



Archaeological Monitoring of Electrical Conduit and Drainage Pipe Trenching at Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

by
Lynn K. Wack

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6295

Principal Investigator
Steve A. Tomka

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



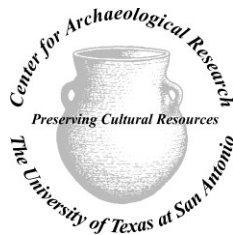
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Technical Report, No. 47

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Abstract:

Over the course of five days in July of 2012, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) conducted archaeological monitoring of the excavation of trenches in front of the church and *convento* at Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo. The project was conducted under the Texas Antiquities Committee Permit No. 6295. Lynn K. Wack served as Project Archaeologist, and Dr. Steve A. Tomka served as Principal Investigator. The trenches were intended for the installation of new electrical conduit, and they were approximately 15.24 cm (6 in.) in width and extended to a depth of 30.5 cm (12 in.) below the surface. One trench also was excavated for the installation of drainage pipes. This trench was approximately 55.28 cm (22 in.) wide and 30.5 cm (12 in.) deep. Two features (F-1 and F-2) and one isolated bone fragment were encountered during the course of the excavation of the drainage trench. The isolated fragment was collected to determine whether it was human or not. Upon reaching the conclusion that it was human, it was bagged and released to Susan Snow, archaeologist for the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Subsequently, the skeletal fragment was replaced into the same trench where it was encountered.

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Acknowledgements:

The author appreciates the help of several people involved in this project. Roberto Felipe of Pugh Constructors, Inc. worked with the CAR to coordinate the project and provided the manpower to excavate the trenches. Special thanks go to Susan Snow, archaeologist for the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, for her help, constant communication, and guidance throughout the course of the project. The Principal Investigator also would like to express his thanks to William Pugh for assistance with contractual aspects of the project.

During the course of the project, Cyndi Dickey and Mark Luzmoor offered assistance with the monitoring while excavations were occurring in other areas of the compound. Melissa Eiring, Laboratory Coordinator, processed the artifacts for analysis, and Marybeth Tomka, CAR Curator, processed the collection and documentation for shelving generated during the course of the project. Rick Young produced the figures for the report. Dr. Steve Tomka served as Principal Investigator and offered guidance during the course of the project.

Chapter 1: Introduction

The Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) was contracted by Pugh Constructors, Inc. to provide archaeological services associated with the planned improvements to be made at Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo (41BX3). In Figure 1-1, the mission is shown on the Southton (2998-132) USGS 7.5-minute series quadrangle map.

Mission San José is a designated State Archaeological Landmark (SAL) and is part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (SAMNHP). Subsurface impacts to the site are overseen by the SAMNHP. The compound at the mission is jointly owned by the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the State of Texas. The current project was carried out under Texas Antiquities Committee Permit No. 6295.

