2020

“Backyard Archaeology”: An Archaeological Survey of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78259

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“BACKYARD ARCHAEOLOGY”:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
19714 ENCINO KNOLL STREET,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, 78259

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Management Summary

PROJECT TITLE: "Backyard Archaeology": An Archaeological Survey Of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78259.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project consisted of a background literature and historical topographical map search, a pedestrian survey, four Shovel Test Pit (STP) surveys, and one 1 meter x 1 meter Test Unit, dug to investigate the backyard of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78259.

NUMBER OF SURVEYED METERS: Approximately 98.7 square meters meters (15 meters x 6.58 meters) of land was surveyed and tested during the course of this investigation.

PURPOSE: The principal investigator is fulfilling the participatory requirements of Dr. David R. Hixson's ART-370-01 Archaeological Fieldwork "Backyard Archaeology" Summer Field School at Hood College in Fredrick, Maryland, in applicable compliance to the regulatory requirements in compliance with the provisions of the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code.

LOCATION: The project area, the backyard of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78259, is located on the east side of US Highway 281, south of Evans Road in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kayla Griscom, Undergraduate Student of Anthropology and Classical Studies at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

DATE OF INVESTIGATION: The research, survey, and investigation of this property by Kayla Griscom for this project took place from May 25th, 2020 to July 12th, 2020.

Abstract

On May 25, 2020, Kayla Griscom began an archaeological investigation of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, TX, 78259 to participate in Dr. David R. Hixson's "Backyard Archaeology" course at Hood College in Fredrick, Maryland. The project area spanned approximately 98.7 square meters of land in northern Bexar County on the east side of US Highway 281 and north of Evans Road (Figure 1).

This study conducted a pedestrian survey, four Shovel Test Pits, and one Test Unit. Given that this study was conducted for the sake of Kayla Griscom's participation in Dr. David R. Hixson's Archaeological Field School, Kayla Griscom decided to dig the investigation's single 1 meter x 1 meter Test Unit in Zone 1, the area outside of the bamboo pit whose STPs yielded less artifacts, because the soil in that area was less disturbed and riddled with bamboo roots. This decision was made so that Kayla Griscom could better learn and practice the methods of archaeological investigation that were taught in the class without having to dig around the roots and rocks in the garden. Thus, while the tested area was located in the more frequented part of the lawn, (and so representative of the lifestyle conducted in the backyard by its residents), it was not completely representative of the construction and destruction process of the bamboo garden itself. Given that an excavation of the bamboo garden would only yield evidence of the networks of commerce, labor, production, and manufacture that were, and are still, present in late 20th century to early 21st century American society, this study felt that an examination of the area of the lawn that was littered with more the personal artifacts of the residents of the house would yield a more personal portrait of daily life in late 20th century to early 21st century suburban American society.

Introduction

On May 25, 2020, Kayla Griscom began archaeological research in her family's backyard at 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78259. The investigation was conducted for Kayla Griscom's participation in Dr. David R. Hixson's ART-370-01 Archaeological Fieldwork "Backyard Archaeology" Summer Field School at Hood College in Fredrick, Maryland. Kayla Griscom took the class online in San Antonio using Zoom Video, an online communications application that was widely used during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic to enable remote distanced work and learning through peer-to-peer video-telegraphic meetings. The field school was conducted online due to the shutdown of the Hood College Campus in response to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, which was caused by an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in the United States during March 2020 (*World Health Organization*). The pandemic was ongoing throughout the duration of the field school.

Kayla Griscom enrolled in the field school to learn the basic techniques of archaeological research and excavation. Thus, the research conducted by Kayla Griscom at 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, TX, 78259, was conducted primarily for the sake of Kayla Griscom's participation in Dr. David R. Hixson's field school, and not with the expectation to find any historically or culturally significant artifacts, structures, or features on the property. Given that the investigation was conducted on private property, it did not fall under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas.

There have been no previous archaeological investigations of the backyard at 19714 Encino Knoll Street. Previous research conducted in the surrounding Stone Oak-Evans Road area in northern San Antonio yielded five Paleolithic sites within a 2-mile radius of the project area at 19714 Encino Knoll Street (Martin 2007). Only three of these sites remained undeveloped as of 2007 (Martin 2007). The project area is situated in a suburban area, surrounded by urban developments. The land that the site is situated on was used as a cattle ranch, and remained undeveloped until the late 1970s (*Encino Park Homeowners Association* 2020). Thus, most of the Cultural Resource Management studies conducted in the area surrounding 19714 Encino Knoll Street concluded that any material found in 19714 Encino Knoll's immediate vicinity was of recent origin, or was too scattered or small in content to be of much research potential.

