

From May 5th through the 8th, a crew from Moore Archeological Consulting conducted an intensive linear pedestrian archeological survey of a proposed railroad line near Big Spring, in Howard County, Texas for ICF International. During the five days of fieldwork the crew of archeologists discovered three (3) previously unrecorded archeological sites and one isolated artifact find. A total of 57 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from two of the sites and numerous historic and non-diagnostic prehistoric artifacts were observed on the surface but not collected (as per the approved collections policy).

The survey was conducted in accordance with prevailing standards accepted by the State, the Council of Texas Archeologists, and Section 106 regulations. Small (40 cm by 40 cm) shovel tests were excavated in 10-cm arbitrary levels to at least one meter deep or until intact basal clay was reached. Each test was fully documented, including information on location (utilizing a hand-held GPS), soil profile and cultural yield. Soil fill from tests was screened (where possible) through ¼-inch hardware cloth and examined for cultural materials, and the units were then backfilled immediately.

As a part of the shovel testing methodology, single transects were established along the project alignments. One shovel test was excavated every 100 meters along these transect. The exception to this interval of shovel tests involved a segment of the project corridor that flanks a known prehistoric site near to, but outside of the current project area. In this segment the interval of shovel testing was every 50 meters. Based on this methodology it was anticipated that a minimum of 67 shovel tests would need to be excavated in the project corridor. However this number increased due to the sites found and the need to delineate and assess new sites found, and the final count of shovel tests was 96.

For further information regarding the methodology used during the investigation please refer to the attached technical proposal.

Site Descriptions

Temporary site 1 is on the E/W leg of the alignment just after the westerly turn. This site is a combination prehistoric and historic site. The size of the site is roughly 180 meters ENE/WSW x 100 meters NNW/SSE. The site sits on a small piece of high ground in the east and stretches across a large area of lower eroded soil to the west. Delineation shovel tests did not extend beyond the 30 meter wide alignment and contained prehistoric artifacts in a soil context for an E/W distance of 70 m. The remainder of the length and width of the site was derived from surface expression of artifacts in the erosional area. There was no surface expression of artifacts in the high ground portion of the site but there were artifacts in the profile soils. The prehistoric artifacts at the site consist of lithic debitage and a metate fragment from the surface. The historic artifacts included glass, ceramic, and metal artifacts that appear to date no earlier than the late 19th early 20th century. Most of the historic artifacts were on the surface in the erosional area and towards the southern side of the site near the railroad. There was a light scatter of lithic debitage throughout the erosional portion of the site. A total of 15 shovel tests were excavated at the site with 4 positive and 11 negative for cultural material. There was a single shovel test, number 32, on the upland portion of the site that contained coal, fired clay lithic debitage, and some thin copper and iron fragments. The remainder of the shovel test finds were fairly light with just one or two pieces of lithic debitage per test.

Temporary site 2 is on the northern end of the N/S leg of the alignment. This location is an open field with periodic sand dunes and the soils in this area are deep and sandy. The site consisted of the initial shovel test revealing a single piece of lithic debitage. Four more shovel tests were excavated on either side of the initial positive shovel test within the alignment at ten meter intervals with negative results for cultural material. Since only the single piece of debitage was located at this location the artifact was returned to its original location and considered to be an isolated find, not a recorded site.

Temporary site 3 is located at the far west end of the E/W portion of the alignment. The site dimensions are roughly 40 x 40m. This site is at the very end of the E/W alignment and shovel

test delineation went no further west than this. This area is in a Mesquite grove and similar to TS1 has a higher portion next to an erosional area. This site has surface and subsurface prehistoric cultural material with some surface scatter of historic material. Thirteen shovel tests were excavated at this site with 5 being positive and 8 negative for cultural material. The subsurface cultural material is limited to lithic debitage and occurs in the upper 20 cm of the profile. The surface artifacts included some lithic debitage outside of the railroad easement in an erosional area and a couple pieces of more modern whiteware that probably have an early to mid-twentieth century manufacture date. This site appears to have been a very limited occupation in the portion within the current alignment.

Temporary site 4, a historic/prehistoric component site, is at the end of a small spur that exits the N/S leg of the alignment where it nears the E/W leg. The historic component of the site is most predominant and dates from the early to mid-twentieth century. The prehistoric component consists of only a few pieces of surface scatter lithic debitage. This site is partially in an active farm field, an active oil well pad area, and in a small mesquite grove. The size of the site is roughly 120m E/W x 65m N/S including the alignment area delineated with shovel tests and the area within the farm field and oil well pad where there was surface expression of artifacts. The initial discovery of the site was made by the observation of a general historic debris scatter. The site was then delineated with 10 shovel tests. Eight of the tests were positive and two negative for cultural materials. The historic artifacts consisted of bottle glass, ceramics, and iron tools and machine pieces. The historic artifacts located in the shovel tests and observed on the surface appeared to be from the late 19th to early 20th century and none were retained for curation. Photographs were taken of artifacts of interest for dating. The prehistoric component of the site consisted of a few pieces of lithic debitage on the surface of the farm field. No lithic debitage was found in any of the site shovel tests.

Recommendations

As a result of this archeological investigation and the findings thereof, it was determined that temporary site 2 is an isolated find and not an actual site. Furthermore, temporary sites 1, 3, and 4 appear to be multi-component sites containing a mixture of historic and prehistoric artifacts. The sections of these three sites that fall within the project corridor appear to be thin scatters of artifacts, both surface and subsurface, with few diagnostics and no concentrations. The site deposits are relatively shallow in depth and exhibit low artifact density and diversity. Consequently, the portions of the site that fall within the project corridor does not appear to possess the potential for future study and thus no further archeological work is recommended prior to the onset of the construction of the proposed rail lines within the expected ROW. However, all three sites extend outside the ROW for the project corridor. Because of this it is further recommended that should any future work be proposed adjacent to but outside the ROW of the current project within the vicinity of the sites recorded during this investigation, that additional archeological work should be done prior to construction to determine the extent, integrity, and potential significance of the sites.

Please note that this document is a preliminary management summary and is not a replacement for, not a precise condensing of the final, formal TAC draft archeological report. As such this document is not sufficient for submission to the Texas Historical Commission or any other review agency for their review of the archeology of this project. The formal draft report is still in preparation and will contain all necessary and complete results and recommendations for the project and for submission to the reviewing agencies.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any information presented in this document, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Douglas G. Mangum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Douglas G. Mangum
Principal Investigator, Historian