

# Archaeological Survey and Monitoring for the Construction of Additional Parking for Mission Concepción, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



*by*  
**Leonard Kemp**

**Principal Investigator  
Paul Shawn Marceaux**

**Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7634**

**Redacted**

*Prepared for:*  
**Pugh Constructors, Inc.  
4834 Whirlwind Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78217**



**© 2017**

*Prepared by:*  
**Center for Archaeological Research  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, Texas 78249  
Technical Report, No. 67**



**Archaeological Survey and Monitoring for the Construction  
of Additional Parking for Mission Concepción,  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas**

by

Leonard Kemp

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7634

**Redacted**

Principal Investigator

Paul Shawn Marceaux



*Prepared for:*  
Pugh Constructors, Inc.  
4834 Whirlwind Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78217

*Prepared by:*  
Center for Archaeological Research  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, Texas 78249  
Technical Report, No. 67

©2017

This page intentionally left blank.



## **Abstract:**

The University of Texas at San Antonio-Center for Archaeological Research (UTSA-CAR) was contracted by Pugh Constructors, Inc. to survey and monitor 0.63 acres (0.25 hectares) dedicated to the construction of additional parking lots for Mission Concepción (41BX12). The work was conducted intermittently from May 9 through December 22, 2016. Mission Concepción is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL), and a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, as well located with located within a National Register District. It is a component of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and is co-administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The mission's listing on the NRHP and its status as a SAL require professional archaeological investigation prior to any ground disturbing construction. The archaeological investigation included background research prior to and during construction, shovel testing of impact areas designated for future parking, and monitoring of these areas during grading and other ground disturbing activities. The background research, shovel testing, and monitoring suggest that the parking lot areas have been heavily impacted by past construction. These earlier activities include the razing and selling of the original mission walls in the early 1800s, the construction of the old Mission Road through the compound area, the construction of play areas for St. Peter-St. Joseph's Orphanage, and the construction of a 30-in. water line in the early 1970s. The project was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7634, with Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux serving as Principal Investigator and Leonard Kemp serving as Project Archaeologist.

This page intentionally left blank.

## Table of Contents:

Abstract.....	iii
Table of Contents.....	v
List of Figures.....	vii
Acknowledgments.....	ix
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
Chapter 2: A Brief History of Mission Concepción .....	5
History of Mission Concepción.....	5
Previous Archaeological Investigations .....	10
Chapter 3: Archaeological Field and Lab Methods .....	13
Archaeological Field Methods.....	13
Artifact Analysis and Curation.....	14
Reporting Requirements.....	14
Additional Considerations.....	15
Chapter 4: Results of the Archaeological Investigation.....	17
Introduction .....	17
Shovel Testing.....	17
Archaeological Monitoring.....	20
Summary.....	23
Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations.....	25
References Cited .....	27
Appendix 1.....	29

This page intentionally left blank.

## List of Figures:

Figure 1-1. Project APE (highlighted in red) shown on USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map (San Antonio East).....	2
Figure 1-2. Areas to be impacted prior to construction: the North Parking Lot view to the north (top), Central and B-Cycle Lot view to the northwest (middle images), and the South Parking Lot view to the south (bottom).....	3
Figure 2-1. A 1971 aerial of Mission Concepción and surrounding facilities (Scurlock and Fox 1977:Figure 1) showing the APE in relationship to the surrounding facilities constructed in the twentieth century.....	9
Figure 2-2. Previous archaeology in or adjacent to the project APE (shaded in white) .....	10
Figure 4-1. Distribution of shovel tests and areas monitored (shaded in white) within the project APE ...	18
Figure 4-2. Distribution of areas monitored (shaded in white) and previous ground disturbing activities in the project APE.....	19
Figure 4-3. Unidentified (possibly a handle) metal object of brass and copper.....	21
Figure 4-4. Cut limestone blocks (left) and concrete cornice fragment (right) found in the North Parking Lot.....	22
Figure 4-5. Ceramics collected in the North Parking Lot at Mission Concepción: a) Tin-glazed, b) Galera, c) stoneware, and d) lusterware.....	23
Figure 4-6. A ceramic doll leg (obverse and reverse views) and glass marbles collected in the North Parking Lot.....	24

This page intentionally left blank.



## **Acknowledgments:**

The successful completion of this project would not have been possible without the support of the following individuals. We are thankful to William Pugh and Felipe Lopez of Pugh Constructors, Inc. for their support during the fieldwork. CAR archaeologists Lindy Martinez, C. Steve Smith, and Sarah Wigley helped monitor construction activities. Kelly Harris of UTSA-CAR served as Technical Editor, and Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux, Director of the UTSA-CAR, served as Principal Investigator of this project.

This page intentionally left blank.

# Chapter 1: Introduction

The University of Texas at San Antonio-Center for Archaeological Research (UTSA-CAR) was contracted by Pugh Constructors, Inc. (hereafter Pugh Constructors) to survey and monitor the construction of three additional parking lots covering a combined area of 0.63 acres (0.25 hectares) for Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña (hereafter referred to as Mission Concepción or Concepción) in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The work was conducted intermittently between May 9 and December 22, 2016. The investigation began with background research followed by shovel testing prior to below ground construction to look for unknown archaeological resources within the western portion of the grounds of Mission Concepción. In addition to this phase of investigation, the CAR monitored all ground disturbing activities within the construction zone for archaeological features, such as wall remnants or *acequia* infrastructure.

Mission Concepción (41BX12) is an archaeological site listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL), and a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, and the mission is located within a National Register District. It is a component of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and is co-administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The mission's listing on the NRHP and its SAL status require professional archaeological investigation prior to any adverse effects that may impact this status. The investigation was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7634 issued by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux of CAR who served as the Principal Investigator. Leonard Kemp served as Project Archaeologist.

The project area is located east of the confluence of San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River along Mission Road. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located on the western portion of the Mission Concepción grounds (Figure 1-1). The APE is divided into three areas (Figure 1-2): the first is the North Parking Lot encompassing 0.27 acres (0.112 hectares); the second is the Central and B-Cycle Lot (B-Cycle is a bicycle share/rental kiosk) encompassing 0.15 acres (0.06 hectares); and the third is the South Parking Lot encompassing 0.22 acres (0.09 hectares). Note in Figure 1-1 that the USGS map shows the alignment of the old Mission Road, which bisected the compound area, with the aerial inset showing the present roadways relative to the project areas.