In summary, the 6-week long investigation of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78259 for Dr. David R. Hixson's Backyard Archaeology Class yielded a small material showcase of the late 20th-century to early 21st-century American suburban lifestyle. The investigation yielded only one possible Paleolithic rock flake. The rest of the cultural resources that were recovered during this investigation were of recent origin and have little potential for preservation or further research. Based on the results of this project, Kayla Grisocm recommends that no historical or cultural resources will be affected by any future development projects, and that no further archaeological work is needed. However, if any cultural resources should be encountered in further construction or landscaping projects, per applicable city codes and regulations, work should be suspended immediately in the vicinity of the finds until the finds are

examined and evaluated by a qualified Archaeological Consultant and/or the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office.

Survey Area

The 15 meter long x 6.58 meter wide project area is located in northern Bexar County on the east side of Evans Road (Figure 1). It is located in the backyard of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, TX.

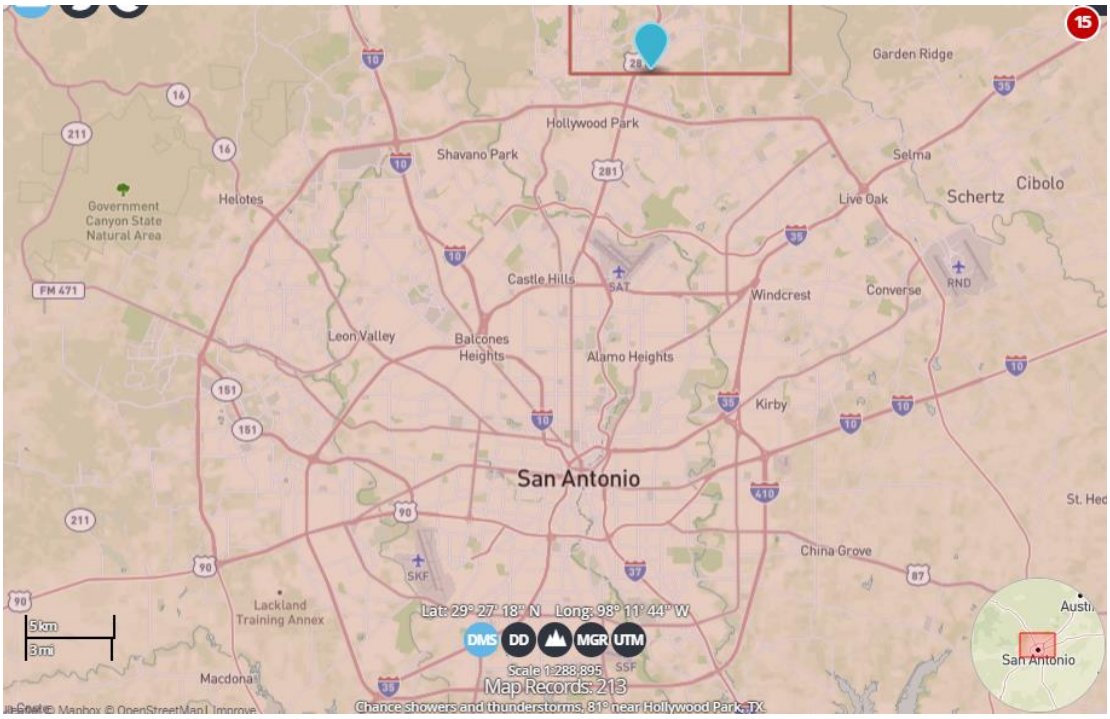

Figure 1: Map showing the location of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, Bexar County, TX. USGS Topographic Map Source: HTMC Bulverde, TX. Date: 2019. Scale 1:24000

The site is flat and level. It has been extensively manicured in the past, but has since been allowed to grow back into a more natural state: native species, such as oak and vitex trees, are present in the area, along with invasive species such as bamboo, red tip shrubs, pear trees, palm shrubs, and crepemyrtles (*Texas A&M Forest Service Website*). The ground outside of the bamboo garden area is covered with clovers and weeds (Figure 2). The area is located on the Recharge Zone of the Edwards Aquifer, and a natural drainage channel was observed within a 2-mile radius of the property (Martin 2007).

Figure 2: A picture of the project area before it was mapped and gridded. Photographed by Kayla Griscom. Date: May 25th, 2020.

General Background and Setting

Climate and Soils:

San Antonio is located in the south central region of Texas, at the head of the San Antonio River in Bexar County. The city is situated between the Edwards Plateau region to the northwest, and the Gulf Coastal Plains region to the southwest.

The project area consists of Tarrant association soils (Taylor et al. 1991). The Taylor series consists of very stony shallow, dark colored soils and are considered to be "gently undulating to steep" (Taylor et al. 1991:30). These soils are generally no greater than 25 cm in depth, with a subsurface that consists of fractured limestone cobble (Clark et al. 2005:6). In the area of this site, the limestone is known to be very hard, with the presence of brown, gray, or black nodular chert (Clark et al. 2005:7).

