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August 31, 2004

Ms. Arlene Wimer
National Park Service
Padre Island National Seashore
Division of Resource Management
P.O. Box 181300
Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-1300

Dear Arlene:

Re: Novus Manzano #1-#3, Cultural Resources Survey Report, Padre Island National Seashore (PINS), Kleberg County, TX.

Please find enclosed three copies of the above referenced report. The cultural resources survey was performed on August 5 & 6, 2004 by Archaeology Consultants, Inc. (ACI). ACI did not encounter any archaeological or cultural resources within the project area.

Hopefully the National Park Service and the Texas Historical Commission will find this report satisfactory.

Thank you for your helpful assistance, and please call me at (361) 729-1241 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeff Nelson

Encl.

361-729-2948

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Arlene Wimer
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cc: Howard Wilson
Ross Sigur
Novus Louisiana LLC
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Lafayette, LA 70505-2506

Charlie Belaire (w/o enclosure)

A Cultural Resources Survey of the Novus Manzano No. 1 Petroleum Drilling Project
Padre Island National Seashore, Kleberg County, Texas

Herbert G. Uecker and James E. Warren

Prepared for Novus Oil and Gas Texas, LLC
Lafayette, Louisiana

August, 2004

Archaeology Consultants, Inc.
P. O. Box 163
George West, Texas 78022
Report No. 618

Herbert G. Uecker, Principal Investigator

Abstract

In August, 2004, Archaeology Consultants, Inc., performed a cultural resources survey of the Novus Manzano No. 1 Petroleum Drilling project area within the Padre Island National Seashore in Kleberg County, Texas, for Novus Oil and Gas Texas, LLC, of Lafayette, Louisiana, and its consultant Belair Environmental, Inc., of Rockport, Texas. The project area consisted of approximately 3.34 acres of sand dunes and flats. Because the project area was within the national seashore, which is managed by the National Park Service, the survey was conducted according to applicable provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines*. Since the project area was not owned or controlled by the State of Texas or any of the state's political subdivisions, the project was not subject to compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and a state antiquities permit was not obtained.

The area of potential effects included the entire project area, which consisted of the zone of impacts for construction of a proposed drilling pad, access road, primary pipeline route along the access road, and an alternative pipeline route. In addition to intensive pedestrian examination of the surface within those areas, 21 shovel tests were archaeologically excavated within them. No archaeological or other cultural resources were encountered and no artifacts or other items were collected or curated in conjunction with the survey. Archaeology Consultants, Inc., recommended to the project sponsors and the Texas Historical Commission that the currently planned construction should be allowed to proceed without further archaeological work. However, it was also recommended that if any cultural resources should be encountered during construction, per applicable antiquities statutes and regulations, construction work should immediately be halted in the vicinity until such finds are examined and evaluated by Archaeology Consultants, Inc., or by any other qualified archaeological consultant, and by the Texas Historical Commission.

Acknowledgement

Archaeology Consultants, Inc., was assisted in coordinating and performing its investigation of the project area by two persons whose help is hereby gratefully acknowledged: Jeff Nelson of Belair Environmental, Inc., and National Park Service Environmental Protection Specialist Arlene Wimer.

Introduction

As requested by Jeff Nelson of Belair Environmental, Inc., of Rockport, Texas, on August 5 and 6, 2004, Archaeology Consultants, Inc. (ACI), performed the fieldwork phase of a cultural resources survey of a proposed petroleum drilling operation within the Padre Island National Seashore in Kleberg County, Texas. The survey was performed for the project sponsor, Novus Oil and Gas Texas, LLC, of Lafayette, Louisiana. On-site assistance was provided by Arlene Wimer, Environmental Protection Specialist with the National Parks Service.

The project area included approximately 3.34 acres of relatively low sand dunes and flats that were unimproved at the time of the survey and contained no remnants of standing structures, buildings, or objects. The proposed improvements included a 2.76-acre drilling pad, about 1,200 linear feet of access road/pipeline route, and about 550 linear feet of alternative pipeline route. The pipeline rights-of-way were 40 feet wide. Because the project area was within a national seashore managed by the National Park Service, the survey was conducted according to applicable provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines*, and the rules and regulations of the Texas Historical Commission for federally linked projects. The survey was performed by ACI owner James E. Warren, Principal Investigator Herbert G. Uecker, and assistants Art Romine and Bobby Jemison. This report conforms to the *Council of Texas Archeologists Guidelines for Cultural Resource Management Reports* as it applies to reports of negative or negligible findings.

