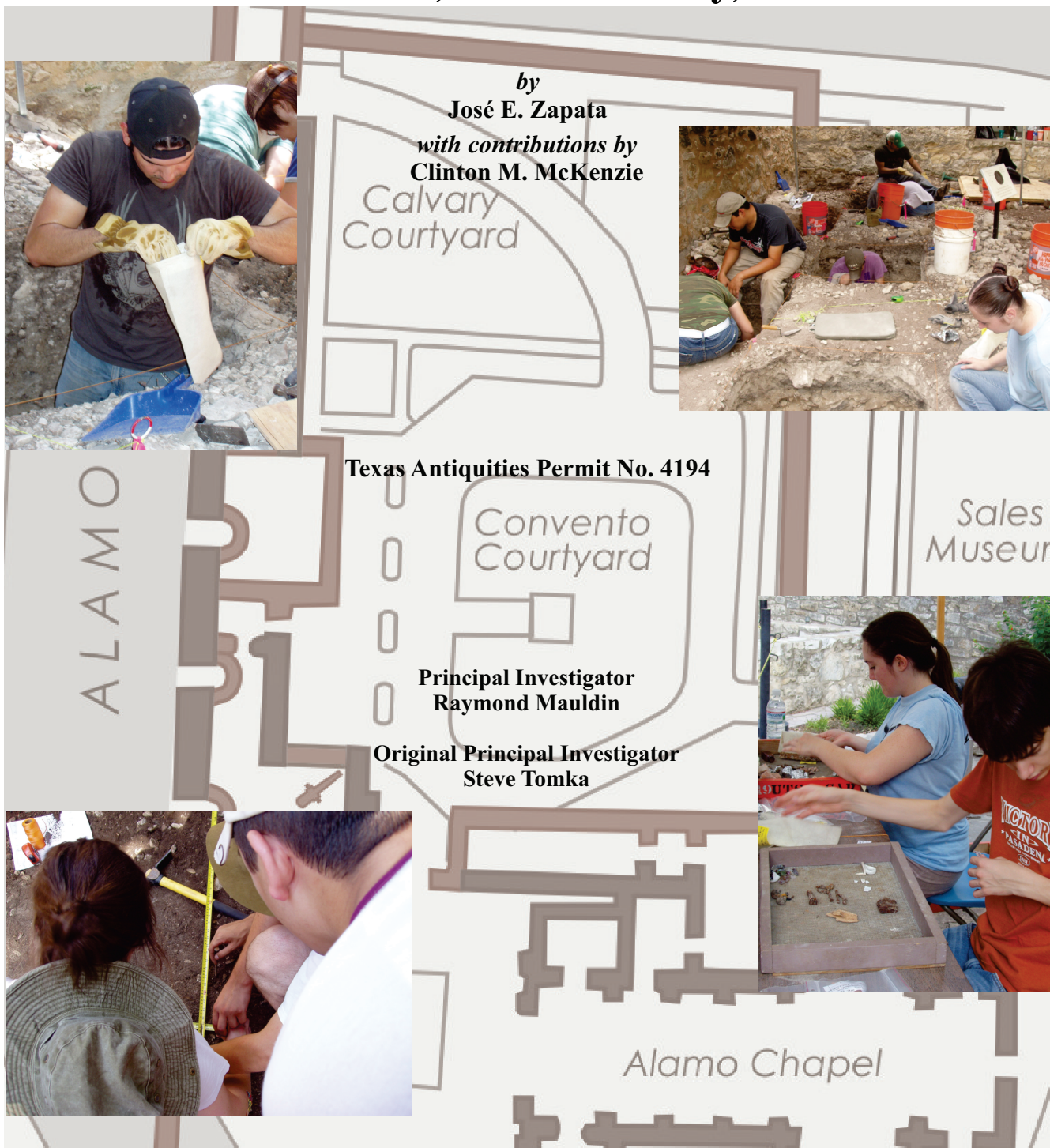


The 2006 UTSA Field School at Mission San Antonio de Valero (41BX6), the Alamo, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



by
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with contributions by
Clinton M. McKenzie

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 4194

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Prepared for:
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Alamo Division
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Austin, Texas 78711-2873



Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Archaeological Report, No. 453

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Management Summary:

The Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), the Texas General Land Office (GLO), and the Alamo Complex Management collaborated to finalize this study of Mission San Antonio de Valero (41BX6), also known as the Alamo. The study was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 4194, with Dr. Raymond Mauldin serving as Principal Investigator. Dr. Steve Tomka was the original principal investigator on the project.

In February 2006, the UTSA-Department of Anthropology's Center for Archaeological Research approached several agencies regarding the possibility of hosting the 2006 Archaeology Summer Field School. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT), at that time custodians of the Alamo for the State of Texas, expressed immediate interest.

Following the initial contacts, the CAR's representatives met with David Stewart of the Alamo and Carolyn Peterson of Ford, Powell and Carson, Architects. Ford, Powell and Carson had been hired by the DRT to develop a Master Plan that would outline the direction of future developments within the Alamo Compound. The goal of the meeting was to identify areas of the compound that were to be impacted by short- and long-term improvements within the boundaries of the compound. Since archaeological testing would be required in advance of such disturbances and given the availability of UTSA-Department of Anthropology students and staff during the summer, it was agreed that areas be selected based on Areas of Potential Effect (APE).

Area 1 was located along the east end of the north wall. Area 2 was located at an interior corner along the south edge of the Long Barrack. Area 3 was located along the east wall of the Convento Courtyard. In summary, the areas investigated reflect portions of the compound that had been slated for impacts during future improvements to the compound, as identified within the Alamo Master Plan Report (Ford, Powell and Carson 2011). The five-week field school was carried out from July 12 through August 7, 2006.

A total of 10 units were excavated, and only 3 of these had intact Spanish Colonial deposits. Two features were located and recorded at the north wall, with no other features noted in the other two areas. The two features were likely trash pits or middens and were found in association with Spanish Colonial deposits.

The investigations at Mission San Antonio de Valero (41BX6) accomplished two principal goals: 1) the collection of additional information concerning the construction and use of the structures and grounds at Mission San Antonio de Valero; and 2) it served as a training ground for the development of aspiring archaeologists under the supervision of professional staff.

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Acknowledgements:

As a result of changing priorities and curatorial reorganization of the Alamo, several years went by before CAR staff were able to bring this project to fruition. In the interim, several key staff of the CAR have moved on, namely Dr. Steve Tomka, former CAR Director, and Kristi M. Nichols, Project Archaeologist. Dr. Tomka served as Principal Investigator, and Kristi was responsible for instructing and directing the students and volunteers, as well as reviewing the field forms and constantly monitoring the excavations. Ten 1-x-1 meter (m; 3.28-x-3.28 ft.) units were excavated over a five-week period, over 10 m³ of soil were screened, and over 3,000 artifacts were recovered.

Among the students who participated were Pete Cadena, Paula Cameron, Nate DeVito, Kyle Duncan, Chisato Hashimoto, Dianne Kuecek, John Lauber, Stefanie Lomas, Abigail Pedigo, and Caesar Rivera. Our volunteers were T. D'Amore, Robert Flourney, Lindy Martinez, George Nelson, Yuka Tomizana, and Jennifer Rice, Ph.D.

A great amount of individual effort and perseverance went into developing and concluding this study. Melissa Eiring assisted with artifact curation and analysis. Clint McKenzie developed Chapter 2, sorted and analyzed the ceramics, and offered invaluable suggestions in the preparation of this report. Kelly Harris commented on the drafts and edited the final document. Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux helped organize the report and provided administrative support, and Dr. Jessica Nowlin provided GIS/GPS support. And, lastly, we recognize Kim Barker of the Texas General Land Office, Kerry Benedict of the Alamo Complex Management, and Dr. Raymond Mauldin of the UTSA-CAR for their diligence in securing the resources to complete this study.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

In February 2006, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT), in partnership with the Department of Anthropology's Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), agreed to host an Archaeology Summer Field School within the Alamo compound (Figure 1-1). CAR staff, in consultation

with Alamo staff and Ford, Powell and Carson Architects, selected three potential excavation sites. These three areas were identified in the draft master plan prepared by Ford, Powell and Carson for the DRT as areas of potential effect (APEs) that might be impacted in future development (Ford, Powell and Carson 2011:18-22).

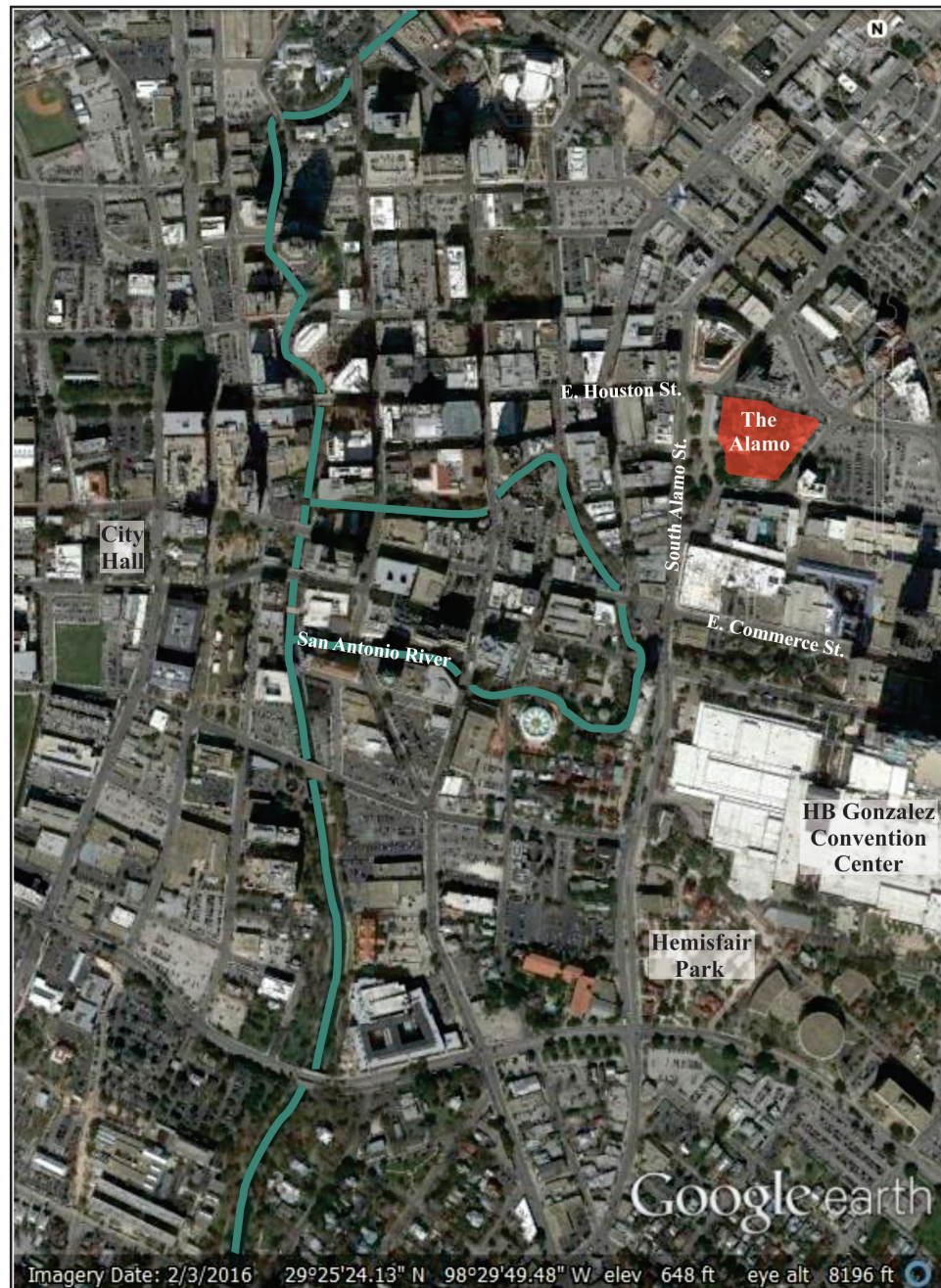


Figure 1-1. Downtown San Antonio and project area on satellite imagery.

A class of thirteen students, supervised by Senior CAR Archaeologist Kristi Nichols, opened a total of 10 units during the course of the field school to investigate Areas 1, 2, and 3. All three areas were located within the northwest quadrant of the Alamo compound (Figure 1-2). Area 1 was located at the extreme north end of the complex, and Areas 2 and 3 were located in the Convento Courtyard. As seen in Figure 1-3, the two units in Area 1 were located just inside the north wall, in an area previously excavated by John Greer (1967). The seven units excavated in Area 2 were located at the southwest corner of the Convento Courtyard. No previous excavations had occurred in this area. A single 1-x-1 m (3.28-x-3.28 ft.) unit was located at Area 3, at the northeast margin of the Convento Courtyard. Greer (1967) excavated an area east of the well and approximately 12 m (40 ft.) south of Area 3. Excavations were conducted to obtain information concerning the Long Barrack wall and

to gather additional information in the areas of potential effect (APE).

This report is presented in six chapters. An environmental and cultural history follows this introduction as it is important to set forth the Alamo's natural setting in order to understand why it is nestled in downtown San Antonio, or rather why the seventh largest city in the U.S. has flourished around this venerated landmark. In order to understand the site's layered past, the chapter sets forth the area's cultural history that began several thousand years ago. The third chapter examines the 15 archaeological investigations that preceded the current undertaking and the single project (Nichols 2014) that postdated the 2006 Field School. Chapter 4 explains the study's field and laboratory methodology, and Chapter 5 presents the results of the excavations. Chapter 6 provides a summary and conclusions.

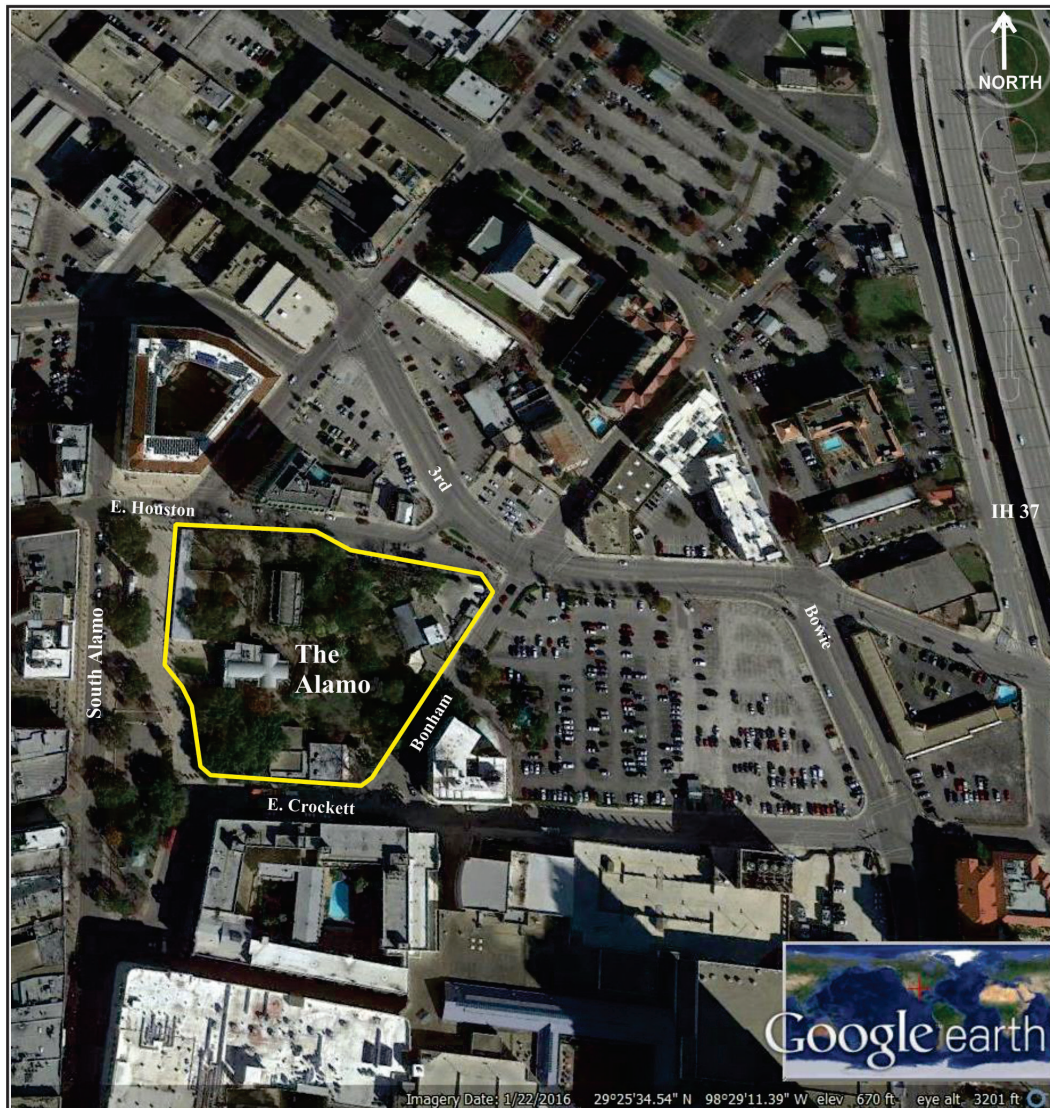


Figure 1-2. Alamo compound in downtown San Antonio.



