

Archaeological Monitoring and Sampling Excavations at Mission Concepción (41BX12), San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



by

Leonard Kemp

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9420

REDACTED

Principal Investigator
Raymond Mauldin

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



Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Archaeological Report, No. 486

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Abstract:

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) was contracted by Pugh Constructors, Inc. to monitor and sample excavations associated with the installation of a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC) for the church at Mission Concepción (41BX12) in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The Area of Potential Effect is approximately 11 m². The mission is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). It is also a component of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and is administered jointly by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

The project required review by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) as the property is listed as a SAL under the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 9, Chapter 191, and Section 191.092, as amended). The THC awarded Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9420 to Dr. Raymond Mauldin of CAR for the investigation. An Archaeological Resources Protection Act permit was not required, though the NPS will have final review authority on the project.

CAR monitored the excavation for utility trenches, HVAC units, and concrete footers for a decorative fence on June 4 and 5, 2020. A small number of artifacts were collected from the main utility trench, and all artifacts were collected from the footer excavations. The artifacts included faunal bone, ceramics, lithics, burned rock and burned clay, and modern glass. No features were observed in any of the excavations. While the area has been heavily impacted by previous construction, there appear to be pockets of intact deposits based on the results of two of the auger excavations that contained undisturbed soil and artifacts in stratigraphic context. If future ground disturbing activities are to take place in this area, CAR recommends that the activity be monitored.

Prior to final curation, in accordance with Chapter 26.27(g) (2) of the Antiquities Code of Texas, CAR requested permission from NPS and THC to discard artifact classes that have no remaining scientific or historical value (such as non-feature burned rock, non-diagnostic glass, unidentifiable metal, etc.). All remaining recovered artifacts and project-related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR curation facility. All artifacts will be entered into the NPS Interior Collections Management System (ICMS) used by NPS to manage the curatorial collections for Mission Concepción. The project accession number is 2293.

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The author would like to thank all who participated in this project. They are Clint McKenzie, who identified the ceramics, Michelle Carpenter, who analyzed the faunal, and Raymond Mauldin, who identified the lithics. In addition, Cynthia Munoz, curator and lab manager, processed the artifacts and paperwork in accordance with NPS protocols. This report is the result of multiple contributors including Raymond Mauldin and Kelly Harris, who reviewed and edited the document, and Peggy Wall, who produced the figures. A special shout out to the late Bruce Moses of CAR who created the original figures upon which Figure 2-2 is based. Thanks to Susan Snow of NPS and Emily Dylla of THC for reviewing and providing comments. Finally, thanks to Felipe Lopez and Michael Norman of Pugh Constructors for logistical support during this project.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) was contracted by Pugh Constructors, Inc. to monitor and sample excavation associated with the installation of a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system for the church at Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña (41BX12; hereafter referred to as Mission Concepción) in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The mission is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a Texas State Antiquities Landmark (SAL), and a United

Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site (NPS 2020; THC 2020). The property is located within the Mission Concepción National Register District (THC 2020). It is also a component of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and is administered jointly by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Archdiocese of San Antonio (Las Misiones 2020; NPS 2020). The Mission Concepción Church has been an active parish church since 1913 (personal communication with Deacon Ray Jimenez of Mission Concepción).

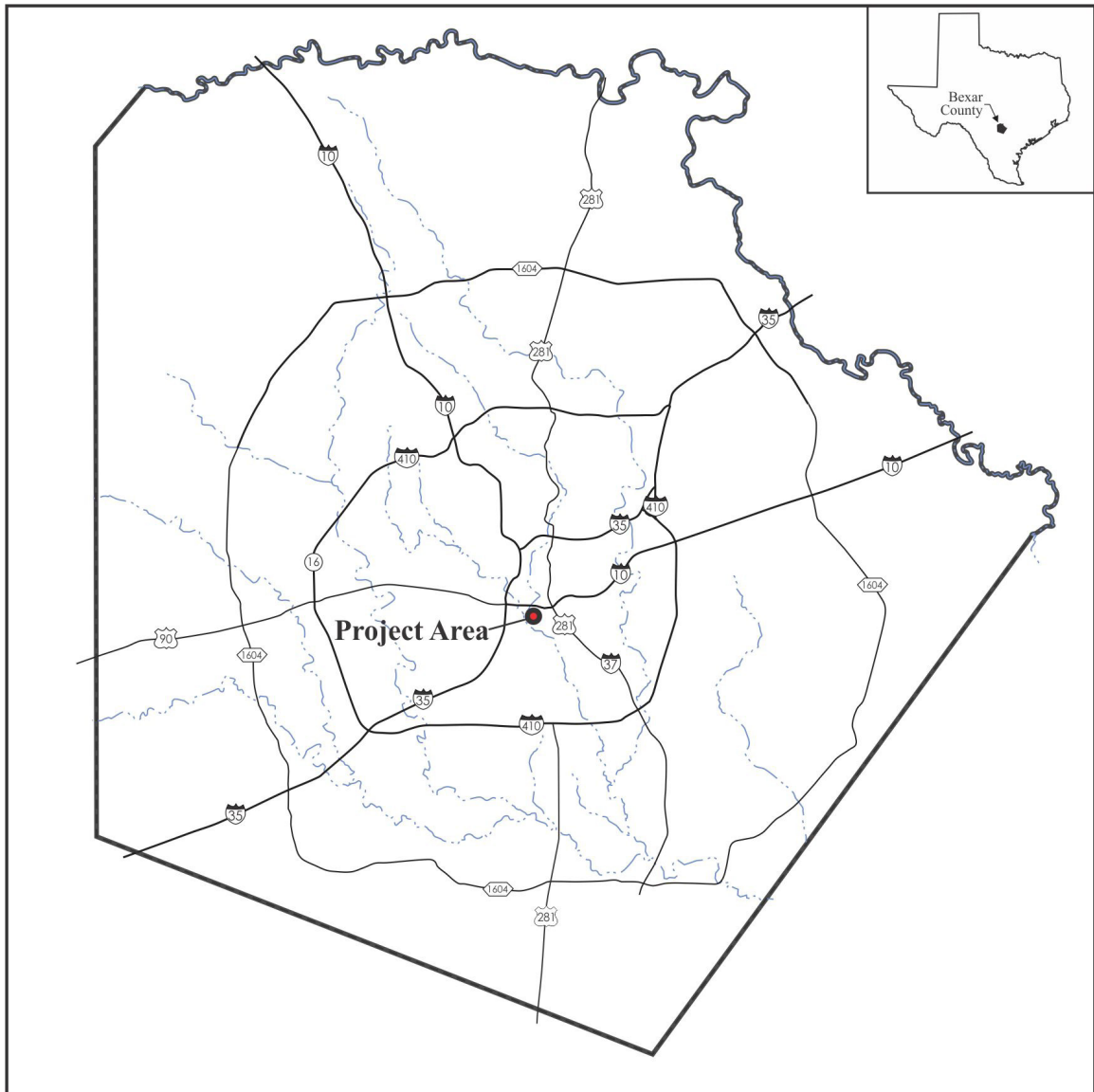


Figure 1-1. The location of Mission Concepción in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

The project required review by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) as the property is listed as a SAL under the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 9, Chapter 191, and Section 191.092, as amended). The THC awarded Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9420 to Dr. Raymond Mauldin, Director of CAR, who served as the Principal Investigator. Mr. Leonard Kemp, also of CAR, served as Project Archaeologist. Susan Snow of the NPS in conversations with Dr. Mauldin stated that the scale of work is such that an Archaeological Resources Protection

Act permit was not required, though the NPS will have final review authority on the project.