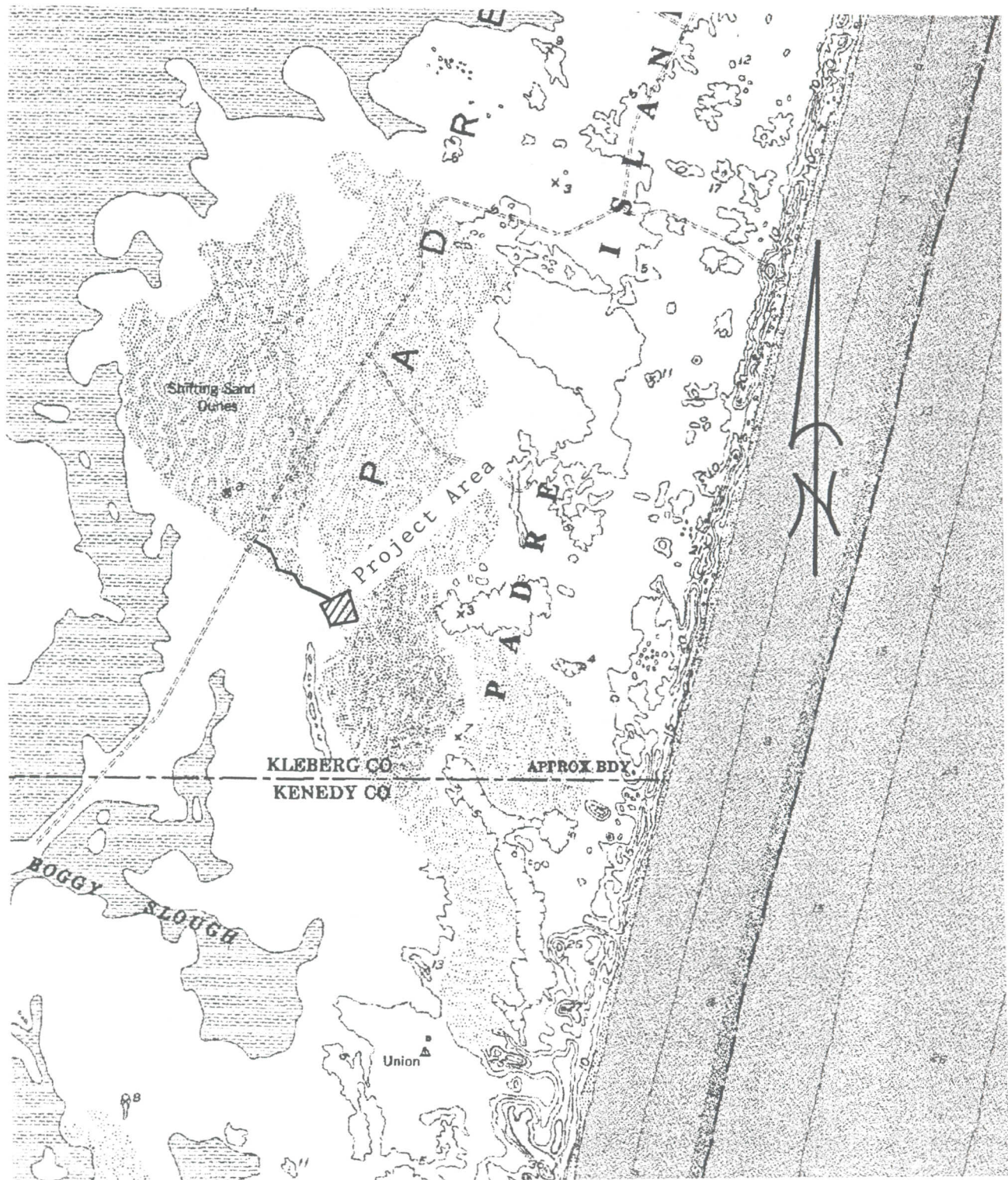
Environmental Setting

Padre Island is one of a series of barrier islands unique to the Texas Gulf Coast (Figure 1). It originated during the Holocene geologic epoch of the Quaternary Period and Cenozoic era (Renfro n.d.). Such barrier islands have been described by Kier (1977) as elongate, low, sandy islands parallel to and along the trend of the coast. They are characterized by complex natural environments which include beaches, berms, tidal flats, vegetated barrier flats, dunes, marshes and washovers (Kier et al. 1977).