Figure 1-3. Areas and excavation units dug during the 2006 Field School within the Alamo complex.

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Chapter 2: Environmental and Cultural History

by Clinton M. M. McKenzie

The area's abundant natural resources have attracted a multitude of people for thousands of years. This report focuses primarily on the historic period; however, a comprehensive treatise of the prehistory of South Texas can be found in Pertulla (2004:127-151). Definitive evidence of prehistoric occupation by Native people in downtown San Antonio is ephemeral. Prehistoric cultural materials such as flaked stone debris and projectile points have appeared in various contexts (Figueroa and Mauldin 2005:61; McKenzie 2014:16), but no large multi-component sites have been identified. Despite the lack of major sites in the downtown area, several are documented within 3-5 km (1.8-3.1 mi.) of Alamo Plaza, such as those recorded at the nearby San Pedro Springs (Houk 1999; Mauldin et al. 2015; Meissner 2000; Uecker and Molineau 2004); Brackenridge Park (Barile et al. 2002; Fox and Katz 1979; Miller et al. 1999); and at the Olmos Basin (Assad 1978, 1979; Fox 1975; Katz and Katz 2013; Kelly and Eaton 1979; Lukowski 1988). All of these major prehistoric sites are located just north of downtown San Antonio.

Historically, the San Pedro Creek and San Antonio River have been extremely important to the area's inhabitants. The San Pedro Springs feed the San Pedro Creek that meanders along the west side of downtown and empties into the San Antonio River, less than 1 km (0.62 mi.) east of Mission Concepción. The headwaters of the San Antonio River are located in the lower Olmos Basin, some 5 km (3.1 mi.) above the central downtown area. The river meanders through the heart of the city and then courses another 386.24 km (240 mi.) to the southeast before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico at San Antonio Bay.

Founding and Early Inhabitants

Mission San Antonio de Valero was established on its present site, "on the east bank of the San Antonio, about two gunshots' distant from the villa," in 1724 (Castañeda 1935:93). The present site represents the sixth location of the mission and its third location in San Antonio. The first three locations of what became Mission San Antonio de Valero were in the northern Mexican State of Coahuila. While in Coahuila, the mission was known as San Francisco Solano. The mission moved three times while in Coahuila, with its last location being a few miles south of the Rio Grande where it was founded in 1703 (Chipman 1992:117; Schuetz 1966:13). Upon relocation to the Valley of San Antonio in May of 1718, the Mission was renamed San Antonio de Valero in honor of St. Anthony and the then current Viceroy of New Spain Baltasar de Zúñiga y Guzmán, duque de Arión y marqués de Valero (Fox et al. 1976:2). The mission and the Villa de Bejar

were both founded in early May of 1718 by the Governor of Coahuila y Tejas Martin de Alarcon. The first sites of both the mission and villa were in the vicinity of San Pedro Springs and San Pedro Creek. However, both the mission and the villa were subsequently relocated. The first site of San Antonio de Valero is mentioned in two diaries of the Alarcon expedition, those of Father Celiz and Father Mezquia. Celiz mentions, "...the mission of San Antonio de Valero, established by said Governor [Alarcon] about three-fourths of a league down the creek [San Pedro]..." (Hoffman 1935:49). Father Mezquia likewise mentions the founding and location of the first site in his diary: "The mission of the reverend father, Fray Antonio de Beunaventura y Olivares, is near the first spring, half a league from a high ground and adjoining a small thicket of oaks, where at present he is building a hut" (Hoffman 1938:18). This first site of San Antonio de Valero was only occupied during the period of 1718-1719 before it was moved to its second site. Recent investigations have identified a possible site for this first foundation on the grounds of the Church of San Francisco di Paolo near Romana Plaza in downtown San Antonio (Nichols 2015; Tomka 2016).

The second site of San Antonio de Valero was on the east bank of the San Antonio River (Habig 1968:42). It is presumed that this second site was what was subsequently known as the Capella de Santa Cruz (de los Angeles 1754; de Texada Dies de Velasco 1756). This second location has been variously attributed to the area of La Villita or, possibly, on the grounds of what is now Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on East Commerce Street (Ivey 2008). This second site was occupied circa 1719 to 1724 when it was relocated slightly north to its present location (Cox 1994:1).

The current compound's original footprint encompassed approximately two city blocks in what is now downtown San Antonio (Figure 2-1). The mission was headed by Roman Catholic Priests of the Franciscan Order and from the Franciscan College at Queretaro, Mexico. The Franciscan Fathers led the Spanish efforts to evangelize, convert, and Hispanicize Native Americans. San Antonio de Valero was initially composed of a number of different tribes from the central, coastal, and southern Texas region. Castañeda notes, "This mission was founded with Xaraname, Payaye, Zanas, Ypanis, Cocos, Tops, and Karancawa Indians" (Castañeda 1935:94). All of these tribes and many others are well documented in the mission records, in particular the baptism, marriage, and burial records (Campbell 1975:11). San Antonio de Valero operated as a mission at its third site from 1724 until 1793 when it was secularized (Castañeda 1942:35-36).

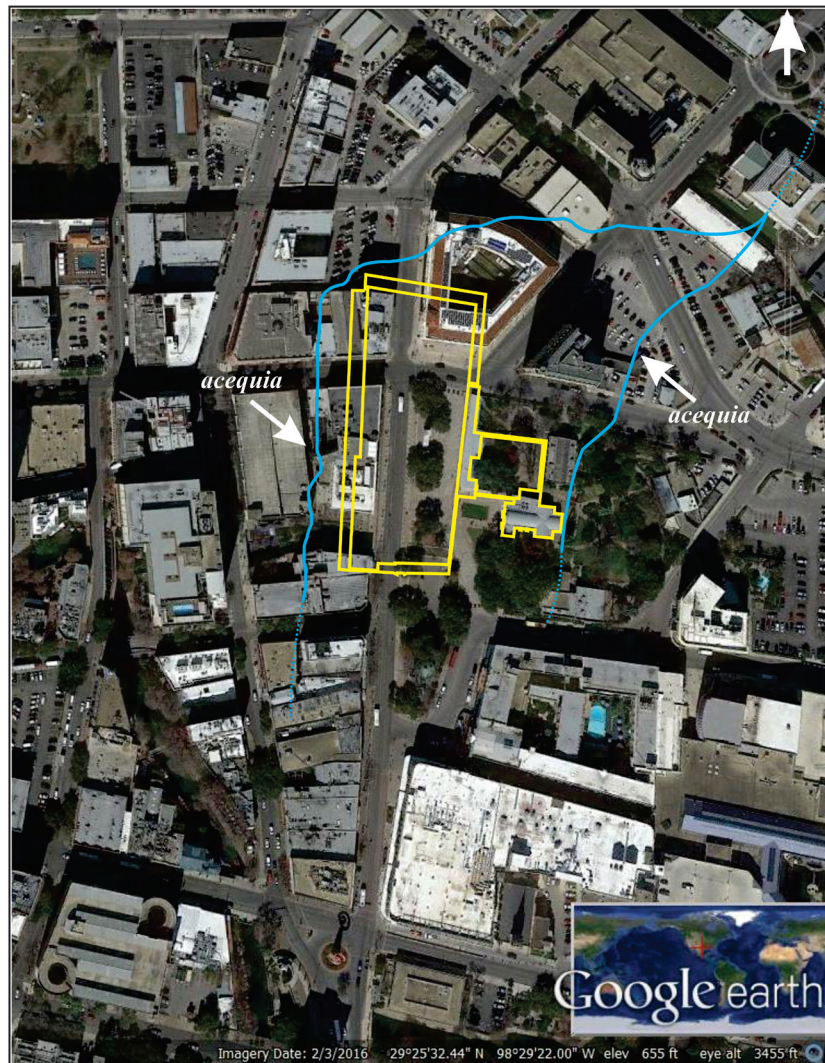


Figure 2-1. Mission San Antonio de Valero (yellow) and the Acequia de Valero (blue) overlain on a modern aerial map of the Alamo Plaza area.

Life in the Mission Period, 1724-1793

The mission was supported through croplands (*labores*) and ranchlands (*ranchos*) set aside for its use. Crops and animals directly provided food for the Franciscans and their neophytes, and surplus was sold to the villa and Presidio, while the domesticated animals were taken to markets as far afield as northeast Texas and New Mexico (Castañeda 1938:72, 120). The mission farmlands extended to the north (*Labor de Arriba*) to the south (*Labor de Abajo*) and to the east (*Labor de Afuera*). These farmlands were irrigated by a system of canals that formed the *Acequia de Valero*. The construction and maintenance of the *acequias* (irrigation canals) was essential to San Antonio's formative years (Cox 2005). The *Acequia de Valero* had a main branch (*Acequia*

Madre de Valero) along with numerous laterals (*desagues*) that channeled water from the San Antonio River. The system is most commonly referred to as the *Alamo Acequia* system. The system's head was in what is now Brackenridge Park where a large stone dam (*Presa de Valero*, or Alamo Dam) projected into the river from the west bank, creating a large pool of water that was then diverted into the *acequia* mouth on the east bank (Ulrich and Pfeiffer 2011). The initial portions of the *Alamo Acequia* system were completed in the 1720s and remained in use 150 years later (Cox 2005:70). The prominence and utility of the *acequias* are highlighted in Augustus Koch's 1873 Bird's Eye View of San Antonio (Figure 2-2). The *Alamo Acequia* system was not completely abandoned until the beginning of the twentieth century (Cox 2005).

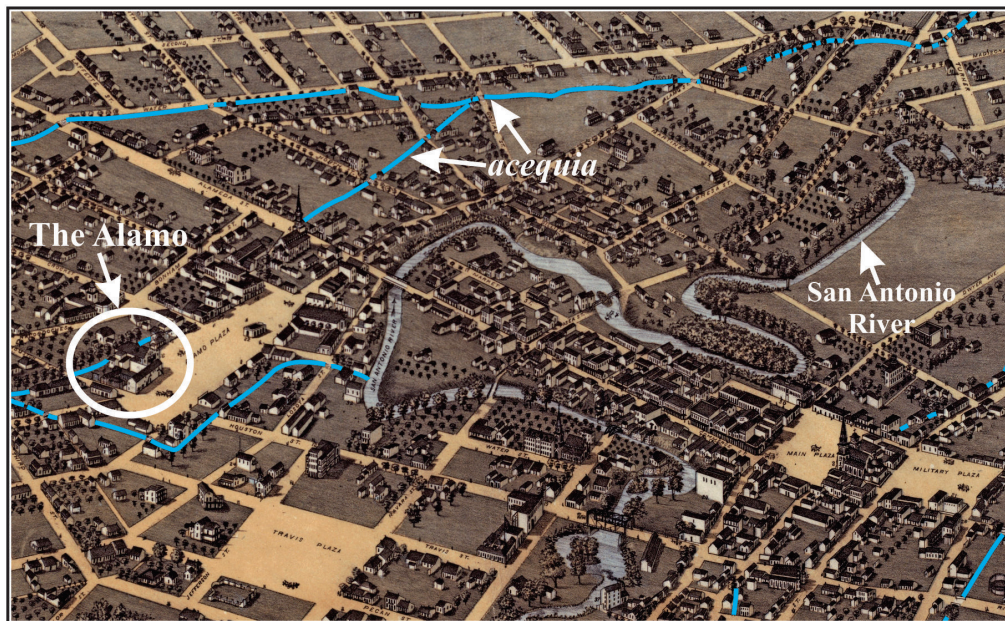


Figure 2-2. Augustus Koch's 1873 Bird's Eye View Map of San Antonio, looking southeast. Dark blue lines show the routes of the various acequias; the Acequia de Valero, in the upper register, and the Acequia de San Pedro in the lower right.

The mission was also supported by the raising of livestock at the Rancho de Monte Galvan. This mission ranch was located in what is now northeastern Bexar County and southern Kendall County. The ranch focused primarily on the raising of free-range cattle, but the ranch stock included pen-raised, domesticated sheep and goats. Much like the supporting croplands, the Mission Rancho provided meat for the mission with surplus sold locally and abroad (Castañeda 1938:72, 110-113, 120).

There are four accounts from archival documents that provide specific information concerning the status and condition of San Antonio de Valero during the mission period. Representing a forty-three year period, 1745-1778, the accounts include: the Fray Francisco Xavier Ortiz inspection reports of Valero made in 1745 and 1756 (Ortiz 1756); the Fray Miguel Sevillano de Paredes report of 1727 (Chipman 1992); the Fray Gaspar Mariano Francisco de los Dolores inspection report of 1762 (Dolores 1762); and the Fray Juan Augustin de Morfi diary of 1778 (Chabot 1932). The first three men, Sevillano, Ortiz, and de los Dolores, were inspectors for the Franciscan College of Queretero, while Morfi was the chaplain to Governor Teodoro de la Croix's inspection tour of the province in 1777-1778.

Sevillano's inspection of 1727 was the first inspection of San Antonio de Valero conducted at its third and final site, having been moved to that location in 1724. Sevillano reported that the mission held 273 Native Americans, representing sixty

families and five different tribes. He also documented that a church of mud and sticks was under construction as well as an *acequia* to provide irrigation (Chipman 1992:130).

Ortiz's first inspection in 1745 clearly indicates that Mission San Antonio de Valero was thriving as it reports the mission Native American population at 311 and that since the founding of the mission a total of 981 baptisms of converts and 685 burials had been performed (Ortiz 1756). The church is described as being made of adobe. The report further notes the production of corn, beans, and cotton from the mission's *labores* and explains that the cotton was woven on-site. The report provides an inventory of farm equipment (Castañeda 1938:110-113).

Ortiz's second inspection in 1756 shows an increase in the population, from 311 to 328, and he notes that a new church built in the intervening period (1745-1756) had fallen down since it had been so poorly constructed and that services were being held in the old adobe church (Schuetz 1966:19). Ortiz provides a description of the mission: "The pueblo of this mission is composed of thirty adobe houses: twenty with galleries and stone arches which together with the structure of the church presents a beautiful and spacious street. The rest are jacales... The habitation of the fathers is a convent of four cells above and below it has another for guests..." (Ortiz 1756:8). In addition to the continued cultivation of corn, beans, and cotton, Ortiz mentions an orchard and vegetable gardens, specifically noting the cultivation of watermelon and cantaloupe.

The de los Dolores report of 1762, though only six years after Ortiz's second report, shows a decline in population for the first time with a total population of 275 Native Americans and documents that since its founding a total of 1,279 baptisms had been performed. He notes the church that was being rebuilt in 1745 was still not completed, but "The pueblo [mission compound] is composed of a convent of 50 varas square with its cloisters above and below of arches," and that for the Native Americans "They have made seven rows of houses as living quarters...which are made of stone with arched portals that form a beautiful, extensive plaza through which runs an acequia planted with willow and other fruit trees..." (de los Dolores 1762:21-24).

The report lists the same cultivated crops as in the preceding Ortiz reports of 1745 and 1756, but it includes mention of chili for the first time. Like his predecessor, Fray de los Dolores provides an inventory of farm implements indicative of a thriving and working farm. The report describes the production of the Rancho de Monte Galvan in 1762 as 115 broken horses, 1,115 head of cattle, and 2,300 head of smaller livestock (de los Dolores 1762:25-26).

Fray de los Dolores's report lists additional Native American tribes that had become part of the mission, including the original three tribes as well as "...Yprandes, Cocos, Tops, Carancaguases of which there are 32 gentiles that are being catechized and furthering the conversion of this last nation" (de los Dolores 1762:20).

The Morfi diary of 1778 is different on several accounts. First, Morfi reports on both the Quereteran Missions and the Zacatecan Mission of San Jose, and he was not a member of either of those Franciscan Colleges as he was from the Franciscan College of Santa Cruz de Tlaltelolco (Chabot 1932:7). He was not an inspector but a diarist, and his commentary does not cover all the same areas as the previous inspection reports. In his diary, Morfi mentions the de los Dolores report of 1762 and while not giving a new population figure, he clearly states that as "...this number so decreased since then [since 1761], ...it was necessary to abandon the weaving rooms. At the beginning of 1778 there were hardly enough Indians to do work in the fields" (Chabot 1932:60). Also of note in Morfi's diary is the fact that the church documented as having fallen down prior to 1756 was still not completed and that his description of the pueblo is essentially the same as de los Dolores's description of some fourteen years earlier.

The accounts of these inspectors and of Fray Morfi provide detail about the relative health and success of Valero during the Mission period as well as some of the failures

of the undertaking. For the majority of its history Valero was successful, in Spanish terms, of its primary mission to convert Native Americans and to indoctrinate and integrate them into Spanish civil society. The mission saw growth during the majority of this period and produced both crops and animals for the mission's use and for sale as surplus. The mission's failures appear in the unfinished construction of the stone chapel as well as the failures noted by Morfi in 1778, which were caused by the decrease in the Native American population at that time. The only sizable group of Native Americans who came into the mission during this period were the Lipan Apache in 1789, but the census of 1790 only records 48 Native Americans (Castañeda 1935:81-82).

