

More Investigations

Lipan Cemetery to Receive State Recognition

In conjunction with the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas, the Presidio County Historical Commission, and the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the CBBS has helped to secure recognition and protection of one of the earliest historic cemeteries in the region.



Local preservationist Enrique Madrid examines one of four raised sarcophagi at the cemetery.

El Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes, located within a residential neighborhood in Presidio, is believed to have originated in the Protohistoric or Early Historic period—a time when Lipan Apaches still camped along the outskirts of La Junta villages. The cemetery was brought to the attention of the CBBS by local preservationist Enrique Madrid and Lipan Apache tribal representative Oscar Rodriguez. Despite the fact that the property contains some 45 burials, it has no marker, no boundary fence, and—due to erosion and construction—is suffering from neglect. Preliminary research revealed the cemetery was registered with neither the county nor the state and had never been recorded archaeologically, essentially leaving it unprotected. To address these deficiencies, the CBBS registered the site as a cemetery with the THC and conducted a detailed recording, which allowed it to be added to the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. In November of 2014, through consultation with state, county, and Lipan Apache representatives, the cemetery was designated a State Archeological Landmark (SAL) which provides it with additional protection. Through this partnership with both private and state interests, the CBBS is proud to announce this important site has finally received the recognition it deserves as a historically significant cemetery and an integral part of the legacy of the Lipan Apaches in Texas.

—David W. Keller



A fallen fence around two sarcophagi demonstrates the cemetery's degree of neglect.

Cultural Resource Management Archaeology in Brewster County

In the fall of 2014, the CBBS conducted an archaeological survey for a proposed construction project east of Alpine. Personnel surveyed approximately 720 acres resulting in the discovery and documentation of 24 archaeological sites along with 31 isolated occurrences and 6 lithic scatters. Twenty-two of the sites are prehistoric camps, one is a pair of probable historic rock features, and one is a complex of historic ranching features. The diversity of temporally diagnostic projectile points (including one Late Paleoindian and a number of Early Archaic specimens) and juxtaposition of sites—most of which contain plant-food processing features—in diverse geological settings provide new insights into archaeological patterns in a rarely studied portion of the TAP research area.

—Samuel S. Cason