Investigations in 1998 identified a historic site, Site 41HR825. The Texas Historical Commission has not made a determination concerning the eligibility of the site for listing in the NRHP. No other sites are identified within one mile of the Project Area.

Table 2: Archaeological Sites within 1 mile of the Project Area[11]

Site	Survey Number	Type	Determination
41HR825	8500009824	Historic	Not determined

There are no historic landscapes on the parcel containing the residence and barn. The landscape of the Houston National Cemetery is a contributing resource to the National Register Historic District but is limited to those portions of the grounds developed for memorial use.[12]

The Texas Historical Commission has no record of identified Traditional Cultural Properties on the project parcel or associated with the Houston National Cemetery; however, the current study did not include communications with Native American Tribes or cultural/ethnic groups.

Results of Fieldwork

Residence (Building #2501) – The residence at 1621 Aldine Western Road is one-story in height and has a rectangular footprint. The residence is four bays in length; a small, one-bay garage is attached to the east elevation, and a second one-bay room is attached to the west. The primary entrance is located within a recessed bay on the north elevation. The building is clad in asbestos tiles, and its side-gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The building does not bear any notable elements of architectural styles popular during its construction (ca. 1950). Photos of Building #2501 are included in Figures 5 and 6.

The windows of the residence are 6-over-6, double-hung sash. Windows in the attached bays are 3-over- 3 single-hung sash. Some windows have been replaced with single panes to accommodate an exterior window air-conditioning unit. This unit has been removed since the residence is now vacant. The primary and secondary doors are made of wood and are protected by screened doors.

The residence is composed of a kitchen, living room, three bedrooms, bathroom, pantry, and hallways. Although attached, the garage is not accessible from the interior of the residence. The flooring in the building includes tiles, laminate, and carpet. Some walls are drywall, while others are covered in paneling. The kitchen includes a stove/oven and a refrigerator. The building does not have a basement.

Fieldwork did not identify any architectural features or associations that would qualify the residence for individual listing in the NRHP.

[11] Texas Historical Society, Texas Historic Sites Database (Atlas), 2015, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/About.

[12] Historic American Landscape Survey, Houston National Cemetery, HALS-TX-5, Houston, Harris County, Texas.

Figure 5: Exterior Views of Residence (Building #2501)

Figure 6. Interior Views of Residence (Building #2501)

Barn with Shed (Building #3006) – The barn is a one-story building constructed of concrete blocks. It was used as a cow milking shed and today is used primarily for storage. The barn measures 10 bays wide by 3 bays in depth. It features a side-gable roofline covered in corrugated metal. Small rafter tails are visible in the eaves. Asbestos tiles cover the gable. The west elevation contains a standard pedestrian door, while the east elevation slides barn-style. A pedestrian door also is available on the north elevation. The barn floor is earthen, and the walls contain troughs to facilitate milking. The building presently is used as storage. This barn appears to have a construction date of ca. 1945. Photos of Building #3006 are included in Figure 7.

The primary barn is connected by a breezeway to a shed. This shed is constructed of wood and is clad in asbestos tiles. It also features a corrugated metal roof. The rear roofline extends past the building to partially enclose a small stall. A sorting pen is located behind the shed.

Fieldwork did not identify any architectural features or associations that would qualify the barn/shed for individual listing in the NRHP.

Figure 7. Barn and shed (Building #3006)

Figure 7. Barn and shed (Building #3006)

Recommendations

The following recommendations are intended to inform considerations of the residence and barn/shed addressed 1621 Aldine Western Road, Houston, Texas. These recommendations do not substitute for a Section 106 process or analysis under NEPA.

The Buildings #2501 and #3006 are non-contributing resources to the Houston National Cemetery and do not possess the necessary significance for individual listing in the NRHP under Criteria A, B, or C. Consideration of archaeological deposits was not part of this determination, but demolition of these buildings is unlikely to disrupt archaeological properties.

