An Archeological Reconnaissance of the Proposed Brazos Commons Project, Waco, McLennan County, Texas

by

Jack M. Jackson

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Elton R. Prewitt

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Prewitt and Associates, Inc.
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ABSTRACT

During February 1985, personnel from Prewitt and Associates, Inc. conducted a reconnaissance of a 17-acre project area along the lakefront in downtown Waco, Texas. The project, known as Brazos Commons, proposes to make certain improvements along the immediate riverfront preparatory to commercial development of the tract on a long-term lease from the City of Waco. Because the land is publicly owned and borders a federally administered lake, both federal laws and the Texas Antiquities Code apply.

The reconnaissance revealed that the entire shoreline is covered with a fill deposit up to 20 ft deep in places. Most of the Phase One improvements will only disturb this post-1953 fill layer. One site, the remains of the Eureka Gas Light Company plant, ca. 1872, was recorded as 41ML202 and is eligible for designation as a State Archeological Landmark and is also judged to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

During February 1985, personnel from Prewitt and Associates, Inc. conducted a cultural resources reconnaissance of a tract containing about 17 acres along the west bank of the Brazos River in downtown Waco, McLennan County, Texas. The project is known as Brazos Commons and extends from the Interstate 35 highway bridge to the Franklin Avenue bridge.

Because the area has been heavily modified by the addition of large amounts of fill material to the natural low terrace of the Brazos River, pedestrian survey was of limited value. The survey team concentrated on the banks of the river and soil exposures created by excavations. The depth of the fill material, which reaches 20 feet in places, made shovel testing impractical. The bulk of the fill in the project area is said to come from building demolition debris taken from other areas of the city after the destructive tornado of May 1953 (Groth 1985).

Archaeological monitoring of some preliminary work on equipment access roads and relocation of storm drainage outlets along the shoreline afforded partial views of the successive strata of fill material which has been added to the site. In addition, data from four test borers done with a 30-ft soil auger allowed determination of the depth of fill at certain locations.

Fortunately, the project area is located in downtown Waco where documentation of historic land-use through archival sources is relatively easy. The body of this report presents an overview of the uses to which the project area was put before the fill layers were added and suggests how these same archival sources can be used to more-fully document this usage.
This study was undertaken because the Brazos Commons area is owned by the City of Waco and thus falls under the Texas Antiquities Code (V.T.C.S. 19-191). In addition, the construction activities along the immediate shore of the lake are permitted by the Corps of Engineers under federal law. The possible use of urban renewal federal grant funds for certain portions of the project also involves federal law, and between the two makes the entire project subject to review by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The federal laws and regulations which pertain to various portions of the project are: the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665, as amended by P.L. 91-243, 93-43, 94-422, 94-458, and 96-515), Executive Order 11593, the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-291), the Advisory Council Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800), and the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 80).

The purpose of the reconnaissance and monitoring efforts was to first insure that no cultural resources were endangered by the preliminary site improvements undertaken while Lake Brazos is at a draw-down stage, and second, to provide planning input on cultural resources management for consideration during subsequent building and landscaping plans for the site.

ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

The natural soil along the first terrace of the Brazos River in this area is a Yahola silty loam (Templin 1953:89, Map 4). These are reddish alluvial deposits of post-Pleistocene times transported from the Red Plains of western Texas. These soils commonly occur in the first bottoms of the Brazos River and generally overlie Pleistocene fluvial gravels which rest on the underlying Austin Chalk Formation (Bureau of Economic Geology 1970). This combination of
geologic strata gives rise to a line of springs which drain the groundwater trapped in the gravels atop the limestone. Indian Spring Park, located at the head of the Waco suspension bridge, is the location of the spring that supplied water to the Waco Indian Village (41ML95). This park is located across Franklin Avenue from the project area.

Waco is a humid subtropical climatic region with long hot and dry summers and mild winters (Templin et al. 1958:9). The average frost-free growing season lasts 251 days. The average rainfall is 32.9 inches, with the wettest period being spring (Templin et al. 1958:10-11).

