The Lost A.S. Mann Site (41HE7/41AN201)

Step 1: During the background survey for US 175, TxDOT discovered that the 1932 Plans for the Proposed State Highway (later US 175) identified a parcel of land as the A.S. Mann property in Anderson County. TxDOT knew of another listing on the Atlas for a site in neighboring Henderson County (4HE7) with the same name. However, the location of site, TxDOT noted that the site was recorded in 1935. TxDOT had rediscovred the A.S. Mann Site in Anderson County and began intensive archaeological investigations and data recovery for the project.

Step 2: TxDOT discovered there was only one A.S. Mann parcel of land adjacent to the highway and it was in Anderson County. After reviewing the 1932 Plans and Profile of Proposed State Highway, the area was described as a small prehistoric cemetery and included an unexplored domestic area with a nearby spring about 200 yards away. But the exact location of the site was unknown.

Step 3: The 1932 State of Texas Highway Dept. County maps for Anderson and Henderson counties revealed that the road from Athens to Jacksonville was called Highway 40, and before 1933 it consisted of a winding road that followed property boundaries north of the current highway US 175. A new linear Highway 40 was constructed south of the old Highway 40 between 1932 and 1933. The old highway was converted into a series of county roads. By 1939, the county maps now Highway 40 was renamed US 175.

Lastly, the original report by J. E. Pearce and M. Woolsey (1935) and the site maps indicated three important points about the site location:

1. Pearce and Woolsey believed (correctly) that the A.S. Mann Farm was in Anderson County.
2. The field work and report were done in 1935, which meant that Woolsey was referring to the new Highway 40 that later became U.S. 175.
3. Woolsey did not take precise measurements but guessed at the distance of landmarks and features. A number of the measurements were changed several times after returning from the field, then rounded up for the report.

Conclusion: The highway location and name changes coupled with the imprecise site location measurements caused the site to be later incorrectly plotted in Henderson County. TxDOT had rediscovred the A.S. Mann Site in Anderson County and began intensive archaeological investigations and data recovery for the project.

The作者 wishes to thank Jim Abbott, Jay Tullos, and Kristen Crosby who accompanied the author to these lost sites and helped identify them.