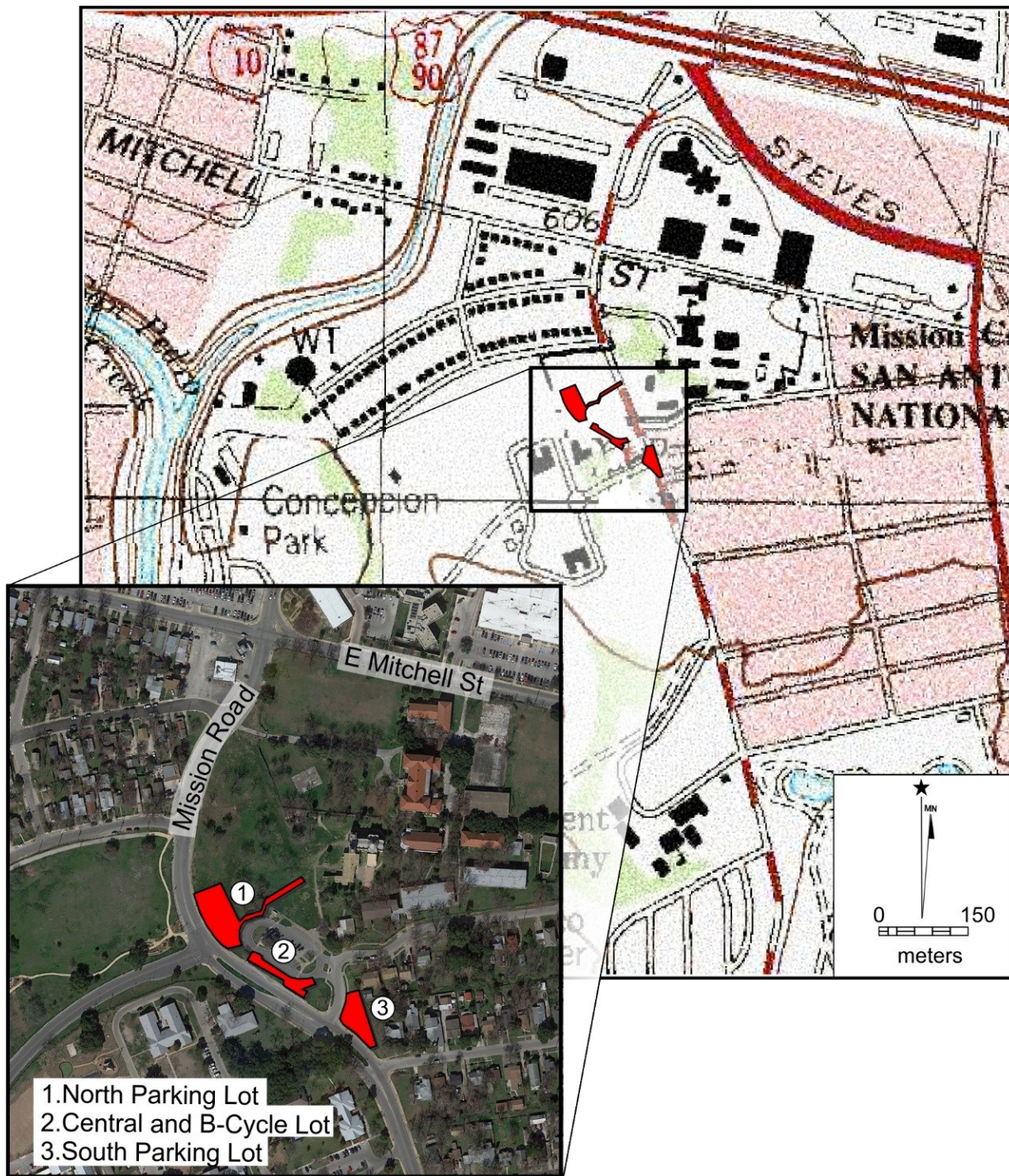


Figure 1-1. Project APE (highlighted in red) shown on USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map (San Antonio East).





*Figure 1-2. Areas to be impacted prior to construction: the North Parking Lot view to the north (top), Central and B-Cycle Lot view to the northwest (middle images), and the South Parking Lot view to the south (bottom).*

This report contains four chapters. The first chapter provides project background, describes the proposed work, and delineates the APE. Chapter 2 presents a brief history of Mission Concepción and includes a description of previous archaeology and construction impacts to the project area. Chapter 3 discusses the field and laboratory methods used during the project. Chapter 4 summarizes the results of this investigation, and Chapter 5 presents the CAR's recommendations for any future archaeological investigation of this area.

This page intentionally left blank.



## **Chapter 2: A Brief History of Mission Concepción**

This chapter provides a brief history of Mission Concepción from its beginning in 1731 to the end of this indoctrination process in the early nineteenth century. The chapter also chronicles the latter role of Concepción from a mission to that of a local parish church, as well as its decline and revival in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The chapter concludes with a section that discusses relevant past archaeological investigations within or adjacent to the project APE.

### **History of Mission Concepción**

The Spanish colonization of Texas was accomplished by two institutions: the military/civil component represented in the form of the presidio and the church in the form of the mission (Lightfoot 2005). The goal of the mission was not only to convert the local Native Americans to Catholicism but also to create from this community a self-sufficient peasant class of Hispanicized laborers and craft workers (Lightfoot 2005). In this regard, primarily Franciscan brothers created a Native American community (pueblo) that indoctrinated the neophytes in religious instruction and trained them to assume the roles of farmer, rancher, laborer, or craftsman specializing in blacksmithing, carpentry, or weaving.

Mission Concepción was founded by Franciscans of the College of Santa Cruz de Querétaro in 1716 along the Angelina River in west Nacogdoches County (Habig 1968; Ivey et al. 1990). The mission was moved to its current, and final, location east of the confluence of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek in 1731. The move to San Antonio was initiated by Brigadier Pedro de Rivera y Villalón who recommended that the presidio and, therefore, protection for the missions in east Texas be abandoned for economic reasons (Habig 1968; Ivey et al. 1990).

Ivey and Fox (1999) suggest three phases for the development of a mission. The first phase is determined by the mission's success in attracting and maintaining converts and, thus, is provisional. The mission in this phase consists of simple and temporary structures and shelters. If successful over a period of time, the second phase is initiated, and semi-permanent structures constructed of adobe are built. The final phase is the construction of stone structures beginning with the convento, the church, workrooms, and quarters for the neophytes.

The setting of Mission Concepción is thought to be the original locations of both Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo in 1720 and Mission Francisco Xavier de Nájera from 1722 through 1726 (Ivey and Fox 1999). The mission's location may have been determined by the presence of the irrigation ditch later known

as the Concepcion *Acequia* (Ivey and Fox 1999; Scurlock and Fox 1977). The building of the mission complex began in 1732 and continued until approximately 1770. Based on the 1971 archaeological investigation, Ivey et al. (1990) suggest that an adobe church with a convento were the first major structures of the mission. The foundation of the present stone church was begun in 1735 and completed in 1755 (Ivey et al. 1990). In his description of Concepción's structural history, Ivey (1999:47) explains that a stone convento had replaced the adobe one by 1745 and that construction for a second convento took place from about 1750 through 1756. A stone granary was built by 1745 with stone buildings identified as a forge and a carpenter's shop listed in the *Inventory of 1772* (Ivey et al. 1990). The construction of stone houses for the neophyte community began in 1756 creating an enclosed plaza as described by Father Juan Morfi in 1777 (Ivey et al. 1990). In 1772, Mission Concepción was transferred to the College of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Zacateca following the expulsion of the Jesuit order and the Querétaran's assumption of their mission in Sonora. For all intent and purposes, construction at the former Querétaran missions ceased while the Zacatecan mission of San José continued through 1794 (Ivey et al. 1990).