The current conditions in the project area, however, have much more to do with exceptional weather conditions than with norms and means. The great Waco tornado which struck the downtown area on May 11, 1953, killed 114 people and injured hundreds more. The storm destroyed 196 business buildings and 150 homes (Branda 1976:1071). Much of the debris from this disaster was deposited along the riverfront in the project area.

The margins of the project area along the riverfront lie within the 100-year floodplain of the Brazos River. The worst Brazos River flood on record occurred between June 27 and July 1, 1899. A rainstorm centered on the Brazos watershed deposited an average of 17 inches over an area of 7,000 square miles (Dallas Morning News 1978-1979:131). Before flood control dams, flooding along the Brazos River was quite common. Photographs of several of these floods are found in Roger Conger’s 1964 pictorial history of Waco. These floods affected east Waco and did not usually cover the western bank.
PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Frank H. Watt published a monograph entitled "The Waco Indian Village and its Peoples" in 1969. This remarkable little study was based on documentary evidence, local tradition, and speculation. Watt even included a map of the Waco Village relative to the street plan of the present City of Waco. This map indicates that the Indian Spring Park site at the foot of Bridge Street was some distance from the village, which was centered around another spring on Barron Branch. However, the extent of the village shown in the inset smaller map (Fig. 1) shows the village running for some distance downriver from the spring on the Brazos.

Watt does not present any physical evidence for his location of the village. It appears that the recording of site 41ML95 in the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory files was based on Watt's research. The extent of the village site recorded agrees with the large-scale map shown in Figure 1 but does not include the larger area shown in the inset.

In 1979 Daniel E. Fox surveyed the 8-acre Indian Spring Park at the foot of the suspension bridge. The entire park has been designated site 41ML94, and the bridge is now on the National Register of Historic Places. In test excavations, Fox (1979) uncovered some aboriginal materials in a badly disturbed context which included much historic materials. This is not surprising since the toll collector's house, a laundry, a livery stable, and a flour mill all existed on this small tract in the nineteenth century (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company 1885, 1899; henceforth, all Sanborn maps are cited simply as Sanborn).

Fox recovered 49 chipped stone artifacts from his backhoe tests at the foot of the suspension bridge. Most of these items were debitage of one sort
or another. One Alba type arrow point was recovered (Fox 1979:Table 1). In subsequent monitoring, a single plain aboriginal potsherd was found plus additional chert debitage. A possible hearth of aboriginal origin contained the potsherd as well as some bits of charcoal and chert debitage.

The Alba type point is not generally thought of as characteristic of such protohistoric occupations as the Waco Indian Village, which would be expected to conform to the material culture characteristics of the Norteno Focus (Duffield and Jelks 1961:71). However, an Alba point was recovered from the Pearson Site (Duffield and Jelks 1961:71), which was used to define this focus, and Fox did recover a small biface which he thought might be a preform which might fit into the Fresno type arrow point category characteristic of Norteno Focus sites. The description contained in the report describes the point as ovate, while Fresno points are characteristically quite triangular. Thus, this material cannot be confidently associated with the Waco Tribe occupation.

No other archeological investigations have been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of downtown Waco. However, an extensive investigation of archeological and historic resources around the perimeter of Waco Lake was undertaken in 1984 by Prewitt and Associates, Inc.; the report on this project is currently in preparation. Prior to these investigations, an historic overview of the area was prepared by Jackson (1984), and an overview of the prehistoric resources was prepared by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (Prikryl and Prewitt 1984). Earlier limited test excavations and surveys were conducted by The University of Texas at Austin (Duffield 1959; Story and Shafer 1964). These investigations were confined to the Bosque Valley. The nearest large-scale archeological project in the Brazos Valley proper was the survey
and testing program at Lake Whitney (Stephenson 1970). An extensive archeological program was also undertaken in conjunction with the construction of Aquilla Lake in nearby Hill County (Brown, in press), the report of which has not yet become available in final form.