Area of Potential Effect

Mission Concepción is located at 807 Mission Road south of downtown San Antonio (Figure 1-2). The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located on the south exterior wall of the church between the southern tower and the transept (Figures 1-3 and 1-4). The former heat pump and condensing units

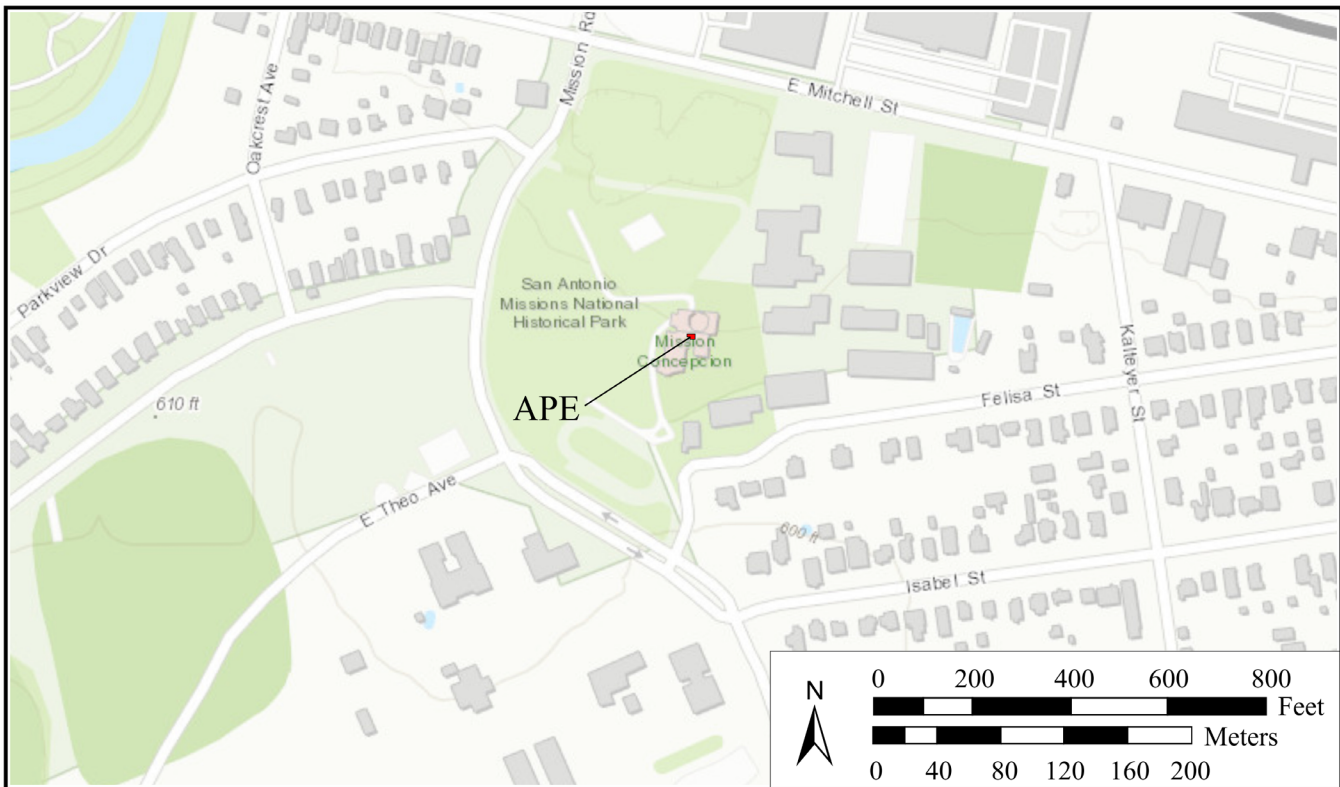


Figure 1-2. Topographic map showing the location of Mission Concepción and the APE.



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Figure I-3. Schematic layout showing Mission Concepción, the APE (in red), and the excavations (in blue).

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Figure 1-4. View to north of the APE.



Figure 1-5. Former air conditioning and heating units in east portion of the APE.

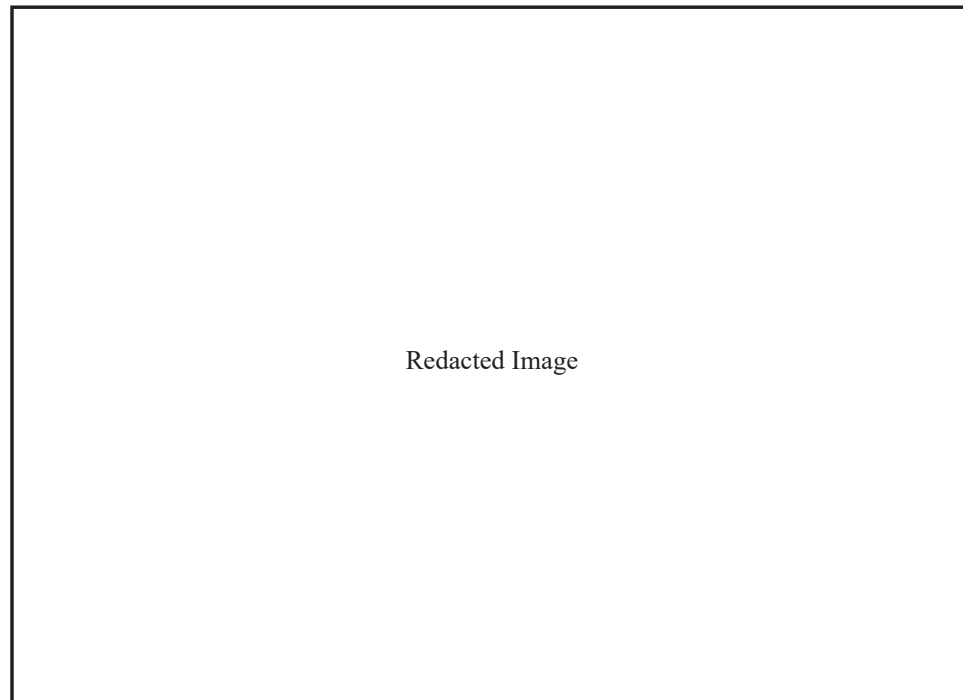


Figure 1-6. Layout of pad excavations. The concrete footers would be placed in front of these excavations.

along with associated electric and refrigerant lines were found in this location (Figure 1-5). The APE is defined by the ground disturbing activities associated with the installation of the new HVAC system. Figure 1-6 shows the pad excavations in which the concrete footers would be placed. The APE is approximately 11 m².

Project Results

CAR monitored the excavation for utility trenches, HVAC units, and concrete footers for a decorative fence on June 4 and 5, 2020. A small number of artifacts were collected from the main utility trench, and all artifacts were collected from the footer excavations. The artifacts included faunal bone, ceramics, lithics, burned rock and burned clay, and modern glass. No features were observed in any of the excavations. While the area has been heavily impacted by previous construction, there appear to be pockets of intact deposits based on the results of two of the auger excavations that contained undisturbed soil and artifacts in stratigraphic context.

Prior to final curation, in accordance with Chapter 26.27(g) (2) of the Antiquities Code of Texas, CAR requested permission

from NPS and THC to discard artifact classes that have no remaining scientific or historical value (such as non-feature burned rock, non-diagnostic glass, unidentifiable metal, etc.). All remaining recovered artifacts and project-related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR curation facility. All artifacts will be entered into the NPS Interior Collections Management System (ICMS) used by NPS to manage the curatorial collections for Mission Concepción. The project accession number is 2293.