Campbell and Campbell (1985) suggest two factors that prompted Native Americans to move to the missions. The first is the expansion of New Spain into Tamaulipas and northern Mexico displacing indigenous Native groups, and the second is the movement of Apache into the Edwards Plateau and South Texas. During this time, the Franciscan friars brought stability, safety, and sustenance for local Native American groups. The marriage record of Mission Concepción is the sole source for the names of the groups that entered the mission (Campbell and Campbell 1985). Thirty-three named groups are recorded in this registry with the qualification that some groups overlap and that some groups are not included (Campbell and Campbell 1985:14, 21). The most named groups were the Pajalat, Tacame, Siquipil, Tilpacopal, Patumaca, and the Patalca (Gonzalez 2011). By most accounts, the initial founding of Mission Concepción was successful with approximately 300 individuals becoming part of this community (Scurlock and Fox 1977 referencing Casteñeda 1936). Habig (1968:135), citing the *Report of 1762*, states that 792 individuals were baptized and 558 were given Christian burials from the mission's founding in 1731 to 1762. The report also lists 58 neophyte families numbering 207 individuals living at the mission (Habig 1968:135). However, by the mid-1750s, the neophyte population had already begun to decline with further reduction continuing through the 1780s. While there were multiple causes for this decline, the primary cause for the displacement of local Native American groups was the growing Hispanic community. The growth of the Hispanic community coupled with the high mortality rates among the neophyte community, especially infants and children, reduced the growth and viability of the mission community (Habig 1968; Ivey et al. 1990).

In 1794, Mission Concepción was partially secularized through the division of land and property between neophytes and other residents (Ivey et al. 1990). Habig (1968:141) describes the mission land being divided into common lots shared by the community, in addition individual plots were allotted to the sixteen heads of Christian Native American families (a total of 38 individuals), and a lot each was awarded to the Hispanic surveyor and overseer. The remaining livestock was divided among the neophytes (Habig 1968). Mission Concepción became a *visita*, or sub-mission, of Mission San José, which held custody of it until 1824 (Habig 1968). In 1809, the population of Concepción consisted of 21 Native Americans and 32 Hispanics (Habig 1968:143).

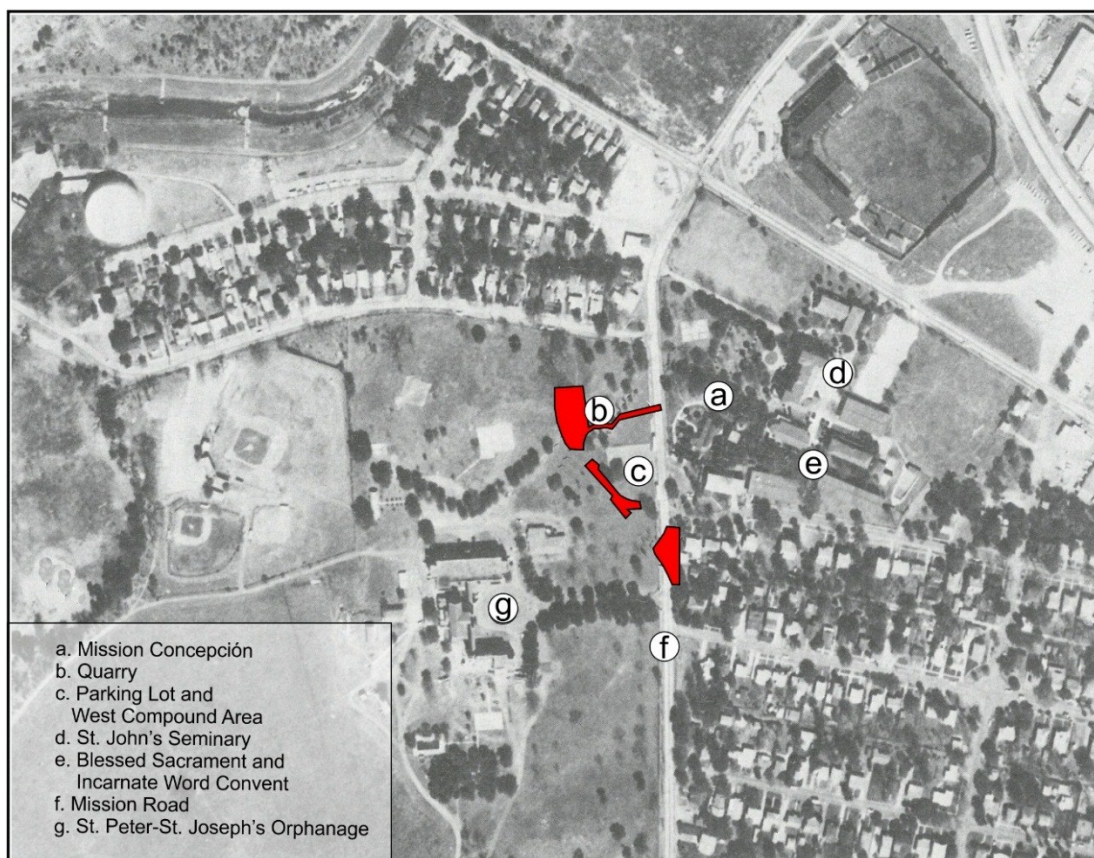
In 1813, Mission Concepción became the headquarters of Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara, a Mexican revolutionary during the Mexican War for Independence. After 1815, Habig (1968) describes Mission Concepción as essentially uninhabited with no political representation or religious services. Ivey and Fox (1999) report that no Native American families were living at Concepción after 1823 and that the surrounding lands were sold to new owners. In 1824, the Mexican Government sold all the buildings of Mission Concepción, excepting the church and granary (Ivey et al. 1990). The remaining San Antonio missions (less Mission Valero, which had been previously relinquished) were turned over to Presbyter Francisco Maynes, the priest of San Antonio de Bexar (Habig 1968; Ivey et al. 1990).

The nineteenth century was one in which Mission Concepción underwent a period of decline followed by a revival and subsequently a moderate decline. Numerous visitors describe the Concepción buildings as deteriorated with cattle and sheep corralled in the church and its grounds (Ivey et al. 1990). The decline of the complex was aided by local inhabitants who used the stone to construct their houses (Ivey et al. 1990). In 1840, Bexar County commissioners sold the “Public Rock” of Mission Concepción consisting of its structures and walls hastening its deterioration (Almaráz 1989:39-40). In 1841, the Republic of Texas returned the title of Mission Concepción and adjacent lands, approximately 15 acres (6.07 hectares), back to the Catholic Church (Almaráz 1989; Habig 1968). Almaráz (1989) cites the 1850 ruling of the Texas Supreme Court that recognized the Bishop of Galveston Jean Marie Odin as the rightful owner of mission properties. These actions occurred during the revival of Catholicism in Texas led by the Bishop in the mid-1850s (Foley 2010). In 1855, Odin allowed the Brothers of Mary to use the Concepción lands for farming (Habig 1968). The Brothers began the restoration of the church and re-instituted religious services in 1861 (Habig 1968). In addition, the Brothers established a seminary that operated until 1866 (Habig 1968). In 1887, after additional restoration, the Concepción church, was rededicated by the Bishop of San Antonio, John C. Neraz (Habig 1968). However, Ivey (1999) describes the late nineteenth-century period as one of renewed neglect with mission land rented to sharecroppers citing Corner (1890:16-17) who writes that “the

barracks (Indian houses and walls) that surrounded the square have long disappeared... with the square of the Mission at this date (that) can very hardly be defined” (Ivey 1999:6). Further damaging the integrity of the complex was the rerouting of Mission Road through the mission grounds in front of the church, which occurred sometime after 1887 (Ivey et al 1990).