Soils within the project area are Mustang fine sands associated with tidal flats and coastal dunes (Franki et al. 1965). The vegetational habitats of barrier islands are classified as Beach, Foredunes, Grasslands Plains-Low Coastal Sands, Ponds and Marshes, Active Dune Fields, Wind-Tidal Flats and The Laguna Madre. Grasses and forbs vary in density and distribution within such environments based primarily on salt tolerance or intolerance. Some of the more common species are glasswort, sea purslane, seashore dropseed, beach morning glory, railroad vine, gulf croton, gulf dune paspalum, seashore saltgrass, sea oats, and marsh hay cordgrass (National Park Service n.d.).

The non-marine fauna on the islands includes ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, pocket gophers, coyotes, whitetailed deer, jackrabbits, Mexican free-tailed bats, marsh rats, raccoons, and rattle snakes (cf. Rabalais 1975).

Figure 1. USGS South Bird Island, SE.



Scale
0 2000
Feet

The climate of Padre Island is humid and subtropical with mild, dry winters. Periodic droughts occur and have been known to substantially alter the entire surface of the island and the depth of water in the Laguna Madre by gradual movement of windblown sand. Hurricanes also greatly affect the topography, opening and closing various channels across the islands. Average annual rainfall on the island is 28 inches and the average temperature is 70 degrees Fahrenheit (Scurlock et al. 1974)

Historical Background

The historic era of the Texas Gulf Coast began in 1519, when the Spanish governor of Jamaica, Francisco Garay, sent Alonzo Alvarez de Piñeda on an expedition to map the coast of "Las Floridas" between Vera Cruz and what is today Pensacola. Seeking a share of the riches that Hernando Cortez found in Mexico, Garay tried to establish a colony in the New World as near to Cortez' armies as possible. Garay was probably also hoping to discover the fabled Strait of Ainan, which was supposed to be a direct waterway through North America to China (Scurlock 1974:17).

Upon Piñeda's return, Garay sent a group of colonists under the command of Diego de Camargo to settle near the mouth of the Rio de las Palmas (Rio Grande). The group set sail in the summer of 1520, arriving safely at its destination. After being met with stiff resistance from the local aborigines, the group soon fled from the area. They eventually arrived in Vera Cruz and were permitted to settle with Cortez in Mexico (Scurlock 1974).

Garay was quite unhappy with this turn of events and petitioned the Spanish crown for a grant to colonize in the area from the Rio Panuco (Tampico) to the West Coast of Florida (the area called Amichel). Garay received the grant and on June 26, 1523, sailed from Jamaica with a flotilla of 16 ships. His destination was not the West Coast of Florida, which was many hundreds of leagues north of Cortez's fabulous holdings in Mexico. The expedition made straight for Rio de Las Palmas where Garay sent Gonzalo de Ocampo on a scouting mission in the area. After receiving an unfavorable report from Ocampo, the flotilla sailed onward to the Rio Panuco. Cortez would not allow such an encroachment on his territory and quickly subdued Garay, effectively putting an end to Garay's search for fame and fortune (cf. Scurlock 1974).

Garay's ill fortune did nothing to cool the gold fever that was infecting Spain at this time. An old rival of Cortez, Panfilo de Narvaez, was the next Spaniard to try for a share of New World plunder. On November 17, 1526, Narvaez left Santiago de Cuba with a royal charter to settle a colony at Rio de las Palmas. The Narvaez expedition suffered a fate worse than that of Garay's party. After more than two years of hardship, they landed in Florida instead of southern Texas, left their vessels to explore the area on foot, and were soon marooned off the west coast of Florida. After building makeshift rafts and striking out along the Gulf Coast, the survivors became marooned again in November of 1528, this time on the Texas coast. All were either killed by Indians or died, with the exceptions the Treasurer of the expedition, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, and three others, Alonzo de Castillo, Andres Dorantes, and a Moor named Estevanico. It is probable that during their six year sojourn with coastal Indians, this group

visited Mustang and Padre Islands. The group eventually managed make its way to the settlement of Culiacan on the Pacific coast of Mexico, where it arrived in May of 1536 (Scurlock 1974:16).