Withdrawal of the Franciscans

The decrease in the Native American population of 1778 continued, and by 1792, the Quereteran College ordered the secularization of San Antonio de Valero and the apportionment of its goods and lands. There were only 39 Native American residents of the mission who remained to receive allotments in 1793. In addition to lands, each household was given farm animals, farm equipment, and other provisions to support them until the next harvest (Castañeda 1942:35-36). At the time of the secularization in 1793, the new stone parish church begun sometime around 1756 was still in an unfinished state. Despite it not being finished, the church and other ancillary buildings of the mission appear to have been used by the Lipan neophytes (Castañeda 1942:199). Legal maneuvering between the City and the Church in the mid-nineteenth century indicates that services continued to be held in the sacristy until circa 1801-1803 when the site became the headquarters for a Spanish military unit (Schuetz 1966:39).

Arrival of La Segunda Compañía Volante de San Carlos de Parras, 1803-1835

In 1803, the Spanish stationed a company of mounted troops on the grounds of the old mission. This military group, which came from San Carlos de Parras, is where the name "Alamo" became applied to the site as the hometown of the company was also known as Alamo de Parras. This mounted company intermittently occupied the grounds of the old mission until the Texas Revolution of 1835-1836 (Fox et al. 1976:6-7; Smith 1966:8). Initially, the company was Spanish, but following the Mexican War of Independence in 1821, it became a Mexican army unit. During their period of occupancy, the soldiers of the company and their families were housed in the various apartments of the former mission compound. In addition to the military component, there was a hospital established for their use in 1806 (Nixon 1936:17-18).

The period of time that the site was garrisoned by the Alamo de Parras Company corresponded with the instability that plagued the Spanish and subsequently Mexican northern frontier. The routing of the Spanish on April 1, 1813, by the forces of the failed Gutierrez-Magee Expedition of 1813 marked the first time that the former mission was occupied by enemy combatants (Fox et al. 1976:8). In late July of that same year, General Arredondo defeated the Expedition forces at the Battle of Medina and brutally put the insurrection down (Almaraz 1971:178-179; Hatcher 1908:220-236).

The Alamo during the Texas Revolution and Its Aftermath, December 1835 – May 1836

The Alamo de Parras Company was present during the period of Anglo-American settlement that eventually led to the outbreak of hostilities in October of 1835 during the Battle of Concepción. In this engagement, the Mexican General Martín Perfecto de Cos was driven back into the villa, which he then fortified. Thus began the Siege of Bexar that ended with Cos's surrender to Texan forces on December 9, 1835, on the grounds of the Alamo. During this period of the siege, the troops under Cos made numerous fortifications across the villa and on the grounds of the old Mission Valero (Green 1952:32; Ivey and Fox 1997:4-5). Portions of these defensive works have been archaeologically examined, including trenches and earthworks, at the Alamo compound as well as on Main Plaza (Fox 1992; Hanson 2016).

The Texas Revolution and the role of the Alamo in that undertaking are legendary and mythical, and the two often overshadow the earlier history of the mission and the company from Alamo de Parras. Rather than provide details concerning the Battle of the Alamo and its aftermath, the history focused on here relates to the archaeology that documents the period rather than the causes or outcomes. Any of the numerous works written on the Battle of the Alamo can be consulted for additional information outside of the archaeological realm.

As previously noted, Cos and his men made numerous fortification improvements to the Alamo compound during the Siege of Bexar that have been archaeologically documented. The Texan forces utilized these improvements and expanded upon them by creating additional trench works and palisades along the south gate complex between December of 1835 and February of 1836 (Eaton 1980; Fox 1992; Green 1952; Ivey and Fox 1997).

Following the defeat of the Texan forces by Mexican troops under the command of General Santa Ana on March 6, 1836, the site remained in its post-battle condition until Santa Ana left Bexar on March 31, 1836, in pursuit of Texan forces.

Mexican General Juan José Andrade was given command of Bexar, the Alamo, and in excess of 1,000 men (Winders 2014). Andrade was charged with the rebuilding of the villa and the Alamo's fortifications. These improvements were short-lived as following Santa Ana's defeat at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, he ordered Andrade to demolish the same fortifications and destroy all ordinance that could not otherwise be removed to Mexico in the retreat. The destruction in the Alamo compound included the tearing down of all walls, the filling-in of all the fortification ditches and trenches, the spiking of all the remaining cannons and unceremoniously dumping them in the river, and the burning of all wooden fortifications (Barnard 1983 [1912]; Winders 2014). All of these were completed by May 23, 1836. Evidence of the destruction of the compound and its fortifications was documented by investigations in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s (Eaton 1978; Fox 1992; Schuetz 1966).

Mid-Nineteenth Century Development, 1836-1872

After the Texas Revolution, the Alamo compound was essentially in ruins from 1836 to 1841. The Roman Catholic Church asserted its right to the old mission compound, and in January of 1841, this right was affirmed by the Republic of Texas (Fox et al. 1976:14; *San Antonio v. John Odin*). The Catholic Church leased the property to the U.S. Government for use as a Quartermaster Depot beginning in 1846-1847. The period of the U.S. Army's use saw numerous changes to the old mission, many of which are extant today, including the chapel walls and façade as they currently appear. It was the U.S. Army that finally completed the roof of the church in the 1840s (Ivey and Fox 1997:9).

In 1851, the City of San Antonio, as part of its wider effort to gain control of all public lands previously given to the City by the King of Spain, attempted to gain control of the Alamo compound. Although successful in regaining control of the public lands, the City failed in its court case against the Church (Corner 1890:36-37).

The U.S. Army continued to use the property as a depot until the 1861 outbreak of hostilities during the Civil War at which point the depot was converted to Confederate use (Ivey and Fox 1997:10). Following the Civil War, in 1865, the U.S. Army again took possession until the quadrangle was completed at the new Fort Sam Houston, slightly less than 3.22 km (2 mi.) north and east of Alamo Plaza in 1878. The U.S. Army made numerous changes to the Alamo buildings and grounds during their occupation. The area of the Calvary Courtyard and Convento Courtyard served as corrals and stables for the depot's numerous horses (Ivey and Fox 1997:9).

Sometime between 1871 and 1872, the City purchased the south gate complex from the Catholic Church and razed the buildings to the ground. This complex, also referred to by its Alamo Battle name of the Low Barrack, was in ruinous condition (Fox et al. 1976:22). The removal of this structure merged what were formerly two plazas: Plaza de Valero, which was south of the gate complex, with the former Alamo Plaza north of the gate complex. The smaller Alamo Plaza represented the former interior compound of the old Mission Valero. The merged plaza kept the name Alamo and represented another loss in the public parlance of the former Spanish identity and use of the property as a mission.

Late Nineteenth-Century Development, 1873-1900: Commercial Development of Alamo Plaza

The eastern portion of the Alamo compound, not including the chapel, was sold by the Catholic Church to Honor Grenet in 1877. Grenet made numerous changes to the original buildings, including the removal of the roof, walls, and floors east of the façade of the convento and granary, as well as demolishing the sacristy that abutted the chapel (Bexar County Deed Records [BCDR] 7:373; Ivey and Fox 1997:10). Grenet then developed a new two-storied superstructure of wood and clad with iron that he operated as a wholesale grocery and liquors enterprise (Figure 2-3). Grenet enclosed the courtyards as a single courtyard surrounded by storage sheds. Grenet subsequently sold his business to Hugo & Schmeltzer in 1886 (BCDR 48:50), who continued merchandise and goods operations into the early twentieth century (Figures 2-4 and 2-5).

The Alamo Chapel itself was purchased by the State of Texas in 1883, and following the DRT's purchase of the Hugo & Schmeltzer property in 1904, the State ceded control of the chapel to the DRT (BCDR 223:261; Fox et al. 1976:25).

The majority of the west side of the Alamo compound was sold by the City of San Antonio to Samuel Maverick in November of 1852, and the land was subsequently assembled as the "Alamo City" plat (BCDR K2:523; K2:524; K2:533; K2:534; K2:535; K2:537; K2:538; K2:553). Maverick built his family home of stone on the northwest corner of the compound. In 1883 and 1884, he constructed what is referred to as the Crockett Block and the Maverick Bank (Smith 1966:33). The site of the Maverick home became the Gibbs Building, and the Maverick Bank was demolished in 1921 for the construction of Woolworth's five-and-dime, which operated on the site until the early 1990s (San Antonio Conservation Society 2016). Both structures are still extant as the Crockett Block Building. These buildings and their basements have most likely obliterated all architectural and material cultural traces of the mission compound that lie under their footprints. However, as excavations in the basements of the Plaza de Armas buildings in 2013 and 2014 demonstrate, the presence of pockets of intact Spanish Colonial materials is still possible under similar conditions (McKenzie et al. 2016).

The late nineteenth century also saw the construction of a Richardsonian Romanesque U.S. Post Office on the north end of Alamo Plaza. Designed by local architect J. Reily Gordon, the structure was completed in 1890, but it was demolished to make way for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Courthouse that was completed in 1936 and that still occupies the site (San Antonio Conservation Society 2016).

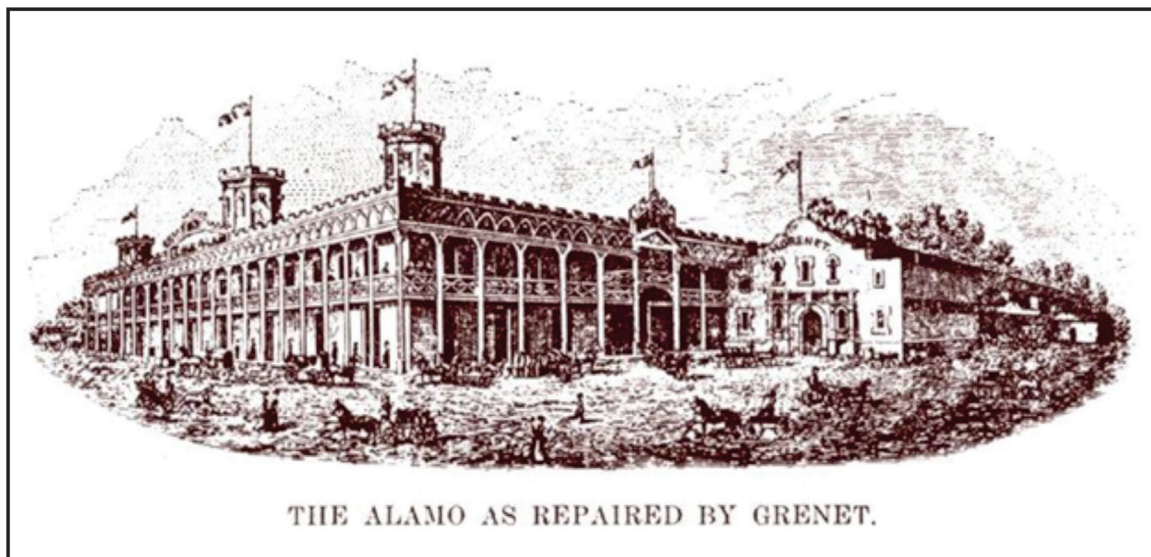


Figure 2-3. Etching of 1880-1882 of Grenet's Wholesale Groceries and Liquor, advertisement scanned from Adina De Zavala's *History and Legends of the Alamo* (1917).

Alamo Plaza in the Twentieth Century

The plaza itself became fully commercialized by the close of the nineteenth century, and it remained a commercial locus into the twentieth century (Fisher 1996:52-53). This is further supported by a review of both Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and City Directories that clearly demonstrate the mercantile expansion of the late nineteenth century (Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1877:V1:4, 1885:V1:2-3, 1892:V1:19). Major buildings of this period include the Gibb's Building in 1908, the Woolworth's Building in 1921, the Medical Arts Building in 1926, and the Federal Courthouse in 1936. All of these constructions resulted in the destruction of architectural and cultural material remains beneath their footprints along what was once the western and northern walls of the mission compound.

In 1912, the DRT modified the Alamo properties—both the Long Barrack and the Chapel (Ables 1967). Unfortunately, the upper floor of the mission convento was demolished at this time leaving the Long Barrack as a single-story construction (Ables 1967:411-412; Ivey and Fox 1997:11). The wall separating the Calvary Courtyard and the Convento Courtyard was built at this time. The DRT maintained their custodial role until property management was transferred to the Texas General Land Office in 2016. During their period of custodianship, the DRT oversaw numerous modifications to the Alamo grounds including the erection of a library, gift shop, interpretive exhibits, management offices, meeting hall, and a garden area.

The 2006 UTSA Field School APE

The APE (Areas 1, 2, and 3) of the 2006 Field School was geographically limited to what are called the Convento Courtyard and Calvary Courtyard of the Alamo complex. These two courtyards are currently separated by a stone wall with a gate.

By 1762, the Convento Courtyard was enclosed on all four sides (Viana 1762). Descriptions of the convento from Franciscan inspection reports describe the expansion of the building over time. In 1772, it was described as a quadrangle building enclosing a cloistered patio 30 varas square (approximately 24 m; 80 ft.). The west and south sides were two storied, while the north and east sides were single storied (Tunnel 1977). At the time of secularization in 1793, the second story of the north side was extant. It is uncertain that the second story on the east was ever completed. The majority of inspection reports indicate that a well was in the center of the patio and that entry was made via a gate in the western wall.

The current Calvary Courtyard shares the west exterior wall of what would have been the granary. The current southern wall, with the opening into the Convento Courtyard, follows the alignment of the exterior wall of the north side of the old convento. These western and southern walls are themselves reconstructions dating to the initial DRT modifications circa 1926 (Ivey and Fox 1997:2). The eastern side of the Calvary Courtyard is currently not enclosed. During the colonial period, it appears that the Calvary Courtyard was not walled with stone on the north or east (Ivey and Fox 1997:3). Several of the Franciscan inspection reports indicate that this area was utilized for the processing of cotton and for use in textile production, as well as other workshops (Ortiz 1745; Viana 1762).

The history of the two courtyards after 1830 and up to Grenet's ownership is somewhat obscure. It is known that the area was stockaded and protected by trench works during the Battle of the Alamo and that these were razed by the Mexican forces in May of 1836. By the time Maverick gained control of the property in 1841, there is only mention of a low stone fence that marked the line of the current north wall of the Calvary Courtyard (BCDR A2:470). Ivey and Fox (1997) speculated that "...less than six years after the battle...the remains of the northern and eastern walls which formed part of the defenses of the north courtyard [Calvary Courtyard]... looked like the remains of any other fallen wall...visible only as low ridges of stone rubble and earth" (9).

The use and changes that occurred within the APE following its acquisition by Grenet are much better documented, both archivally and photographically. Following acquisition of the buildings by the DRT, they commenced demolition in 1912 prior to the renovations in 1915. The demolition began with the removal of the previous Grenet/Hugo & Schmeltzer wooden superstructures. A number of photographic images and postcards from this period help to document the remaining Spanish Colonial structural elements at that time. They also clearly demonstrate the serious impacts to both above ground as well as below grade resources. Figure 2-6 is a reproduction of a postcard image of the site, circa 1915-1916, looking southeast. The image shows the remaining second floor of the original convento and immediately behind them what are now the Convento Courtyard and Calvary Courtyard. The east-west line shown intersecting the convento from the east and running parallel to the north wall of the compound and the south wall of the convento is the old north wall of the convento, which formed a square with a central patio (Viana 1762). This same wall alignment forms the current wall separating the two extant courtyards. Also shown in this image are various heaps and piles of what appear to be a combination of both stone and earth that are indicative of disturbance of the upper deposits caused by the

leveling that occurred following the removal of the wooden superstructure. Figure 2-7 is a postcard from the same period, circa 1912, with a view looking south from the corner of the granary into the old courtyard. This image is instructive as it clearly indicates serious ground disturbance in the upper deposits of the interior of the complex.

The current structural elements visible in the Convento Courtyard and Calvary Courtyard are all of twentieth-century construction with the exception of portions of the south wall of the compound. The well in the Convento Courtyard, as well as the wall and gate that separates the two courtyards, is also of twentieth-century construction.