History of the Region:

The Bexar County area was first inhabited by the Coahuiltecan Native Americans before the first Spanish settlement was established at Villa de Bexar in 1718 (Guerra, 1987). The Bexar County region remained a part of Spanish Territory until the end of the Mexican War of Independence in 1821. San Antonio experienced a period of steady population growth as settlers from Mexico and the United States migrated to the town, and became a Mexican stronghold during the Texas Revolution. Texas became its own nation in 1836, after San Antonio played a prominent role in the Revolution as the location of the famous Battle of the Alamo. Texas then joined the United States ten years later in 1846.

By 1847, military protection of established stagecoach routes from San Antonio to Houston enabled the city to thrive as a center for trade and commerce. San Antonio saw very little topographical change during the Civil War period. The arrival of the railroad in 1877 enabled San Antonio to become a major distribution point for cattle and farm merchandise, and brought with it more advancements in travel and trade that further stimulated the population growth and spread of the city (Fox 1989:98). By 1900, San Antonio was an intersection for 5 railroads and had a population of 56,321; the population of Bexar County as a whole stood at 69,000 (*Historic American Engineering Record* 2010; Taylor et al. 1966:118; Webb 1952:540).

After 1900, the economic expansion and development of San Antonio and Bexar County was rapid (*Historic American Engineering Record* 2010). The city saw major projects for road and public works improvements during the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930s (Conan 2000:45-46). Widespread pavement of dirt roads into extended rural communities during this time greatly impacted the cattle ranches and farms that lay north of the city in this project's region. After World War II, the Highway Department developed a farm-to-market road and interstate highway systems, which created a vast and interconnected trade system that eventually made suburban development in the Encino Park area possible.

The Encino Park area would remain undeveloped until the late 1970s, when "Denton Development Co. began [building] Encino Park as a Planned Unit Development on land extending from the present-day southern boundaries of Encino Park to Marshall Road on the

north and from the present western boundaries to Bulverde Road" (*Encino Park Homeowners Association* 2020). In 1980, house-building was well underway. By 1982, 280 families lived in the Encino Park subdivision (*Encino Park Homeowners Association* 2020). The area was annexed by the City of San Antonio in 1985. Encino Park experienced high growth in population during the 1990s-2000s, as evidenced by the increasing number of elementary and middle schools that were built in the area from 1995-2005 *Encino Park Homeowners Association* 2020).

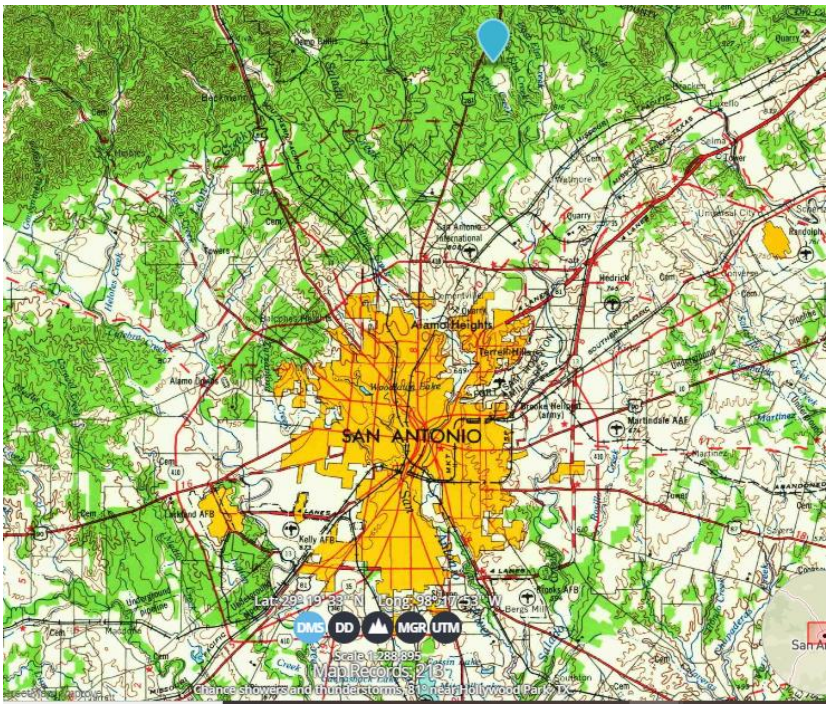

Figure 3. Location of project area, 19714 Encino Knoll, San Antonio, Bexar County, TX. USGS Topographic Map Source: HTMC. Date: 1954. Scale: 1:250,000

