

EDWARDS UNDERGROUND WATER DISTRICT - SAN MARCOS TESTING  
HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

Prepared for:  
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## Introduction

The Edwards Underground Water District has initiated a major groundwater study in the San Marcos area. These wells will be used to monitor the quality of water in the Edwards Aquifer. In compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas, and as a part of the planing process, TAC requested a 1m x 1m archaeological test unit at well site C (see figure 1). I was contacted by Robert W. Bader of the Edwards Underground Water District to conduct the test excavation.

## Cultural Background

The Upper San Marcos Watershed has been the subject of several investigations, (see attached bibliography), and several sites have been reported in the area. The occupation of the headwaters begins with the Paleo Indian period and continues into the historic era.

In early historic times the San Marcos area was inhabited by several groups of Native Americans including the Jumano, Lipan Apache, and Comanche. The San Marcos area was also the location of mission activity in the 1750's. The original settlement of San Marcos was located at the junction of the San Marcos River and the Old San Antonio Road and was abandoned in 1812.

## Research Design, Scope of Work, and Methodology

Figures 1 and 2 show the location of the project area. Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) has no record of a site on well site C, although several sites are known in the immediate area (see figure 2). A 100% pedestrian survey was conducted in a 150 meter radius of well site C (except for Spring Lake). The ground cover was moderate. Although numerous sites have been reported in the immediate area, all of which show heavy surface debris, only occasional small pieces of lithic debris were encountered. This is common for the entire headwaters area. All eroded areas in the immediate area were carefully checked for buried deposits.

The 1m x 1m test unit was located directly on well site C as staked out by the Edwards Underground Water District. The test unit was oriented to magnetic north and was excavated in 10 cm levels. All fill was screened through quarter inch screen. Excavation was conducted with pick, shovel, and trowel.

Test Results Cultural materials were present and are summarized as follows:

Level 1	0 - 10 cm	1 flake, 1 glass fragment
Level 2	10 - 20 cm	3 flakes, 1 glass fragment
Level 3	20 - 30 cm	2 flakes
Level 4	30 - 40 cm	6 flakes
Level 5	40 - 50 cm	4 flakes
Level 6	50 - 60 cm	3 flakes
Level 7	60 - 70 cm	sterile
Level 8	70 - 80 cm	sterile
Level 9	80 - 90 cm	1 flake
Level 10	90 - 100 cm	1 flake
Level 11	100 - 110 cm	sterile

No projectile points or any other chronological indicators were recovered. The largest flake is 4.7cm x 3.2 cm x 1.3 cm. The remainder are less than 1.5 cm in length. No bifaces, cores, large flakes, or fire-cracked rocks were recovered. Because all of the recovered material was extremely light, and no features or occupational surfaces were observed, this material was probably washed in from nearby sites and does not represent in situ material.

Recommendations The proposed surface and subsurface impact to well site C is minimal, consisting of a single well. Although light cultural debris was encountered in the test excavation, this is quite common for the entire headwaters area and the lack of any heavy tools, heavy debris or fire-cracked rock strongly suggests that the observed cultural remains have probably washed in from nearby sites during frequent flooding and thus no additional cultural resource studies are recommended.

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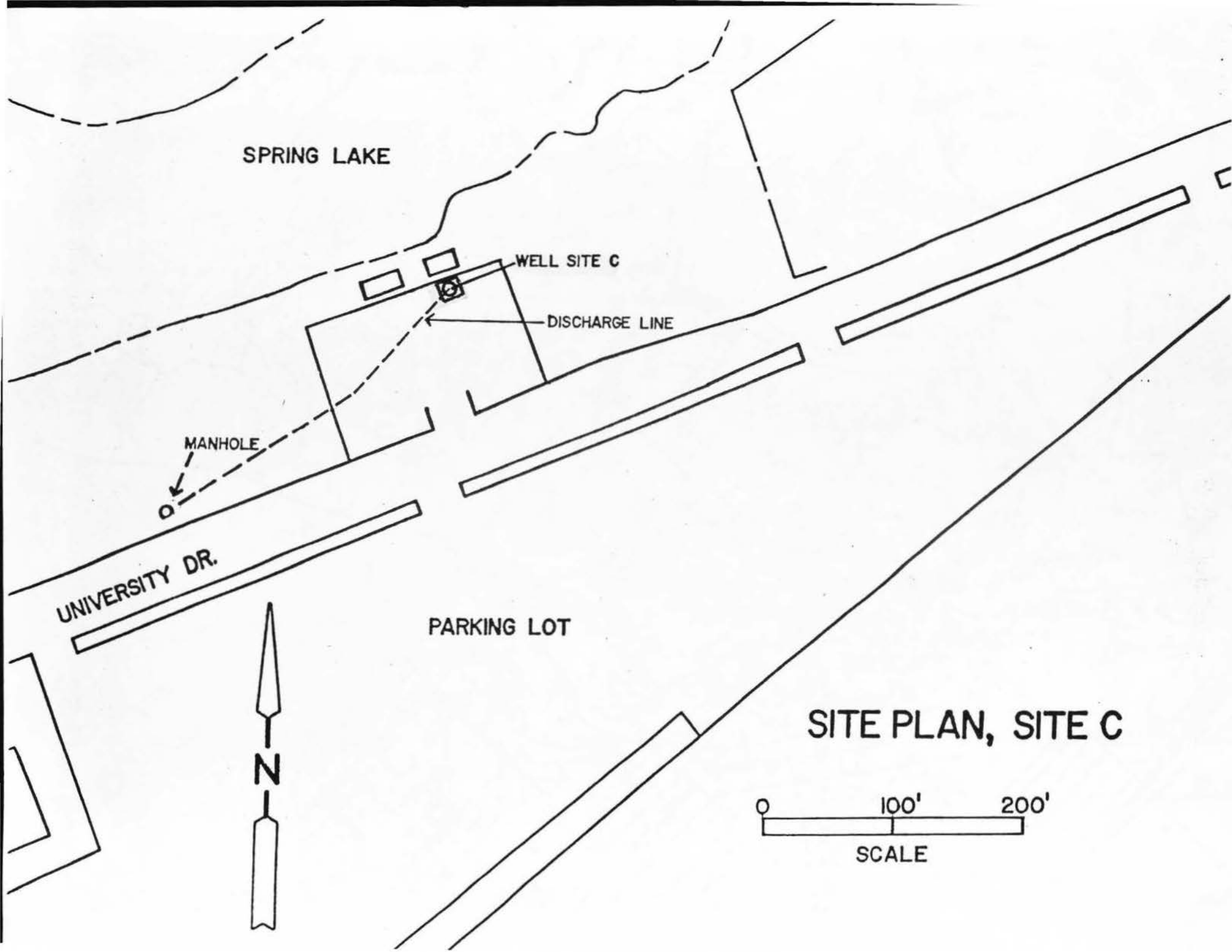
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SPRING LAKE

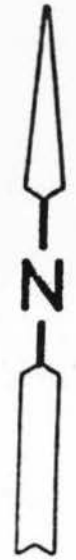
WELL SITE C

DISCHARGE LINE

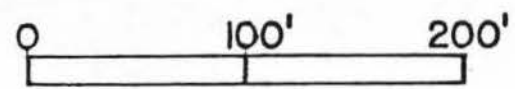
MANHOLE

UNIVERSITY DR.

PARKING LOT



SITE PLAN, SITE C



SCALE