The next recorded event in the general vicinity of the project area is the wreck of the Spanish Plate Fleet on Padre Island in 1554. At least three ships of this fleet were cast ashore during a bad storm. Only about a third of the original party of more than a thousand made it to shore and only two of these lived to tell their story. Fray Marcos de Mena was the only survivor of the ill-fated group, which was decimated by Indians as they tried to walk back to the Rio Panuco. Francisco Vasquez elected to return to the shipwreck site where he was rescued by the salvage expedition commanded by Captain Angel de Villafana (Scurlock 1974).

The French were next upon the scene. Henri Joutel, chronicler of the expedition of Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, records that the expedition arrived at the latitude of Mustang and Padre Islands in January of 1687 (Writer's Roundtable 1950:51). When word of these activities reached Mexico, the Spanish sent five separate expeditions under command of Alonso de Leon into Texas between 1686 and 1690, with orders to find and dispel the French interlopers. The last expedition torched Fort Saint Louis, by then abandoned by the French, and established the Spanish Mission of San Francisco de los Tejas under the leadership of Fr. Damian Massanet (Webb 1952:483-484).

Still suspicious of possible encroachment attempts, the Viceroy of Spain established a sentry unit on the Bar of San Miguel (probably Mustang Island) and Spanish soldiers patrolled the coastal islands (Writer's Roundtable 1950:52). At about the same time, Antonio Gil y Barbo, a Spanish official in East Texas, discovered near the mouth of Sabine River an abandoned English vessel containing a load of bricks, lumber, and farming implements (Bolton 1980:425).

In 1766, the fear of invasion prompted the Governor of Coahuila, Diego Ortiz Parilla, to lead an expedition from San Juan Bautista on the Rio Grande northward to La Bahia and then down the coast to the Rio Grande. This mission was the first to record detailed descriptions of St. Joseph, Mustang, and Padre Islands and was responsible for naming Corpus Christi Bay (Webb 1952: 341-342). One writer states that Parrilla's party surveyed a road down Padre Island from Corpus Christi Pass to Santiago Point, marking important leagues with metal plates fastened to mahogany driftwood posts (Writer's Roundtable 1950:52). Offshore along the coast, Jose de Evia sailed in 1786 on a mapping expedition from Tampico to western Florida (Bolton 1970:133). Jose de Evia took the same route as Pineda and apparently was to refine Pineda's 1519 map.

Permanent settlement of this portion of the Texas coast began in 1828 when James Power and Dr. James T. Hewetson were granted an impresario contract from the Mexican government of Coahuila and Texas. The grant contained an enormous amount of land along the shoreline that included Mustang, St. Joseph Island, and part of Matagorda Island (Wood 1979:11-12). Between 1824 and 1836, the coastal islands were used as veritable highways for pack trains and oxcarts carrying goods to and from Mexico (Writer's Roundtable 1950:53).

In 1863, Union General Nathaniel P. Banks arrived at Corpus Christi Pass, which divides Mustang from Padre Island. He had captured Brownsville shortly before his arrival at the pass, and his new goal was the conquest of Corpus Christi. Finding the pass too shallow for his troop's ships, Banks detailed a contingent of 500 men under Brigadier General T. C. G. Ransom to proceed to the northern tip of Mustang Island and attack the Confederates who controlled that portion of the island. Banks then proceeded with his remaining forces up the coast by ship to assist Ransom. Banks sailed through Aransas Pass and began a siege of Corpus Christi (Wood 1979:82). The outnumbered Confederates were forced to evacuate, leaving the old Mexican fort, and control of Aransas Pass, to the Federal troops (Edwards 1983:11C).

The first bridge over Corpus Christi Pass, linking Mustang and Padre Islands, was built by Sam Robertson in the mid 1920s. Robertson planned to make Padre and Mustang Islands into another Miami Beach, but was thwarted by the Great Depression and the ravages of periodic hurricanes (Edwards 1983:19C). During most of the twentieth century and the early twenty-first century, Padre Island was used mostly for ranching, petroleum extraction, and recreational activities. At this writing there are numerous beach-side condominiums on the island. A large area in the central portion Padre Island is included in the Padre Island National Seashore.