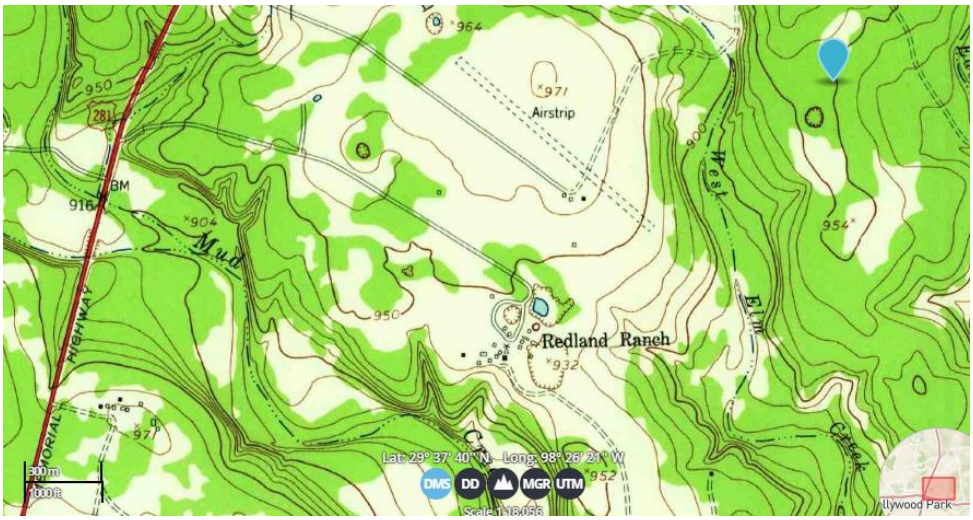

Figure 4: Earliest map of the location of the project area. As the map shows, the property at 19714 Encino Knoll Street remained undeveloped until the late 20th century (See Figure NUMBER). USGS Topographic Map Source: HTMC. Date: 1954. Scale: 1:18,050

Figure 5: Map showing development of the Encino Park subdivision in 1985. The house at 19714 Encino Knoll Street is marked by the blue pin. The development of the City of San Antonio can be traced by looking at the bottom left corner of the map; whereas, in 1953 (Figure 1), the land surrounding the property within a 10-mile radius was relatively undeveloped. USGS Topographic Map Source: HTMC. Date: 1985. Scale: 1:36,112.

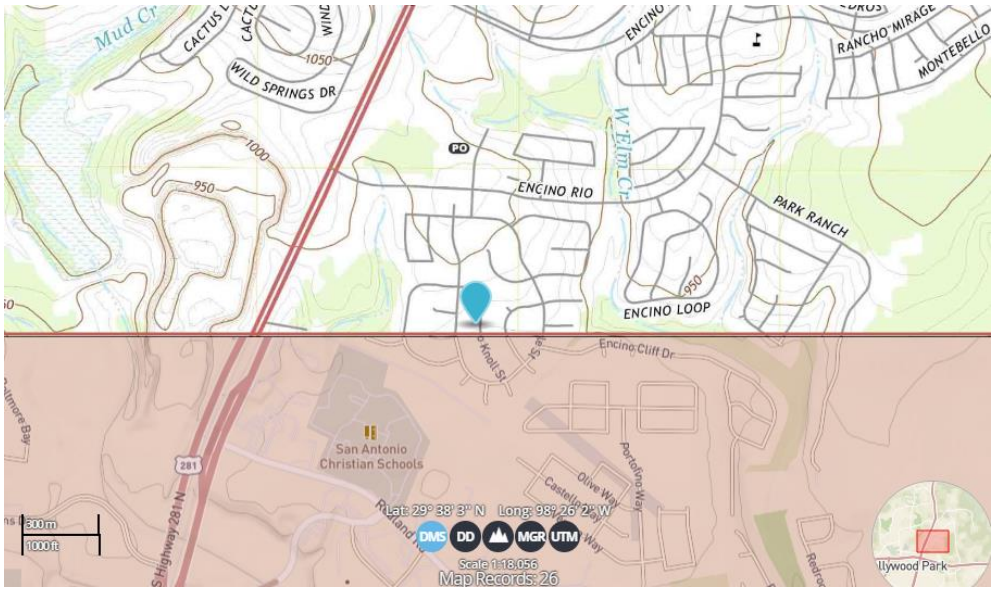

Figure 6: Map showing the further development of the Encino Park area since 1985 in 2019. The map shows that the City of San Antonio had grown up to and past the subdivision. The red bottom half is where the map ends; however, the time difference between the green map (2019) and the red map (2020) is only one year, and so this hybrid depiction of the area is fairly representative of how the area looked during the extent of this project. USGS Topographic Map Source: HTMC. Date: 2019/2020. Scale: 1:18,056.