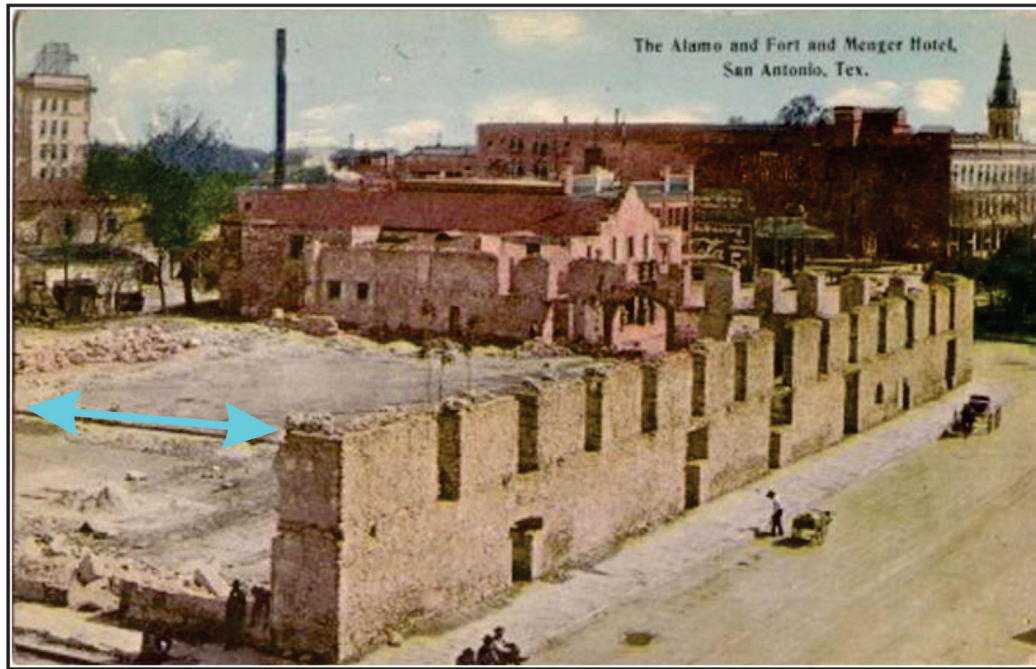


Figure 2-6. The APE following demolition of wooden Hugo & Schmeltzer superstructure, circa 1912. Blue line indicates alignment of north wall of former convento location and location of current wall between the Convento Courtyard and the Calvary Courtyard.



Figure 2-7. View of interior demolition of APE, circa 1912, indicating significant ground disturbance on interior.

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Chapter 3: Previous Research

Over the past fifty years, Mission San Antonio de Valero (41BX6) has been the subject of 21 archaeological studies, including two archival research studies (Hard 1994; Ivey and Fox 1997) and two monitoring activities (Cox 1992; Nichols 2014). The

approximate locations of 16 excavation projects are shown in Figure 3-1. The seventeenth, and most recent, excavation project took place the summer of 2016 and is not covered in this report as the analysis and report are still underway.

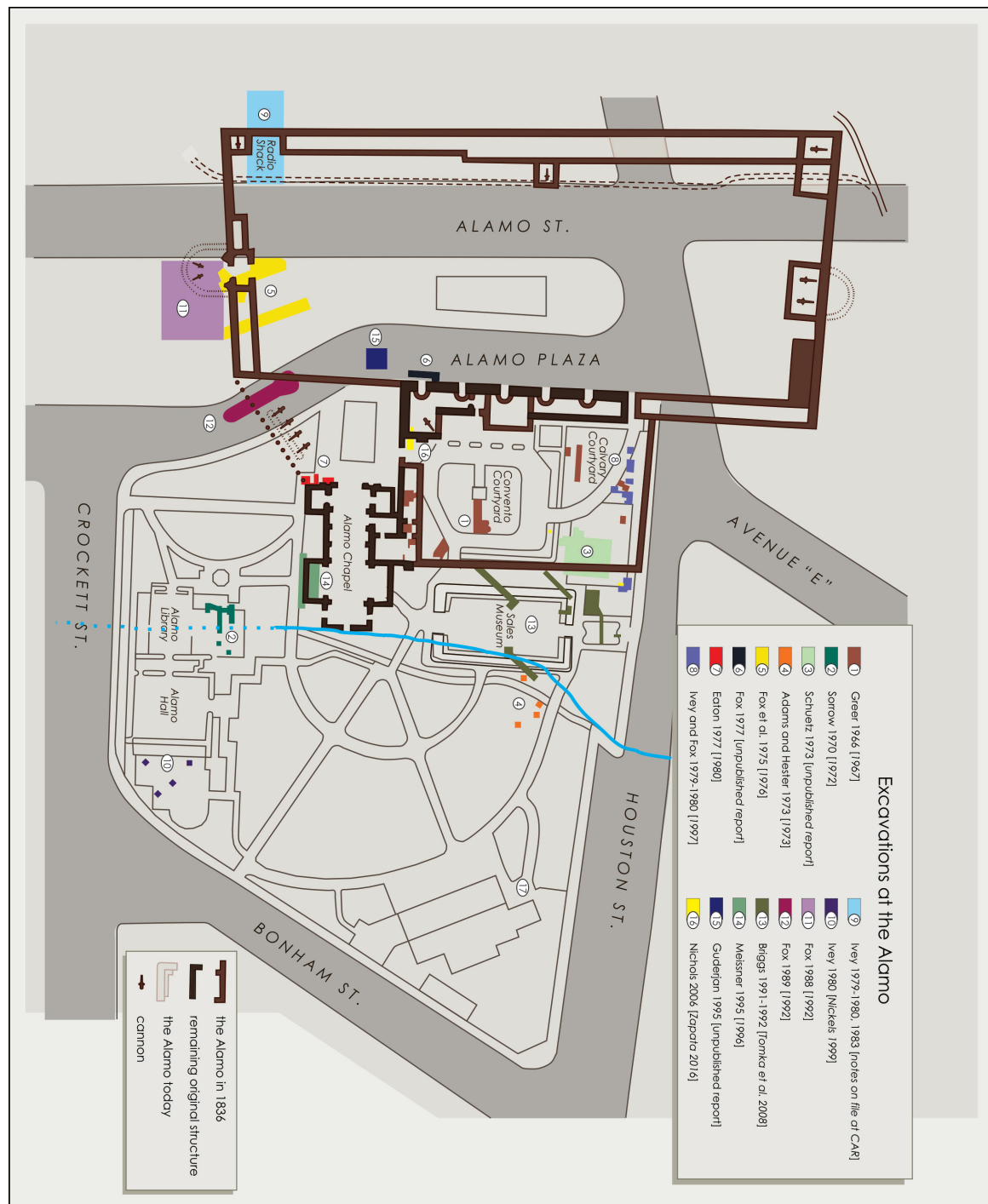


Figure 3-1. Previous excavations at the Alamo compound.

From the mid-nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, the original 1724 footprint of Mission San Antonio de Valero has been heavily impacted by site development and the installation of related infrastructure. As a result, numerous features and artifacts have been destroyed, and very little documentary evidence of these early ground disturbances remains. In early 1966, and as a consequence of having unearthed some artifacts in the course of utility trenching in the Calvary Courtyard, it was decided to contract a team of archaeologists to study the Area of Potential Effect prior to continuing (Greer 1967:3).

This first professional archaeological study of Mission San Antonio de Valero (41BX6) was undertaken in June and July 1966 by staff of the Witte Memorial Museum and the University of Texas at Austin. Three separate reports were prepared and published by the Archeological Program of the State Building Commission. Report Number 1 covered the site's history, with an emphasis on the mission period (Schuetz 1966). Schuetz relied heavily on a collection of secondary sources, noting that many of the primary sources had been lost or misplaced. In piecing together the site's history, Schuetz drew from several maps and historic drawings, and she transcribed and translated the few available Spanish documents (de los Dolores 1762; Morfi 1778; Ortiz 1745, 1756; Sevillano 1927). Curtis Tunnell, State Archeologist, prepared a study of the Mexican majolicas (tin-enamel-glazed) earthenware that was published as Report Number 2 (Tunnell 1966). This collection of majolica earthenware represented twenty percent of the total recovered ceramics.

Report Number 3 focused on the excavations themselves. John Greer of the University of Texas at Austin served as the supervising archaeologist on this first excavation, and he was responsible for preparing the third report, a description of the stratigraphy, features, and artifacts. Seven areas, totaling 34 units, were excavated: four distinct areas, comprising 16 units, were located in the Calvary Courtyard, and an additional three areas, comprising 18 units, were in the Convento Courtyard. Over 14,000 artifacts were recovered, with 24 percent being an assortment of ceramics that were mainly eighteenth- and nineteenth-century in origin. A total of 24 features were recorded, with the earliest being Features 7, 8, 9, and 10 in Area C and Features 13 and 14 in Area F. These features and associated artifacts represent small samples of distinct nineteenth-century occupations, including the 1836 Battle of the Alamo. Remnants of a large, circa 1740, adobe room (Feature 14) were located some 6.1-7.6 m (20-25 ft.) east of the well (Greer 1967:4-14).

The Witte Museum excavations were followed by those of the Texas Archeological Salvage Project. In 1970, an area outside the northwest corner of the DRT Library was excavated prior to the construction of a new library wing.

Based on Figure 1 of the report (Sorrow 1972), the footprint of the new wing was approximately 10.67-x-10.67 m, or 113.81 m² (35-x-35 ft., 1,225 ft.²). The area was gridded and approximately 18 1.52-x-1.52 m (5-x-5 ft.) units were excavated (Sorrow 1972:Figure 4). The most significant find was a 9.75-m (32-ft.) section of the *Acequia Madre* (41BX8). Remnants of the *acequia*'s east wall were exposed and photo documented; however, the west wall was missing. Based on the excavations and recovered artifacts, it was supposed that the *acequia* was originally an earthen ditch that was backfilled in the late 1800s. Sorrow (1972:18-19) concluded that additional *acequia* remnants may exist to the north of the study area and that the presence of an east-bound lateral and shallow trenches may indicate the area was used for cultivation. The recovered artifacts, which included bone, ceramics, metal, and stone, were not formally analyzed.

In 1973, Schuetz of the Witte Museum excavated a large area at the far north end of the Alamo compound. As a result, Schuetz (1973) located four mission period rooms along what would have been the original east wall of the Calvary Courtyard. Schuetz identified and recorded a packed caliche layer throughout the excavations. The layer was thought to be a prepared surface dating to the U.S. Army Quartermaster's occupation. It was noted that Spanish Colonial-period artifacts lay beneath this layer (Schuetz 1973).

In October and November 1973, Richard Adams and Thomas Hester of the Department of Anthropology at UTSA and volunteers excavated four test pits in an area east of the Alamo Sales Museum and on either side of the reconstructed *acequia*. Owing to the amount of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century construction in this area, these excavations failed to confirm that the placement of the reconstructed *acequia* was accurate. The bulk of the recovered artifacts consisted of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century ceramics and construction debris. Hester concluded that the area had been heavily disturbed, and further testing of this area was unwarranted (Hester 1993:2).

Anne A. Fox and Feris Bass (Fox et al. 1976) of the CAR directed test excavations in June and July of 1975 at the Alamo Plaza, prior to renovations associated with the planned American Bicentennial celebrations. The purpose of the project was to find the precise location of the Alamo's original south wall and to determine the extent of buried cultural resources in Alamo Plaza. It was found that earlier modifications to the plaza had greatly disturbed the subsurface deposits. Even so, Fox et al. were able to discern remnants of the original wall footings and related features. They concluded that the planned renovations, repaving and tree planting, would not impact any buried cultural deposits. However, the authors went on to suggest that any future

planned disturbances greater than 1 m (3.28 ft.) in depth, at the least, be monitored by an archaeologist (Fox et al. 1976).

In January 1977, replacement of flagstone pavers in front of the Long Barrack provided Fox of CAR with the opportunity to conduct additional testing at the Alamo. As requested by the THC, Fox supervised the excavation of a trench in order to locate an *acequia* that Greer had observed during his 1966 excavations (Greer 1967). The 3.66-m (12-ft.) long by 1.52-m (5-ft.) deep trench was located in the street near the southwest corner of the Long Barrack (Fox 1977). The *acequia* was not encountered in this north-south oriented trench, so another shorter trench was excavated perpendicular to the Long Barrack. This trench exposed the wall footings and allowed an inspection of the barracks wall foundation. Fox noted that the restored walls were located on the original wall footings. In the process, a thin caliche layer was observed at a depth of about 55.88 cm (22 in.), and it was concluded that this represented a resurfacing episode dating to the U.S. Army occupation, circa 1847-1877. Spanish Colonial artifacts were noted from 60.96-121.92 cm (24-48 in.) below the surface (Fox 1977).

In March 1977, Jack Eaton of the CAR conducted test excavations directly in front of the Alamo Chapel, where flagstone paving was being replaced. Eaton and staff excavated 12 1-m² and 1.5-m² (10.76-ft.² and 16.15-ft.²) units between the front door of the church and its southwest corner (Eaton 1980). The purpose of this study was two-fold: 1) excavate and sample the soil stratigraphy and 2) expose and examine the building foundation. As a result, Eaton found the stratigraphy in front of the church to be practically undisturbed, with succeeding layers of datable artifacts. CAR archaeologists also located an 1836 palisade emplacement and associated battle-related artifacts, and the wall foundation was found to be in relatively good condition. In sum, Eaton (1980:48) suggested that the area in front of the church be protected from future disturbances, as it is fairly intact and may hold additional cultural remnants.

In 1977, major plans for the development of the area west of Alamo Plaza were underway. The plans included the construction of a major hotel, a multi-story parking garage, and a pedestrian mall that would link Alamo Plaza with the San Antonio River. The APE was bordered by Houston Street to the north, Crockett Street to the south, the San Antonio River/Losoya Street to the west, and South Alamo Street to the east. The CAR was contracted in order to develop a history of the block and offer recommendations on essential archaeological excavations (Fox and Ivey 1979:1). In 1979, Ivey and Fox (Ivey and Fox 1997) put forth six items of particular interest that, in sum, recommended the archaeological studies of this city block be judiciously located to determine the site's prehistory and historic-period development.

Plans to reconstruct the north wall of the compound spurred the next round of excavations (Ivey and Fox 1997). Five units were excavated in March 1979 (Phase I), and another two units were excavated in February 1980 (Phase II). Phase II of the project was carried out as an addendum due to changes to the initial plans. The units were excavated along the west end of the north wall, in order to determine if there were any earlier walls and/or footings in this area and to expose and assess the condition of the existing wall footing (Ivey and Fox 1997). These excavations successfully provided the required architectural data and added insight of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo. Ivey and Fox (1997:41) concluded that the area within the Calvary Courtyard may contain intact archaeological deposits and that any additional disturbances require archaeological testing.

An extensive investigation of an area on the west side of Alamo Plaza was conducted between July 1979 and June 1980. Ivey (1983) of the CAR supervised the archaeological project, working ahead of the planned demolition of a building to make way for a pedestrian mall that would link Alamo Plaza to the San Antonio River Walk. The Area of Potential Effect was the southwest corner of the 1724 Alamo compound. Ivey was able to locate and record the foundations of adobe buildings, the west wall of the Alamo compound, and the route of an *acequia* (Ivey 1983).

An area adjacent to Alamo Hall, at the southeast corner of the Alamo compound, was excavated by the CAR in January 1980. This was in response to the planned installation of a drainage system on the east side of Alamo Hall. Four units were excavated within a 16.67-x-21.67 m (50-x-65 ft.) area. These excavations located the wall foundations of a large adobe structure and much smaller outbuilding, the home and kitchen of former Reconstructionist mayor, serving 1867-1872, Wilhelm Carl August Thielepape, 1814-1904 (Albrecht 1976:16; Nickels 1999:6). The stratigraphy in this area was found to be heavily disturbed, as evidenced by the amount of mixing of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century artifacts within the excavated levels (Nickels 1999:20).

The CAR (Fox 1992) conducted archaeological field schools during the summer of 1988 and summer of 1989. Fred Valdez and Joel Gunn directed test excavations of two areas on the Alamo Plaza, just west-southwest of the Alamo Chapel. These excavations located and mapped defensive fortifications at the entrance to the compound and recovered a wealth of circa 1750 to 1836 artifacts. Fox (1992:75) went on to suggest that intact archaeological deposits are extant within 25.4-50.8 cm (10-20 in.) below the modern surface in this area. Fox recommended additional excavations at the southwest corner of the Alamo property (corner of Alamo Plaza and Crockett Street), which would likely provide information regarding the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.

Between mid-1988 and early 1991, the CAR (Cox 1992) conducted archaeological monitoring for the Tri-Party Improvements Project in downtown San Antonio. The improvements were meant to revitalize and beautify a 70-block area of downtown San Antonio. Bus routes were redesigned and constructed, benches and water fountains installed, and brick pavers were installed throughout the area. The APE impacted the Main Plaza, Military Plaza, and La Villita Historic Districts, as well as the Alamo Plaza Historic District. As a consequence, several sections of the San Pedro *Acequia* were encountered and documented, as were several wall foundations of long-lost buildings. Trenching along South Alamo Street further exposed a defensive fortification that had been located during the 1989 UTSA-CAR Field School. A subterranean tunnel, which was installed to carry utilities to the original Richardsonian Romanesque post office of 1890, was encountered traversing north-south beneath Houston Street. Cox (1992:35) concluded that very few archaeological resources were disturbed, and this was mostly owing to the fact that the amount of ground disturbance was minimal.