Previous Archaeology

The earliest activities by professional archaeologists on Padre Island concentrated on documentation and assessment of archaeological resources which were reported previously by local artifact collectors (Campbell 1964). Campbell recorded 15 sites during his survey of the area. Additional documentation and assessment of previously reported sites, and surveys to find and record other sites, were attempted during establishment of the Padre Island National Seashore (cf. Scurlock 1974). Due to the relative inaccuracy of mapping technologies in use at the time the sites were first recorded by Campbell, compared to mapping technologies in use during surveys associated with establishment of the national seashore, and also due to the rapid evolution of island topography, only one of the sites originally recorded by Campbell, 41KL6O, was able to be re-located during later surveys.

Investigations in the immediate vicinity of the project area have been confined to surface surveys, retrieval of artifacts by local collectors, and infrequent visits by professional archaeologists. When examined by the ACI staff, no records of formal testing or excavation in this vicinity were found in the files of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory of the University of Texas at Austin.

Prewitt and Associates (1984) surveyed the proposed locations of two drilling pads about 200 meters east of the current project area, but the survey encountered no archaeological resources or other cultural evidence. Several surveys on Padre Island by Warren (1984a, 1985a, 1988a, 1988b, 1993, 1994) also yielded negative results.

Another survey by Warren (1984b) recorded an aboriginal occupation site, 41NU219, at the extreme north end of Padre Island adjacent to Packery Channel. The site exhibited flint flakes, ceramic sherds, mammal bone, and shells on the surfaces of pocket gopher mounds. Test excavations at the site yielded cultural evidence to a depth of 90 centimeters including Rockport pottery and Perdiz arrow points. Warren (1988c) also conducted an archaeological investigation in conjunction with the re-opening of Packery Channel. A magnetometer survey done at that time yielded positive readings, but ground truthing excavations encountered only modern metal objects such as 55 gallon drums, lengths of wire rope, and a buried automobile. A recent archaeological survey of the Dunn/Murdock No. 1 drilling pad location encountered no significant cultural resources (Moore and Warren 2001).

The Survey

Archival Research

A check of the files at The University of Texas at Austin's Texas Archeological Research Laboratory made in conjunction with the survey revealed no previously recorded archeological sites in or near the project area.

Surface Survey

A 100-percent pedestrian survey of the drilling pad, access road/pipeline route, and the two alternative pipeline tie-ins (Figures 2-3) was performed. Vegetative cover was estimated to be greater than 90 percent in the area surveyed, and all exposures such as gopher mounds, blowouts, and open dune faces were closely scrutinized for cultural evidence, but none was found.

Shovel Tests

Five shovel tests were dug at the drilling pad location, 12 were dug within the access road/pipeline route, and four were dug within the two alternative pipeline tie-in routes. Shovel tests within linear components were dug on approximate 30-meter intervals. Shovel tests ranged in depth from 90 to 110 centimeters. All excavated matrix was screened using one-quarter-inch mesh hardware cloth. The appendix to this report contains additional information about the shovel tests. No cultural evidence was encountered during the shovel tests.

Figure 2. Project Plan.