Methodology

Process of Investigation

A pedestrian survey was conducted as Kayla Griscom walked in a lawnmower pattern up and down 2 meter wide vertical rows that spanned the 5 meter length of the site. This survey yielded half of a mint wrapper, a tennis ball, and a few stray strands of fibers from old toys that had been chewed apart by one of the two current resident dogs. These artifacts were all recovered from the surface of the old bamboo garden, which spanned 49.35 meters (half) of the 15 meter long x 6.58 meter wide project area. No artifacts were recovered from the 15 meter long x 3.29 meter wide grass-covered west half of the project area that was located outside of the bamboo garden during the pedestrian survey.

Upon the completion of the pedestrian survey, the project area was gridded into six rectangular 5-meter x 3.29 meter tracts, labeled in the rest of this report as “Zones”. Shovel Test Pits (STPs) were completed in Zones 1, 2, 5, and 6, to measure how deeply the first layer of topsoil extended into the ground. These areas were chosen to be representative samples of the four different sections of the yard’s use by its residents; Zones 1 and 2 were located in the south section of the yard, in closer proximity to the house’s patio and back door. Because of this location, this section of the yard was known to be used more frequently than the northern section that contained Zones 5 and 6, which was located further away from the yard’s main seating area;

thus, it was expected that Zones 1 and 2 would yield more artifacts than Zones 5 and 6. Zone 1 was located in the west section of the yard, outside of the lawn's old bamboo pit; Zone 2 was located in the eastern section of the yard that contained the terminated bamboo garden. Likewise, Zone 5 was located in the bamboo pit, while Zone 6 was not.

The Shovel Test Pits in Zones 2 and 5 yielded more artifacts than the STPs in Zones 1 and 6. The soil in the bamboo areas was the same moist clay that balled easily when wet that was located in the non-bamboo areas; however, the moist clay topsoil extended to a much deeper level in the non-bamboo areas than in the bamboo areas. The soil in the old bamboo garden was very disturbed, and riddled with remnants of a dead root system that had been dug up and hacked to pieces when the garden was removed. This root system had been planted in the yard during an extensive landscaping project that placed medium-sized orange and white sedimentary rocks beneath the roots. The STP conducted in Zone 2 extended 15 centimeters into the ground before it struck a layer of those rocks. A STP conducted in Zone 5 revealed that the first layer of topsoil extended down 13 cm into the ground before it struck a layer of orange and white sedimentary rocks.

The Shovel Test Pit conducted in Zone 6 extended 43 centimeters deep into the ground before it struck a layer of the same type of orange and white sedimentary rocks found in Zones 2 and 5. The STP conducted in Zone 1 extended 11 cm into the ground before it struck orange and white sedimentary rocks. A comparison of these samples led the study to conclude that the topsoil in the bamboo-feature part of the yard was a more consistent depth than in the non-bamboo feature of the yard. This difference led the investigation to hypothesize that the discrepancy in depth was likely due to the fact that the bamboo feature had been more extensively landscaped and modified than the half of the project area outside of it.

During the course of the investigation of 19714 Encino Knoll Street, four Shovel Test Pits (STPs) were dug in the backyard at various depths ranging from 15-43 cm deep. These STPs encountered yellow and red dry, clay-like soils that balled together easily when wet. There was no consistent depth of each layer of soil across the property; Kayla Griscom's research was conducted in a small area 15 meters long by 6.58 meters wide. An STP in Zone 6 (5 meters long by 3.29 meters wide) extended 43 centimeters into the topsoil before it struck a layer of subsoil and rock, while another in Zone 2 only extended 15 centimeters into the ground before it struck a layer of rock. Zone 2 is located in an area of the yard that was extensively landscaped to build a bamboo garden that has since been dug up; when the garden was landscaped, the contractors laid a layer of rock under the bamboo roots. These rocks were not present in Zone 6, which was located immediately west of the garden area. This is why the layer of topsoil in Zone 6 extended much deeper than the layer of topsoil in Zone 2.

In all of these Shovel Test Pits, however, the color of the soil in each layer remained consistent within itself. The top layer of all of the STPs was a red 3/2 7.5YR color on the Munsell scale, the second layer was a yellow 4/4 7.5YR color on the Munsell scale, and the third layer was a black 3/3 10YR on the Munsell scale (Figure 7).