The early twentieth century marked a new beginning for Mission Concepción. In 1911, the Brothers of Mary returned Mission Concepción to the San Antonio Archdiocese that was led by Bishop John William Shaw (Ivey et al 1990). Shaw began the restoration of the four mission chapels (less Valero, which no longer belonged to the Church) (Lewis 1996). In 1913, Bishop Shaw celebrated the reopening of the church at Mission Concepción with a high mass. In addition, he laid the foundation stone for the new St John’s Orphanage (later known as St. Peter-St. Joseph’s Orphanage) immediately southwest of Mission Concepción (Habig 1968; Ivey et al. 1990). The orphanage was administered by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word (Habig 1968; Ivey et al. 1990). In 1920, the administration building of St. John’s Seminary was opened immediately northeast of the Mission Concepción (Habig 1968; Ivey et al. 1990). In 1926, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Convent was built southeast of the Concepcion church (González 2011).

In essence, Mission Concepción became the hub of other Catholic missionary institutions that are located on its former grounds. A 1971 aerial of the Mission Concepción area (Figure 2-2) shows the location of these facilities relative to the project APE. Note that the North Parking Lot is within the active footprint of St. Peter-St. Joseph’s Orphanage and that the old Mission Road encompasses the South Parking Lot.



*Figure 2-1. A 1971 aerial of Mission Concepción and surrounding facilities (Scurlock and Fox 1977:Figure 1) showing the APE in relationship to the surrounding facilities constructed in the twentieth century.*

In 1932, the restoration of Mission San José was initiated by the San Antonio Conservation Society, and the effort was continued by the federal Works Project Administration (Fisher 1996). Ivey et al. (1990) state that only minor restoration was done at Mission Concepción citing Brooks (1936:134-135), an architect, who writes that it is “the best preserved among all the Texas monuments (Ivey et al. 1990:208). In 1941, Mission San José became a state park and a national historic site while remaining an active church (Fisher 1996:168-169). This partnership between state, federal agencies, and the Church fostered the idea that the remaining three missions, Concepción, San Juan, and Espada, could be joined with Mission San José to form a national park while remaining parish churches. Over the next three decades, the San Antonio Archdiocese, the NPS, the State of Texas, and the City of San Antonio negotiated an agreement in which the lands surrounding the mission were to be donated and maintained by the NPS while the churches themselves would remain under the control of the Archdiocese (Fisher 1996). In 1978, the U.S. Congress approved the creation of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, which began operations in 1983. In 2015, the UNESCO approved the nomination of the San Antonio missions, including Mission Concepción, as a collective World Heritage Site.



## Previous Archaeological Investigations

This section provides a brief background on previous archaeological investigations within or adjacent to the APE of the present investigation. It also documents construction activities that have impacted the area. A thorough account of previous archaeological efforts at Mission Concepción can be found in Figueroa and Tomka (2009) and Ivey and Fox (1999). Figure 2-1 shows the location of relevant past archaeological work, in addition to impacts created by past construction.

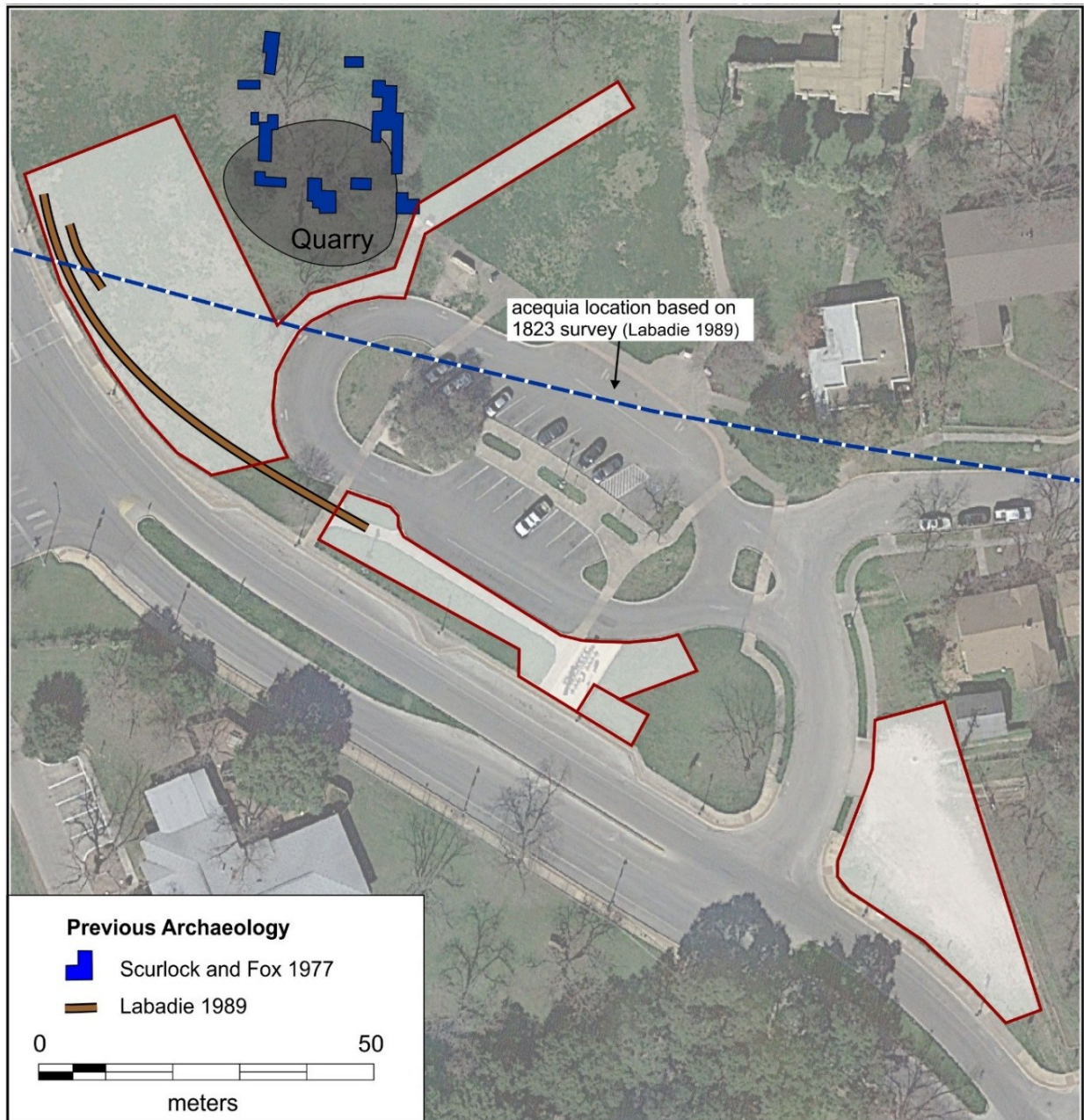


Figure 2-2. Previous archaeology in or adjacent to the project APE (shaded in white).