In summary, relatively little archeological work has been done in the immediate area with the exception of the investigations at the foot of the suspension bridge by Fox (1979). The small amount of aboriginal materials found by Fox and the map presented by Watt raised a primary question for the current field investigation. Do deposits from the historic Waco Indian Village lie buried in the Brazos Commons project area?

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It is generally agreed that several groups of Wichita-related peoples, including the Wacos, moved into Central Texas around 1715 (Newcomb 1961:24). Culturally, the Wacos were almost identical to the Tawakonis, Yscanis, Kichais, and the Wichita proper (Jelks 1970:277); thus, there has always been some confusion about the tribal identifications of villages made by Euro-Americans.

Athanase de Mezieres, a French nobleman in Spanish service, is the chief source of our knowledge of Indians in the Brazos Valley during the eighteenth century (Bolton 1951:122-127). On three separate occasions during the 1770s, he traveled up the Brazos past Waco to the vicinity of Nolans River. He reported two Tawakoni villages. One, called Quiscat after its chief, was located at or quite near modern Waco. The other, the Flechado Village, was located 8 leagues, or about 20 miles, upriver. Jelks (1970:278) demonstrated that the Stansbury Site (41HI9), now under Lake Whitney, was the same as the
Plechado Village. Another site found in 1959 about 8 miles upriver from present-day Waco on the west bank of the Brazos appears to have been the Quiscat Village. This site is called the Stone Site, 41ML38 (Duffield and Jelks 1961:70-73).

Because de Mezieres traveled through the Waco area and did not mention a Waco village, we are forced to conclude that it did not exist at that time but came into existence somewhat later. Watt's (1969:196-197) argument that the "Cenis" village at the Falls of the Brazos encountered by La Salle in 1680 was a horse-theft outpost and that the Waco village had a similar function and was older is not plausible. His identification of the "Ceni" designation with the Assinaiis is reasonable, but these people were Caddos rather than Wichitas. Although the Wichita language is related to the Caddo language, the word differences indicate they became culturally separate some 3,000 years ago (Hughes 1968:81).

It would appear, then, that the Waco Indian Village was established along Barron Creek where it joins the Brazos sometime after 1770. The troubles of the Austin Colony with the theft of horses and an extensive correspondence relating to a long-planned military expedition against the Wacos (see Watt 1969: 213-219) assures us that the Waco Indian Village had become well-known to the colonists.

In 1824 Stephen F. Austin sent Thomas M. Duke to the Waco Indian Village to scout for stolen animals and report on the size and strength of the village. Duke's letter to Austin (Barker 1924:842), written in June 1824 from the village itself, says:

This town is situated on the West Bank of the River about half a mile from the River[.] [T]hey have a spring almost as cold as Ice itself[.] [A]ll we want is some Brandy and Sugar to have Ice Toddy[.] [T]hey have about 400 acres planted in corn beans[,] pumpkins [sic] and
melons and that tended in good order[.] Their Village consists of about Sixty houses built in pretty good order[.] I think they cannot raise more than One Hundred Warriors. One of the Tawakanaw [sic] towns is about three miles below this on the opposite side of them consisting of seven houses* . . .

It seems clear enough from this report that in 1824 the Waco Indian Village numbered perhaps 400 people and that it was located about half a mile from the Brazos River. This would be some distance from Indian Spring Park and the project area under discussion in this report.

Austin wrote to the Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation and asked their help in an attack on the main Waco village planned for May 25, 1826 (Barker 1924:1307) but sent a following letter canceling the plan (Barker 1924:1323). No joint attack occurred, but eventually the Cherokee acted alone.

In April 1829, a Cherokee war party of 55 warriors left the settlement on the Angelina River and walked to the Brazos River. They walked because the Wacos had stolen all of their horses, which they intended to take back with vengeance. Two accounts of the battle exist; both are quoted at length by Watt (1969:216-219). The details of the battle need not be given here, but certain bits of information are germane to the size, location, and composition of the village. The account of Chief Bowles, one of the leaders of the attack, states that the Wacos had 180 warriors, a village composed of "teepees, wigwams and cabins," and a rude fortification (Watt 1969:218).