Undertaking

An undertaking is defined by 36 CFR §800.16(y) as "a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency…" It is recommended that VA define the undertaking as the demolition of Buildings #2501 and #3006 of the Houston National Cemetery.

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties. Given the size of the residence and the barn, and the proposed demolition, the recommended APE is limited to the parcel surrounding the buildings (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Recommended APE indicated in red

The APE is contained within the Houston National Cemetery historic district, but the two structures in the undertaking are not contributing resources within the APE. The residence and barn do not possess the significance or integrity necessary for individual listing in the NRHP. No archaeological surveys of the APE have been conducted; however, demolition to grade utilizing mechanical equipment is unlikely to impact archaeological resources that may be yet unidentified. The proposed demolitions are limited to the buildings; existing utilities will be capped and not removed.

Developed portions of the Houston National Cemetery are not visible from the project parcel (Figure 9). Buildings #2501 and #3006 are separated from interments, monuments, and planned landscapes by animal grazing yards (Figure 10). There are no indirect effects to the Houston National Cemetery historic district as a result of the proposed demolitions. Because the parcel is not proposed for development into interment areas at present, there are no proposed impacts to the Houston National Cemetery.

Figure 9. View from yard of 1621 Aldine Western Road. Camera facing southwest toward Houston National Cemetery.

Figure 10. View from edge of development of Houston National Cemetery toward 1621 Aldine Western Road. Camera facing northwest. Buildings #2501 and #3006 are located on the other side of the trees shown at right.

Ms. Wittie also reviewed properties adjacent to the proposed demolitions but outside the Houston National Cemetery historic district with viewsheds that may be affected by the demolitions of the residence and barn. Only one, addressed 1620 Aldine Western Road, had views of Buildings #2501 and #3006 (Figures 11 and 12). This property and its associated buildings are not listed in the NRHP individually or as contributing resources to existing National Register Historic Districts. Preliminary review of available data did not identify areas of significance that would qualify the property or buildings for listing in the NRHP.

Other nearby properties include pastures and crops for field production. Modern commercial/industrial buildings recently were constructed approximately 0.5 miles northwest of 1621 Aldine Western Road. These facilities do not afford views of Buildings #2501 and #3006 given the vegetation and distance. None are listed in the NRHP individually or as contributing resources to existing National Register Historic Districts. Their ages and purposes do not meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP at this time.

Figure 11. View of Aldine Western Road from entrance to 1621 Aldine Western Road. Camera facing west.

Figure 12. View of 1620 Aldine Western Road from yard of 1621 Aldine Western Road. Camera facing north.

Identification of Adverse Effects

The APE is contained within the Houston National Cemetery historic district but has no contributing resources. The residence and barn do not possess the significance or integrity necessary for individual listing in the NRHP. There are no identified archaeological properties within the APE.

Demolition of non-contributing resources inconsistent with the mission of the National Cemetery administration will not adversely affect the Houston National Cemetery historic district, the only historic property within the APE. There are no known archaeological resources within the APE and demolition will not require ground disturbance; therefore, adverse effects to potential archaeological deposits are not anticipated. Although demolition of the residence and barn would be a permanent effect, no historic properties will be affected pursuant to 36 CFR §800.4(d)(1).

Consultation

Consultation is the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the view of other interested parties, and, where feasible, seeking agreement with consulting parties regarding adverse effects to historic properties, and methods to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse effects to those resources in accordance with Section 106. Consultation has not been initiated related to the proposed demolitions of Building #2501 and #3006.

There are no historic properties affected by demolition of the residence and barn/shed. Under 36 CFR §800.5(3), federal agencies must notify the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Native American tribes with cultural and/or geographic affiliation to the area when determining that a project will not affect historic properties. Addresses for these groups are included in Appendix A.

Recommendations for Further Studies

No further studies related to historic preservation are recommended related to the demolition of Buildings #2501 and #3006.

When the Houston National Cemetery develops the parcel, archaeological investigations of the area may be required to determine if any archaeological resources are present.

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McComb, David G. Houston – A History. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1982.