Between July 1991 and April 1993, Lone Star Archaeological Services, under the direction of Alton Briggs, conducted test excavations and monitoring in advance of improvements to the Alamo Sales Museum. The areas tested proved to be heavily disturbed, most likely due to mid- to late nineteenth-century construction of commercial interests. The study did note that the U.S. Army diverted a section of the *acequia* to an area east of the convento (circa 1848) and that the 1936-37 WPA reconstruction moved the *acequia* channel slightly to the east of its original channel (Tomka et al. 2008:71-72).

In April 1994, as part of the Alamo Plaza Study Committee, the San Antonio City Council contracted the CAR to undertake a "Historical Overview of Alamo Plaza and Camposanto" (Hard 1994). As a result, the study offers a thorough review of the literature as it relates to the history and archaeology of the plaza and cemetery. Hard (1994:71-73) concluded that it is highly probable that a cemetery does exist in front of the Alamo church and that hand-dug excavations and/or augering would be the best way to confirm its location and determine its limits.

In January and February 1995, the CAR (Meissner 1996) conducted limited excavations and monitoring along the interior and exterior south transept wall. These excavations were necessary in order to expose the wall foundations and attempt to remedy a serious rising damp problem. The entire length of the south transept wall was excavated, 1.83 m (6 ft.) away from the wall, along the interior and exterior sides. Meissner (1996:101-103) concluded the stratigraphy at the interior of the south transept to be fairly intact, but the exterior deposits were heavily disturbed. Considering the likelihood of burials, excavations along the interior wall

were kept to a minimum. Excavations along the exterior wall ceased at about 60.96 cm (24 in.) below the surface, after exposing the top edge of the wall foundation. At this point, a layer of packed caliche was exposed but not excavated.

The most publicized, yet least productive, excavation undertaken at the Alamo was the "Alamo Well Project" of 1995 (Uecker and Guderjahn 1995). This project was undertaken by Tom Guderjahn of St. Mary's University, in collaboration with a local treasure hunter, Frank Buschbacher of the Tesoro del Alamo Preservation Society. The work was directed by Herbert Uecker, and a 4.57-x-4.57 m (15-x-15 ft.) area was excavated on Alamo Plaza, directly west of the Alamo church. The sterile area beneath the extant cultural material was subsequently excavated with a backhoe to 4.57 m (15 ft.) below the surface, in a futile search for the original Alamo well and supposed treasure (Uecker and Guderjahn 1995). Nothing of note resulted from this deeper mechanical probe.

The CAR sponsored a third summer field school at the Alamo in 2006. The field school was directed by Kristi Nichols and is the subject of this report (Zapata 2016).

In late December 2014, Steve Tomka conducted an archaeological monitoring project of ground disturbance, related to the installation of electrical conduits and three postholes for an arbor at the far northeast corner of the Alamo compound. The amount of subsurface disturbance related to the installation of electrical conduits was minimal, and the postholes were excavated to less than 60.96 cm (24 in.) below the surface and, therefore, did not impact probable archaeology in this area (Nichols 2014:17).

Most recently, a team of archaeologists excavated areas along the south and west walls of the Alamo compound in support of the Alamo Master Plan. Main objectives included gathering archaeological data on the horizontal limits of the Alamo compound and attempting to determine how the modern landscape relates to previous living surface(s) present within and around the Alamo compound. Fieldwork was completed in the summer of 2016 and analysis of artifacts and report production are ongoing.

Discussion

In terms of intact cultural deposits, studies in the chapel and Calvary Courtyard areas noted a packed caliche layer at about 55.98-60.96 cm (22-24 in.) below the surface, capping a thick layer of Spanish Colonial artifacts (Eaton 1980; Fox 1977; Meissner 1996; Schuetz 1973). Fox et al. (1976) suggested that Alamo Plaza holds a wealth of yet to be uncovered archaeology, and Hard (1994) found that there is strong evidence to suggest that the Mission period *camposanto* (cemetery) is extant in front of the Alamo Chapel.

Chapter 4: Field and Laboratory Methods

The CAR staff, in consultation with Alamo staff and Ford, Powell and Carson Architects, identified three study areas. The areas were selected based on an Area of Potential Effect (APE) identified in a draft of a master plan that was being developed in 2007.

Field Methods

Hand excavation of 1-x-1 m (3.28-x-3.28 ft.) units was the primary means for locating subsurface deposits at the site. Three areas were selected, and 10 units were excavated, within the northwest quadrant of the compound. Two of the 10 units were located along the north perimeter wall (Area 1), seven units were located at the southwest corner of the Convento Courtyard (Area 2), and one unit at the north end of the Convento Courtyard (Area 3). Area 1 was adjacent to an area excavated in 1966, and this location would allow for a further investigation of a trench feature noted by Ivey and Fox (1997:41). The units were excavated in arbitrary 10-cm (4-in.) levels, with all matrix screened through a ¼-inch hardware cloth. Given the site's significant visitation, excavated soils were hauled and screened at the far northeast corner of the compound, away from the high traffic areas.

Where encountered, intact features were exposed, documented, and sampled. Features were exposed to the fullest extent possible. Documentation consisted of producing scaled drawings of the features and photo documentation using a photo scale and north arrow. When warranted, extracted samples at a minimum included feature-associated matrix samples and charcoal samples for potential radiocarbon assays.

Laboratory Procedures

A temporary lab was set up on site to begin the initial processing of the artifacts. Artifacts were washed, identified, roughly sorted into categories, and then brought to the CAR laboratory for final processing, analysis, and curation.

All artifacts recovered were identified. Proveniences for the materials returned to the CAR laboratory were double-checked through the use of a field sack (FS) number that was recorded on a Master Data Recovery Form during the field investigation. Field Sack numbers were assigned to all artifact bags in the field. In the CAR lab, all artifacts were separated by artifact type and recovery context to facilitate descriptions. Final processing of recovered artifacts began with sorting into appropriate super classes (e.g., ceramic, construction, glass, lithic, etc.). These were further sorted by classes and types. All data was entered into an Excel® spreadsheet.

All cultural material collected during the excavations was prepared and stored in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR part 79 and in accordance with current guidelines of the CAR. Artifacts processed in the CAR laboratory were washed, air-dried, and stored in archival-quality bags. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each bag was labeled with a provenience or corresponding lot number. All artifacts, except metal, were labeled with permanent ink and covered by a clear coat of acrylic. In addition, a small sample of unmodified debitage from each lot was labeled with the appropriate provenience data. Other artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes. Boxes were labeled with standard labels. Field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled notebooks. Photographs, slides, and negatives were placed in archival-quality sleeves. All notebooks were stored in acid-free boxes. Documents and forms were printed on acid-free paper. A copy of the excavation report and all computer disks pertaining to the investigations were stored in an archival box and curated with the field notes and documents. At the completion of the project, all cultural materials and records were permanently curated at the CAR facility.

In consultation with the THC, artifact categories (e.g., snails) that proved not to hold research value or that had been sufficiently sampled and investigated to exhaust their research potential were discarded following the analyses and prior to curation.

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Chapter 5: Results of Archaeological Investigations

The 2006 Field School excavations were conducted within the three areas in the northwest quadrant of the Alamo complex. Figure 5-1 indicates their location, as well as the locations of previous investigations within the same quadrant.

Area 1 was located at the far north end of the compound, a few feet west of the East Houston Street gate. Two 1-x-1 m (3.28-x-3.28 ft.) test units were excavated just south of the north perimeter wall. The units were located side by side and oriented north-south. Area 2 was located at the southwest

corner of the Convento Courtyard. Seven 1-x-1 m (3.28-x-3.28 ft.) test units were excavated in this area in a 12-unit grid oriented east-west. Area 3 was located in the Convento Courtyard, and a single 1-x-1 m (3.28-x-3.28 ft.) test unit was excavated in this area.

Over 3,000 artifacts were recovered from the 10 test units. The distribution and density of the major classes of artifacts was fairly consistent in Areas 1 and 2. However, considering the total number of artifacts per excavated area, Area 3 (Unit

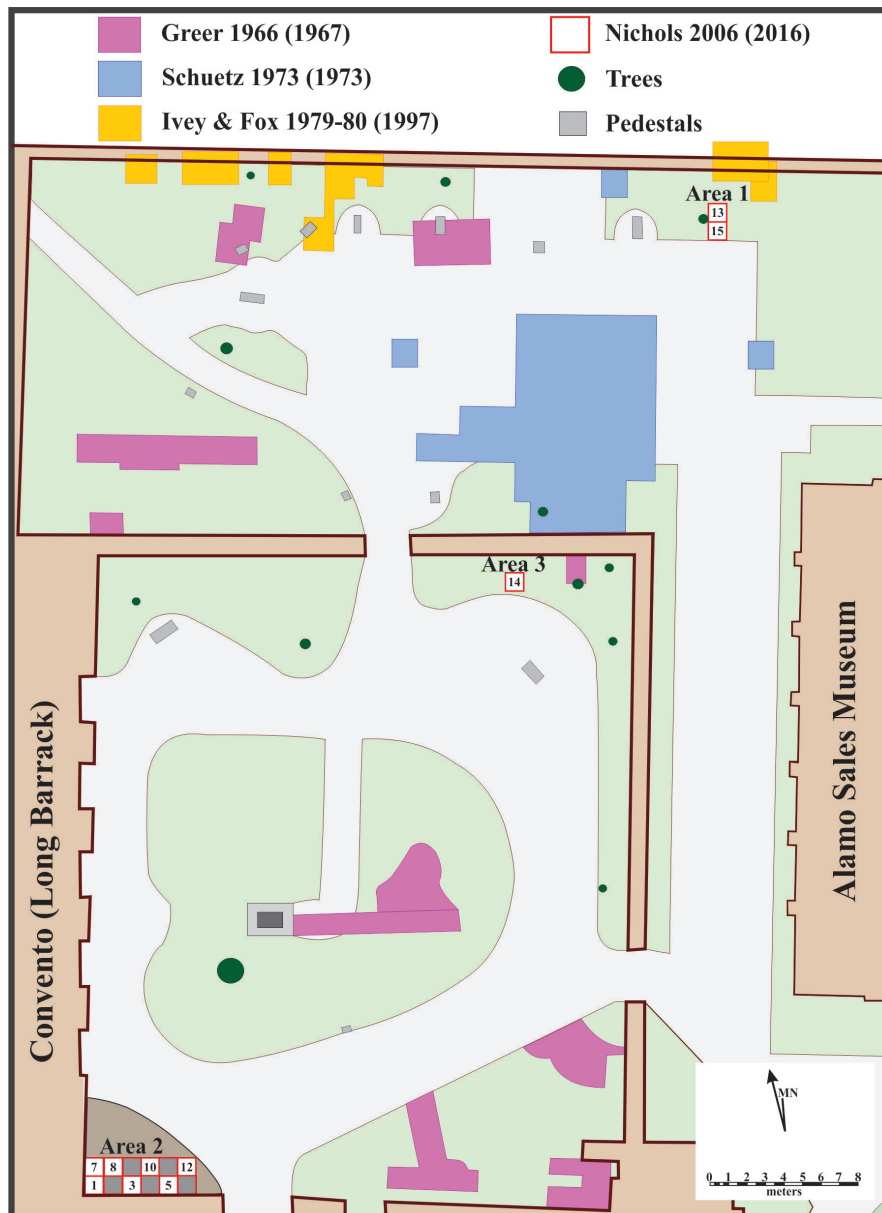


Figure 5-1. Site plan at northwest quadrant of Alamo, showing excavations to date.

14) had the highest concentration of construction material (34 percent, n=65 of 187) and the lowest concentration of metal objects (19 percent, n=36 of 187).

The recovery of artifacts was certainly higher in Area 2 because of the number of units excavated (n=7). The 2-x-12 m (6.6-x-39.4 ft.) area produced 71.2 percent of all artifacts. Seven major classes of artifacts were identified, and the density per unit of five of the seven major classes for Area 2 is presented in Figure 5-2. Considering the results represented in the bar graph, and even though the stratum of Unit 1 and Unit 8 are thought to be intact (see discussion of Area 2 below), the density of artifact classes for these two units is very dissimilar.

Some of the unique artifacts are shown in Figures 5-3, 5-4, and 5-5. Due to the variety of the recovered ceramic sherds and their usefulness as temporal markers, the following discussion of the excavation areas emphasizes these particular artifacts.

Area 1 – Calvary Courtyard

As seen in Figure 5-6, the two units (Units 13 and 15) in Area 1 were located in a planting bed, near an area previously excavated by Ivey and Fox (1997). The planting bed contained a thick layer of mulch. The datum was set on the west side of the units, with the top being 5 cm (2 in.) above the mulch surface. Seven hundred and fifty-nine (759) artifacts were recovered from this area (Tables 5-1 and 5-2).

Unit 13 was excavated to 150 cm below datum (cmbd; 59 in.). After removing the landscape ground cover, the surface of Level 1 was found to be irregular, with the center being 16 cmbd (6.3 in.). In Unit 13, Level 1 was then excavated to 20 cmbd (7.8 in.), with each succeeding level being excavated in increments of 10 cm (3.9 in.). Three hundred and sixty-six (366) artifacts were recovered from this unit. Several examples of European and Spanish Colonial earthenware were recovered from between 30-50 cmbd (11.8-19.6 in.), but no ceramics were recovered from between 50-70 cmbd (19.6-27.5 in.). The succeeding four levels (70-110 cmbd; 27.5-43.3 in.) produced 14 examples of Spanish Colonial sherds and one sherd of Pearlware. A Guerrero point and a Puebla Polychrome sherd were recovered from Level 10. No ceramic sherds were recovered from Levels 11 and 12 (110-130 cmbd; 43.3-51 in.), but two ceramic sherds (Spanish Colonial and European earthenware) were excavated from Level 13 (130-140 cmbd; 51-55 in.). Excavation ceased at 150 cmbd (59 in.) with no additional artifacts; however, fist-sized limestone cobbles lined the floor.

The south wall profile of Unit 13 (Figure 5-7) indicates the strata were intact, but the presence of European earthenware sherds, recovered from Level 10 and Level 13, indicate otherwise. Although Level 11 and Level 12 were not culturally sterile, the recovered artifacts did not include any ceramic sherds. The unit level forms do indicate utility-related intrusions at 20-30 cmbd (7.8-11.8 in.) and a possible intrusion at 70-80 cmbd (27.5-31.5 in.). However, these intrusions would not account for the apparent mixing at much lower levels.

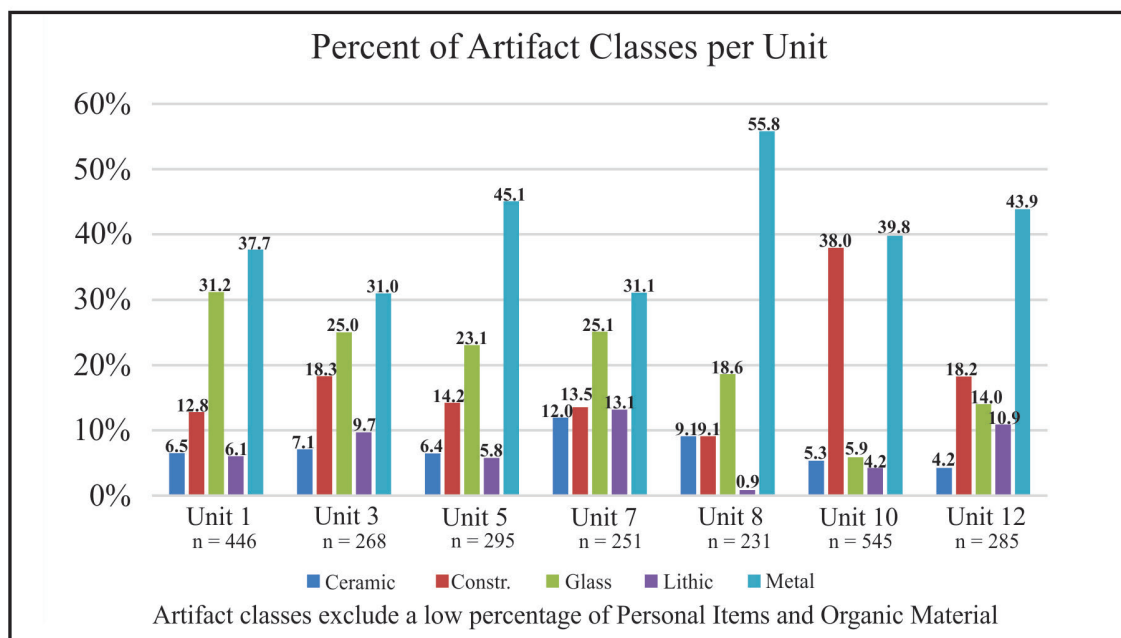


Figure 5-2. Bar graph depicting the percentage of each artifact class removed from the individual units.

