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Archaeological and Historical Investigations at 41BX180, Walker Ranch, San Antonio, Texas: Phase I

Anne A. Fox

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Archaeological and Historical Investigations at 41BX180, Walker Ranch, San Antonio, Texas: Phase I

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS
AT 41 BX 180, WALKER RANCH,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS:

PHASE I

ANNE A. FOX

Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Archaeological Survey Report, No. 83
1979
ABSTRACT

In May 1979, the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, conducted preliminary investigations at site 41 BX 180, a group of historic limestone ruins located on the Walker Ranch in northern Bexar County, Texas. A history of ownership of Walker Ranch is included. Archaeological investigations of three structures and associated artifacts are described. An appendix discusses the faunal material from the site.
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We are especially appreciative of the support of Bob Folsom of Folsom Investments, Inc., of Dallas; the Texas Historical Commission for providing the funding for this project; and the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation for initiating and coordinating the project. General William Harris, Chairman of the Bexar County Historical Commission, and Curtis Tunnell, State Archeologist, have been instrumental in arranging for the funding. Katherine McDowell of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Research Library has provided historical information and encouragement. Joe Hewett of Harry Jewett Associates has taken a personal interest in the project, and his help is much appreciated also. Ganahl Walker has been helpful in providing family background and enthusiastic support of our efforts.

Overall supervision for the project was provided by Dr. Thomas R. Hester, Director, and Jack Eaton, Associate Director of the Center for Archaeological Research. The crew consisted of the author as Field Director, with the assistance of James Ivey, Augustine Frkuska and Herbert Uecker. Volunteers Betty Markey and Shirley Van der Veer also contributed to the success of the project. Lois Flynn identified the faunal material and wrote the discussion in the Appendix.
INTRODUCTION

In May 1979, the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, entered into a contract with the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation to conduct preliminary investigations at site 41 BX 180, a group of historic limestone ruins located on the Walker Ranch in Bexar County, Texas. The work was financed with $2,250 made available by Folsom Investments, Inc. of Dallas and a matching National Register grant of $2,250 from the Texas Historical Commission.

The project is intended as the first phase of an intensive investigation of the site necessitated by its recent exposure to increasing vandalism. The Walker Ranch, for many years protected from encroaching subdivisions, is now under intensive development in the area immediately surrounding the historic site, and for the first time the ruins are exposed to public access. Walls which once stood about 10 feet high (Ganahl Walker, personal communication) have now been reduced by vandals to four feet and lower (Fig. 1,a).

This first phase of work was intended as an eight-day field survey, testing and recording operation in preparation for a more intensive phase of historical research and excavations in the near future. The intent of the entire project will be to document the complete history of the site, and to recover detailed architectural and artifactual information which will enable us to reconstruct the building sequence and cultural history of the site, with the reluctant acceptance of the fact that this information will probably not be available for recovery in the future.

PREVIOUS WORK

Site 41 BX 180 has been carefully guarded and protected by the Walker family throughout this century (Ganahl Walker, personal communication). In 1971, a group from Trinity University was allowed to conduct test excavations within the ruins, but no records are available from these efforts. In 1973, test excavations and mapping were carried out at the Walker Ranch by the Texas Historical Commission, at which time a number of test pits were excavated within and around the ruins (Scurlock and Hudson 1973; Hudson, Lynn and Scurlock 1974). These efforts resulted in a large area of the ranch being designated a National Register District, in order to protect both the historic site and a number of large and important prehistoric sites in the Panther Springs Creek valley. From the time that development on the ranch property began in earnest in late 1977, the Center for Archaeological Research has monitored the condition of the prehistoric sites in the area, and also has checked on the condition of the historic site.

THE SETTING

The Walker Ranch is located on the Balcones Fault zone, which forms the boundary between the Edwards Plateau physiographic province on the north and the Gulf Coastal Plain on the south. The area, therefore, shares the attributes of both provinces, to a certain extent. The terrain consists of low hills and the wide alluvial stream valleys of the Salado and Panther Springs Creeks,
Figure 1. Views of Structure 1. a, Structure 1 from north; b, Structure 1, cut limestone block.
which cross the area in a generally northwest to southeast direction. Site 41 BX 180 is located at the base of a hill on the eastern edge of the Panther Springs Creek valley, not far from a deep, permanent waterhole in the creek.

Geological outcrops in the area include, in ascending order of deposition, Grayson Shale, Buda Limestone, Eagle Ford Shale, and Austin Chalk (Raba and Associates 1973:25). The soil in the immediate area of 41 BX 180 is primarily dark grayish-brown clay loam of the Trinity-Frio association, which supports dense thickets of live oak, mesquite, persimmon, whitebrush and other thorny brush.

At the time of first settlement in the mid-19th century, the area was open grassland with scattered live oak trees (Stanfield 1942:2). The invasion of mesquite and thorny brush has come about comparatively recently.

**HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF SITE**

The Walker Ranch is part of Bexar County Survey No. 79, which was granted to Sterling N. Dobie in 1838 (see Table 1). No land records dating to any earlier time have so far been located. In 1846 the property was acquired by Joseph Crews, but four years later Peter Odet, a local land speculator, acquired it because of Crews' failure to pay taxes. Odet then sold it to sea captain Edward Higgins in 1858 (Ganahl Walker, personal communication). The property came into the hands of the Ganahl family in 1873 and has continued in the Ganahl-Walker family from that time until the portion which includes 41 BX 180 was sold to Paloma Properties of San Antonio in 1972 (Hudson, Lynn and Scurlock 1974:3).