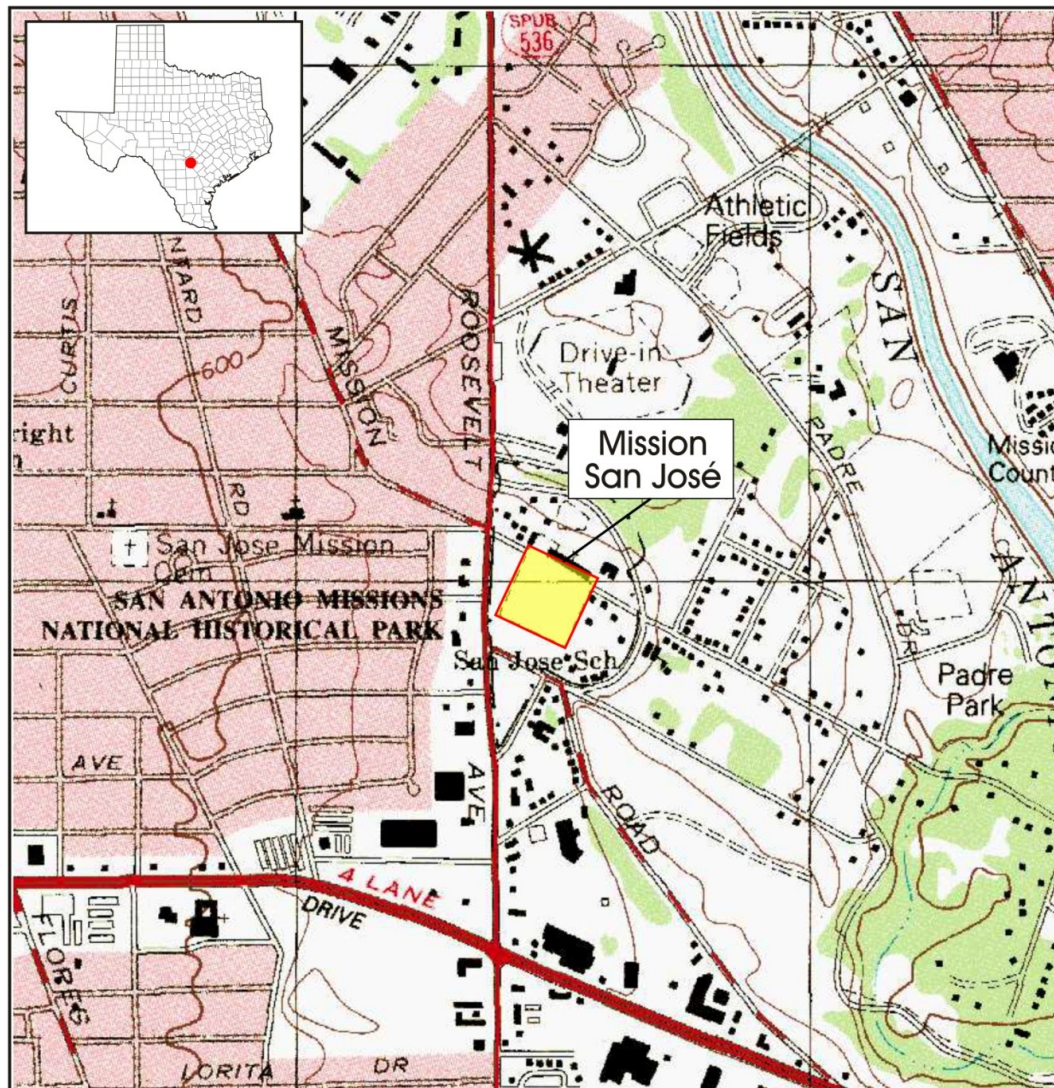


Figure 1-1. The mission on the Southton (2998-132) USGS 7.5-minute series quadrangle map.

The mission is located on the west bank of the San Antonio River. Roosevelt Avenue passes by the mission grounds.

Planned Improvements

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of the entryway to the church at Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo and a portion of the *convento* (Figure 1-2). The planned improvements, sponsored by the Archdiocese of San Antonio, consist of the installation of electrical conduits (Figure 1-2) in the vicinity of the *convento* and church entryway at Mission San José. The electrical conduits were to be installed in hand-excavated trenches. In addition, a new drainage pipe was to be installed if the existing pipe could not be freed of obstructions.

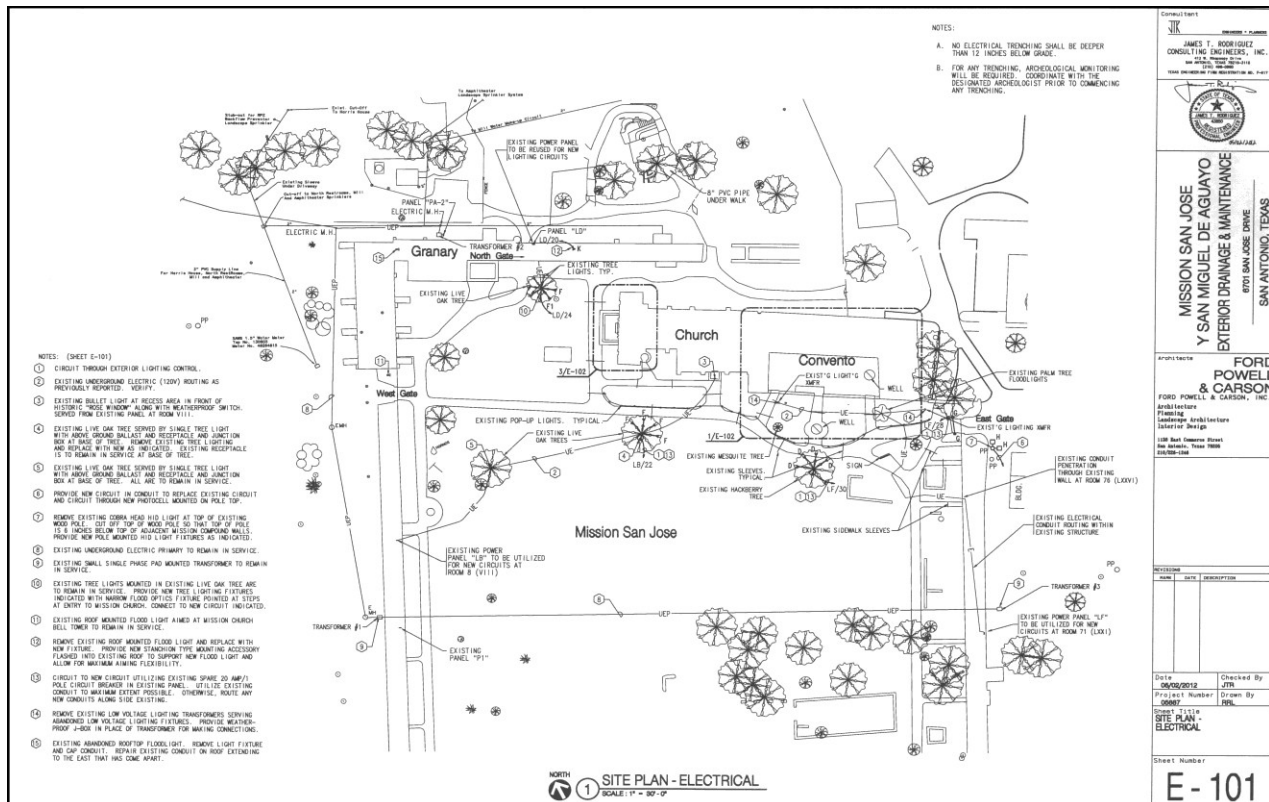


Figure 1-2. The location of the conduits to be installed at Mission San José.