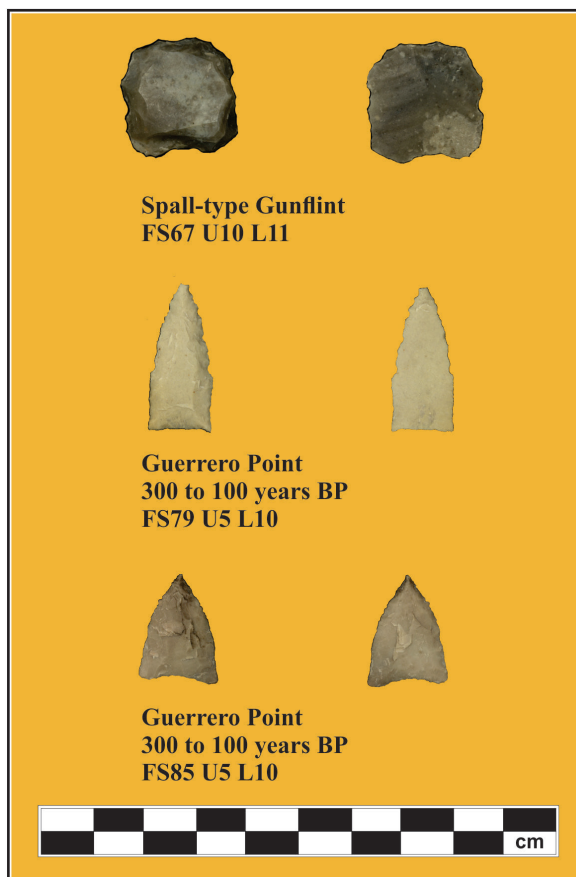


Figure 5-3. Collection of lithic material.



Figure 5-4. Sample of ceramic fragments from non-vessel objects.



Figure 5-5. Sample of ceramic sherds.



Figure 5-6. Area 1, view to the northeast; north perimeter wall in background (2016).

Table 5-1. Area 1 - Calvary Courtyard

Unit 13	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L2 (20-30 cm)		2	4	1		1	1	9
L3 (30-40 cm)	1	1	2		2		1	7
L4 (40-50 cm)	2	10	21		7	3		43
L5 (50-60 cm)		12	42	6	19	1		80
L6 (60-70 cm)		2	14	1	74	2		93
L7 (70-80 cm)	4	2		1	16	3		26
L8 (80-90 cm)	1		3	6	23	1		34
L9 (90-100 cm)	3	11	1	4	13	2		34
L10 (100-110 cm)	7	2	1	3	2	2		17
L11 (110-120 cm)		1	1	6	1	2		11
L12 (120-130 cm)		3	1		1	1		6
L13 (130-140 cm)	1	2		1	1			5
Profile			1					1
Total	19	48	91	29	159	18	2	366
Unit 15	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L2 (20-30 cm)	1	1	2		1		2	7
L3 (30-40 cm)	5	5	18	6	16	2		52
L5 (50-60 cm)		18	33	1	10	2		64
L6 (60-70 cm)	4	3	18	12	105	4		146
L7 (70-80 cm)	2	4	3	2	1	1		13
L8 (80-90 cm)	1		2	4	20	1		28
L9 (90-100 cm)	9	1		12	4	1		27
L10 (100-110 cm)	7	3	1	9	22	1		43
L11 (110-120 cm)	7	1		4		1		13
Total	36	36	77	50	179	13	2	393
Grand Total	55	84	168	79	338	31	4	759
Percent of Total	7%	11%	22%	10%	45%	4%	1%	

Table 5-2. Area 1 - Calvary Courtyard Unit Totals

Unit	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Grand Total
Unit 13	19	48	91	29	159	18	2	366
Unit 15	36	36	77	50	179	13	2	393
Grand Total	55	84	168	79	338	31	4	759

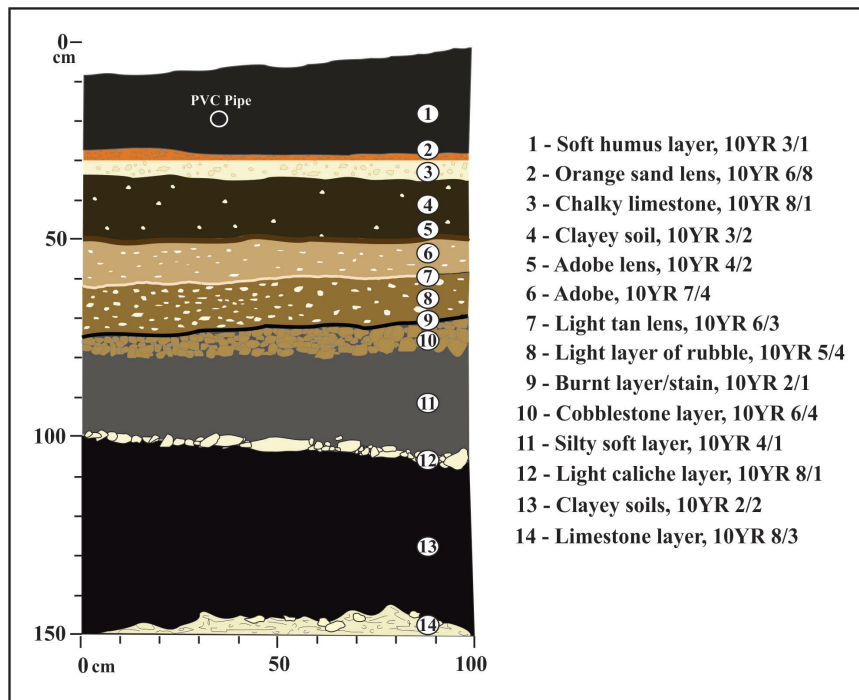


Figure 5-7. Unit 13, south wall profile.

Unit 15 abutted Unit 13 at the south end and was excavated to 110 cmbd (43.3 in.). After removing the landscape ground cover, the surface of Level 1 was found to be extremely irregular, with the center being 18 cmbd (7.1 in.). Level 1 was then excavated to 20-21 cmbd (7.8-8.2 in.). The succeeding levels were excavated in increments of 10 cm (4 in.), with excavation terminated at 110 cmbd (43.3 in.). Three hundred and ninety-three (393) artifacts were recovered from this test unit. The artifact density in Unit 15 was similar to the adjoining Unit 13, although Unit 15 contained less construction material and more lithic material. Two-thirds of the construction material was recovered from within Levels 1 through 5, with half of the material (n=18) recovered from Level 5 (50-60 cmbd; 19.7-23.6 in.). The density of lithic material was much higher in Levels 6 through 10 (n=43 of 50). A Tonala burnished figurine base was recovered from Level 10 (100-110 cmbd; 39.4-43.3 in.). Excavation stopped short of the limestone cobble floor observed in Unit 13 at 150 cmbd (59 in.).

Although a wall profile of Unit 15 was not made, the south wall profile of Unit 13 can be considered the obverse, or north wall, of the adjoining unit. An adobe-like layer was encountered in the bottom half of Level 5 and top half of Level 6 (55-65 cmbd; 21.6-25.6 in.). A darker soil underlay the adobe-like layer, and an assortment of bone, glass, and earthenware sherds were recovered from this matrix. As depicted in the preceding illustration, an adobe layer is noted between 50-60 cmbd (19.7-23.6 in.) in Unit 13. Feature 2 was recorded in Level 9 and appeared as a dark stain along the east half of the unit at about 95 cmbd (37.4 in.). This feature diminished in Level 10 (100-110 cmbd; 39.4-43.3 in.). Charcoal and burnt bone were recovered from this feature. Unit excavation ceased at Level 11 (110-120 cmbd; 43.3-47.2 in.). Seven ceramic sherds were recovered from this last level (2 Goliad ware; 5 Spanish Colonial). Burnt bone, slag, lithic debitage, and a mortar/plaster fragment were also recovered from this level.

Area 2 – Convento Courtyard

Seven test units (Units 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 12) were located inside a gravel bed, against the walls, and abutting the southwest corner of the Convento Courtyard (Figure 5-8). Each test unit was excavated to at least 110 cmbd (43.3 in.). These test units were meant to obtain information concerning the convento wall. A 2-x-6 m (6.6-x-19.7 ft.) area was gridded in an east-west alignment. Twelve units were plotted, but only seven were excavated (Figure 5-9). Two thousand three hundred and twenty-one (2,321) artifacts were recovered from this area (Tables 5-3 and 5-4).

Unit 1 was located at the southwest corner of the Convento Courtyard, with a stone wall to the south and a stone wall to the west. The datum was located just north of Unit 8 and set 15 cm (5.9 in.) above the surface. This test unit was excavated to 150 cmbd (59 in.) and produced the second highest number of recovered artifacts in Area 2 (see Tables 5-3 and 5-4). Level 1 consisted of a compact layer of sand and gravel. A small assortment of artifacts was recovered from this top layer. The artifact density increased considerably between Levels 2 and 4 (10-40 cmbd; 4-15.7 in.). Most of the recovered artifacts from these three levels were metal

objects, such as nails. The artifact count peaked at Level 4 (n=132), then steadily dropped between Levels 5 and 14. Only one charcoal fragment was recovered from Level 13, one bone fragment was recovered from Level 14, and nothing was recovered from Level 15. Figure 5-10 shows the floor of Unit 1 and a partial view of the stone walls between 0-150 cmbd (0-59 in.).

The top 30 cm (11.8 in.) excavated did not turn up any ceramic sherds, but they are present between 30-90 cmbd (11.8-35.4 in.). The number of ceramic sherds recovered was highest between 80-90 cmbd (31.5-35.4 in.); these consisted of Spanish Colonial wares (Galera, Valero, and wheel thrown). Excavation of Levels 10 and 11 did not turn up any ceramic sherds, and the last sherd recovered was in Level 12 (110-120 cmbd; 43.3-47.2 in.). A patch of light-colored soil was exposed between 30-60 cmbd (11.8-23.6 in.) at the northeast quadrant of the unit (Figure 5-11) and included a smaller patch at the southeast corner. An east wall profile of Unit 1 was produced (Figure 5-12). This east wall profile reveals a 50-cm (19.7-in.) deep trench along most of the south half of the unit that continues through Units 3 and 5. Unit profiles of the south and west walls were not produced, so the extent of the stone walls or wall footing below the surface is unknown.



Figure 5-8. Area 2, view to the south, Long Barrack (Convento Courtyard) to the right (July 2016).

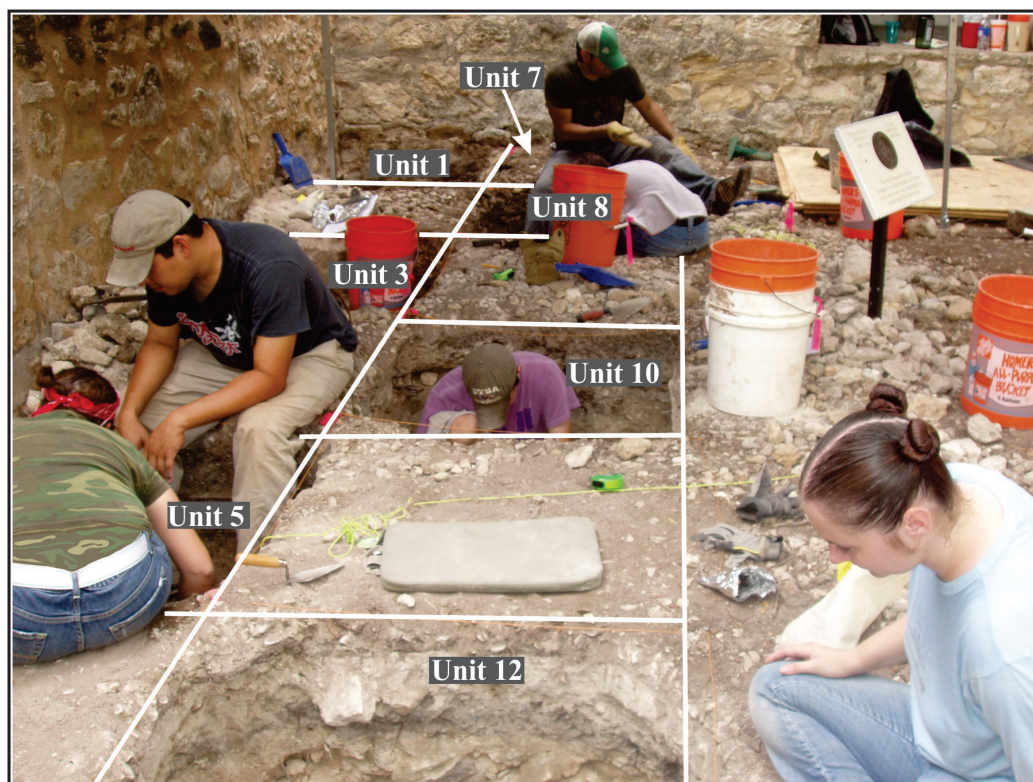


Figure 5-9. Area 2, showing test units, view to the west.

Table 5-3. Area 2 - Convento Courtyard

Unit 1	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L1		2			2		3	7
L2		11	10		13	1		35
L3		6	18		25	2		51
L4	4	2	36	3	84	1	2	132
L5	3	2	43	1	22	1		72
L6	3	3	18	1	11	1	1	38
L7	1	15	10	3	3	2		34
L8	3	2		10	2	1		18
L9	14	8	1	2	2	1		28
L10						1		1
L11		1		3		2	1	7
L12	1	3	1	2		1		8
L14						1		1
Fill Under Wall		2	2	2	4	2	2	14
Total	29	57	139	27	168	17	9	446
Unit 3	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L1	1	4		1	3	1		10
L2	3	5	2	3	27	1	1	42
L3	3	3	16	4	16	2	2	46
L4	3	3	30		17	1	1	55
L5	1	13	8	1	13	1		37

Table 5-3. Area 2 - Convento Courtyard, continued...

Unit 3	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L6		3	8	1	1	1		14
L7		2		1	3	1		7
L8	1	2	2		1	1		7
L9	6	3		3	1	1		14
L10	1	2			1	1		5
L11		2	1	2		3		8
L12		4		4		2		10
L13				4		2		6
L14		1		2		1		4
L15		2				1		3
Total	19	49	67	26	83	20	4	268
Unit 5	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L1					5		1	6
L2	2	3	5	3	9	1		23
L3	2	4	18		26	1		51
L4	3	3	13	1	23	1		44
L5	1	12	14	3	34	1		65
L6		1	7		19	2		29
L7	3	3	9		7	1		23
L8	7	2		1	6	1		17
L9	1	1			1	1	1	5
L10		2	2	2		1		7
L11		2		2	1	1		6
L12		2		1		1		4
L13		7		4	2	1		14
L14						1		1
Total	19	42	68	17	133	14	2	295
Unit 7	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L3		2	9	1	13	1	1	27
L4	1	1	24	2	13	1		42
L5	8	5	6	5	18	1		43
L6	5	3	18	13	17	1	2	59
L7	1	2	5	3	1	1		13
L8		3		2	9	1	1	16
L9	14	15	1	3	6	1		40
L10	1	1		4	1	1		8
L11		2				1		3
Total	30	34	63	33	78	9	4	251
Unit 8	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L1	2	2	9		24	1	1	39
L2	3	3	9		15	2		32
L3		4	12		74	1		91
L4	1	1	2		1	2		7
L5		1			4	1		6

Table 5-3. Area 2 - Convento Courtyard, continued....

Unit 8	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L6		2	2		6	1		11
L7	7	1	6	1	2	1		18
L8	5	1				1		7
L9	1	1		1		1		4
L10		1			1	1		3
L11		1			1	1		3
L12	1	2				1		4
Wall Fall	1	1	3		1			6
Total	21	21	43	2	129	14	1	231
Unit 10	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L1		4			1			5
L2		5	4		17	2	14	42
L3	2	13	10	13	25	2		65
L4	10	12	12		148	1	1	184
L5	3	3			10	2		18
L6		1			2	2		5
L7		2		1	2	1		6
L8	1	129			4	2		136
L9		3	1	1	3	2	1	11
L10	5	5		1	1	1	1	14
L11	7	28	4	6	2	2		49
L12	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	9
L13						1		1
Total	29	207	32	23	217	19	18	545
Unit 12	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L1		1	1					2
L2		13	16		9	6	1	45
L3		3	2		8	1		14
L4	1	2	6	1	9			19
L5	1	3			12	1		17
L6	1	2	3	3	3	1	1	14
L7	4	2	2	1	8	2	1	20
L8	1	2	2	21	26	2		54
L9		2		1		1		4
L10	1	3	1	1	1	2		9
L11	2	3		2	6	1		14
L12	1	2				1		4
L13		3	4	1	40	1		49
L14		1	3		1	1		6
L15		8				1		9
Wall Fall		2			2	1		5
Total	12	52	40	31	125	22	3	285
Grand Total	159	462	452	159	933	115	41	2,321
Percent of Total	7%	20%	19%	7%	40%	5%	2%	

Table 5-4. Area 2 - Convento Courtyard Unit Totals

Unit	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Grand Total
Unit 1	29	57	139	27	168	17	9	446
Unit 3	19	49	67	26	83	20	4	268
Unit 5	19	42	68	17	133	14	2	295
Unit 7	30	34	63	33	78	9	4	251
Unit 8	21	21	43	2	129	14	1	231
Unit 10	29	207	32	23	217	19	18	545
Unit 12	12	52	40	31	125	22	3	285
Grand Total	159	462	452	159	933	115	41	2,321



Figure 5-10. Unit 1, end of Level 15 at 150 cmbd (59 in.), view to the south.