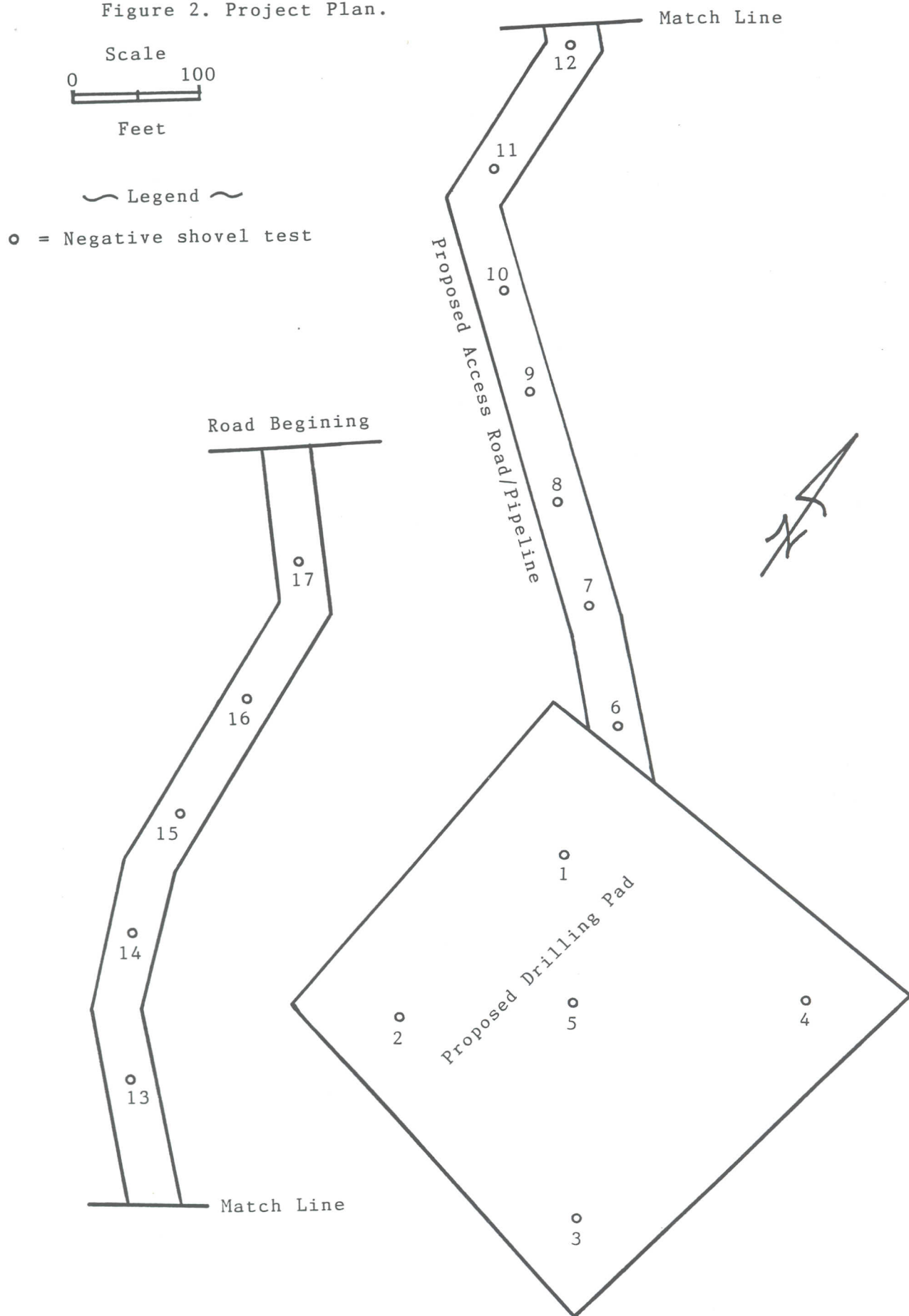
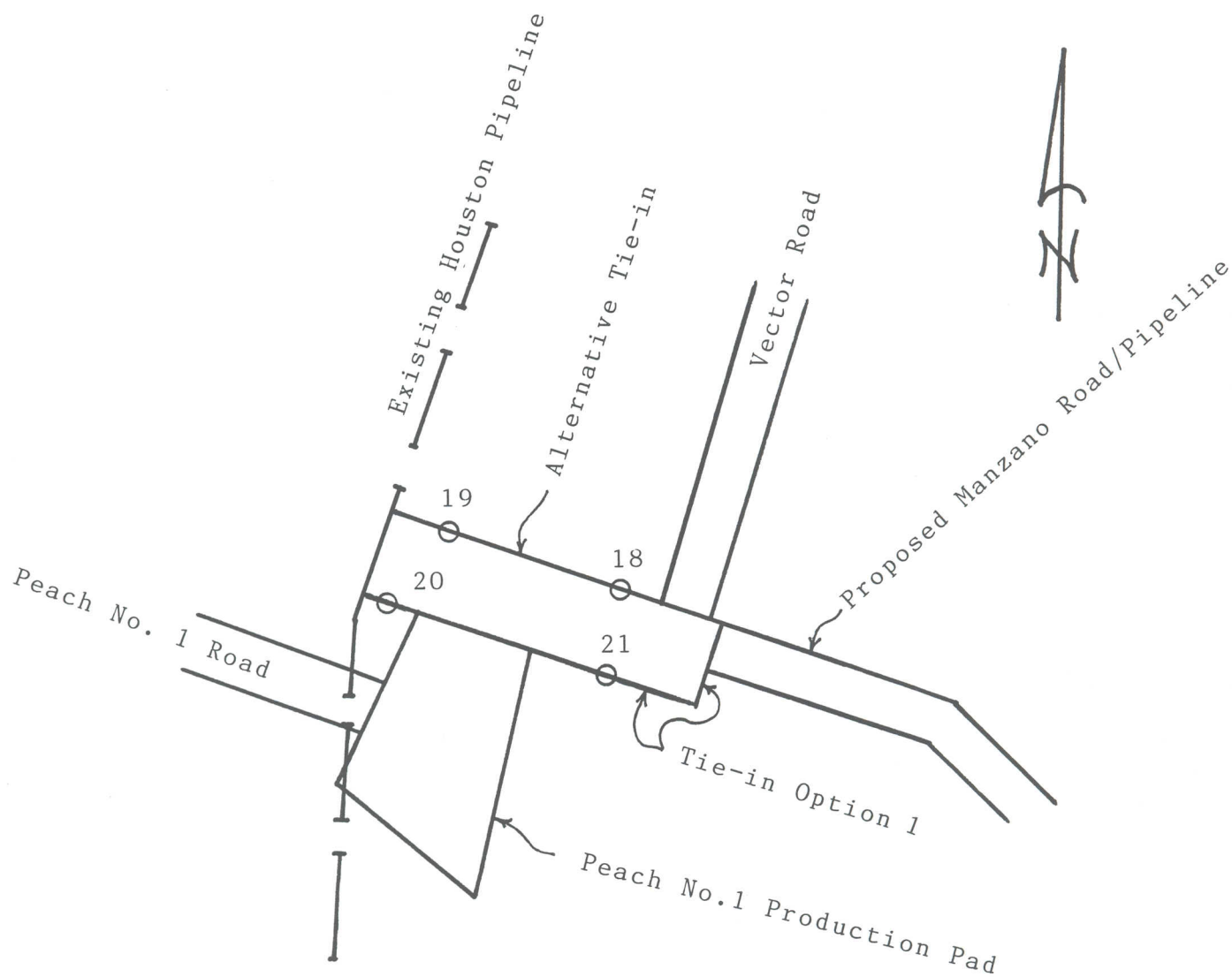