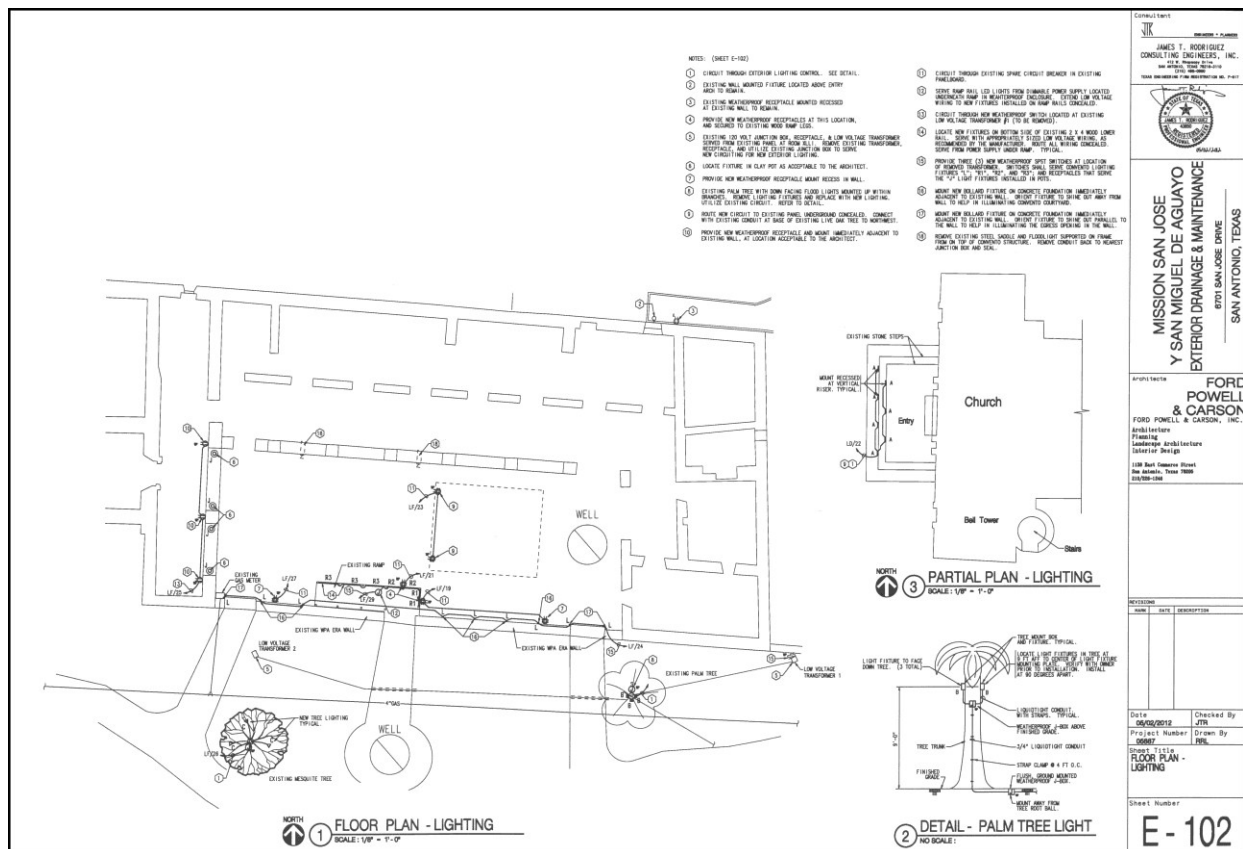


Figure 1-3. The location of the conduits to be installed at Mission San José around the convento.

Archaeological Services Provided

- 1) Application for a Texas Antiquities Permit to conduct the archaeological monitoring;
- 2) Up to five days of monitoring for the excavation of trenches;
- 3) Laboratory processing and analysis of all temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered during the project;
- 4) Preparation of a draft and final technical report summarizing the results of the monitoring;
- 5) Curation of temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered and documentation generated during the project at the CAR facility; and
- 6) Coordination with the project Sponsor and appropriate oversight agencies (Archeology Divisions of the Texas Historical Commission and the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park) to seek cultural resources clearance of the proposed project.

Chapter 2: Historical Background and Previous Archaeology

Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo is one of five Spanish Colonial missions that are located in San Antonio, Texas. Four of the five missions are part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, which is overseen by the National Park Service (NPS). Located in the heart of downtown San Antonio, the fifth mission, San Antonio de Valero, belongs to the State of Texas.

