

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Clemente and Herminia Hinojosa site, 41 JW 8, is a prehistoric Indian campsite located on Chiltipin Creek in Jim Wells County about 40 miles west of Corpus Christi, Texas. This report presents the results of an archaeological project conducted at 41 JW 8 by members of the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR-UTSA). The author served as project archaeologist and directed the field work and subsequent analysis. All of the illustrations in this report were done by the author, with the exception of the artifact photographs (J. Poindexter) and the SEM biosilica photographs (R. Robinson).

The site is named after the late Clemente and Herminia Hinojosa, former landowners of the property on which the site is located. The property is currently owned by Mrs. Eva Jimenez, daughter of Clemente and Herminia Hinojosa. Throughout the remainder of this report the site will be referred to in an abbreviated fashion as the Hinojosa site or simply as 41 JW 8.

## PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The Hinojosa site was first recorded in 1974 during an archaeological survey of properties along the Chiltipin and San Fernando Creeks that were to be affected by flood control projects sponsored by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS; Hester and Bass 1974). The site was recommended for intensive site survey, including mapping, surface collection, and testing, in order to evaluate the site's potential eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1975, members of the Center for Archaeological Research returned to 41 JW 8 for a week of intensive survey and testing (Hester 1977). The field work was directed by Feris A. Bass, Jr. The 1975 investigations consisted of surface collection, plane table mapping, and the excavation of a number of test units. Twelve 2-m<sup>2</sup> units were excavated to depths ranging between 15 and 110 cm below the surface. In addition, a vertical cut was made into the bluff edge adjacent to the site (Hester 1977). In most units cultural debris was concentrated in the upper 30 cm. In the "bone bed" area (Units K and L), a hearth feature and a concentrated deposit of bone continued to a depth of about 56 cm. Burned rock or caliche clusters were observed in several test units in the upper 30 cm. These were described as "disturbed." Two lower clusters were encountered, the one mentioned previously in Unit L and "a scatter" in Unit B at 75-95 cm.

Hester (1977:33-37) suggested the following preliminary interpretations concerning 41 JW 8: (1) it was a single component Late Prehistoric campsite dating to approximately A.D. 1300; (2) the site was seasonally occupied during the winter to early summer over a few years of at most a few decades; (3) the site was primarily a bison-hunting camp; and (4) the "bone bed" represented an erosional gully used as a refuse discard area and may, in addition, represent a bison processing locality.

The Hinojosa site was recognized during the 1975 project as an important and significant prehistoric archaeological site. Subsequently, the site was

nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Later in 1975, the Hinojosa site, 41 JW 8, was officially designated as an archaeological site on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of the significance of the site. The 1977 report called attention to the fact that the site was located within the detention pool and on the edge of the 50-year sediment pool of the proposed floodwater structure on Chiltipin Creek (Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 5). Due to the potential for site damage during reservoir construction or through long-term inundation by floodwaters, additional archaeological work was recommended at the site.

### 1981 INVESTIGATIONS

In the spring of 1980, the National Park Service, Interagency Archeological Services-Denver, issued a Request For Proposals (RFP 530050) for further archaeological work at the Hinojosa site. The Center for Archaeological Research submitted a proposal dated July 21, 1980 (Hester, Eaton, and Black 1980). The proposal was accepted, and Contract No. C53007(80) was entered into by the CAR-UTSA and the National Park Service, Interagency Archeological Services-Denver. Dr. Thomas R. Hester served as principal investigator, and Jack D. Eaton served as co-principal investigator. The initial contract called for work to begin in the fall of 1980. Access problems caused the work to be postponed for a year.

The access problems stemmed from the change of ownership of the Hinojosa property. At the time of the 1975 testing at 41 JW 8 the ownership of the property was in transition following the death of Clemente Hinojosa. Subsequently, the property was divided between the Hinojosa heirs, and several of the parcels were sold. The CAR crew arrived in Alice (county seat, Jim Wells County) in November 1980 to begin work at the site. At that time the site was believed to lie on the property of Francis Ball. Mr. Ball had been contacted and had given his permission for the archaeological work. It was soon discovered that in fact the site was located on an adjacent property owned by Mrs. Eva Jimenez of Corpus Christi, daughter of Clemente and Herminia Hinojosa.

Efforts to obtain permission from Mrs. Jimenez were hampered by misunderstandings arising from the 1975 SCS project. In addition, a lively oral tradition concerning buried treasure on the property had been maintained by the Hinojosa family for many years. The family was unaware in 1980 of the scientific significance of the prehistoric deposits at 41 JW 8. Thus, the negotiations to obtain permission from Eva Jimenez took many months. A borderlands history professor, Dr. Gilbert Hinojosa (no relation), from UTSA served as mediator. Ultimately, Eva Jimenez agreed to allow the excavations subject to certain provisions. A family member was to keep watch on the work to insure that any valuables found would be properly reported. In addition, Mrs. Jimenez would retain ownership of any valuable materials recovered from the site. These and other provisions insuring that the work would be done promptly and that the excavation area would be backfilled were specified in a formal agreement signed on September 11, 1981.

Field work at the Hinojosa site began in early October 1981. The work continued through the middle of January 1982. The author served as field

director and project archaeologist. A. Joachim McGraw served as assistant project archaeologist and was primarily responsible for the laboratory processing. Beverly Marshall Van Note served as laboratory assistant. The primary field crew consisted of Tom Miller, Cecil Peel, Mike Woerner, and Courtenay Jones. A total of approximately 2024 man hours was spent during the 1981 field investigations (including the two weeks in January 1982). Some 39 m<sup>3</sup> of soil were removed from 82 m<sup>2</sup> of excavation units during the 1981 season. The excavations centered on an irregularly shaped main excavation block referred to as the "Wagon Trail Area." Numerous cultural features and hundreds of artifacts were recovered from the site. Most of the project research goals were met or exceeded during the 1981 season, as will be discussed in the following sections of this report.

### TO THE READER

A number of conventions are adhered to in this report. All site numbers are given in the trinomial system, wherein the first two digits refer to the state (Texas is 41), the second two characters refer to the county within the state (Jim Wells County is JW), and the final digits refer to the chronologic sequence of officially recorded archaeological sites on file at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin. In other words, 41 JW 8 is the eighth archaeological site officially recorded in Jim Wells County, Texas.

The metric system is used throughout this report for all measurements unless specifically noted otherwise. The following metric abbreviations are used: cm = centimeter, mm = millimeter, m = meter, km = kilometer, mg = milligram, g = gram, kg = kilogram, l = liter, ml = milliliter, cc = cubic centimeter, nm = nanometer,  $\mu$ m = micrometer.

A number of other abbreviations are used in the report. These include: UTSA = The University of Texas at San Antonio, CAR = Center for Archaeological Research, NPS, IAS-D = National Park Service, Interagency Archeological Services-Denver, SCS = Soil Conservation Service, WTA = Wagon Trail Area, L. = level, Z. = zone, Col. = column, N = north coordinate, E = east coordinate, NPS = Noise Pit South, WFNP = Wheat Field Noise Pit.