The first, and by far the most comprehensive, professional archaeological investigations of Mission Concepción was conducted by Scurlock and Fox in 1971 and 1972. The project was sponsored by the former Texas State Historical Survey Committee (now known as the Texas Historical Commission), the NRHP, and the Archdiocese of San Antonio (Scurlock and Fox 1977). This investigation focused on the western portion of the mission grounds to search for wall locations, and other architectural and archaeological features of the mission complex. Scurlock and Fox (1977) found only a small portion of the west wall and a gully-like feature north of the quarry depression that they characterized as a likely *acequia* remnant.

In 1987, the CAR conducted the archaeological excavation three trenches and eleven 1-x-1 m (3.28-x-3.28 ft.) units for the Mission Road Alignment (Labadie 1989). Two of these trenches were excavated in the North Parking Lot. Labadie's excavations of the three trenches clearly show disturbed trench profiles (A and C) with soils and strata out of context and intermixed with construction materials (Labadie 1989:Figures 3 and 4). Zone 2 (0.12-1.15 cm below the surface [cmbs]; 0.05-0.45 in.) of Trench A and Zone 3 (0.18-0.65 cmbs; 0.07-0.26 in.) of Trench C are described as containing construction material (bricks, mortar, glass), travertine chunks, gravel, and mottled clayey loam. In Zone 6 of Trench C (0.18-0.65 cmbs; 0.07-0.26 in.), in addition to the construction material, domestic artifacts (whiteware, bottle, toys) from the twentieth century were found. Labadie attributes these items to St. Peter-St. Joseph's Orphanage. Labadie (1989) reported, based on local informants, that in the late 1950s the western portion of the mission grounds (the present location of the North Parking Lot area) was severely impacted by bulldozing to fill in the quarry and "at least one acequia" (Labadie 1989:2). He describes the scraping as having removed the original ground surface and any intrusive features such as the *acequia* and mission walls (Labadie 1989:2).

This page intentionally left blank.

## **Chapter 3: Archaeological Field and Lab Methods**

This section outlines field methods that CAR, in consultation with regulatory agencies, developed to properly investigate the APE, to establish a protocol for use if, and when, deposits were encountered, and to provide an initial assessment of the integrity of the deposits if they were located within the construction impact area.

### **Archaeological Field Methods**

The first phase of field investigation consisted of shovel testing prior to construction. Shovel tests were approximately 30 cm (11.8 in.) in diameter and were excavated to depths of 60 cmbs (23.6 in.) when possible. Shovel tests were excavated in arbitrary 10-cm (3.94-in.) levels, and all soil matrixes were screened through 0.64-cm (¼-in.) hardware cloth. Shovel tests were terminated if excavators encountered bedrock, disturbances, or sterile sub-soil. A standard shovel test form was completed for each excavation. The location of the shovel tests were recorded with a sub-meter accurate Trimble® GPS unit. All artifacts recovered during shovel testing were collected, recorded with appropriate provenience information, and transported to the CAR laboratory for processing, analysis, and curation pursuant to requirements in the permit.

Archaeological monitoring was the second phase of fieldwork. Prior to construction, the Principal Investigator and Project Archaeologist met with William Pugh and Felipe Lopez of Pugh Contractors, their subcontractors, and Susan Snow and James Oliver of the NPS to review proposed construction activities and to discuss the role and concerns of archaeological monitoring. As per the Scope of Work, an archaeologist was present on site to monitor any ground disturbing activities. These areas were the North Parking Lot, the Central Parking and B-Cycle Lot, and the South Parking Lot. In circumstances when multiple construction activities occurred simultaneously, CAR deployed an additional archaeologist to monitor that work. The archaeologist maintained a standard monitoring form, consisting of a daily log of activities. All activities observed were documented and described on this form, and these observations were supported by digital data, including GPS observations and photographs, where appropriate. A lab-based GIS/Illustrator supported the field monitor by downloading and managing both Trimble GPS data as well as photographic data collected by the monitor. The Project Archaeologist maintained a photographic log in addition to the daily monitoring logs.

If prehistoric or historic cultural remains and/or features were encountered during the course of the monitoring, the Project Archaeologist was authorized to halt the excavations in the vicinity to determine if

the materials were found in intact or disturbed contexts. No intact features were identified during the course of the project. However, if intact features were found the THC, the NPS, and Pugh Constructors would have been notified immediately. Features would have been documented using a standard feature form, measured drawing, and photographs.

Where appropriate, diagnostic artifacts were collected during monitoring in order to provide context for the historic use of the area. All collected material were recorded with appropriate provenience information and transported to the CAR laboratory for processing, analysis, and curation pursuant to requirements in the permit. If human remains were encountered during any portion of this project, archaeologists would have immediately stopped work in that area and notified the THC, the NPS, and Pugh Constructors. The handling of human remains would conform to conditions of the State Health and Safety Code (Chapter 711).

### **Artifact Analysis and Curation**

Throughout the project, the analysis and organization of records, artifacts, and daily logs were ongoing. All records generated during the project were prepared in accordance with Federal Regulations 36 CFR Part 79 and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Field forms were printed on acid-free paper and completed with pencil. Any artifacts collected during the investigations and monitoring were brought to the CAR laboratory, washed, air-dried, and stored in 4 mil zip-lock, archival-quality bags. Any materials needing extra support were double-bagged, and acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each laser printer generated label contains provenience information and a corresponding lot number. If necessary, these artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes, which are labeled with standard tags.

All field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and with archival-quality page protectors to prevent accidental smearing due to moisture. Finally, following completion of the investigation, all recovered artifacts and project-related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR's curation facility. All artifacts will be entered into the NPS Interior Collections Management System (ICMS) as the NPS manages the curatorial collections for all the area within the park boundary.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Following completion of the investigations, UTSA-CAR will prepare a draft report of the investigations and provide documentation summarizing the activities and results of the effort in sufficient detail to close the Texas Antiquities Permit. The report will include recommendations regarding the significance of any

archaeological discoveries, and suggestions for additional research, if warranted. The UTSA-CAR will submit the draft report to Pugh Constructors, NPS, the COSA Office of Historic Preservation, and the Texas Historical Commission for comments. These review comments will be incorporated into the final document, which will be printed and distributed as required by the THC permit regulations.

### **Additional Considerations**

In consultation with THC and the NPS, subsequent to proper analyses and/or quantification, artifacts possessing little scientific value will be discarded pursuant to Chapter 26.27(g)(2) of the Antiquities Code of Texas. Artifact classes to be discarded specific to this project may include, but are not limited to: burned rock, snail shell, glass fragments, unidentifiable or redundant artifacts, and recent (post-1950) materials. In all instances, however, discarded materials will be documented, and their counts will be included in the final report and curation documentation.

This page intentionally left blank.



