

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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October 6, 2017

Carolina Fuzetti,
Executive Director, Design & Construction
2323 Texas Parkway
Missouri City, Tx 77489

Re: Project review under the Antiquities Code of Texas
James Reese Career and Technology Center
(Fort Bend ISD)

Dear Ms. Fuzetti:

We were recently advised by a concerned citizen that Fort Bend ISD was initiating construction on a tract that was formerly part of the prison farm associated with the nearby Imperial Cemetery. We then contacted construction manager for Fort Bend ISD, Kevin Hitchcock, to inquire about the project. As the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas, these comments provide recommendations on compliance with state antiquities laws and regulations.

Mr. Hitchcock recently sent us copies of correspondence and a background review for cultural resources on the tract where construction is about to begin, which dates from 2011. At that point in time, **SWCA Environmental Consultants had prepared background research for the tract that was to have been Telfair High School, and which now will be called the James Reese Career and Technology Center.** In that document, they concluded that the tract had a low potential for containing intact archeological deposits.

The review staff, led by Bill Martin, has examined our records and the documentation prepared by SWCA. **Our records indicate that we were never sent the document to review in 2011.** We do concur with the assessment that no prehistoric sites are likely to be present on this tract, however, it is possible that historic deposits related to the **Flanigan house and plantation, which was located on the adjacent tract to the north, could extend into this area.** Moreover, there is a possibility that burials related to the prison could be present on this tract, and we believe that **some effort must be made to identify any graves that might be present.**

We propose that a **professional archeologist monitor the earthmoving that will soon begin on this tract,** and that some backhoe trenches be excavated and examined by the archeologists to ensure that no burials will be impacted. The archeologists should consult with the engineers on the placement of backhoe trenches to prevent compromising the soil in the locations of foundation footers, etc.

Once this work has been conducted, a report of investigations should be produced in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and submitted to this office for review. You may obtain lists of most professional archeologists in Texas on-line at: www.c-tx-arch.org or www.rpanct.org. Please note that other

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potentially qualified archeologists not included on these lists may be used. Since the work will occur on land owned or controlled by a political subdivision of the state, an Antiquities permit must be obtained from this office prior to conducting the fieldwork.

Thank you for your cooperation in this state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Martin at [REDACTED].**

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/wam