Historical Background

Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo was founded on February 23, 1720, just barely two years after the arrival of Mission San Antonio de Valero. Mission San José was first established on the east bank of the San Antonio River. This first location may have been at the present-day site of Mission Concepción (Ivey and Fox 1999). During the following year, the mission was relocated to its current site on the west bank of the San Antonio River (Ivey et al. 1990). Habig (1990) suggest, however, that the mission was moved at least twice before it finally was settled in its current location. Based on information from Father Alto Hoermann, who lived at San José between 1859 and 1864, Habig (1990:161) states that the ruins of the stone church that had been built at the second site were visible as late as 1860. This second location was about 7.6 m (25 ft.) higher and approximately 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) from the current site (Habig 1968:45). Over the next 70 years, a stone granary, friary, neophyte quarters, and a church were constructed. By 1789, the entire compound was surrounded by a stone wall with corner bastions and gates (Tennis 2001).

During much of its existence, Mission San José had a large native population residing in and around the mission. The population began to decline during the latter part of the eighteenth century. Secularization of the missions in San Antonio started in 1794 (Habig 1990). At that time, the Native population consisted of ninety-three individuals who received a portion of the mission lands (Tennis 2001). The mission grounds began to fall into disrepair after secularization. Small houses were built in the compound during the mid-nineteenth century. Aerial photos taken in the 1930s show that the outer walls had almost entirely collapsed and that Mission Road ran through the center of the compound (Tennis 2001).

The mission was reconstructed during the 1930s and 1940s. Harvey P. Smith, a local architect, conducted research and developed designs for this reconstruction. A few liberties were taken, as with the placement of the southeast gate (Hard et al. 1995). In 1941, Mission San José was designated a National Historic Site and a Texas State Historic Site. In 1978, it became part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in 1978, and by 1983, the NPS assumed an active role maintaining the mission.

Previous Archaeology

During the 1930s and 1940s, excavations of the areas to be reconstructed were carried out under the direction of Harvey P. Smith. Much of the work was conducted to locate the foundations of the structures and walls to be restored. Very little of the work was documented (Tennis 2001).

The earliest professional archaeological projects undertaken at the site were small scale salvage and monitoring activities. Mardith Schuetz (1970) conducted archaeological monitoring of the installation of a sprinkler line. During the course of the trenching for the irrigation lines, several foundations were located within the interior of the compound. The report, which was published at a later date, inventoried the artifacts encountered and provided a brief description of the features.

Daniel Fox (1970) conducted testing and monitoring associated with the relocation of a tree and the installation of sewer and electrical lines. These investigations were conducted for the Texas Historical Survey Committee. The investigations included the excavation of three 2-x-2 m (6.6-x-6.6 ft.) units and a 2.5-x-3 m (8.2-x-9.8 ft.) test pit.

In 1974, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) conducted excavations at four locations at the mission to determine the effects of rising damp on the standing structures (Clark 1978). Three of the excavation units were located along the exterior of the chapel, and one was positioned adjoining the exterior of the east wall at the southeast corner of the compound. Excavations revealed that the Colonial occupation of the site was buried approximately 38 cm (15 in.) below the modern surface (Clark 1978).

Additional work was conducted in 1974 and again in 1976 by Roberson and Medlin (1976). The investigations were conducted prior to modifications scheduled to Rooms 31, 32, and 33. Removal of the 1930s fill in the rooms revealed the Colonial surface. A series of postholes were uncovered in Room 31 indicating the location of the original *jacal* walls of the Native quarters. The 1976 investigations took place in conjunction with the installation of a new gate in the southwest corner of the compound (Roberson and Medlin 1976).

In 1979, Clark and Prewitt conducted investigations prior to the installation of a French Drain system along the west wall of the granary. The work produced over 1,800 faunal remains and 1,300 artifacts. The recovery of Colonial deposits caused the path of the drain to be altered (Clark and Prewitt 1979).

The Southwest Cultural Resources Center conducted archaeological investigations prior to the proposed stabilization of the San José Arbor in 1981 (Bradford and Traylor 1981). The purpose was to locate and

document the foundations to aid in stabilization. Investigations cast doubt on the placement of the walls reconstructed during the Works Project Administration (WPA) era. Additional Colonial foundations had been uncovered during the course of this project that were previously unknown.

In 1981, renovations of the church led to archaeological investigations conducted by the CAR (Nickels and Fox 1999). A wooden platform had been removed that revealed loose soil underneath. Four units were placed within the sacristy of the church. Human remains were encountered during the course of the excavation, although these were highly fragmented and disarticulated. Information concerning the original construction of the sacristy was collected during the investigations.

In 1984, plans for improvements to Napier Avenue prompted the need for archaeological investigations. Road grading had exposed features that consisted of a series of postholes, a portion of the *acequia*, and a human burial of unknown temporal affiliation. The burial was located on the west bank of the *acequia* (Henderson and Clark 1984).

The CAR conducted investigations in 1984 along the west wall of the mission prior to the installation of a proposed sewer line. During the investigations, archaeologists encountered a stone-lined well that appeared to have been constructed sometime after secularization and used until the 1940s. At some point, the well was used as a privy. The CAR recommended mitigation before the sewer line was to be installed (Hafernik and Fox 1984).

The CAR returned in 1985 to excavate a portion of the well (Fox 1987). Excavation of 26 levels revealed that the final depth of the well was 510 cm (210 in.) below the surface. Artifacts recovered from the well dated to the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries.