Report Organization

This report contains five chapters with the first describing the statutory rationale for the project, the project personnel, and the definition of the APE. Chapter 2 provides a brief overview of the project setting and history of Mission Concepción. It also describes the previous projects in the vicinity of the APE. Chapter 3 presents the field and laboratory methods used during the project. Chapter 4 summarizes the project results. Chapter 5 is a summary of the project, and it provides recommendations for future work in the area.

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Chapter 2: Project Setting and History of the Mission

This chapter begins with a brief environmental setting of the Mission that includes modern and historical climate data as well as a review of the geology, soils, and hydrology that enabled the mission to prosper as a community. The second section is a brief history of Mission Concepción and its development from the eighteenth to the early nineteenth century. A thorough history of this mission and the four others mission in San Antonio can be found in Ivey (2018). Kemp (2019) provides a summary of the post-mission period into the mid-twentieth century for Mission Concepción. The reader should also consult Fisher (2016) and Ivey (2018) for detailed information regarding the history of the mission. The chapter concludes with a summary of past projects specific to the APE.

General Environmental Setting

The region surrounding Mission Concepción is characterized as a moderated sub-tropical, humid climate with mild winters and hot summers (Taylor et al. 1991). The average temperature from 1981 to 2010 was 20.7 °C (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association [NOAA] 2020), and average annual precipitation was 81.96 cm per year. The wettest periods occurring in May and June and again in September and October, producing 25% and 22.1% of the annual rainfall, respectively (NOAA 2020). The driest period of the year is December through February averaging 4.62 cm of precipitation per month (NOAA 2020).

Bexar County is divided into four ecological regions (Gould et al. 1961). These regions are the Edwards Plateau in the northern portion, the Blackland Prairie in the central portion, the South Texas Plains to the south, and the Post Oak Savannah in a small portion found in south and southeast Bexar County. Mission Concepción is located in the Blackland Prairie. The Blackland Prairie is composed of two swaths of tall grass prairies with the western prairie running south to north from San Antonio to the Red River. The prairie is dissected by drainages that enable a riparian environment in which deciduous trees and other water consuming plants will grow.

Project Setting

Mission Concepción sits on an outcrop of caliche bedrock, a landform described by Taylor and colleagues (1991:17) as hilly, gravelly land. Quarries are often found within this landform as is the case for the quarry located on the grounds

of Mission Concepción. The caliche bedrock also provided a stable base for the stone foundations found of the mission (Fox 1989).

The soils surrounding the mission are the Venus-Frio-Trinity soil association (Taylor et al. 1991). Soils are deep, calcareous clay loams and clays found on bottom lands and low terraces along streams and creeks (Taylor et al. 1991:6). The low terraces can be cultivated for producing crops that include small grain, grain, sorghum, corn, and flax (Taylor et al. 1991:7). The bottomlands could be utilized as pastures or for pecan orchards (Taylor et al. 1991:7). From the Spanish Colonial period into the late nineteenth century, the grounds surrounding the mission were farmed (Ivey 2018).

The Mission is located 1.4 km east of the confluence of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek. Both were perennial waterways originating from artesian springs emanating from the Edwards Aquifer (Arnow 1963). The San Antonio River served as a source and drainage for Mission Concepción's irrigated fields and other water needs (Ivey 2018).

History of Mission Concepción

The colonization of what becomes Texas begins with the first permanent settlement in 1718 near the San Pedro Springs. It consisted of presidio, an official villa, and a mission. The mission process was the means to establish Spanish control and pacify the frontier. This procedure consisted of establishing self-sufficient missions with Native populations under the control of friars (Lightfoot 2005). The friars would proselytize and train the populace to farm or teach them other trade skills necessary for self-sufficiency (Lightfoot 2005). This, in essence, created Spanish subjects and led to the establishment of a village (pueblos; Lightfoot 2005). In return for this service, the Spanish Crown was to supply and protect the missions during this process.

In 1716, Mission Concepción was founded by Franciscans of the College of Santa Cruz de Querétaro along the Angelina River in East Texas, in present-day Nacogdoches County (Ivey 2018). The mission was intended to serve the Hainai, a tribal member of the Hasinai Caddo Confederacy (Ivey 2018). The East Texas missions were beset by multiple difficulties that included supply problems, drought, disease, conflict with the French, and Natives who already practiced farming (Chipman and Joseph 2010). By 1727, the cost of maintaining

and defending the missions outweighed the benefits, and the Querétaran missions were moved in 1730 to the Colorado River near the current location of Austin (Chipman and Joseph 2010). The missions were also unsuccessful in this location and petitioned to be relocated to San Antonio, which was granted by the Spanish Crown.

In 1731, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Mission San Francisco de la Espada were moved to San Antonio (Ivey 2018). Mission Concepción was located east of the confluence of San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River between the current location of Mission Valero to the north and Mission San José to the south. This location may be the former site of Mission San José and definitively Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nájera that operated 1722-1726 (Ivey 2018). The selection of this location may be, in part, because of this past mission infrastructure as well as the presence of what would become Concepción Acequia (Ivey 2018). While created much later, the Menchaca map of 1764 (Figure 2-1) shows the locations of these missions, the acequias (irrigation ditches) that supplied water, and the presidio/villa of San Antonio.

At the beginning, the Mission Concepción community was composed of approximately 300 individuals (Casteñeda 1936). Campbell and Campbell (1985:14-21) estimate that 33 different native groups lived, at one time or another, at Mission Concepción based on its surviving marriage record. Habig (1968:126) reports that a 1739 epidemic reduced the population from to 250 to 120 residents.

Initially, the friars of Mission Concepción built simple and expedient structures to provide immediate housing for residents and shelter for supplies (Ivey 2018:52). The development of fields for farming and repairing/improving the acequia were essential tasks and took precedence. Based on Scurlock and Fox's 1971 investigations, Ivey (2018) suggests an adobe church, convento (buildings that serve as the residences of the friars), and other structures were the first substantial structures to be built and completed in the mid-1730s. In 1735, the current stone church was begun by a master mason and completed in 1755 by another master mason (Ivey 2018). The stone convento was also started around the same time as the church and rebuilt beginning in 1754 (Ivey 2018). A stone constructed granary was begun in 1744 and completed by 1750s (Ivey 2018).

Habig (1968:135) citing a 1762 report by Fr. President Mariano de los Dolores y Vianna, stated that from 1731 to that date 792 natives were baptized and 558 were buried as Christians. The population in 1762 numbered 207 individuals (Habig 1968:135). After that time, the Mission Concepción population began to gradually decline. The Querétaran mission was transferred to the College of Zacatecas in 1772,

and as a result, an inventory was conducted that provides a description of the mission. The mission consisted of a stone vaulted church with two bell towers and a dome, a stone vaulted sacristy, a stone vaulted convento, a granary, a community storeroom, a blacksmith's shop, and a weaving shop (Ivey 2018:2287-294). There were 24 residential houses constructed of stone (Ivey 2018:295), and there were two corrals, one for horses and another for cattle (Ivey 2018:295-296). The mission was enclosed by stone walls and wooden palisades (Ivey 2018:295-296). The 1772 inventory suggests that major construction at the mission was completed. By 1786 the mission is enclosed by a square stone and adobe walls with three gates (Ivey 2018:301).