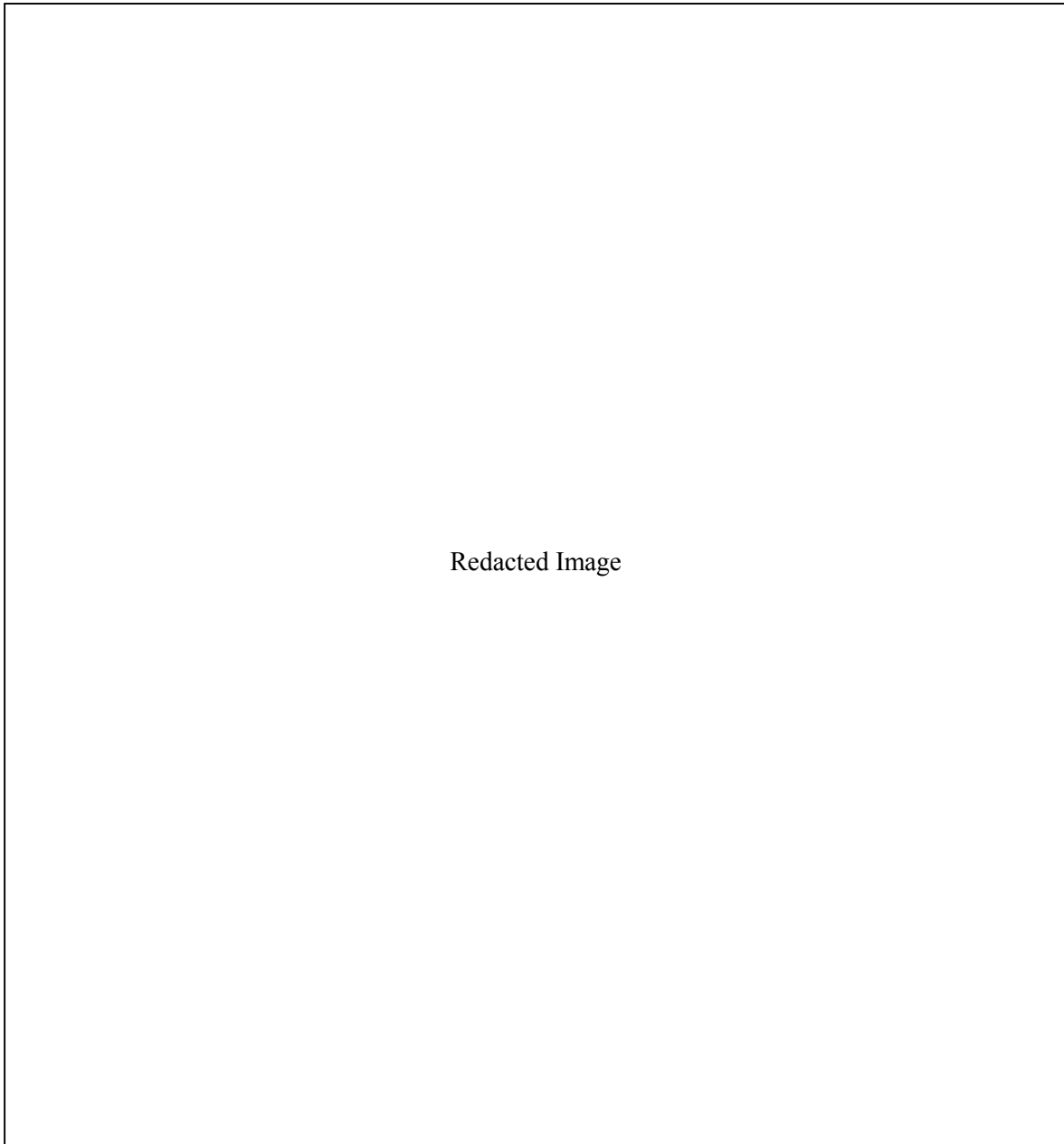
# **Chapter 4: Results of the Archaeological Investigation**

## **Introduction**

Archaeologists from the CAR performed three tasks associated with the current investigation. These tasks include background research on the project area prior to and during the investigation, shovel testing in the North Parking Lot and Central Lot, and monitoring of all ground disturbing activities associated with this project. The background research is presented in Chapter 2, and the findings of the remaining two tasks, shovel testing and monitoring, are presented in this chapter.

## **Shovel Testing**

Initially, six shovel tests, a rate consistent with THC guidelines, were proposed to locate and document cultural features and deposits specific to the North Parking Lot. However, the number of shovel tests increased to 12 based on the presence of positive shovel tests and shallow excavation depths. Shovel testing was deemed necessary by the Principal Investigator and Project Archaeologist to fully investigate the Central and B-Cycle Lot (six shovel tests) and the irrigation line (four shovel tests) running to the mission. Figure 4-1 shows the location of the shovel tests excavated during this project. No shovel tests were placed in the South Parking Lot because the construction impact was to be minimal (10.2-15.24 cmbs; 4-6 in.), and it was located in the former footprint of the old Mission Road (Figure 4-2).



*Figure 4-1. Distribution of shovel tests and areas monitored (shaded in white) within the project APE.*

A large rectangular box with a black border, containing the text "Redacted Image" in the center.

Redacted Image

*Figure 4-2. Distribution of areas monitored (shaded in white) and previous ground disturbing activities in the project APE.*

Twenty-two shovel tests were excavated in the APE. The majority of the shovel tests were relatively shallow between 20-30 cmbs (7.87-11.8 in.) with soils that were generally silty clay or loam with limestone gravel terminating at cemented limestone matrix or bedrock (Appendix 1). The APE lies at the junction of two soil groups: the Rock outcrop-Olmos Complex (HgD), 5-25 percent slope, and the Lewisville silty clay (LvB), 1-3 percent slope (Natural Resources Conservation Services 2016). The HgD soil profile is described as very gravelly loam to 35.56 cmbs (14 in.), cemented material 25.4-45.72 cmbs (10-18 in.), and gravelly loam 45.72-152.4 cmbs (18-60 in.) over limestone bedrock. The LvB soil profile consists of silty

clay to 91.44 cmbs (36 in.) over limestone bedrock. No shovel test had characteristics of the LvB soil group. Only four shovel tests were positive for cultural material, and all were located in the North Parking Lot. Artifacts included construction material (brick fragments, slag or asphalt, and mortar or plaster), glass fragments (clear [7] and aqua [1]), a plastic bead, a rivet, burned rock fragments (2), debitage (1), and faunal bone fragments (2). The majority of the recovered artifacts are products of the twentieth century.

In summary, shovel testing confirmed that the soil in the area is relatively shallow in depth with limestone gravel and cemented gravel over limestone bedrock. This suggests that both the prehistoric and historical period deposits are compressed and intermixed. The combination of construction material intermixed with modern glass and other twentieth-century artifacts, a piece of debitage, and burned rock suggests that the artifacts are likely out of context.

### **Archaeological Monitoring**

Archaeological monitoring during the Mission Concepción parking lot construction occurred intermittently from May 9 to December 22, 2016. Construction required the excavation of the top 15 cm (6 in.) of the soil in the North Parking Lot. However, the excavation depth in the three lots varied to as much 60 cmbs (24 in.) due to grade differences, as well as the inexperience of the operator and the type of machinery used by the subcontractor. The installation of two gateposts, each 10-15 cm (4-6 in.) in diameter, required deeper impacts to 76 cmbs (30 in.). Four fence-post holes were excavated on the north side of the North Parking Lot. In the Central and B-Cycle Lot, a concrete sidewalk was removed to add 16 asphalted parking spaces to the park service area, and the current B-Cycle pad was removed and relocated. Impacts to the Central Parking Lot were approximately 15-30 cm (6-12 in.) below the existing grade. Lastly, in the South Parking Lot the excavation of 15 cm (6 in.) below the surface was required. In addition to the parking lots, the subcontractors employed mechanical trenching to install approximately 240 m (787 ft.) of irrigation lines.