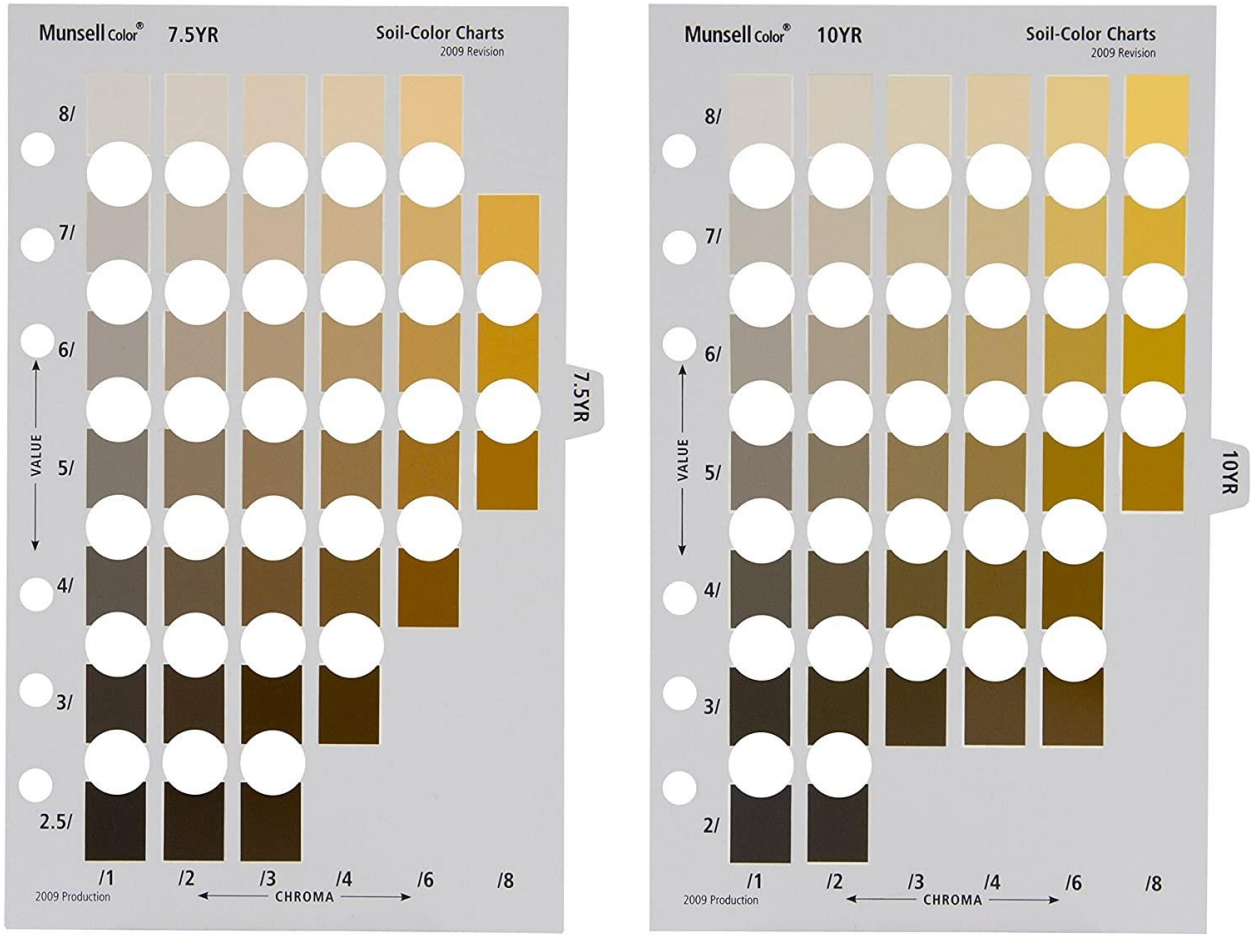

Figure 7: Pages 7.5YR and 10YR from the Munsell Scale. Source: Hood College Blackboard Website, 2020.

The soil in all levels was disturbed due to the extensive amount of landscaping that has gone on in the yard since the house on the property was built in the 1980s. This made the dating of artifacts pulled from the STPs based on the stratification of soil layers difficult. The STP in Zone 6 yielded one flint lithic flake, found at 43 cm deep, which carried residue from another orange and white rock on one side (Figure 8). The same STP yielded a number of the same orange and white rocks, so it is possible that the flake encountered one of these rocks during the excavation process. The flake was uncovered in the lawn's extremely disturbed layer of topsoil; this made it difficult for the study to date the artifact. This study found multiple records of Paleolithic Native American artifacts in the area (Martin 2007).

Figure 8: The lithic flake found in the STP in Zone 6. Photographed by Kayla Griscom. Date: June 8th, 2020.

The other STPs in Zones 5, 2, and 1 yielded a variety of food wrappers, fibers, and construction materials. The test pits in Zones 2 and 5 took place in the area of the lawn that used to be a feature (the bamboo garden). These STPs yielded items like: pieces of thick white plastic tarp, the broken handle of a paintbrush, the corner Rice Krispie wrapper, a weathered tennis ball, and pieces of styrofoam that match the material from beverage cups sold by local gas stations. The test pit in Zone 1, which was not located in the part of the lawn that used to be a feature, yielded construction materials like rusty nails, fleecy turquoise fibers, and a broken piece of drain pipe.