A 1789 report by Fr. Joseph Francisco López recorded 71 individuals at Mission Concepción, with 17 married couples, 22 children, and 15 unmarried individuals (Habig 1968:138). This decline in population is attributed to smallpox. However, by the late eighteenth century all five missions were experiencing population declines due to lack of new initiates (Habig 1968). In 1794, the secularization of Mission Concepción began with the distribution of mission land, houses, tools, and livestock to the remaining 38 individuals at the mission (Habig 1968; Ivey 2018). A portion of the mission land was set aside for taxes and as communal land. The church, sacristy, and convento were transferred to Mission San José (Ivey 2018).

Previous Archaeology

In the mid-1930s, Harvey Smith and the Works Progress Administration documented several wall portions south of the church (Ivey and Fox 1999). Smith's drawing of the foundations has been the starting point for subsequent investigations in this area. The following section focuses primarily on the architectural features in what is called the courtyard that encompasses the APE (Figure 2-2). Specific to the current work seven projects or portions of projects have been conducted in the courtyard. These projects are Scurlock and Fox (1977), Fox (1988, 1989), Krueger and Meskill (1992), Ivey and Fox (1999), Miller and Meissner (2001), and Figueroa and Tomka (2009). These investigations have documented foundation remnants of the stone convento, original mission structures constructed with adobe, middens, and hearth features, as well as human burials.

The first professional archaeological work at Mission Concepción was undertaken by the Office of the State Archeologist in 1971 and continued into 1972 (Scurlock and Fox 1977). Two units were placed in the courtyard area. The first, Test Pit 12, was placed south of the sacristy exterior wall. It contained a clay floor, adobe brick, and possible post molds (Scurlock and Fox 1977:42). Scurlock and Fox

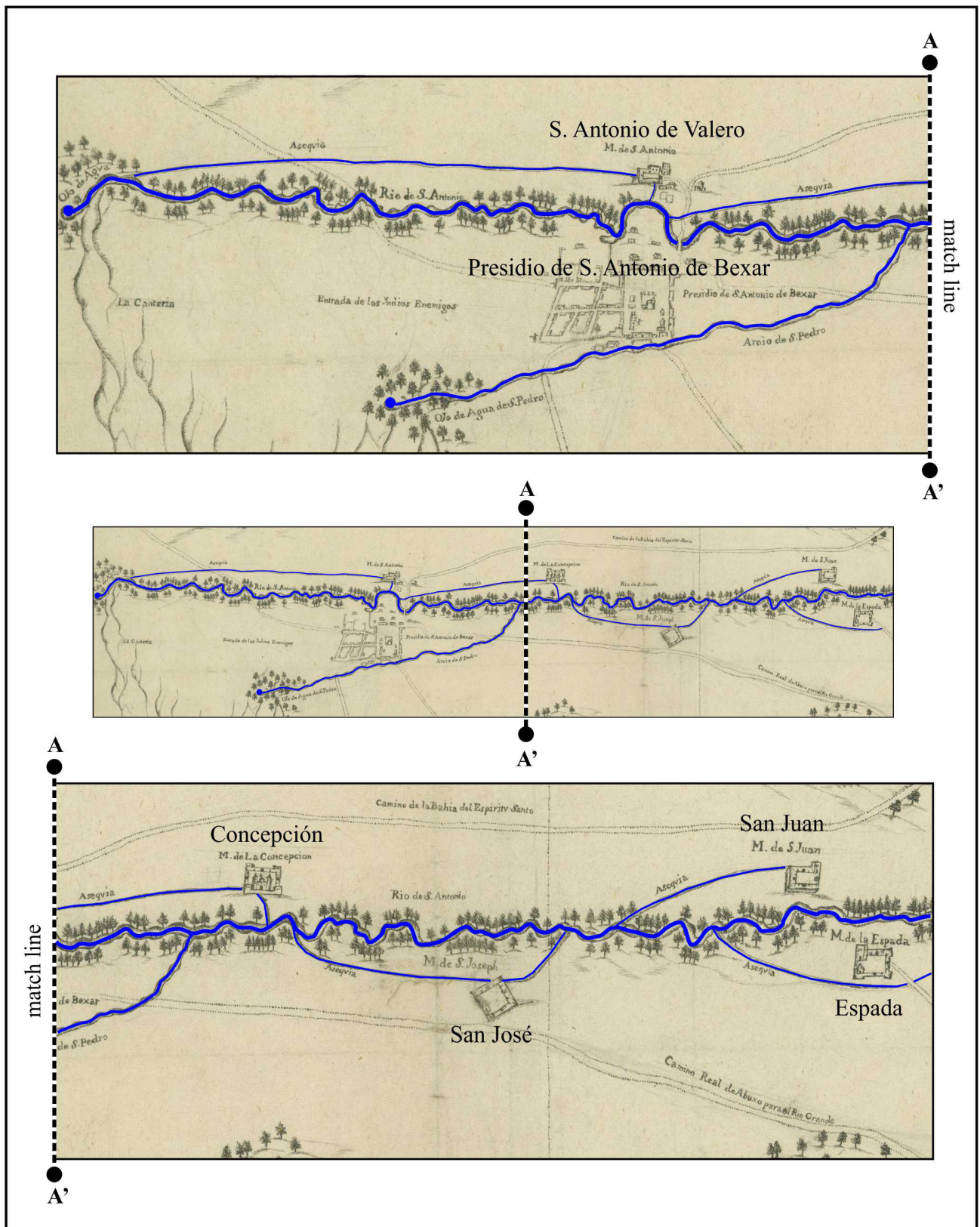
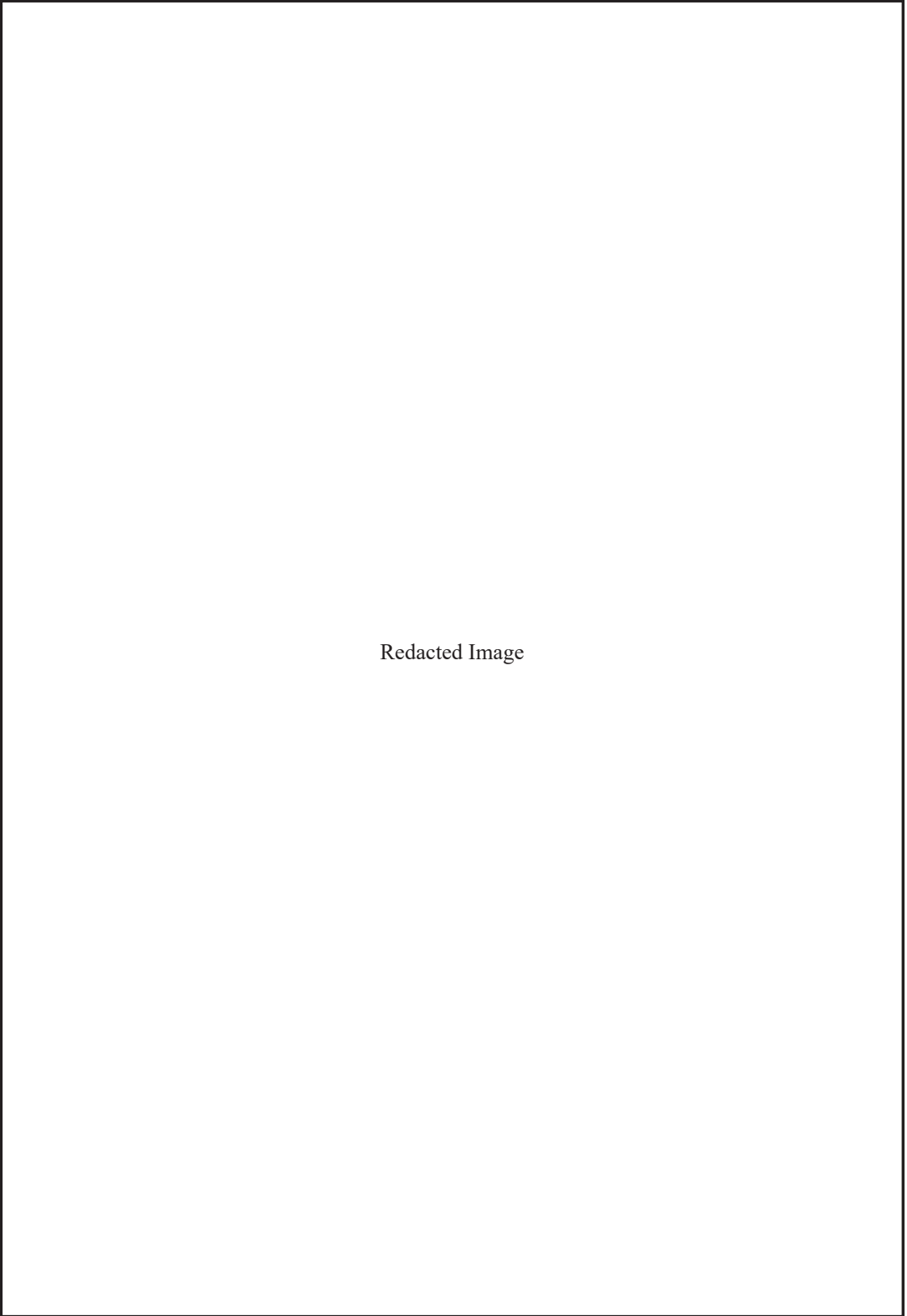