Figure 5-11. Unit 1, Level 4, view of floor at 40 cmbd (15.7 in.).

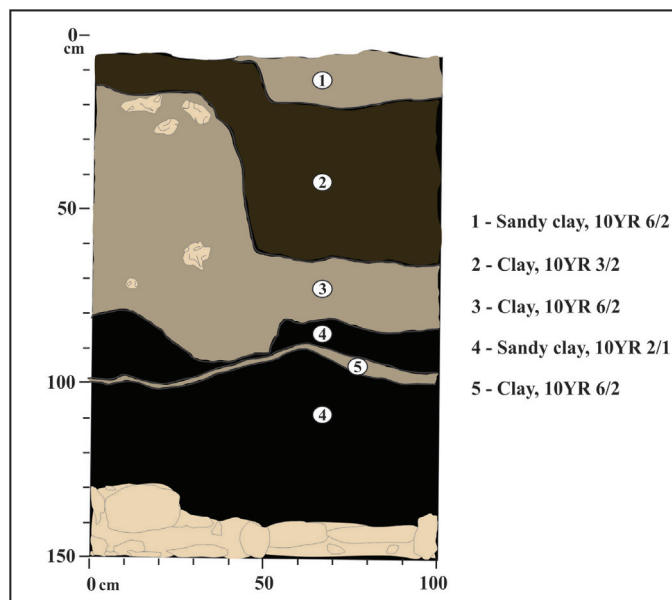


Figure 5-12. Unit 1, east wall profile.

Unit 3 was located along the south wall of the Convento Courtyard and excavated to 150 cmbd (59 in.). The datum was located just north of Unit 8 and set 15 cm (5.9 in.) above the surface. Two hundred and sixty-eight (268) artifacts were recovered, and almost one-third were metal objects (nails and unidentifiable material). The heaviest concentration of artifacts was recovered from between 10-50 cmbd (4-19.7 in.).

The number of ceramic sherds recovered from this unit was relatively low ($n=19$), with 11 recovered from Levels 1 through 5 (0-50 cmbd; 0-19.7 in.). Included in the collected sherds were European and Spanish Colonial ware, as well as one Native ware from between 20-30 cmbd (7.8-11.8 in.). Excavation of Levels 6 and 7 (50-70 cmbd; 19.7-27.5 in.) did not produce any ceramic sherds, but a few more European and Spanish Colonial sherds were recovered from Levels 8, 9, and 10 (70-100 cmbd; 27.5-39.3 in.). Although excavation of Unit 3 continued to 150 cmbd (59 in.), no additional sherds were recovered.

Unit 5 was located along the south wall of the Convento Courtyard and excavated to 140 cmbd (55 in.). The datum was located just north of Unit 11 and set 5 cm (2 in.) above the surface (note that Unit 11 was not excavated). Two hundred and ninety-five (295) artifacts were recovered. Nearly half of the artifacts were metal objects, such as nails and unidentifiable material.

The number of recovered ceramics was low ($n=19$) and limited to Levels 2 through 9 (10-90 cmbd; 4-35.4 in.).

Spanish Colonial ceramic sherds were recovered from Levels 2 through 9 and included two European wares from Level 7 (60-70 cmbd; 23.6-27.5 in.). The last six levels excavated, between 60-150 cmbd (23.6-59 in.), did not produce any ceramic sherds. A Guerrero point was recovered from Level 10 (90-100 cmbd; 35.4-39.3 in.). Artifacts recovered from these lower levels consisted of brick, plaster, nails, faunal material, and lithic material. The east wall profile of Unit 5 (Figure 5-13) shows evidence of trenching extending from the south wall of the unit between 5-56 cmbd (2-22 in.) and again between 90-130 cmbd (35.4-51.2 in.).

Unit 7 was located along the west wall of the Convento Courtyard and excavated to 110 cmbd (43.4 in.). The datum was located just north of Unit 8 and set 15 cm (5.9 in.) above the surface. Unit 7 was the last unit excavated and was started a week before adjoining Unit 1 was completed. Two hundred and fifty-one (251) artifacts were collected with most recovered from between 0-60 cmbd (0-23.6 in.). The majority of the recovered artifacts were shards of bottle glass and nails.

Brick, plaster, and animal bone fragments were recovered from all excavated levels. No ceramic sherds were in Level 8 (70-80 cmbd; 27.5-31.5 in.) or in Level 11 (100-110 cmbd; 39.3-43.3 in.). Artifacts recovered from Levels 8 and 11 consisted of brick, plaster, nails, and a metal button. No wall profiles of Unit 7 were produced.

Unit 8 was located adjacent to and west of Unit 7 and excavated to 140 cmbd (55 in.). The datum was located just north of

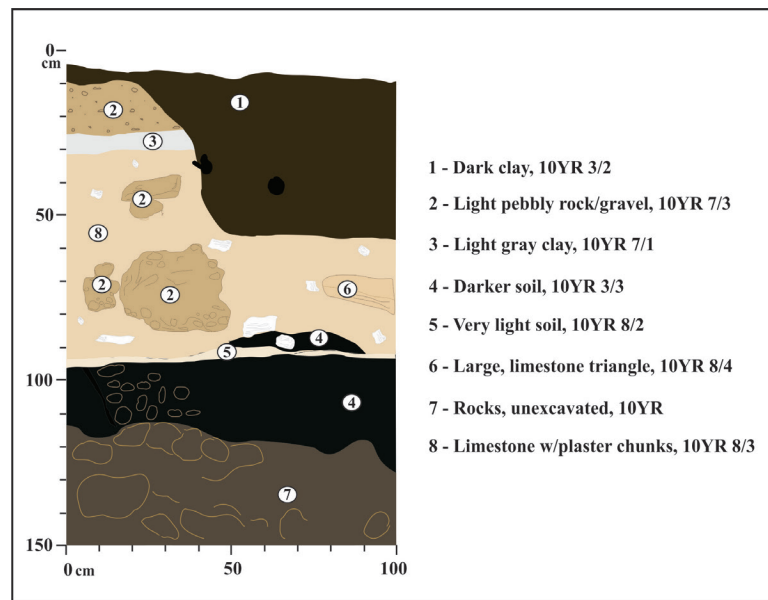


Figure 5-13. Unit 5, east profile.

Unit 8 and set 15 cm (5.9 in.) above the surface. Two hundred and thirty-one (231) artifacts were recovered, with two-thirds collected from the top 40 cm (15.7 in.). The artifacts from these upper-most levels consisted of a mix of construction debris, nails, bottle glass, ceramic sherds, and bone fragments. The artifact density declined considerably between 40-140 cmbd (15.7-55 in.). European and Spanish Colonial ceramic sherds were recovered from between 10-50 cmbd (4-19.7 in.). The recovered ceramic sherds from between 50-130 cmbd (19.7-51 in.) were exclusively Spanish Colonial.

A solid layer of limestone rocks was encountered between 110-114 cmbd (43.3-44.8 in.). These rocks continued into Level 14 (130-140 cmbd; 55-59 in.), at which point excavation ceased (Figure 5-14). As seen in the figure, the rocks made it difficult to excavate the final 40 cm (15.7 in.), and the ending elevations were between 132.5-137 cmbd (52.1-53.9 in.).

Unit 10 was located 1 m (3.28 ft.) west of Unit 8 and excavated to 130 cmbd (51 in.). The datum was located just north of Unit 11 and set 5 cm (2 in.) above the surface (Unit 11 was not excavated). In terms of volume, the highest concentration of artifacts in Area 2 was recovered from Unit 10 (n=545). Seventy-seven percent of the total recovered artifacts were construction and metal. Sixty-eight percent of the metal artifacts were recovered from Level 4 (30-40 cmbd; 11.8-15.7 in.), and 62 percent of the construction material was recovered from Level 8 (70-80 cmbd; 27.5-37.5 in.). A pronounced concentration of rock rubble was evident

at Level 6 (50-60 cmbd; 19.7-23.6 in.) and continued to the bottom of the excavation (Figure 5-15).

The majority of the recovered ceramic sherds were Spanish Colonial. A Native ware sherd and the top of a porcelain, electrical insulator were recovered from Level 4 (30-40 cmbd; 11.8-15.7 in.). Two examples of Spanish Colonial wares (Valero Red and La Bahia) were recovered from Unit 10. A uniface gunflint was among the unique items recovered from the unit.

Unit 12 was located 1 m (3.28 ft.) west of Unit 10 and excavated to 150 cmbd (59 in.). The datum was located just north of Unit 11 and set 5 cm (2 in.) above the surface (Unit 11 was not excavated). Two hundred and eighty-five artifacts (285) were recovered from this unit.

Very few ceramic sherds were collected from this unit (n=12). This represents four percent of the total number of artifacts collected in Unit 12. The sherd collection consisted of Native, Spanish Colonial, and European wares. There were no ceramic sherds collected from Levels 13 through 15 (120-150 cmbd; 47.2-59 in.). These last 30 cmbd (11.8 in.) produced an assortment of brick, mortar, plaster, flat glass, animal bone fragments, and 36 unidentifiable metal fragments. A thick layer of rock was encountered at 30 cmbd (11.8 in.), and it remained in place throughout the rest of the excavation. This layer of rock rubble, or possible wall fall, considerably restricted the excavation of Unit 12 (Figures 5-16 and 5-17).



Figure 5-14. Unit 8, floor at 150 cmbd (59 in.).



Figure 5-15. Unit 10, floor at 100 cmbd (39.3 in.).



Figure 5-16. Unit 12, floor at 80 cmbd (37.5 in.).



Figure 5-17. Unit 12, floor at 150 cmbd (59 in.).

The following series of graphs consider the recovered data in terms of distribution and artifact densities by level within Area 2. Figure 5-18 demonstrates a minor peak in Spanish Colonial and Native ceramics between 35-45 cmbd (13.8-17.7 in.), then a definite drop between 55-65 cmbd (21.7-25.6 in.) that is followed by a strong peak at between 75-95 cmbd (29.5-37.4 in.). In contrast, Figure 5-19 shows European ware with a peak at 35 cmbd (13.8 in.) and a definite close at 75 cmbd (29.5 in.).

The third graph represents the density of glass and is quite interesting in that it follows the pattern for European ware.

As with European ware, Figure 5-20 shows a peak in glass at 35 cmbd (13.8 in.), followed by a definite decline at 75-85 cmbd (29.5-33.5 in.). Figure 5-21 represents the percentage of bone by weight. The presence of bone at varying depths imitates that of European ware, with a minor peak at 35 cmbd (13.8 in.) and, similar to Spanish Colonial and Native ware, a strong peak at 85-95 cmbd (33.5-37.4 in.). These artifact density patterns certainly support the view that the strata, in the northwest quadrant, are somewhat intact, with the possibility of a Spanish Colonial deposit present at 80 to 100 cmbd.

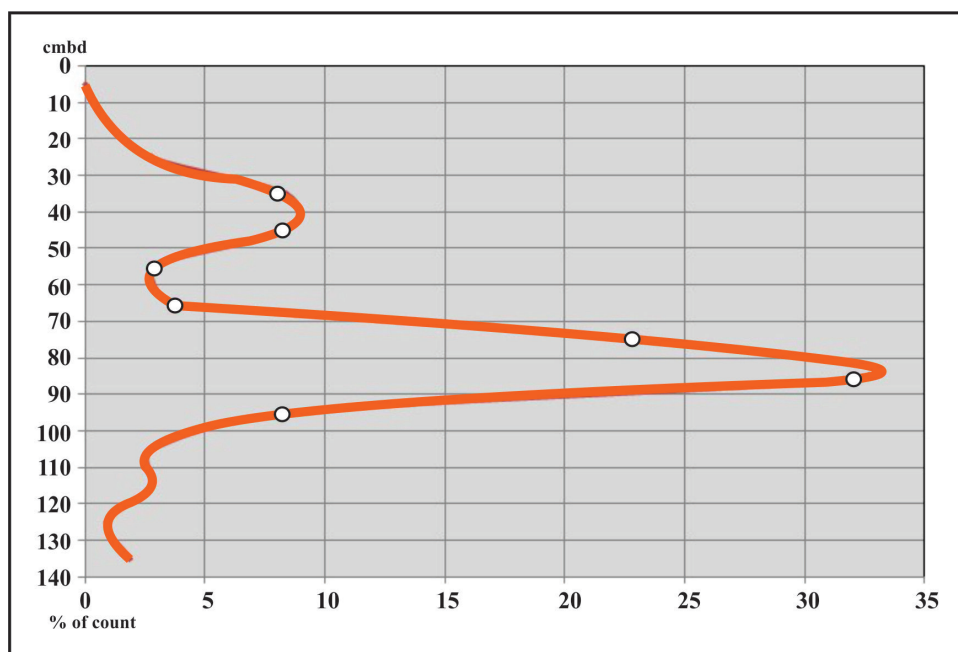


Figure 5-18. Artifact distribution pattern for Spanish Colonial and Native ceramics in Area 2.

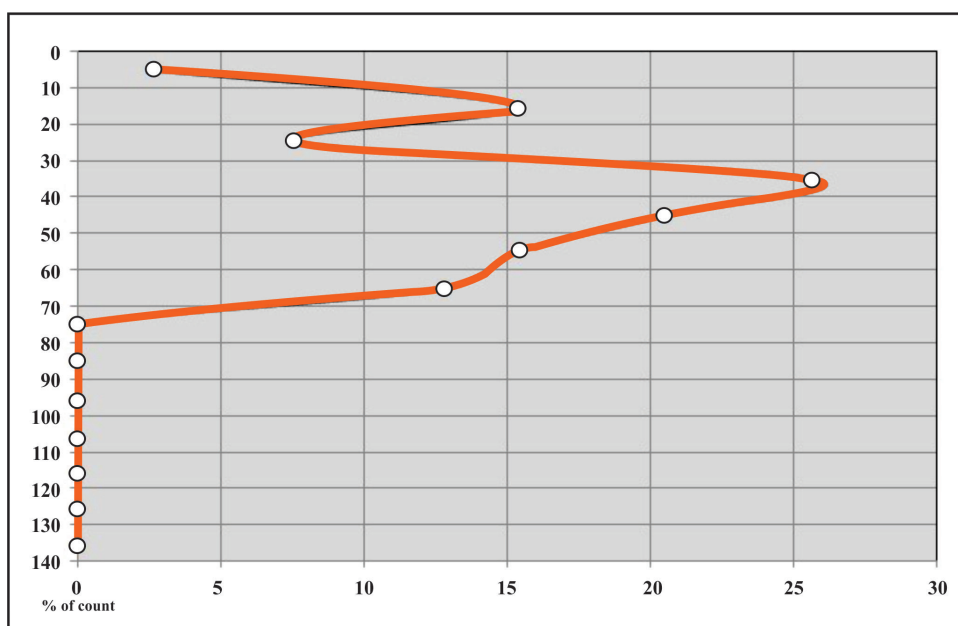


Figure 5-19. Artifact distribution pattern for European ceramics in Area 2.

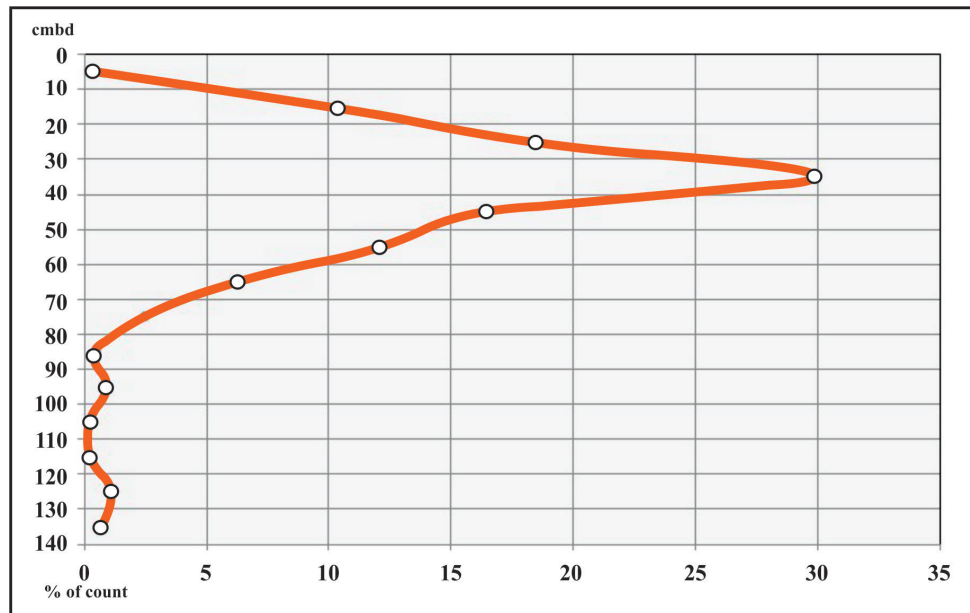


Figure 5-20. Distribution pattern for glass in Area 2.