Proposed plans to construct the new visitor's complex prompted archaeological investigations in 1991. The CAR was tasked with locating a portion of the *Acequia Madre* that ran between the east wall of the mission and San José Drive. In addition, a lateral branch of the *acequia* was also to be investigated. Archival research and backhoe trenching revealed both features (Fox and Cox 1991).

In 1993, the CAR was tasked with conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the Colonial-period deposits at Mission San José and investigating the areas located outside the compound walls (Hard et al. 1995). A portion of the *Acequia Madre* was located approximately 48 cm (18 in.) below the current surface east of the compound. Shovel testing conducted within the compound located concentrations of Colonial deposits in the southeast, southwest, and the west-central portion of the mission. Generally, Colonial deposits were encountered at 30.5 to 38 cm (12 to 15 in.) below the current surface within the compound. The location

of the old Mission Road was also investigated during the course of this project. The trench and unit excavations found that the 1880s Mission Road consisted of a caliche and gravel road base and that there was a mix of late-nineteenth century and 1930s reconstruction artifacts scattered in the area. Beneath the road base, approximately 30.5 to 38 cm (15 to 20 in.) below the surface, intact Colonial deposits were encountered consisting of faunal remains, lithic materials, and ceramics.

The CAR conducted additional investigations in 1996 at the mission. These investigations occurred prior to the installation of a storm drainage line that was to be routed through the southeast gate (Tennis 1998). Archaeological investigations exposed and documented two Colonial wall foundation sections. The foundations were associated with a block of rooms similar to the Native quarters of the south wall. The findings confirmed that the WPA-era reconstruction was erroneous in placing the gate in the area.

In 1997, the CAR archaeologists exposed foundation footings along the interior and exterior of the Native quarters. The purpose of the investigation was to document the nature and degree of the structural deterioration. Evidence from the excavation of the units also indicated that the WPA-era reconstruction had placed walls in areas that had no Colonial foundations and that, likely, had no Colonial walls (Tomka and Fox 1998).

In 1998, prior to the installation of three catchment basins, the CAR conducted investigations adjacent to the exterior of the southeast corner of the compound. Twenty-seven excavation units were placed along the south wall of the mission. Evidence collected during the excavations indicated that the location was likely a midden in use prior to the construction of the mission wall. Large quantities of faunal remains were encountered (Tomka and Fox 1999).

Additional work within the vicinity of the southeast gate was completed by the CAR in 1998. A series of excavations outside the south wall and within Room 54 were conducted. The goal of the excavations was to determine the extent of impact the proposed underpinning efforts would have at the southwest corner of the southeast gate. The investigations revealed that a large portion of the soil adjacent to the south wall had been previously disturbed by the WPA-era reconstruction. Much of the soil found within Room 54 was disturbed to a depth of 19 cm (7.5 in.) below the surface, and a Colonial living surface was located immediately below the disturbed soils within Room 54 (Tomka and Fox 1999).

In 2001, the CAR monitored the excavation of several trenches located within the footprint of the proposed administrative building adjoining the extant chapel at Mission San José. The investigations revealed that the construction of the building would not impact pre-1930 deposits, and only scattered twentieth-century materials were encountered (Mahoney 2001).

The removal of the old Granary Service Drive at Mission San José (Tomka 2002) was monitored by CAR in 2002, and in 2006 the CAR monitored the excavation of a series of trenches along the south side of the church and beyond a small cemetery in front of the church's main entrance. The area along the path of the trenches appeared to have been previously disturbed (Ulrich 2007).

Finally, in 2011 the CAR monitored the excavation of trenches inside the church and *convento* at the mission. The excavations revealed seven clusters of disarticulated human remains. These remains were collected and returned to the CAR laboratory for identification, inventory, and packing. Since the remains came from within the church proper and that an agreement exists between the NPS and the Catholic Archdiocese for the reburial of human remains, these remains were then reinterred by Fr. Tony Posadas.

Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods

Field Methods

A staff archaeologist of the Center for Archaeological Research was present during the excavation of all trenches. The excavation of the trenches was carried out by the construction contractor. Prior to the commencement of the project, it was determined that if architectural elements, such as buried foundations were encountered, the excavations were to be halted to determine the nature of the finds and ascertain whether they were in an intact or disturbed context. If any features were exposed during the excavations, they were to be documented to the extent possible and without further impact to them. The documentation was to include photography, plain-view drawings, and measurements. The matrix removed from the trenches was placed on the side of the trenches, and the CAR staff inspected the debris. No screening of the matrix was carried out. Artifacts encountered during the excavations were documented in the field notes; however, only temporally diagnostic specimens were collected and brought back to the CAR laboratory for processing, analysis, and curation.

Laboratory Methods

The few diagnostic cultural materials and records obtained and generated during the project were prepared for curation in accordance with current guidelines of the CAR. The diagnostic materials collected and processed in the CAR laboratory were washed, air-dried, and stored in 4-mil zip-locking archival-quality bags. After analysis, information concerning the artifacts collected over the course of the project was entered into the ANCS+ cataloguing system used by the National Park Service. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each laser printer generated label contains provenience information and a corresponding lot number. Artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes identified with standard tags. Field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper, labeled with archive-appropriate materials, and placed in archival-quality sleeves. All field forms were completed with pencil. Any soiled forms were placed in archival-quality page protectors. Ink-jet produced maps and illustrations were also placed in archival-quality page protectors to prevent against accidental smearing due to moisture. All collected materials and project related documentation are permanently housed at the CAR.