Figure 2-1. The Menchaca map of 1764 showing the communities of San Antonio and the five missions (Carter Brown Library; Kemp et al. 2020:Figure 3-1).



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Figure 2-2. Location of past excavations in the courtyard area of Mission Concepción. The APE is in red (after Figueroa and Tomka 2009:Figures 3-3 and 4-1).

(1977) report finding a midden and possible hearth (Feature 5) in Test Pit 13. This unit was located under ruins of the stone staircase to the south bell tower. The unit contained a charcoal concentration, burned bone, and burned limestone fragment at 46 cm below the surface (cmbs; Scurlock and Fox 1977:43).

Ivey and Fox (1999) reported on the 1980 excavations that are associated with what is called the granary. They found three convento wall blocks as well as adobe walls that predate that convento construction (Ivey and Fox 1999:16). The remnants of the first church, consisting of adobe floors and rubble, were found in the kitchen area. They also documented seven burial pits that were found below this floor.

In 1986, CAR returned to Mission Concepción excavating 11 units (Fox 1988). This work was undertaken prior to remediation of flooding between the sacristy and the convento. The north and south walls of the convento were documented, and archaeologists also found that utility lines had impacted the same north wall (Fox 1988). In 1988, CAR monitored the excavation for air conditioning and heating units (Fox 1989). These are the same units that that are being replaced during the current project. A portion of the first convento wall was found during this monitoring (Fox 1989).

In 1990, an additional investigation was undertaken by CAR to provide a more accurate assessment of foundation wall and other features in the courtyard area (Krueger and Meskill 1992). Three areas were targeted. The investigation revealed the western granary wall and buttress (Krueger and

Meskill 1992:17). A midden was also found (Krueger and Meskill 1992:17). The investigation revealed that the eastern convento wall was not an arcade but a continuous wall (Krueger and Meskill 1992:16). Finally, the investigation revealed that the first convento did not extend beyond the eastern wall of the second convento (Krueger and Meskill 1992:16). It was also noted that the western portion of the courtyard was more impacted than the central area (Krueger and Meskill 1992:17).

In 2000, CAR excavated four units in the courtyard area for a project to stabilize the walls and floors found within the courtyard (Miller and Meissner 2001). The investigation was to determine floor depths. They found that floor remnants were still present in all the units (Miller and Meissner 2001). However, all were impacted by past activities that made identification of floors difficult (Miller and Meissner 2001:9).

CAR conducted two field schools, one in 2002 and one in 2005, to facilitate the installation of a drainage system in the courtyard (Figueroa and Tomka 2009). The field school excavations were supplemented by volunteer Saturday excavations, two summer camp sessions, and the excavation of six trenches. Six architectural alignments and five features were documented during the project. These alignments defined the east wall of the existing convento and the structural remains of the granary (Figueroa and Tomka 2009). In addition, to wall alignments, two colonial-era hearths, prepared floors, and trash pits were documented (Figueroa and Tomka 2009).

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Chapter 3: Project Methods and Requirements

This chapter describes the field and laboratory methods used during the project in consultation with NPS and THC. It provides information concerning the final disposition of recovered artifacts and project records. The chapter concludes with a brief review of the reporting requirements to complete the permit.

Field Methods

Prior to construction, the project lead, Ana Nau of Ford Powell and Carson Architects conducted a project meeting to acquaint personnel representatives of Pugh Constructors, Inc., Mission Concepción Church, NPS, and other sub-contractors including CAR. During this meeting, NPS and CAR discussed the archaeological role and concerns relating to the project.

As per the Scope of Work, any ground disturbing activities were monitored by the Project Archaeologist. Ground disturbing activities included the monitoring of trenching and the replacement with new Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) utilities into that existing trench. The HVAC installation, which required the excavation of two shallow rectangular areas to serve as pads for the new units, was also monitored. Only diagnostic artifacts and bone were collected from these excavations.

The final component of the project involved the construction of a decorative fence to obscure the HVAC units from the sight of visitors. This required the excavation by mechanical auger for three concrete footings to support the fence. The third auger excavation encountered in-service utilities. The excavation was stopped and the utilities buried, and a fourth auger hole was excavated. The excavation was done in 20 cm levels with the soil processed through a quarter-inch wire-mesh screen and bagged by level. All artifacts were collected during this sampling.

The archaeologist documented the monitoring activities with a standardized form that included the size and depth of excavations, soil observation, and a tally of any collected artifacts. The auger component was documented using a modified excavation form that included soil description, disturbances, and listing of artifacts collected by level. Artifacts recovered during the project were bagged, labelled by provenience, individually numbered, and recorded in

a field log. A soil profile was drawn for each of the auger holes documenting soil type, color, any inclusions, and/or any disturbances.

The documentation of activities was supported by digital photographs taken throughout the project. The photographic data was downloaded, and a log was created to describe the images. The excavation locations were also recorded with a Trimble GPS unit. The GPS data was processed by a GIS technician, differentially corrected leading to the creation of GIS shape files. Unfortunately, the area is enclosed on three sides by stone walls, which affected the accuracy of the point locations.

No prehistoric or historic features were found during the project. A small number of artifacts were recovered during monitoring and screening of the auger matrix. Artifacts recovered during the project included faunal bone, construction material, ceramics, and lithics. The CAR bio-archaeologist examined the faunal bone to ensure that no human remains were present.