This project dug one standard 1 meter x 1 meter Test Unit in Zone 1, the section of the yard that was located immediately to the west of the bamboo garden feature. This spot was chosen because of its proximity to the feature and the back door of the house; it was expected that Zone 1 would be more likely to yield a variety of artifacts because it was located in a section of the yard that was more widely trafficked on a regular basis. As stated above, the STP in Zone 1 yielded a range of construction materials. This was also true of the test unit: in various layers, a rusty nail, a broken piece of PVC pipe, and several pieces of broken drain tile were recovered from the unit. The STPs from the feature in Zones 2 and 5, located immediately to the west of Zone 1, also yielded a variety of food wrappers; likewise, the Test Unit immediately next to the feature yielded similar pieces of styrofoam, and a small section of a juice box straw. Most importantly, Layer 2 (10 cm-20 cm deep) of the unit yielded a weathered penny from 1994. This find enabled the investigation to deduce that the artifacts found above 10-20 cm deep in Layer 2 dated from 1994 and afterwards. However, the study was hesitant to conclude that the items found in Layers 3 and 4 dated more than a few years before 1994 because the soil was so

disturbed. The study found evidence of construction fill, in the form of foreign sedimentary rocks, multiple broken pieces of drain pipe, and a preserved boot print found at 30 cm down in Layer 4 of the Test Unit (Figure 9). The soil in this area was a coal black 2.5/1 7.5YR color that did not match this study's background research record of what native soils were supposed to look like (Figure 7).

Figure 9: The heel of the preserved boot print found 30 cm deep into Layer 4 of the test pit. Photographed by Kayla Griscom. Date: July 9th 2020.

Kaya Griscom conducted a background literature review and records search to determine the location and effect that the proposed project would have on any previously recorded or unknown cultural resources. Kayla Griscom first examined the USGS Topographical Service website for historical topographical maps that would reveal the historical uses of the property. An examination of Figures 3-5 revealed that the land remained undeveloped until the 1980s. Thus, the cultural resources that this study expected to find on the project area at 19714 Encino Knoll Street would be of either Paleolithic or recent modern origin. For more information about the specific cultural resources that have been identified around the Encino Park area, Kayla Griscom accessed a number of archaeological reports that were available on the San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation website.

Results of Background Literature Review

An archaeological survey of the land used to build the Stone Ridge Shopping Center, located 1.9 miles to the northwest of this study's project area at 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, TX, 78259, prepared by David M. Martin, an associate of Terracon, for Robert Barnes, a General Partner of Stone Ridge Market *Phase 1* LTD., in 2007 named five archaeological sites located within a mile radius of the shopping center. Thus, these sites are located within a 2 mile radius of 19714 Encino Knoll Street. Two of these sites were located on the same eastern side of US Highway 281 as 19714 Encino Knoll Street, and one of those sites was located to the southeast of the Stone Ridge Shopping Center.

The largest of these sites, 41BX91, was a 1,312 foot x 1,230 foot (400 meter x 37 meter) Prehistoric lithic quarry and campsite located on the elevated terrace of an unnamed tributary of West Elm Creek (Martin 2007). Materials observed at this site included cores, flakes, retouched flakes, chunks, quarry blanks, and heat-treated chert (Martin 2007). Another Prehistoric rock quarry was also found further along West Elm Creek at site 41BX121, 730 meters from the Stone Ridge building site: this quarry was smaller (427 foot, 130 x 130 meters), and contained a large area of chert outcrop, as well as a surface scatter of bifaces, cores, and large flakes (Martin 2007).

The other three sites that the Stone Ridge study named to be within a mile radius of its survey area were Archaic campsites. Site 41BX759, located 530 meters to the northwest of the Stone Ridge site, was identified to be a 300 foot x 100 foot diameter Archaic campsite preserved in good condition. Further testing was recommended for the site; it was later planned for subdivision in 1988 (Martin 2007).

Another Early to Middle Archaic campsite was identified 840 meters to the northwest of the Stone Ridge site, which contained "cultural materials intermixed with a light scatter of fist-sized burnt limestone". The site was scheduled for subdivision in 1988 and no further action was recommended by its original surveyors. The final site that the study named as a campsite in close proximity to the Stone Ridge site, 41BX99, was a 1.640 foot (500 meter) diameter lithic scatter campsite. Bifaces, scrapers, drills, dart points, and cores were observed at the site. The surveyors of the site recommended that further testing be undertaken at the site.