Human Remains

During monitoring, a single skull cap fragment was temporarily retained to determine with certainty whether it was human. Upon the positive identification, the fragment was provided to Susan Snow, archaeologist for the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. It was subsequently placed within the same trench from which it was derived.

Chapter 4: Results of Monitoring

Over the course of five days in July of 2012, CAR archaeologists monitored the excavation of twelve designated trenches for the installation of new electrical conduit and drainage pipes around the church entryway and the *convento* at Mission San José (Figures 4-1 and 4-2). Several of the new lines followed the routes of previously installed utilities. The excavations were conducted by a sub-consultant to Pugh Constructors, Inc. using shovels, trowels, and picks. A pneumatic hammer with a chisel attachment also was used to excavate portions of the trench for the new drainage pipe. The soil was removed by hand and placed alongside the trench. During the soil removal, the archaeologist inspected the trenches and matrix for evidence of diagnostic materials and human remains. To keep track of the location of the work, each trench was numbered in the vicinity of the *convento* as well as the church. The trenching began in the vicinity of the *convento*.

Trenches Located along the *Convento*

Nine trenches were excavated for the installation of electrical conduits along the south side of the *convento*. Their locations are shown on Figure 4-1 below.

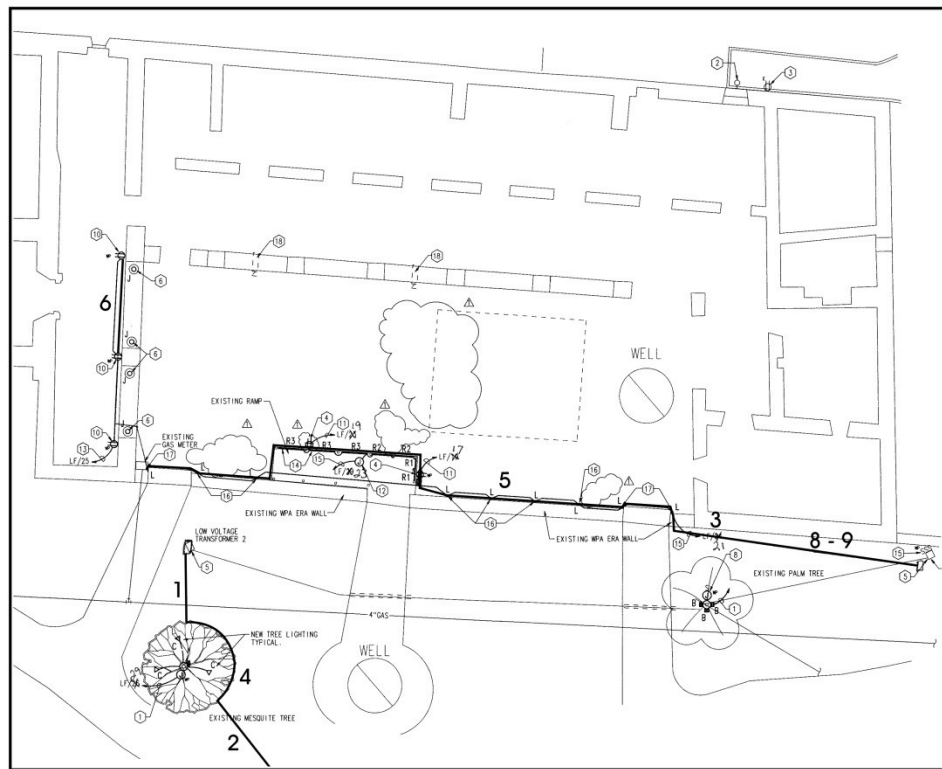


Figure 4-1. Close-up of “as-built” installation of utility lines in the vicinity of the convento. Bold numbers indicate trenches.

Trench 1 (TR-1) was excavated between a low voltage transformer and an existing light fixture on a hackberry tree (Figure 4-1). It was approximately 15.24 cm (6 in.) wide, 30.5 cm (12 in.) deep, and 7.62 m (25 ft.) long. At about 6 m (20 ft.) along this trench, two vertical stones that may have served as edging along a sidewalk were encountered, and another stone was encountered roughly 1.2 m (4 ft.) north of these stones. Few pieces of ceramic and animal bone were noted during the excavation of this trench.



Figure 4-2. *Vertically laid sandstone pieces noted in Trench 1.*

Approximately 2.13 m (7 ft.) south of TR-1 and the hackberry tree, Trench 2 (TR-2) was excavated in order to find the sleeve that ran underneath the sidewalk (Figure 4-1), which is further south of the tree. Only a large metal counterweight and some charcoal were encountered during the excavation of TR-2.

Trench 3 (TR-3) was excavated approximately 12.2 m (40 ft.) northeast of Trench 2 along the inside of the *convento* retaining wall. A cluster of animal bones was encountered in TR-3 along with pieces of pottery and glass. None of these were collected.