The fortification "consisted of a large cavernous [sic] affair located on the second bank of the river entirely above high water. . . . The only means of ingress was at the front facing the river, the entrance was arched

*This small Tawakoni village seems to correspond with 41ML28 where historic Wichita-Tawakoni materials were found (Texas Archeological Research Laboratory n.d.).
over with flat stones. Several yards in front of the entrance was a breastworks made of logs and stones" (Watt 1969:218).

The implication of this account is that the village was almost twice as large as estimated by Duke in 1824 and that the houses were located on the first terrace near the river, while the fortifications were on the second terrace. The Cherokees withdrew when the Wacos were reinforced by the Tawakonis. They reportedly took 50 Waco scalps and burned most of the village but were forced to walk back to the Angelina River without horses.

Between the Cherokee raid in 1829 and 1836, the village apparently continued to be occupied. George B. Erath (in Sleeper and Hutchins 1876:4) wrote that when Captain Barron's company of rangers was ordered to establish a fort at the Waco village early in 1837, "Waco was in the possession of buffalo, and only a short time before had been vacated by the Waco Indians; corn stalks were found in the fields they had cultivated, and peach trees were growing where the City now stands." The company built some shanties for barracks near the big spring on the river but remained only three weeks at what they dubbed Fort Fisher.

George Erath was a subaltern officer in Barron's company. Later, both of them would return to the area -- Barron to build a home and give his name to the creek that joined the Brazos here and Erath to lay out a city. In his memoirs, Erath recalled the laying out of Waco as follows:

When at the Waco village in 1837, it appeared to me that it would be a good site for a town, and I never lost an opportunity to bring about the laying off of a town there. The opportunity came in the year 1848. General Chambers, to whom the land had been titled by the Mexican government, sold to Sydnor of Galveston and he authorized J. De Cordova, a general land agent and one of my principal customers, to dispose of it at a dollar an acre. At the same time he gave him power to create a subagent and to do whatever he thought best to make a quick sale of it,
even at additional expense. Cordova desired me to cut it up into small tracts and sell for him. I told him of my idea of locating a town there, also that the title was imperfect and how to perfect it, which would have to be done before any sale whatever was made. This brought about another sale from Sydnor to N. A. Ware of Galveston and Jonas Butler, who had only a small share in it. They gave Cordova one-third of the land, which was two leagues, and a half of 320 acres in the northwest corner, which was to be laid off into a town. A delay occurred until the first of March 1849, at which time I laid off only the main street and a number of lots which could be immediately disposed of. I sold them at five dollars apiece. They were mostly those on both sides of Bridge Street from the river to the square. I had been made subagent, but had no direct benefit from the sale, the proceeds going to the owners of the land not one of whom had ever seen it.

There were at that time about twenty families in what is now McLennan County. Captain Barron lived immediately above the town tract. No one lived on the land at the time. Native post oaks, peach trees planted by the Indians, bones, and old Indian fortifications were about. The family of Captain Ross and several other families were camped on the east side of the river ready to move into town, and on the day I surveyed it three or four men stood by and walked along with me carrying axes, ready to go to housebuilding. John McLennan, eldest son of Neill, who had accompanied me on many surveying trips, was then sheriff of Milam County to which the territory of McLennan County belonged. He was my principal assistant in laying off the town. Captain Ross took much interest in the formation of it, and believed in its future greatness. [Erath 1923:85]

In 1850 Jacob De Cordova deeded the tract known as the "Commons" to the Commissioners of McLennan County (McLennan County Deed Record B:37) for the City of Waco. This included the city square, the Indian Spring, all of the streets and alleys, as well as a "reserve in front of the town facing the Brazos River."