An intensive cultural resources survey of Stone Oak, an area located approximately 3 miles to the northwest of 19714 Encino Park, prepared by Horizon Environmental Services, inc., for David Berndt Interests, inc., provided a thorough outline of the Archaic and Prehistoric Periods in Texas. According to the report, the Archaic Period began around 6000 BCE as early residents of Texas responded to climate changes and the widespread extinction of megafauna with technological advancements in tool making. Plant-processing implements, such as manos, metates, and earth ovens became more evident in the archaeological record, while game hunting and the use of points continued (Clark et al. 2005).

The Archaic Period spans two-thirds of Central Texas prehistory and is divided into 3 subperiods: Early (6000 to 3000 BCE), Middle (3000 to 1000 BCE), and Late (1000 BCE to 800 CE) (Collins 1995: Hester 1986: Clark et al. 2005). Each period is identified by different styles of projectile points.

The Early Archaic Period is characterized by notched and stemmed points, distinguished from earlier Paleo-American lanceolate-shaped points (Clark et al 2005). Points from the Early Archaic Period are found in a wide scatter across the Central Texas Plateau Prairie, South Texas Plains, and Lower Pecos Canyonlands. This pattern reflects a similarity in foraging and subsistence strategies that was widespread before 3000 BCE.

After 3000 BCE, during the Middle Archaic Period, regionally distinctive styles of points began to emerge, which reflected the development of regionally distinct cultural patterns (Clark et al. 2005; Black and McGraw 1985). These emerging regionally distinct cultural patterns reflected a growth in population during the Middle Archaic: thus, the number of sites from this period increased. Types of sites from this period include open campsites located near streams or tributaries (like those identified in the Stone Ridge Survey), lithic workshops in upland areas, and special activity sites such as hunting camps or food-processing stations (Clark et al. 2005). Middle Archaic points include the Nolan, Travis, Langtry, and Perdenales styles (Black 1989).

The Late Archaic Period is characterized by triangular points such as the Montell, Castroville, and Marcos styles, as well as the smaller, expanding-stemmed point types like Ensor, Frio, Darl, and Fairland (Clark et al. 2005). The expansion of these types of points reflects an intensification of the increasingly regionalized cultural and subsistence patterns seen in the Middle Archaic (Collins 1995; Hester 1986). The use of burned rock middens continued and increased in this period (Collins 1995).

The Prehistoric Period is distinguished from the Late Archaic Period by the use of bow and arrows and ceramics. Two sub periods, the Austin (800 CE to 1300 CE) and the Toyah (1300 CE to 1600 CE) make up this era. The Austin period is recognized for the transition from the use of the atlatl and dart to the bow and arrow (Clark et al. 2005). The Toyah period is widely characterized by rapid changes in technology: most notably, the introduction of ceramics. Limited horticulture may have been practiced at this time. Large, thin bifaces, contracting-stemmed arrow points, and prismatic blades generally characterize this era of Paleo-Texan archaeology (Black 1989: Collins 1995).

The Historic Period began with the arrival of Europeans in the region during the early 1700s. A general outline of this period has been provided in the previous section, "Survey Area: General Background and Setting". Given that the project area at 19714 Encino Knoll Street remained undeveloped until the 1980s, this study did not expect to find artifacts from the Historic Period predating the 1980s. The outline of the Archaic and Prehistoric periods included above was provided as context for the type of artifacts found and documented around the Encino Park area. As stated in the Stone Ridge report, Archaic campsites, containing scatters of "cultural materials" such as bifaces, darts, and scatters of burnt limestone, were found in close proximity to points and flakes of chet from the Prehistoric period. 19714 Encino Knoll Street is located in closer proximity to the Prehistoric rock quarries than the Archaic campsites mentioned in the Stone Ridge Report. Given the presence of two Prehistoric sites within a five-mile radius of the project area, it is possible that the lithic flake found 43 cm down in the STP in Zone 6 was of Prehistoric origin.

Summary and Recommendations

Survey Interpretation and Evaluation

The investigation conducted by Kayla Griscom confirmed that the project area consisted of very shallow soils mixed with limestone cobbles and bedrock and revealed very little natural stratigraphy that was not related to the extensive amount of landscaping projects that have occurred in the backyard since the 1980s. As such, the survey did not recognize any significant archaeological sites. The cultural resources that were encountered are of recent origin, or are outliers, that are not concentrated highly enough in the site to be of greater significance. These resources have little or no research potential.

Recommendations

Upon investigation of the features present in the project area, Kayla Griscom recommends that no significant cultural resources will be affected by any proposed development project to take place at 19714 Encino Knoll Street, San Antonio, TX, 78259, in the future. However, if any cultural resources are encountered within the project area during construction activities, per applicable city codes and regulations, construction work should immediately be stopped until such finds are examined and evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and/or the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office.

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