Laboratory Methods and Analysis

All records generated during the project were prepared in accordance with federal regulations 36 CFR Part 79 and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Following a field check by the Project Archaeologist, all material including records and artifacts were processed by the lab manager. Artifacts were washed (if appropriate), air dried, and stored in separate bags by provenience. All recovered artifacts were analyzed with their associated information and attributes entered into an Excel database. Ceramics were identified by Clinton McKenzie of CAR, lithics by Raymond Mauldin, construction material identified by Leonard Kemp and faunal remains by Michelle Carpenter.

Prior to final curation, in accordance with Chapter 26.27(g) (2) of the Antiquities Code of Texas, CAR requested permission from NPS and THC to discard artifact classes that have no remaining scientific or historical value. These artifacts included, but not limited to, non-diagnostic glass, construction material, and non-feature burned rock. CAR will curate all records related to the discarded material and the discard procedure.

Curation

All remaining artifacts will be placed in individual 4 mil zip-locking, archival-quality bags with a laser printed label containing provenience information and a corresponding lot number. All artifacts larger than a quarter will be labelled with laser printed tags containing the artifact's site number, and its catalog number will be placed over a clear coat of acrylic and covered by another acrylic coat. Artifacts will be separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes. Any materials needing extra support will be double-bagged, and acid-free labels will be placed in all artifact bags. If necessary, these artifacts will be separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes that are labeled with standard tags.

All field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings will be placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs will be printed on acid-free paper, labeled and placed in archival-

quality page protectors to prevent accidental smearing due to moisture. Finally, following completion of the investigation, all recovered artifacts and project-related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR curation facility. All artifacts will be entered into the NPS Interior Collections Management System (ICMS) used by NPS to manage the curatorial collections for Mission Concepción.

Reporting

Following fieldwork, CAR prepared this draft copy which includes all pertinent project information and recommendations based on field and artifact analysis necessary to close the Antiquities Permit. CAR will submit the draft to NPS and THC for comments, which will be included in the final report. An abstract of the final report will be submitted to the THC, and the report will be printed and distributed as required by THC permit regulations.

Chapter 4: Project Results

Archaeological monitoring of excavations and sampling of the test augers took place on June 4 and 5, 2020. This chapter provides the results of the investigation. It includes a summary of the artifacts recovered from these excavations and concludes with a project summary.

Monitoring for the excavation of the previous refrigerant and electrical lines for the original air conditioning and heating units took place on June 4. The trench was excavated by a hand-held electric shovel. It was 8.5 m long, approximately

50 cm wide, and 50 cm deep. The trench began at the junction box on the exterior of the transept (Figure 4-1), followed the previous utilities, and terminated under the stairs west of the south tower (Figure 4-2). The excavation encountered electrical and gas utilities coming from the south and the concrete footings for the original air conditioning and heating units (Figure 4-3). The excavation was approximately 0.9 m from the nave wall and 0.4 m from the nave wall buttress. Neither the wall nor buttress was impacted by excavation (Figure 4-4).



Figure 4-1. The excavated trench running to the west.



Figure 4-2. The excavated trench running to the east.



Figure 4-3. The completed excavation showing the new utilites running to the east under the stairs into the building. Concrete footings for the original air conditioning and heating units are on the left.



Figure 4-4. The completed excavation showing the new buried utilites running west into the church transept.

The soils in this trench contained a mixed deposit of artifacts including Spanish Colonial ceramics, faunal bone, tile, modern brick, modern glass, a modern coin, plaster, painted plaster, and mortar fragment. Only the ceramics, faunal bone, and painted plaster were collected from the excavation. Figure 4-5 shows a representative section of the north wall of the trench created in Agisoft 3D software. Soils are a mix of sandy clay and silty clay ranging in Munsell color 10YR4/1

to 10YR4/2. Caliche was found in the bottom of trench 45 to 50 cm below the grade.

On June 5, holes for the concrete footing for the decoration fence were mechanically excavated by an electric auger (Figure 4-6). The diameter of the auger was 40 cm and excavated to 90 cmbs. The excavation matrix was screened in 20 cm levels. An excavation form was completed for each

Redacted Image

Figure 4-5. Representative section of north wall of the refrigerant and electrical utilities trench. Inset shows the location of the trench.

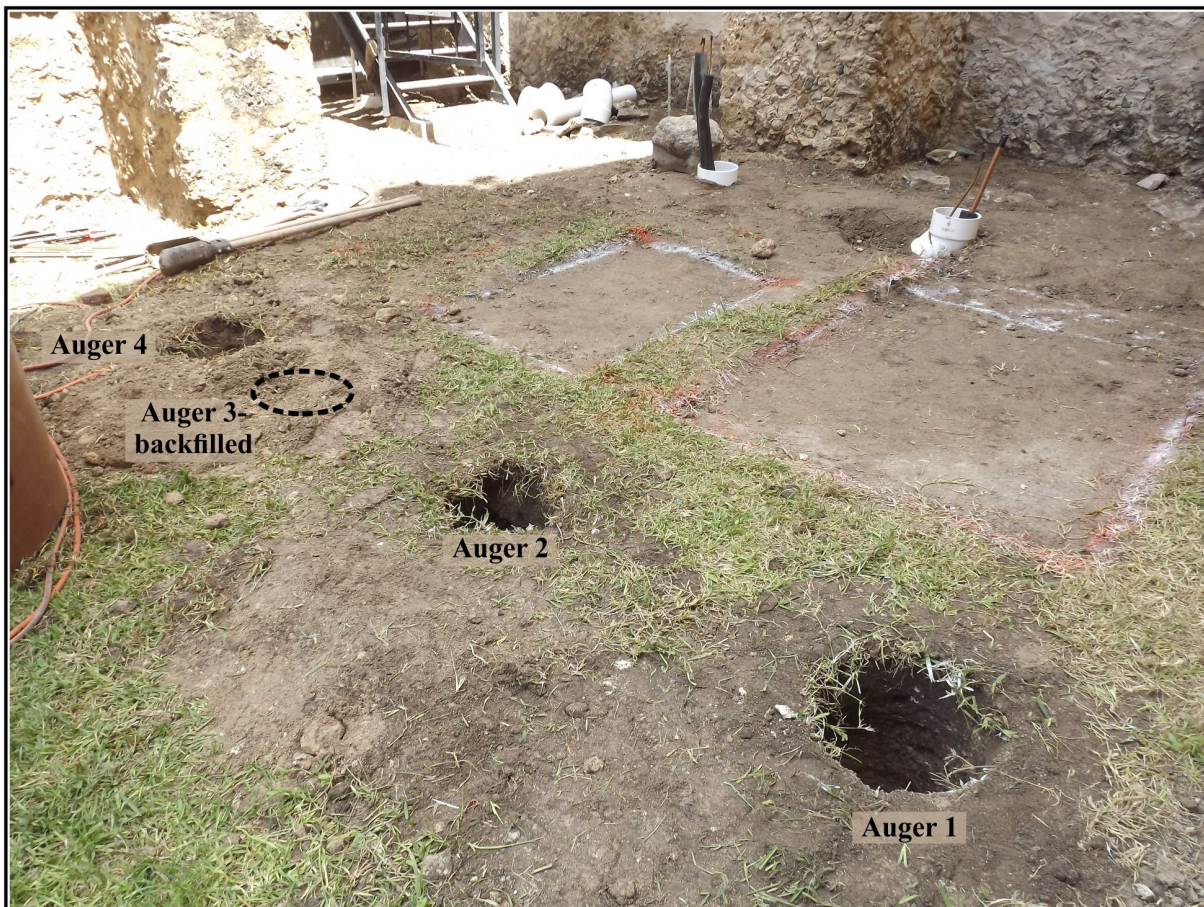


Figure 4-6. Location of auger excavations relative to church building and previous utility construction (view to the northeast).

level, and all artifacts were collected from the screen. Auger 3 encountered buried utilities, and excavation was terminated at 40 cmbs. Auger 4 was excavated to the east Auger 3. No features were observed during these excavations.