This portion of the Commons area along the riverfront is the location of the proposed Brazos Commons project. Here we must turn to the specific history of the uses made of this reserve tract along the river during the next century.
As early as 1869, the City began leasing portions of the Commons tract along the river to private businesses. The 1869 lease was to Nathan A. Willett and William Reaves for use as a bath house (City of Waco 1984:48).

The Eureka Gas Light Company acquired a 99-year lease to manufacture gas and gas lamps for public use and erected buildings near the foot of Mary Avenue in 1872. The City Directory of 1876 (Sleeper and Hutchins 1876:64) stated that the "buildings and works are of the most enduring character." Naptha gas, prized for its superior illuminating qualities, was made here from coal. The works went into operation on May 15, 1874. Gas lights illuminated Austin Avenue from Fourth Street to the public square and Bridge Street from the public square to the river. A pipe crossed the suspension bridge to carry illuminating gas to east Waco. At least a portion of these sturdy buildings have survived and were recorded as a site. This is detailed below in the section entitled Results of the Survey.

The Texas and St. Louis Railway Company was granted a right-of-way easement in 1881 when their bridge was built at Mary Avenue.

The Citizens Railway Company, located on Franklyn Avenue just north of the gas works, was granted a 50-year lease in July 1890. They were soon followed by the Texas Power and Light Company, which was granted an 80-year lease on the Commons in March 1891 (City of Waco 1984:48).

The location of the Citizens Railway Company is shown as Point A on Figure 2 (Sanborn 1899). The location of the main buildings of the Eureka Gas Light Company are depicted at Point B (Sanborn 1885-1889). The Waters-Pierce Oil Company warehouse was located at Point C. This company evidently stored kerosene, gasoline, and other petroleum products in a warehouse on that site.

South of Jackson Avenue was a Black residential neighborhood which was well developed when the first Sanborn insurance map of the City was published
in 1885. The houses depicted are nearly all very modest-sized frame structures along River Street and Clay and Webster avenues. An African Methodist Episcopal Church was located at Point D on Figure 2. This was a 30x50-ft frame structure with walls 15 ft high and a roof ridge at 30 ft. It had a 70-ft spire (Sanborn 1889). This church was gone by 1893, and a large gravel pit occupied the northeastern corner of Block 23.

The small group of business establishments labeled E in Figure 2 included a saloon, a grocery, two cobblers shops, and a vacant store in 1885 (Sanborn 1885). The saloon survived the ravages of time and tornado and was still standing on the corner of First Street and Jackson Avenue in 1964 (Conger 1964:67).

In summary then, the historic background of the project area begins possibly in the late eighteenth century as the outskirts of the Waco Indian Village. The village was abandoned by the time Texas Rangers established Fort Fisher in 1837. It should be noted that the site of the reconstructed fort is south of the project area, while the spring near which Erath said the original was built is just north of the project area.

Historic usage of the area after the City of Waco was laid out in 1849 has ranged from early energy-related industrial use in the northern sector to a quiet riverside Black community which was evidently allotted to the freedmen just after the Civil War.

GOALS AND METHODS

As mentioned in the introduction, conventional pedestrian survey and shovel testing techniques which would be the normal methods used for such a reconnaissance were singularly unproductive. Virtually the entire project
area is covered to a considerable depth with a fill layer composed of debris from the 1953 tornado. Business buildings and homes of both nineteenth- and twentieth-century construction were laid waste by the winds. The mass of debris was scooped up at random and trucked to the riverfront.

Thus, the surface where it is not paved is very likely to contain artifacts of almost any historic period and function, although some care was taken to landscape surfaces using clean topsoil. Cutbanks and excavations typically exhibit "instant" stratigraphy related to individual loads of debris. Such intact archeological deposits as may remain on and under the native alluvium are relatively inaccessible.

Yet our goal was to identify, locate, and document all such remains which might meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or as State Archeological Landmarks. This presented a singular challenge under the circumstances and called for some innovative methods. It was clear that presenting our clients and the permitting agencies with a project area that either represents a single site relating to the 1953 tornado or none at all was useless.