The North Parking Lot was the first area graded. The subcontractors initially used a Bobcat skid steer loader; however, this equipment was insufficient to the task and was replaced by a John Deere backhoe. During the course of this grading, a water relief valve was found. A San Antonio Water System (SAWS) representative was called to investigate it and determined that it was part of 76.2-cm (30-in.) water line constructed in 1974 (see Figure 4-2). As shown in Figure 4-1, the water line runs north to south through the North Parking Lot, the southern portion of the Central Lot, and through the southwestern portion of the South Parking Lot. Construction documents (City Water Board 1974) provided by SAWS, show a 4.88-m (16-ft.) easement buffering the line, which suggests that the excavation trench was at least this width. Based upon the document, the waterline is approximately 3.05 m (10 ft.) below the surface. In addition to the

water line, an inactive 5.08-cm (2-in.) water or gas line running northeast to southwest was uncovered during grading see (Figure 4-2). Both lines suggest that the North Parking Lot had been impacted beyond the bulldozing referenced by Labadie (1989).

Archaeological monitors observed during grading/excavation activities construction material (concrete, bricks, asphalt) intermixed with glass (clear, brown, green, and blue fragments and flat glass) and ceramic fragments (generally whiteware), faunal fragments, a toy wagon, and other unidentifiable metal fragments. These artifacts were examined but not collected. Two isolates, an unidentified (possibly a handle) riveted metal object of copper and brass (Figure 4-3) and a piece of debitage were collected and recorded. Several cut limestone blocks were uncovered during excavation (Figure 4-4, left). However, the blocks were displaced and not part of a wall or other architectural feature. A concrete cornice fragment (Figure 4-4, right) was observed, photographed, and recorded with the GPS. The style of the concrete cornice is similar to architectural elements from St. Peter-St. Joseph's Orphanage, St. John's Seminary, and the Convent of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. The limestone blocks may be from that construction or other unknown construction, however, given the blocks' condition (color), they are not likely associated with mission-period construction.



*Figure 4-3. Unidentified (possibly a handle) metal object of brass and copper.*



Figure 4-4. Cut limestone blocks (left) and concrete cornice fragment (right) found in the North Parking Lot.

Two twentieth-century trash features of glass, ceramics, and faunal bone were initially identified during monitoring. Both features were documented with photographs and recorded with a GPS. Trash Pit 1 contained an embossed milk glass fragment, stoneware fragments (base and rim), and a fragment of shoe leather. Trash Pit 2 contained plaster, a metal fork, a ceramic sewer pipe fragment, stoneware and lusterware fragments, a marble, a bridle latch, a metal hook, and a large mammal bone. However, in retrospect, both features are now thought to be more a result of the SAWS water line construction and not in situ features given their proximity to the footprint of the SAWS water line.

In the other two areas monitored by CAR, much smaller counts of artifacts were observed and generally consisted of construction debris and glass fragments in the Central Parking Lot, while faunal bone fragments were observed in the B-Cycle pad area. During grading of the South Parking Lot, fragments of asphalt, concrete, and ceramic sewer pipe were observed and likely remnants of its former use as the old Mission Road (Figure 4-2). In addition, a small amount of glass fragments and a few faunal bone fragments were observed in this area. A NPS datum was observed and recorded in the South Parking Lot. No features were observed, and no artifacts were collected or recorded during the monitoring in either area. During trenching for the irrigation line east to the mission, red brick fragments and plastic wrappers were observed. In subsequent trenching around the North Parking Lot, a metal pipe line was observed, as well as a horseshoe and a faunal bone. As requested by Susan Snow of the NPS, following the final grading, the North Parking Lot area was examined for soil differences that might indicate the *acequia* outline. Unfortunately, there was no evidence that indicated the *acequia* was visible at the excavated depth.

## Summary

Neither mission-period construction nor the *acequia* were observed during monitoring. No other archaeological features were observed during archaeological monitoring of the three areas within the APE. Artifacts from the North Parking Lot were the most numerous and diverse. Overall, the artifacts collected and observed during monitoring are consistently associated with items from the early to middle twentieth century. Non-diagnostic glass and whiteware fragments were abundant and generally reflect twentieth-century manufacture. Two ceramic fragments (a Galera and an unidentified tin-glazed ware) shown in Figure 4-5 suggest an earlier time frame. Both fragments date to the colonial period, although Galera ceramics were manufactured into the 1850s (Fox and Ulrich 2008). The stoneware dates to the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century, and the lusterware may be indicative of a similar time frame (Figure 4-5). Figure 4-6 shows toys collected from the North Parking Lot dating to the early twentieth century and may inform the location's use as a play area for children from St. Peter-St. Joseph's Orphanage. The 1971 aerial (see Figure 2-1) shows that the northwest grounds of the orphanage were dedicated to recreational facilities (baseball fields and play areas) and were located near the Northern Parking Lot.

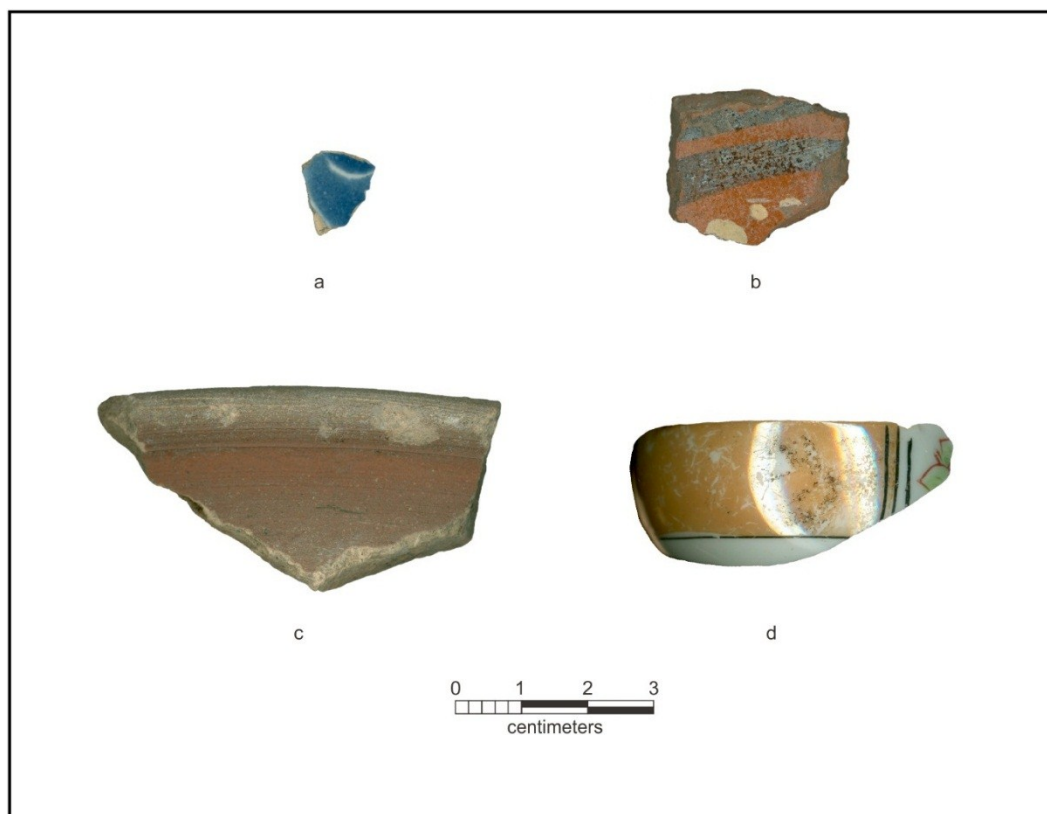


Figure 4-5. Ceramics collected in the North Parking Lot at Mission Concepción: a) Tin-glazed, b) Galera, c) stoneware, and d) lusterware.