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Texas Historical Society, Texas Historic Sites Database (Atlas), 2015, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/About.

Appendix A – Potential Consulting Parties

Organization	Point of Contact	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip	Website	Email
Texas Historical Commission	Mark S. Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 12276		Austin	TX	78711-2276	www.thc.state.tx.us	Mark.wolfe@thc.state.tx.us
Comanche Nation of Oklahoma	William Nelson, Sr., Chairman	P.O. Box 908		Lawton	OK	73502	http://comanchenation.com/	williamn@comanchenation.com
Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma	Russell Martin, President	1 Rush Buffalo Rd.		Tonkawa	OK	74653-4449	http://www.tonkawatribe.com/	rmartin@tonkawatribe.org
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas	JoAnn Battise, Chairperson	571 State Park Road 56		Livingston	TX	77351	www.alabama-coushatta.com	tcjabattise@actribe.org
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town	Tarpie Yargee, Chief	P.O. Box 187		Wetumpka	OK	74883	http://alabama-quassarte.org/	tribalsecretary@alabama-quassarte.org
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Bobby Komardley, Chairman	511 E Colorado		Anadarko	OK	73005	http://www.apachetribe.org/	bkomardley@outlook.com
Caddo Nation	Tamara Michele Francis Four-killer, Chairperson	P.O. Box 487		Binger	OK	73047	http://caddonation-nsn.gov/	tffourkiller@caddonation.org
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma	Bill John Baker, Principal Chief and THPO	P.O. Box 984		Tahlequah	OK	74465-0948	http://www.cherokee.org/	bill-baker@cherokee.org
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana	Lovelin Poncho, Chairman	P.O. Box 818		Elton	LA	70532		Cbertrand@coushattatribela.org
Delaware Nation	Kerry Holton, President	P.O. Box 825		Anadarko	OK	73005	http://www.cherokee.org/	president@kerryholton.net
Kialegee Tribal Town	Mekko-Tiger Hobia	P.O. Box 332		Wetumpka	OK	74883		Tiger.Hobia@kialegeetribe.net
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas	Estavio Elizondo, Chairman	2212 Rosita Valley Road		Eagle Pass	TX	78852	https://kickapootexas.org/	estavio.m.elizondo@ktttribe.org
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma	David Pacheco, Chairperson	P.O. Box 70		McLoud	OK	74851	http://kickapootribeofoklahoma.com/	dpacheco@okkt.net
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Matthew Komalty, Chairperson	P.O. Box 369		Carnegie	TX	73015	https://www.kiowatribe.org/	kbo@kiowatribe.net
Mescalero Apache Tribe	Danny H. Breuninger, Sr., President	P.O. Box 227		Mescalero	NM	88340	https://mescaleroapachetribe.com/	

Organization	Point of Contact	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip	Website	Email
Poarch Band of Creek Indians	Stephanie Bryan, Chairwoman	5811 Jack Springs Road		Atmore	AL	36502	http://pci-nsn.gov/westminster/index.html	
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma	John L. Berrey, Chairman	P.O. Box 765		Quapaw	OK	74363	http://www.quapawtribe.com/	jberrey@ogahpah.com
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma	Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief	P.O. Box 1498		Wewoka	OK	74884	http://sno-nsn.gov/	chief.prin@sno-nsn.gov
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	Ryan Morrow, Town King	P.O. Box 188		Okemah	OK	74859	http://tttown.org/	
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe	Marshall Sampson, Sr; Beverly Chapman-Rachal, Co-Administrators	P.O. Box 1589		Marksville	LA	71351	https://www.tunicabiloxi.org/	msampson@paragoncasinoresort.com
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians	Joe Bunch, Chief	P.O. Box 746		Tahlequah	OK	74465	http://www.keetoowahcherokee.org/	
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes	Terri Parton, President	P.O. Box 729		Anadarko	OK	73005	http://www.wichitatribe.com/	terri.parton@wichitatribe.com