Artifacts recovered from the auger excavations included Spanish Colonial ceramics, lithics, burned rock, burned clay, faunal bone, brick or tile, and window glass. Table 4-1

summarizes artifacts recovered from each auger. No artifacts were found in Auger 3. Auger 1 encountered pipe at 60 cmbs, while Auger 3 encountered utilities at 15 and 40 cmbs. Figure 4-7 is schematic of the auger profiles with soil description and colors. Auger 2 contained a silty clay in the upper level (0-30 cmbs) followed by a caliche or mortar mix 30-40 cmbs over sandy clay (Figure 4-8, left). There was not enough exposure to determine if this was natural (degraded caliche)

Table 4-1. Artifacts Recovered from Augers 1, 2, and 4

Level and Depth (cmbs)	Recovered Artifacts		
	Auger 1	Auger 2	Auger 4
1 (0 to 30)	faunal bone; window glass	faunal bone	brick/tile; faunal bone; debitage; Spanish Colonial lead glazed ceramic
2 (30 to 60)	faunal bone; brick/tile; core; Spanish Colonial lead glazed and unglazed ceramic	faunal bone; edge modified flake	faunal bone
3 (60 to 90)	none	faunal bone; burned rock; burned clay, mortar/plaster	faunal bone

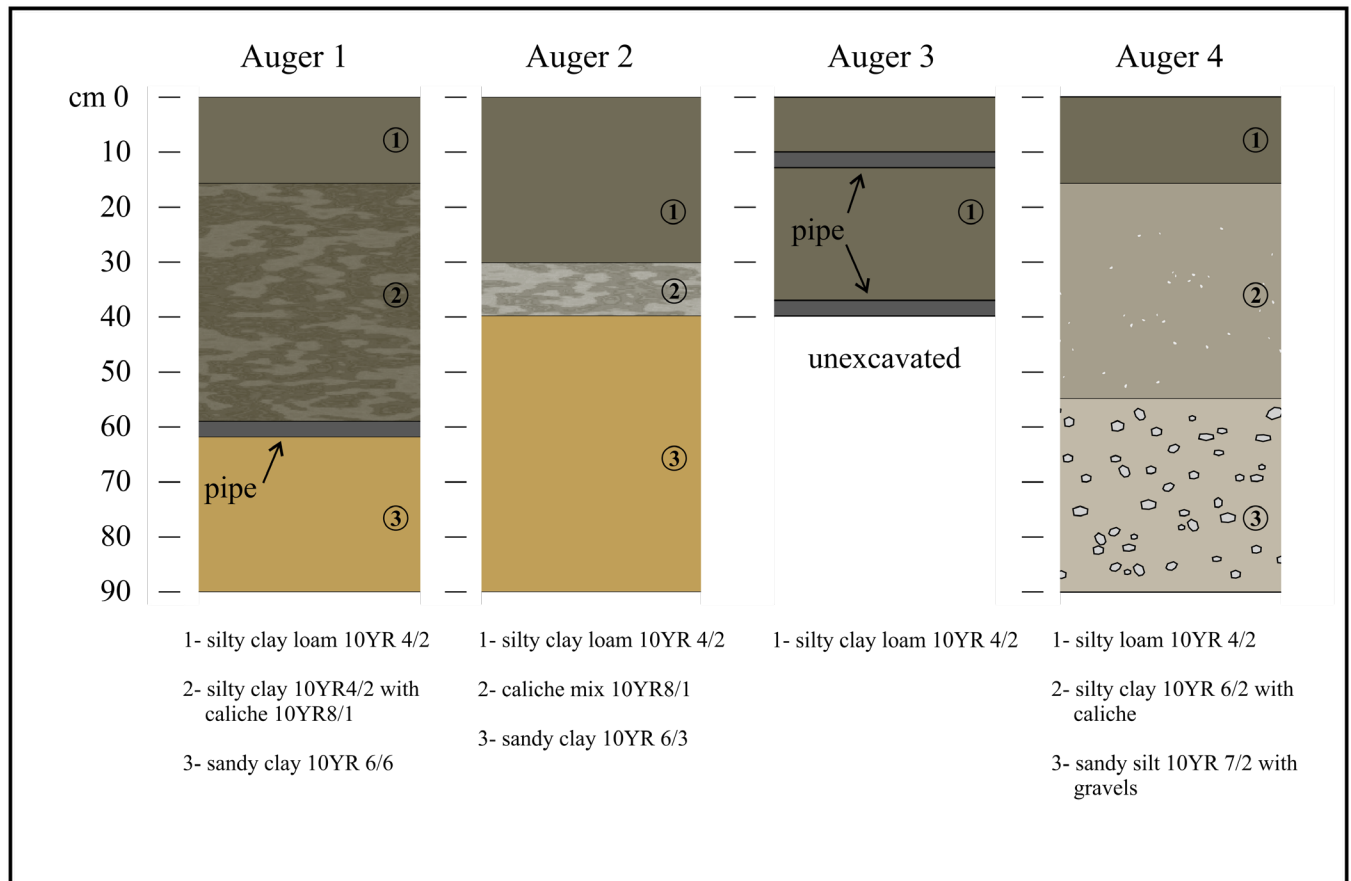


Figure 4-7. Soil profile of Augers 1 through 4.

or mortar melt. Auger 4 was composed of 15 cm of silty loam over a sandy silt with caliche with a lens of gravels 60-90 cmbs (Figure 4-8, right). Augers 2 and 4 appear relatively intact with no out of context artifacts or soils, while Augers 1 and 3 have been impacted by construction for past utilities.

In addition to sampling the auger excavations, CAR monitored excavations for two concrete pads for the placement of the HVAC units and a utility line running between the two pads (Figure 4-9). Pad 1 is 2 m long, 1.25 m wide, and 0.15 m deep. Pad 2 is 0.8 m long, 1.25 m wide, and 0.15 m deep. The



Figure 4-8. Profiles of Auger 2 (left) and Auger 4 (right).



Figure 4-9. Left: excavation of Pad 1 with utility in place; view to the south. Right: completed pad excavation with dash line showing buried utility line.

utility line is 2.2 long, 0.2 m wide, and 0.2 m deep. The soils in this area silty loam (10YR 4/3). Artifacts recorded, but not collected, included brick and limestone fragments.

Artifacts

The current project collected a small number of artifacts including faunal bone, ceramics, lithics, construction material, wire nail, and a clear glass window fragment. Table 4-2 summarizes the collected artifacts. The assemblage is dominated by faunal bone, which is not uncommon in Spanish Colonial contexts (Meissner 2009:Table A-5).

Faunal bone was identified to species and element with observations made as to whether it was cut, burned, or if effected by another process. Unidentified bone by weight was approximately 33.44% of the sample. The unidentified bone had 16 pieces with cut marks, two pieces that were burned, and one piece that appeared to be polished.