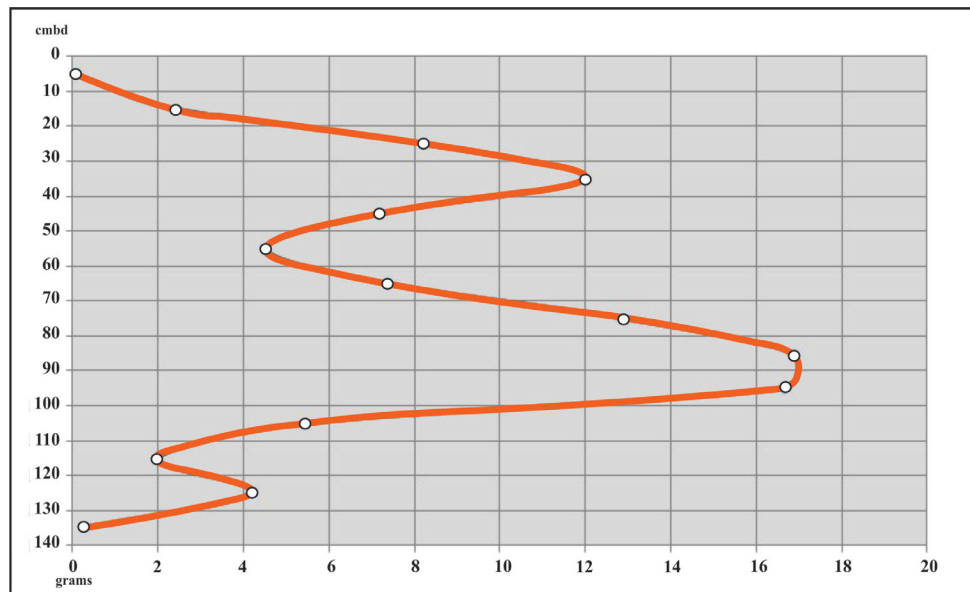


Figure 5-21. Artifact distribution pattern for bone (percent of weight) in Area 2.

Area 3 – Convento Courtyard

Only one test unit (Unit 14) was located in this area. Unit 14 was placed in a planting bed (similar to Area 1) and a few feet northeast of the well (Figure 5-22). As in Area 1, the planting bed contained a thick layer of mulch. One hundred and seventy-eight (178) artifacts were recovered from this area (Table 5-5).

Unit 14 was excavated to 140 cmbd (55 in.). The datum was set 5 cm (2 in.) above the surface at the northeast corner of the unit. Of the 178 recovered artifacts, 37 percent (n=65) were construction-related, and 20 percent (n=36) were metal. After removing the loose fill, the surface was found to be irregular with the center being 4 cmbd (1.6 in.). Level 1 was excavated to 10 cmbd (4 in.), exposing two soaker hoses and recovering construction material, glass, metal, and two 1995



Figure 5-22. Area 3, view to the northeast, Convento Courtyard (July 2016).

Table 5-5. Area 3 - Convento Courtyard

Unit 14	Ceramic	Construction	Glass	Lithic	Metal	Organic	Personal	Total
L1 (0-10 cm)		6	5		5	2	2	20
L2 (10-20 cm)		2	5		3			10
L3 (20-30 cm)	1	1	4	1	11			18
L4 (30-40 cm)	1	29			3			33
L5 (40-50 cm)		2	3		4		1	10
L6 (50-60 cm)	2	3	1		4		1	11
L7 (60-70 cm)		4			1	1		6
L8 (70-80 cm)		10		7		1		18
L9 (80-90 cm)	3	3		11	4	3		24
L10 (90-100 cm)	3		1	3		2		9
L11 (100-110 cm)				1				1
L12 (110-120 cm)	4	3		2	1	1		11
L13 (120-130 cm)		2		1		1		4
L14 (130-140 cm)	2					1		3
Grand Total	16	65	19	26	36	12	4	178
Percent of Total	9%	37%	11%	15%	20%	7%	2%	

pennies. The soaker hoses were pulled away from the unit. Excavation continued without anything of note until Level 5 (40-50 cmbd; 15.7-19.7 in.). A rock and rubble alignment was exposed at the bottom of Level 5. Glass, metal, and construction material were recovered from this level. Rocks were along the sides and corners of the unit, so excavation of Level 6 (50-60 cmbd; 19.7-23.6 in.) continued through the rubble fill. Levels 7 and 8 (60-80 cmbd; 23.6-31.5 in.) produced some construction and lithic material, but neither level included any ceramics. Excavation continued with a moderate number of artifacts recovered through Level 9 (80-90 cmbd; 31.5-35.4 in.). The artifact density then rose at Level 9 and included Native and Spanish-colonial ceramic sherds. The artifact density dropped again at Level 10 (90-100 cmbd; 35.4-39.4 in.), and then, only one item was recovered from Level 11 (100-110; 39.4-43.4 in.). Eleven artifacts were recovered from Level 12 (110-120 cmbd; 43.3-

47.2 in.), and the number diminished once more in Levels 13 (120-130 cmbd; 47.2-51 in.) and Level 14 (130-140 cmbd; 51-55 in.). Excavation ceased at Level 14. Only two ceramic sherds (Native and Spanish Colonial) and one bone fragment were collected from this last level.

The east wall profile of Unit 14 appears to indicate that the strata are intact; however, the artifacts recovered from Level 6 (50-60 cmbd; 19.6-23.6 in.) suggest otherwise. Among the recovered artifacts was a Spanish Colonial lead-glaze sherd, one European semi-porcelain sherd, and a 1981 penny. It could be that the lower levels between 60-140 cmbd (23.6-55 in.) are disturbed and imbedded with cultural material from nearby excavations. The artifacts recovered from these lower levels consisted of Spanish Colonial sherds, Native ware sherds, colonial-era brick, and a mold-blown glass base.

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Chapter 6: Summary and Conclusions

by José E. Zapata and Clinton M. McKenzie

Mission San Antonio de Valero (41BX6), the Alamo, has been in near continual use for close to 300 years. In addition to its original use as a Franciscan mission from 1724 to 1793, the Alamo was a Spanish and subsequently Mexican military encampment and hospital from circa 1803 to 1835. However, the Alamo is best known as the scene of the siege and battle of 1835 and of 1836. Essentially a ruin from 1836 until 1846, the Alamo again served as a military encampment for the U.S. and Confederate States of America from 1846 to 1878. The last quarter of the nineteenth century saw additional development and commercialization of the entire Alamo Plaza area. The northwest quadrant of the Alamo, as it exists today, and which is the focus of this study, was particularly impacted to varying degrees by all of these occupations and events.

Areas investigated during the 2006 UTSA Field School have been impacted by a variety of activities that have taken place over more than 250 years. It is apparent from prior excavations that an *acequia* dating to the early period of Valero (circa 1724-1730) was routed through a portion of the Calvary Courtyard (Ivey and Fox 1997:23). The area was also impacted by the 1836 battle fortifications as evidenced by the remains of a stockade trench identified in the Calvary Courtyard in 1979 (Ivey and Fox 1997). The U.S. Army use of the area is also evidenced by numerous postholes and what appears to have been a drainage ditch for their stables, and it is probable that the entire area was leveled by the Army at the time of their taking control of the property (Ivey and Fox 1997:40). The construction by Grenet as well as Hugo & Schmeltzer also impacted the APE with clear evidence of disturbance as a result of footing trenches and walls associated with that work (Ivey and Fox 1997:41). As mentioned in Chapter 2, the work of the DRT in the twentieth century had a number of major impacts on the APE, principally the destruction of the second floor of the original convento. Other DRT period impacts include the re-construction of the Long Barrack, the north wall of the convento (the current wall separates the two existing courtyards), and the north wall of the complex circa 1926. All of these undoubtedly affected any pre-existing or remaining deposits and account for both the presence/absence of features/deposits as well as their uneven distribution across the APE.

Several excavations have taken place in the northwest quadrant, but those of Greer (1967) are the only ones that were relatively near the 2006 UTSA Field School excavations. Unfortunately, the studies completed to date have been salvage operations. It has been the case that the

archaeology at the Alamo has been in response to areas of potential effect, where archaeology preceded planned ground disturbances. Given the extensive corpus of findings and artifactual evidence, it should not be too difficult to conceive of a systematic program of study that is not driven by construction projects.

Area 1 – Calvary Courtyard

The 2006 UTSA Field School excavations in Area 1 included Units 13 and 15, which were located approximately 2-3 m (6.6-10 ft.) south of the north wall of the Calvary Courtyard. In comparison, Greer's Area A excavations (1967) were 3-x-4.6 m (10-x-15 ft.) in dimension and located 3 m (10 ft.) south of the north wall. Greer's Area A was approximately 9 m (30 ft.) west of the 2006 Field School Area 1. The 1966 Area A excavations noted extensive wall rubble between 45.7-198.12 cm (18-78 in.) below the surface. These excavations also exposed the footing trench of the east-west aligned north wall of the colonial courtyard that was extant at the time of the 1836 battle. Greer (1967:101) suggests that the extensive rubble may be attributable to the Mexican Army's scuttling of the entrenchments and fortifications as they abandoned the site in May 1836. Units 13 and 15 did not encounter any wall rubble in 2006, but it appears from the archival record this area is 2-4 m (6.6-13 ft.) outside the eastern boundary of the original Alamo courtyard. The 2006 excavations did expose a thin ashy lens at 70 cmbd (27.5 in.) lying above a 10-cm (4-in.) layer of limestone cobbles. A stratum of dark sediments and artifacts was beneath the cobbles and persisted from 80-150 cmbd (31.5-59.6 in.) ending with a layer of limestone rubble. This might also explain why the Unit 13 strata was so heavily disturbed.

Based on the recovered ceramic sherds, there is a notable amount of disturbance in Unit 13. A Spanish Colonial sherd was recovered from Level 3 (30-40 cmbd; 11.8-15.7 in.), followed by European wares in Level 4 (40-50 cmbd; 15.7-19.7 in.), then more Spanish Colonial sherds below that, and another European ware sherd in Level 13 (130-140 cmbd; 51-55 in.). In contrast, the Unit 15 stratigraphy appears intact. European ware sherds were collected solely from Level 2 (20-30 cmbd; 7.9-11.8 in.). Spanish Colonial and Native ware sherds were collected from between 30-120 cmbd (11.8-47.2 in.). The intact deposits found by Greer (1967) and the 2006 Field School suggest that culturally significant deposits exist in this area, in spite of the recurring impacts from development.

There were only two features recorded as a result of this study, both in Area 1. Feature 1 was observed and recorded in Unit 13, Levels 6, 7, and 8 (60-90 cmbd; 23.6-35.4 in.). Located along the northwest corner of the unit, Feature 1 was elliptical in shape (20-x-23 cm; 7.8-x-9 in.) and 22-cm (8.6-in.) thick. Feature 1 was composed of a dark grayish brown clayey soil with charcoal inclusions. Feature 1 has several possible interpretations. It most likely represents either a small trash pit or colonial-era posthole, given its relatively narrow horizontal diameter, vertical extent, and its position within the intact Spanish Colonial deposits that persist from 40-150 cmbd (15.7-59.6 in.).

Feature 2 was observed and recorded on the eastern half of Unit 15, Level 9 (90-100 cmbd; 35.4-39.3 in.). Although only 5-cm (2-in.) thick, the horizontal extent of Feature 2 was 40-x-60 cm (15.7-x-23.6 in.). Feature 2 consisted of two different soils; a light colored soil with flecks of charcoal, encircled by a dark loose soil with inclusions of charcoal and burnt bone. Feature 2 is clearly of colonial age as the level above and below contain colonial period artifacts. Most likely, the Feature 2 deposit represents a shallow trash or midden deposit.

Area 2 – Convento Courtyard

The area at the southwest corner of the Convento Courtyard had not previously been archaeologically investigated. Units 1 and 7 abutted the east wall of the convento (Long Barrack), and Units 1, 3, and 5 abutted the south wall of the Convento Courtyard.

Based on an analysis of the recovered ceramic sherds, only Unit 1 and Unit 8 of the seven excavated units in Area 2 appear to contain intact deposits. Unit 1 was located at the interior corner against both the east and south walls. The Unit 1 strata appear to be intact based on the recovered ceramic sherds. All other classes of recovered artifacts from Unit 1 support this assumption with the exception of a 1993 penny recovered from Level 11 (100-110 cmbd; 39.3-43.3 in.). This same level produced mortar/plaster, lithic, and faunal material indicative of colonial association. Given that the rest of the Unit 1 levels seem undisturbed, it could be that the 1993 penny may be wall fall from a higher level or that the coin was tossed into the unit by one of the numerous visitors to the Alamo compound.

Unit 8 was diagonally adjacent to Unit 1 (see Figure 5-1). Despite their close proximity and the presence of intact deposits, the artifact densities per unit do not show any definitive associations or patterns between the units. Unit 1 had the second highest number of recovered artifacts in

Area 2 (n=446), while Unit 8 had the lowest count (n=231). Additionally, the artifacts in Unit 8 appear to be dissimilar to those of Unit 1. Unit 8 had the highest percentage of metal objects recovered in Area 2 (55.8 percent) and the lowest percentage of lithic material (0.9 percent).

Unit 1 and Unit 8 demonstrate the presence of intact deposits, and their uneven distribution, within Area 2. Additional excavations will be necessary to articulate and explain the differential nature of their deposits.

There was a fair amount of limestone wall rubble associated with the Area 2 excavation, in particular Units 8, 10, and 12 (see Figures 5-14, 5-15, and 5-16). The rubble was extremely dense in the lower levels of Unit 12, which limited the excavation. This limestone rubble is most likely debris from the convento construction subsequently used to fill and level the Convento Courtyard. The rubble deposits are not evenly distributed across the units and are found persisting to significant depth, which also supports the conclusion that they are not structural in and of themselves nor do they represent wall collapse from a later period.

Area 3 – Convento Courtyard

Unit 14 was the only unit excavated in Area 3. The unit was located in a planting bed approximately 15 m (50 ft.) northeast of the well in the center of the courtyard and approximately 0.5 m (1.6 ft.) south of the east-west courtyard wall.

The Unit 14 stratigraphy was not intact. A mixture of European, Native, and Spanish Colonial ware sherds were recovered from Level 6 (50-60 cmbd; 19.6-23.6 in.) and included a 1981 penny. Level 5 (40-50 cmbd; 15.7-19.6 in.) was consisted of a pale brown clay and included large rocks, and Level 6 (50-60 cmbd; 19.6-23.6 in.) contained a pale brown silty clay with 50-70 percent gravel. There was no evidence of trenching, so the mixing must have occurred sometime during site improvements.

Greer (1967) excavated a 0.9-x-1.5 m (3-x-5 ft.) unit, designated Area E, approximately 6 m (20 ft.) east of Unit 14 and adjacent to the courtyard wall. Greer (1967) reports that Area E was excavated to sterile clay, but he does not indicate final depth. Considering that Greer's Areas B and C were sterile at about 100 cmbs (39 in.), it is the CAR's assumption that Area E was of a similar depth. Greer (1967:8) noted that very few artifacts were recovered from Area E. Unit 14 encountered similar deposits at similar depths and had minimal artifact recovery. Unit 14 had the lowest number of artifacts (n=178) recovered during the 2006 Field School.

In summary, only three of the 10 excavated units appear stratigraphically intact (Units 1 and 8 in Area 2 and Unit 15 in Area 1). Although this might seem discouraging, it was evident that in nine of the 10 units (Unit 13 being the exception) Spanish Colonial deposits were generally intact below 60-70 cmbd (23.6-27.5 in.). Both of the recorded features were found in the intact Spanish Colonial deposits below 60-70 cmbd (23.6-27.5 in.). These intact deposits are presumed present across the courtyard below this depth, and this is in agreement with the findings of Fox (1977, 1992) and Ivey and Fox (1997). The recurrent site developments and impacts help explain the considerable disturbance within the top 60-70 cm (23.6-27.5 in.) of the courtyard. However, as Units 1, 8, and 15 demonstrate, a few areas have intact stratigraphy from surface to 150 cmbd (59 in.). The upper deposits appear to be composed predominantly of mixed fill and include deposits that are the product of numerous trenches and landscape feature impacts.

Area 1 excavations demonstrate that intact deposits are present along the interior north wall of the current Calvary Courtyard. The Area 2 excavations did not provide substantial information regarding the construction of the convento's east elevation wall and the Convento Courtyard's south perimeter wall. Likewise, Area 3 provided evidence that the sampled deposits were mixed from top to bottom (0-60 cmbd; 0-23.6 in.). The three areas investigated illustrate the numerous impacts that have occurred within the APE throughout its historic use from 1724 to the present day. The investigations demonstrate there are areas of intact deposits still present both vertically and horizontally. It appears that between 40 and 60 cmbd much of the Spanish Colonial deposits remain across the site and in association with known colonial structural remains. For this reason, it is anticipated that archaeologically viable deposits can still be encountered that will help further define both the early mission period as well as later events.

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