We chose to substitute the use of the very detailed Sanborn maps of the area to locate key historical features horizontally. These maps are drawn to a scale of 1 inch = 100 ft and indicate the type, size, and use of all structures. The vertical location of the surfaces upon which the remains, if any, of these structures now rest can be derived from a comparison of the elevations given on current large-scale topographic maps and a similar series done from January 1958 aerial photographs. Although some of the fill had already been added, the massive amounts were yet to come.

The accuracy of this method of estimating the depth of fill at any point was checked by using the results of four 30-ft borings done with a soil auger.
The opportunity to view deep soil profiles was offered by the planned re-
excavation of a storm drainage outlet pipe near the foot of Mary Avenue. This
concrete pipe was 6 ft in diameter. Plans called for the last few feet of the
pipe to be removed and replaced at a lower depth. Since this excavation re-
opened an excavation made sometime around 1950, it offered a good chance to
view subsoil conditions without great risk of disturbing archeological depos-
its of some significance.

The excavation of this trench was monitored by personnel from Prewitt and
Associates, Inc. After the pipe section was removed, a measured profile draw-
ing of the features and soil strata was made.

The remains of the Eureka Gas Light Company building were found in the
trench wall and were recorded as an archeological site. These results are
presented in the next section.

To summarize, then, our general goal was to identify all archeological
remains along the immediate shoreline which might be disturbed by the initial
shoreline work. Our secondary goal was to develop a generalized history of
the land use in the rest of the project area and suggest some reasonable and
economical method of locating and evaluating archeological materials which may
lie buried there.

RESULTS OF THE RECONNAISSANCE

The Eureka Gas Light Company

One archeological site (41ML203), the remains of the Eureka Gas Light
Company, were discovered and recorded. The site was not visible on the sur-
face but could be clearly seen in the soil profile of the trench discussed
above. The footings and a substantial section of the walls of a red brick masonry structure lie some 3 ft behind the immediate soil profile. The features which can be viewed in the profile are a low stone structure and a masonry tank lined with tar, which we presume to be a gas holder. The profile drawing is presented in Figure 3.

The Sanborn map for 1885 depicts a 60x40-ft masonry building in this position and indicates that it contained the meter room and retorts. The 1926 map shows the structure still in place but somewhat modified, with an iron chimney and a concrete addition to the north end. Tracings of these scaled maps of the site have been included in the site documentation, in accordance with the Guidelines of the Council of Texas Archeologists relative to publishing exact site locations, but are not shown here.

Although we cannot tell how much of the original gas plant is intact, the profiles suggest that there are ample physical remains of this early Waco industrial venture. Because such early industrial sites are comparatively rare (Fox 1983:Chapter X) and because it is located on land owned by the City of Waco, the site meets the criteria for designation as a State Archeological Landmark. The lower portion of this deep soil profile was carefully examined for aboriginal materials but none were found.

The Citizens Railway Company

No physical remains of this building were found. The 1926 Sanborn map indicates that the building was razed and replaced by a Texas Power and Light Company building which was still depicted on the 1958 USGS topographic maps. Auger Test 1 (see Fig. 2), taken about midway between the location of this
building and the Eureka Gas Light Company building, showed 6 ft of building rubble and 9.5 ft before the natural alluvial soil was reached.

**The Waters-Pierce Oil Company**

The only other set of buildings that was located on City Commons land along the immediate waterfront was the Waters-Pierce Oil Company warehouse which was located at the foot of Jackson Avenue. Again, no physical remains of this facility were detected. However, Auger Test 2 (see Fig. 2) located nearby indicates that the site is covered by a 6-ft pad of building rubble fill.