*Figure 4-6. A ceramic doll leg (obverse and reverse views) and glass marbles collected in the North Parking Lot.*



## Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

The CAR was contracted by Pugh Constructors to perform archaeological services for the construction of three new parking areas on the grounds of Mission Concepción from May 9 through December 22, 2016. This construction involved ground disturbing activities that included grading, trenching, and boring. Archaeological investigations were required because Mission Concepción is listed on the NRHP, is a SAL, and is located within the boundary of a National Register District.

The archaeological investigations consisted of background research, shovel testing, and archaeological monitoring. Previous research by Labadie (1989) in the North Parking Lot found that the area had been bulldozed during the 1950s and early 1960s, which filled in the *acequia* and the quarry, and possibly destroyed any evidence of the former grounds of Mission Concepción. Initially, CAR proposed that shovel testing be conducted in the North Parking Lot area. Shovel testing was expanded to include monitoring of the mechanical trenching necessary for the installation of the irrigation line leading to the mission compound and the Central and B-Cycle Lot. In addition, archaeological monitoring was expanded with THC concurrence to include the South Parking Lot. No shovel testing was conducted in this area because it was located within the footprint of the old Mission Road and the depth of impact was to not to exceed 10 cm (4 in.) below the grade.

Shovel testing revealed that soils in the North and Central Parking Lot areas were shallow and suggested previous disturbance. No wall or *acequia* features or any other features associated with the colonial or historic period of Mission Concepción were found in the shovel tests. No remnants of the mission compound or the *acequia* were observed during archaeological monitoring. Past construction activities including the construction of old Mission Road in the 1890s through the South Parking Lot, the bulldozing of the North Parking Lot in the 1950s, and the construction of 30-in. waterline through the APE, severely limited the likelihood of finding intact wall and *acequia* features.

Based upon these findings, CAR recommends that no further archaeological investigation exclusive of monitoring occur within the APE. While previous construction activities have severely damaged the project area, there may be remaining isolated pockets of intact deposits below the excavated grade. Given the historical importance of Mission Concepción, as well as its listing on the NRHP and SAL, CAR recommends that any future ground-disturbing activities within or near the project area be archaeologically monitored.

This page intentionally left blank.

## References Cited:

Almaráz, F.D.

1989 *The San Antonio Missions and Their System of Land Tenure*. The University of Texas Press, Austin.

Brooks, C.M.

1936 *Texas Missions: Their Romance and Architecture*. Dealey and Lowe, Dallas.

Campbell, T.N., and T.J. Campbell

1985 *Indian Groups Associated with Spanish Missions of the San Antonio Mission National Historical Park*. Special Report, No. 16. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Casteñeda, C.E.

1936 *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas, 1519-1936*. Arno Press, New York.

City Water Board

1974 Plans for Water Main Construction. Job No. 5981, E. Theo, Mission Road, and Hansford Phase 1. On file, San Antonio Water System, San Antonio.

Corner, W.

1890 *San Antonio de Bexar: A Guide and History*. Bainbridge and Corner, San Antonio.

Figueroa, A.L., and S.A Tomka

2009 *Archaeological Investigations in the Courtyard of Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción Acuña*. Archaeological Report, No. 403. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Fisher, L.F.

1996 *Saving San Antonio: The Precarious Preservation of a Heritage*. Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock.

Foley, P.

2010 Jean Marie Odin. Handbook of Texas Online. Texas State Historical Association. Electronic document, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fod02>, accessed June 9, 2016.

Fox, A.A., and K.M. Ulrich

2008 *A Guide to Ceramics from Spanish Colonial Sites in Texas*. Special Report, No.33. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

González, A.A.

2011 Nuestra Señora De La Purísima Concepción De Acuña Mission. Handbook of Texas Online. Texas State Historical Association. Electronic document, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/uqn09>, accessed June 7, 2016.

Habig, M.A.

1968 *The Alamo Chain of the Missions: A History of San Antonio's Five Old Missions*. Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago.

Ivey, J.E.

- 1999 Excavations at Mission Concepción. In *Archaeological Investigations at Mission Concepción and Mission Parkway*, by J.E. Ivey and A.A. Fox, pp. 6-60. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 114. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Ivey, J.E., and A.A. Fox

- 1999 *Archaeological Investigations at Mission Concepción and Mission Parkway*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 114. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Ivey, J.E., M.B. Thurber, and S. Escobedo

- 1990 *Of Various Magnificence: The Architectural History of the San Antonio Missions in the Colonial Period and the Nineteenth Century*. Vol. 1. National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Southwest Cultural Resources Center, Professional Papers No. 1, Santa Fe. Manuscript on file, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Labadie, J.H.

- 1989 *Archaeological and Historical Investigations for the Mission Road Realignment Project, San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 173. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Lightfoot, K.G.

- 2005 *Indians, Missionaries, and Merchants*. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles.

Natural Resources Conservation Services

- 2016 WebSoilSurvey. United States Department of Agriculture. Electronic document, <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>, accessed July 27, 2016.

Scurlock, D., and D.E. Fox

- 1977 *An Archeological Investigation of Mission Concepcion*. Office of State Archeologist Report 28. Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

## Appendix 1

Area	Shovel Test Number	Depth of Termination (cmbs)	Soil Type	Results
North Parking Lot	1	30	silty clay	positive
North Parking Lot	2	40	loam	positive
North Parking Lot	3	50	silty clay	positive
North Parking Lot	4	15	loam	positive
North Parking Lot	5	20	silty sand	negative
North Parking Lot	6	13	loam	negative
North Parking Lot	7	25	silty clay	negative
North Parking Lot	8	30	loam	negative
North Parking Lot	9	28	loam	negative
North Parking Lot	10	30	silty clay	negative
North Parking Lot	11	20	loam	positive
North Parking Lot	12	30	loam	negative
Central/B-Cycle Lot	13	15	silty clay	negative
Central/B-Cycle Lot	14	15	silty clay	negative
Central/B-Cycle Lot	15	10	silty clay	negative
Irrigation Line	16	20	silty clay	negative
Irrigation Line	17	60	silty clay	negative
Irrigation Line	18	20	silty sand	negative
Irrigation Line	19	15	silty clay	negative
Central/B-Cycle Lot	20	10	silty clay	negative
Central/B-Cycle Lot	21	25	silty clay	negative
Central/B-Cycle Lot	22	25	silty clay	negative