The remaining 66.56% of the bone by weight was identified to three species: *Bos taurus* (domestic cattle), *Odocoileus virginianus* (white-tailed deer), and *Tayassu tajacu* (javelina). Cattle dominated the identified bone accounting for 86.9% (n=20) by count, followed by deer with 8.69% (n=2), and a

single element identified as javelina. All the cattle bone were post-cranial elements with 12 elements derived from the front and back legs. Sixteen of the cattle bones have cut marks, and three bones evidence rodent gnawing. The deer elements (n=2) are composed of a distal humerus with cut marks and a phalange. The javelina element was a rib fragment.

Spanish Colonial ceramics account for 4 of the 5 ceramics recovered from the project (Figure 4-10). The Spanish Colonial ceramics were identified as Galera, Yellow and Green Glaze I, burnished, and a fragment of unglazed ware. The remaining fragment was identified as Native Goliad ware. The ceramics date from the early eighteenth into the nineteenth century (Fox and Ulrich 2008; Tomka et al. 2013). Lithics included a chert core, edge modified flake (Figure 4-11), and a piece of debitage.

Summary

Monitoring and sampling of excavation for the HVAC system at Mission Concepción produced a small number of artifacts including faunal bone, ceramics, and lithics. The majority of artifacts come from disturbed contexts resulting from prior construction. However, Augers 2 and 4 appear to be relatively intact deposits. This suggests that additional intact deposits may still exist in this area.

Table 4-2. Recovered Artifacts from the Mission Concepción HVAC Project

Artifacts	Count and Weight (if applicable)
Faunal Bone	158 (1467.29 g)
Ceramics	5
Lithics	3
Burned rock/Burned Clay	2 (7.82 g)
Brick/Tile	2
Plaster	2 (30.22 g)
Wire nail	1
Window fragment	1

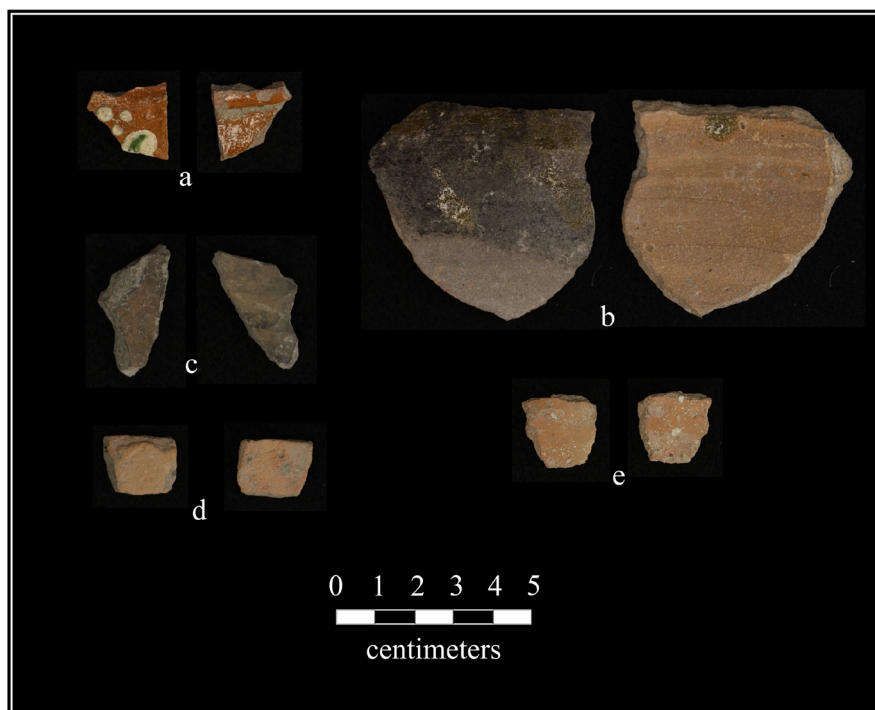


Figure 4-10. Ceramics collected during the project include Spanish Colonial ware: a) Galera, b) Yellow and Green Glaze I, c) burnished, and d) unglazed, and a single fragment of Native ware, e) Goliad.

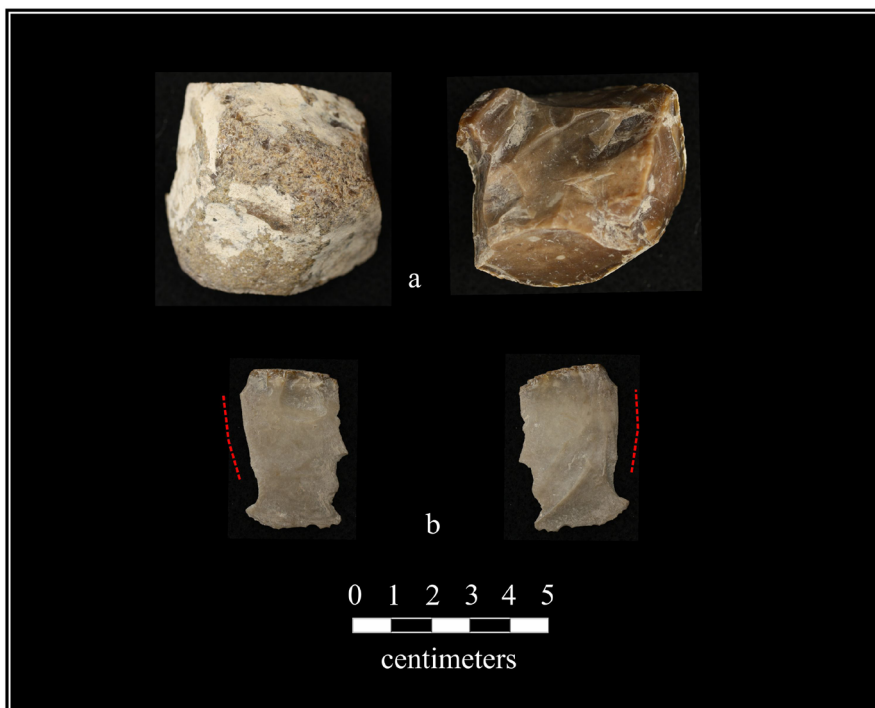


Figure 4-11. Lithics collected from the site include: a) a core and b) an edge modified flake (the worn edge is marked by the red dashed line).

Chapter 5: Project Summary

CAR was contracted by Pugh Constructors, Inc. to monitor and sample excavations associated with the installation of a new HVAC system for the church at Mission Concepción (41BX12). The project required review by the THC as the property is listed as a SAL under the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 9, Chapter 191, and Section 191.092, as amended). The work was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9420. An Archaeological Resources Protection Act permit was not required, though the NPS will have final review authority on the project.

CAR monitored the excavation for utility trenches, HVAC units, and concrete footers for a decorative fence on June 4 and 5, 2020. A small number of artifacts were collected from the main utility trench, and all artifacts were collected from the footer excavations. The artifacts included faunal bone, ceramics, lithics, burned rock and burned clay, and modern glass. No features were observed in any of the

excavations. While the area has been heavily impacted by previous construction, there appear to be pockets of intact deposits based on the results of two of the auger excavations that contained undisturbed soil and artifacts in stratigraphic context. If future ground disturbing activities are to take place in this area, CAR recommends that the activity be monitored.

Prior to final curation, in accordance with Chapter 26.27(g)(2) of the Antiquities Code of Texas, CAR requested permission from NPS and THC to discard artifact classes that have no remaining scientific or historical value (such as non-feature burned rock, non-diagnostic glass, unidentifiable metal, etc.). All remaining recovered artifacts and project-related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR curation facility. All artifacts will be entered into the NPS Interior Collections Management System (ICMS) used by NPS to manage the curatorial collections for Mission Concepción. The project accession number is 2293.

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