Figure 3. Alternative Pipeline Tie-ins.



~ Legend ~

○ = Negative shovel test

Scale
0 100
Feet

Recommendations

Since no cultural evidence was encountered during the survey and there were no historic standing structures, buildings, or objects, or any traces of same, within the project area, ACI believed that the proposed project would have no effect on any cultural resources eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for State Archeological Landmark designation. Therefore ACI recommended to the project sponsors and the Texas Historical Commission that the project should proceed without further archaeological work. However, because no survey-level testing procedure is entirely foolproof, ACI also recommended that if any cultural resources were encountered during construction, per applicable antiquities statutes and regulations, construction work should immediately be halted in the vicinity until such finds were examined and evaluated by Archaeology Consultants, Inc., or by any qualified archaeological consultant, and by the Texas Historical Commission.

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Appendix
Shovel Test Data

Shovel Test Log

Note: All measurements are centimeters.

Abbreviations:

7/1 = 10YR 7/1 light gray Munsell soil color

6/1 = 10YR 6/1 gray Munsell soil color

fs = fine sand soil texture

ST-1:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-40: 7/1 fs; 40-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-2:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-50: 7/1 fs; 50-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-3:

Depth: 110

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-110: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-4:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-50: 7/1 fs; 50-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-5:

Depth: 110

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-110: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-6:

Depth: 90

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-90: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-7:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-40: 7/1 fs; 40-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-8:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-50: 7/1 fs; 50-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-9:

Depth: 110

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-110: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-10:

Depth: 110

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-110: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-11:

Depth: 110

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-110: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-12:

Depth: 90

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-90: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-13:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-50: 7/1 fs; 50-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-14:

Depth: 110

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-110: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-15:

Depth: 90

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-90: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-16:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-40: 7/1 fs; 40-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-17:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-50: 7/1 fs; 50-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-18:

Depth: 110

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-110: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-19:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-50: 7/1 fs; 50-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-20:

Depth: 110

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-110: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence

ST-21:

Depth: 100

Profile: 0-60: 7/1 fs; 60-100: 6/1 fs

Findings: No Cultural Evidence