Trench 4 (TR-4) was excavated around the root-ball of the hackberry tree to connect TR-1 and TR-2 (Figure 4-1), which had been partially backfilled. No artifacts were noted in this trench. Two trenches, Trench 5 (TR-5) and Trench 6 (TR-6), were excavated within the southern and western portions of the *convento* (Figure 4-1). TR-5, a continuation of TR-3, ran in a westerly direction (Figure 4-3). TR-6 was excavated along the inside of the foundation of a retaining wall next to the back entrance to the church (Figure 4-4). These trenches yielded very few artifacts. Only one animal bone fragment and a piece of metal were encountered.



Figure 4-3. *Excavation of Trench 5 along the inside of the retaining wall bordering the convento.*



Figure 4-4. Trench 7 on the inside of stone foundation near back entrance to church.

Trench 7 (TR-7) was excavated south of a sidewalk that leads past the *convento* (Figure 4-4). It connected the conduit in TR-2 to a lighting fixture attached to a nearby tree. No artifacts were noted during the monitoring of this excavation. The last two trenches (TR-8 and TR-9) were excavated near the southeast corner of the *convento* to connect conduits to a junction box in the area. Ceramic, glass, and metal were present within both trenches, and a cartridge case was encountered in TR-9.

The soil in the northern portion of the *convento* was brown loam, which is different from the orange-brown construction fill of the sidewalk and the southern portion of the trench. All other trenches around and in the *convento* contained a mixture of brown loam and orange-brown construction fill.

Trenches Located in Front of the Church

While trenches around and within the *convento* were being excavated, a second CAR archaeologist monitored the excavation of two trenches in front of the church (Figure 4-5).

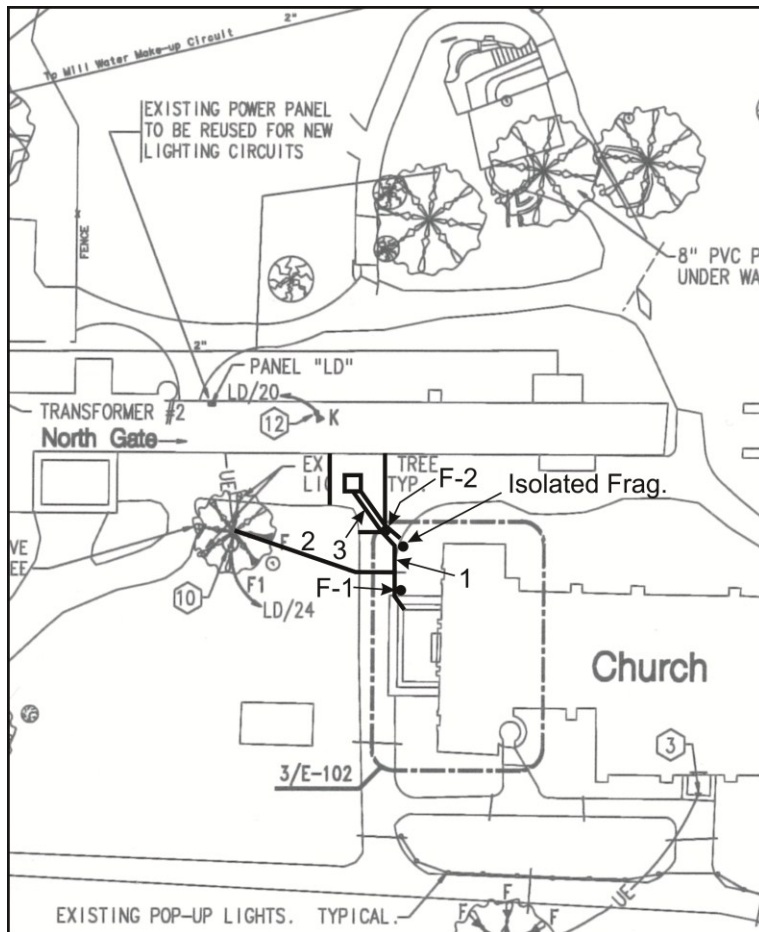


Figure 4-5. Close-up of “as-built” installation of utility lines in the vicinity of the church. Bold numbers and lettering refer to trenches. F-1 and F-2 are features.

One of these trenches was intended for a new drainage pipe along the church entryway. This trench, designated as Trench 1 (TR-1), began at the northeast edge of the sunken flagstone entryway at the front of the church. Approximately 91 cm (3 ft.) from the northwest corner of this sunken entryway, trenching exposed the very edge of a shallow pit filled with fine sterile sand (Figure 4-5). The shallow pit was designated as Feature 1. The top of the feature was encountered at 15.24 cm (6 in.) below the surface. Because the trench skirted the feature without impacting and exposing its contents, it was not investigated beyond photo-documenting and mapping the location. Subsequently, the trench was reoriented to provide an additional buffer away from the feature, and the trench excavations resumed. The trench continued north-northwest of the church towards the second portal of the servants’ quarters. At a distance of approximately 2.74 m (9 ft.) from the northeast corner of the sunken entryway (Figure 4-5), an isolated bone fragment, a portion of the skull cap, was encountered in the matrix removed from the trench. The fragment was temporarily retained for further examination to determine whether it was human. The

fragment did not exhibit fresh break surfaces, and no additional fragments were noted either in the backdirt or in the trench walls or base. Once it was established that the fragment was indeed human, it was placed into a zip-locking bag and released to Susan Snow, archaeologist for the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The fragment was placed in the same trench where it was uncovered before the completion of the project.