**Other Areas**

No other structures were defined on the Sanborn maps along the narrow strip of immediate shoreline involved in current earthmoving and construction plans. The area south of Jackson Avenue off the Commons was once a densely built neighborhood of modest frame houses occupied by Blacks. The nature of the neighborhood was noted on the Sanborn maps and confirmed by an examination of the 1876 City Directory (Sleeper and Hutchins 1876) where addresses along River Street, lower Webster Avenue, and Clay Avenue were all listed as "colored." The 1880 manuscript census for Waco was also examined. Street data recorded there could allow an almost house-by-house reconstruction of the demographic composition of the neighborhood.

Auger Test 3 (see Fig. 2), located midway between Jackson and Webster avenues near the shore, indicates that the rubble fill layer is 14 ft deep at that point. The auger test profiles for all four tests are displayed in
Figure 4. The locations of these bores is displayed on Figure 2 in relation to the known historical buildings mentioned in the text.

In summary, the results of the reconnaissance confirm that the immediate shoreline and, in some cases, areas some distance inland have been covered over in very recent times with fill material containing building debris from the 1953 tornado and subsequent demolitions. One site, the Eureka Gas Light Company building, was found deeply buried in this rubble fill. No physical evidence of Indian occupation was found in the deep soil profile at this location.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are given in two parts; first, the areas along the immediate shoreline where construction plans are well defined are addressed. Second, recommended methods for assessing the impact on cultural resources by future construction plans, which are not as yet well defined, are presented.

First, it appears that with the exception of the Eureka Gas Light Company Site, current Phase I waterfront improvement plans will not penetrate the fill layers at any point where structures are known to have existed on the Commons area. Therefore, it is recommended that the work be allowed to proceed as planned, with modifications to the grading plan to preserve the Eureka Gas Light Company Site intact.

Secondly, it is recommended that a detailed map reconstruction of the historic structures located on former residential streets be undertaken to establish the exact horizontal location of all such structures. The probable
PROFILES OF AUGER TESTS

Auger Test #1
- 6' Building Rubble
- 6'
- 3.5' Dark Brown Clay
- 2.3'
- 5.5' Red Sandy Loam
- 14'
- 12'
- Tan Limestone

Auger Test #2
- 6' Building Rubble
- 6'
- 4' Light Brown Sand
- 10'
- 4' Brown Sandy Gravel
- 14'
- Tan Limestone

Auger Test #3
- 6' Building Rubble
- 6'
- 4' Mixed Fill & Rubble
- 14'
- 14'
- Gray Brown Sand
- 19'
- No Change

Auger Test #4
- 6' Brown Sandy Gravel
- 6'
- 13' Light Tan Sand
- 19'
- 3' Dark Gray Clay
- 22'
- Light Brown Sand
- No Change
depth beneath the current surface of any possible remains can then be estab-
lished by comparison of contour lines between the 1958 and current USGS topographic maps. This information, in conjunction with subsurface data discussed below, could then be used to evaluate the impact of any future construction plan on intact cultural resources which may exist at Brazos Commons. Essentially, the thick cover of debris currently protects any remains of the Waco Indian Village or subsequent historic sites.

Further, it is recommended that planned detailed soil augering of the project area be monitored by an archeologist. Placement of the auger holes should be coordinated so that locations of known structures can be examined to determine if identifiable subsurface remains are present.

Following this second phase of site identification and assessment, the locations of all sites in the project area should be correlated with full construction plans to include structure placement, drainage improvements, and grading plans. Appropriate mitigative measures should be determined at this time in consultation with all parties involved: Brazos Commons, Ltd., the City of Waco, the Texas Antiquities Committee, and the State Historic Preservation Officer. Mitigation can be expected to take various forms to include such actions as: moving the planned locations of buildings requiring foundation excavations that may penetrate intact subsurface archeological deposits; altering grading plans or drainage improvements to avoid exposing archeological deposits; data recovery through excavation of site areas that cannot be avoided; and additional archival research to complement data recovery activities that may be necessary.

Preservation of sites by avoiding disruptive activities is the preferred alternative. Data recovery through excavation should be initiated only if construction plans cannot be altered to achieve site preservation.
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