Since T-1 connected to a drain that was in the center of the east-west running sidewalk in front of the servants' quarters, a portion of the sidewalk had to be sawed and removed from around the drain. Subsequently, Trench 3 (T-3) was begun at the drain and continued southward to the edge of the cut sidewalk. At this point it was to run under the sidewalk to connect to TR-1 (Figure 4-6).



Figure 4-6. Trench 3 near the church entrance. Trench 1 is seen on the opposite side of the sidewalk.

Several pipes as well concrete and brick from what appeared to be a previous sidewalk in the area were encountered during the excavation of T-3. An abundance of faunal remains were encountered in this area. Some unidentified metal and glass fragments also were present.

Tunneling under the sidewalk to connect the two trenches (T-1 and T-3) was a slow process accomplished by hand and with the assistance of a pneumatic hammer with a chisel attachment. The dirt removed from under the sidewalk was inspected by the monitor, and intermittently, the monitor would lie in the trench and peer into the tunnel. It was during one of these episodes that a cluster of fragmented bones was noted in the wall and on the floor of the tunnel (Feature 2; Figure 4-5). Due to the poor lighting conditions, it was not possible to discern the context of the remains. Nonetheless, the small number of bone fragments that had fallen out of the matrix were clumped together at the end of the tunnel and covered with matrix. Additional work in this portion of the tunnel was suspended, and the area was photographed. The examination of the photographs revealed a rectangular trench-like outline under the sidewalk. Due to the limited space and small area exposed, it was not feasible to determine whether this outline represented a burial pit or a utility trench that had been excavated in the area during prior improvements. Nonetheless, the excavator was instructed to change the angle of the tunneling so that it would miss the feature. The tunneling resumed and monitoring continued without identifying any additional remains under the sidewalk.

Trench 2 (TR-2) was excavated for the installation of electrical conduit in the grassy area in front of the church (Figure 4-7). This trench extended northwest of the church from the walkway to a junction box next to a live oak tree. The soil from this trench appeared to have been undisturbed. Many pieces of animal bone and three pieces of ceramics were noted in the backdirt. Two of these pieces of ceramic were native-made Goliad wares and were therefore collected.



Figure 4-7. Trench 2 running from in front of the church to a junction box next to the tree.

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

Archaeological monitoring of the trenching associated with the installation of new utility lines in front of Mission San José Church and a portion of the *convento* was conducted over a five day period in July of 2012. The CAR was contracted by Pugh Constructors, Inc. The project was conducted under the Texas Antiquities Committee Permit No. 6295, issued to Dr. Steve A. Tomka, CAR Director. During the course of the monitoring, it became evident that much of the soil was disturbed in the area impacted by the trenching. Very few temporally diagnostic artifacts were encountered during the electrical conduit and drainage pipe trenching. Trench 2 located to the northwest and in front of the church appeared the least disturbed and contained some Colonial material.

Excavations immediately north of the church entryway identified one feature (Feature 1), a pit filled with sand. Since the utilities trench did not disturb the feature, it was not investigated in detail. The alignment of the trench was changed so as not to disturb the feature, and trenching was allowed to continue. An isolated skull cap fragment was encountered a few feet away within the same trench. At the time of the initial recovery, it was unclear whether the remains were human, and the fragment was temporarily retained for closer inspection. Once it was established that indeed the fragment was a human skeletal fragment, it was presented to Susan Snow and subsequently reintroduced in the same trench where it was encountered.

The second feature (Feature 2) was identified during the excavation of a tunnel linking the ends of Trench 1 and 3 under the sidewalk near the church entrance. This feature consisted of small unidentifiable fragments of bone. Given their location within a tunnel under the sidewalk, the context of the finds could not be properly assessed. Rather than removing the sidewalk to allow for the investigation of the feature, the tunnel was realigned, and the few pieces of bone were covered with matrix and left in place.

Trenching associated with electrical line installations near the *convento* identified no intact cultural deposits. Vertically positioned tabular limestone rocks in one portion of Trench 1 suggest that a sidewalk may have been present in the area paralleling the current concrete sidewalk.

Based on the recently concluded Mission San Juan excavations, it is now apparent that areas located in front of the mission churches have served as burial grounds (Campo Santos) and typically hold the remains of multiple individuals. It is therefore suggested that the Archdiocese refrain from all construction activities in these areas. Such areas should be rededicated as cemeteries to remain undisturbed for the future. Barring no alternatives to future disturbances in these Campo Santos locations, the CAR suggests that a systematic approach should be taken to exhume all remains found in such

cemeteries to ensure proper reburials in existing or newly dedicated cemeteries. Archaeological monitoring and even small-scale archaeological investigations in such areas result in piecemeal solutions to the larger issue of properly treating the ground and human remains that are interred therein.

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