Although two monolithic pillars which bear what appear to be Spanish brands and the date 1786 have been found on the property, no indication of Spanish occupation has so far been found. The ruins consist of a group of limestone structures and three cisterns in a large area enclosed by a low stone wall. Superficial examination of the structures suggests that they were probably built during the mid-19th century. Walker family tradition holds that there was some sort of walls standing on the site when Captain Higgins took possession, and that he built his farm buildings on the ruins (Ganahl Walker, personal communication). Possibly the early walls represent the buildings of Joseph Crews, which would have stood vacant and neglected during the 12 years of Odet's ownership.

The ruins are built of quarried limestone of the Austin formation (Herbert Uecker, personal communication). An old quarry used in the mid-19th century is located near the North Loop Road crossing the Salado Creek, less than a mile from the site. This could well have been the source of the stone used in the structures.

**METHODOLOGY**

Since this phase of the project was intended as a survey for planning purposes, concentration was placed on a careful study and observation of the site and its individual features. Goals were as follows:
TABLE 1. WALKER RANCH CHRONOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ca. 1838</td>
<td>Sterling N. Dobie is granted Bexar 1-60, Survey #79. Patented October 18, 1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Feb. 1842</td>
<td>Dobie sells #79 to Joseph A. Crews in Houston (BCDR* D2:22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Mar. 1846</td>
<td>Dobie survey #79 sold to Peter Odet by sheriff (BCDR G1:497) because of failure to pay taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May 1858</td>
<td>Peter Odet sells #79 to Edward Higgins for $50 (BCDR P2:631)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May 1858</td>
<td>Heirs of Joseph Crews sell #79 to E. Higgins, $2000 (BCDR P2:630)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Dec. 1859</td>
<td>Higgins mortgages #79 for $2000 to Mrs. H. Eliza Thompson (BCDR R1:652)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Jan. 1873</td>
<td>Eliza Thompson sues Higgins for failure to pay back $2000 plus interest (Eliza died August 1872) (BCDCR** H:42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Nov. 1873</td>
<td>Jennie W. de Ganahl, heir of Eliza Thompson, is awarded Higgins property (BCDR H:218)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Jun. 1874</td>
<td>Jennie W. de Ganahl and husband Charles receive title to #79; map in deed record (BCDR 4:13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Feb. 1884</td>
<td>Mrs. Charles de Ganahl sells new right-of-way of Blanco Road to City (BCDR 33:396)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Jul. 1897</td>
<td>Charles F. de Ganahl sells #79 to his sister Charlissa Ganahl Walker; property described as &quot;Higgins Ranch,&quot; and included both #79 and adjacent #83 (Caldwell survey, Bex. 1-150) (BCDR 166:26)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*BCDR = Bexar County Deed Records  
**BCDCR = Bexar County District Court Records
1) to locate and delineate all structures present, including a search for indications of other buildings which might have been related to the known ruins;

2) to determine how much information still remains in the soil, and how much has been destroyed by recent disturbances;

3) to do all investigations in a manner which will create the least amount of disturbance at the site, in order not to draw the attention of vandals to the area;

4) to formulate plans for intensive investigations which will yield the maximum amount of architectural and cultural information in the most economical manner.

In order to accomplish these goals, work at the site was limited to location and confirmation of all features recorded in 1973, reexamination of a number of the test pits of that investigation, and the excavation of two additional test pits.

A crew of three persons worked a total of eight days in the field, with the additional help of two occasional volunteers. Standard archaeological excavation and recording techniques were observed in all the work, and a preliminary map of the area of the ruins was prepared, which located all presently-known structures (see Fig. 2). Artifacts recovered were returned to the Center Laboratory, where they were processed and analyzed for this report. The field notes, drawings and artifacts will be stored at the laboratory for use in conjunction with the planning and excavation of the next phase of the project.

The method of designation of structures, rooms and test pits first assigned by the 1973 crew have been and will continue to be utilized throughout this project. However, on the supposition that the original builders operated in feet and inches, this system of measurement rather than the metric system will be used in the Center investigations.

DESCRIPTION OF INVESTIGATIONS

Since the underbrush was very thick, it was not possible to do as much survey of the overall site as originally planned, without cutting a great deal of brush and calling too much notice to the project. Therefore, this part of the work was postponed until the next phase. However, the area was examined for features wherever possible, and one additional structure was located (see below).

Structure 1

Oriented with its larger dimension NW-SE, this structure is built of quarried limestone blocks, set in sand and lime mortar. It consists of two rooms, the interior dimensions of the larger, or Room A, being approximately 20 X 30 ft, and the smaller, Room B, 10 X 12 ft. Wall rubble fills most of the interior
Figure 2. 41 BX 180, General Plan.
of Room B, and numerous large cut stones lie scattered about in Room A, now covered by a tangle of brush and weeds (Fig. 1,b). Since the structure was not oriented on a N-S axis, grid north (50° east of magnetic north) was arbitrarily set parallel to the south wall of the building. This grid system was extended to the entire site, in order to simplify recording procedures (see Fig. 2).

Trinity University apparently tested on either side of the center of the wall separating the two rooms. No record is available of what was found there, but Hudson, Lynn and Scurlock (1974:14) report that no evidence of fireplaces was found. Three test pits were excavated inside Room A and three outside in 1973 (Fig. 3). Since all but one of these pits had not been refilled, they were reexamined and the walls cleaned and recorded for information on stratification in and around the structure.

In cleaning the west face of Test Pit 2, a post hole was found to be located just west of the original west face of the pit (Fig. 4). A hint of its presence can be seen in the profile in Fig. 6 by Hudson, Lynn and Scurlock (1974:21). The large stone doorsill uncovered by the 1973 excavations (ibid.: 17,24, Fig. 6) toward the eastern end of the south wall was found to be broken into pieces, apparently as a result of a heavy piece of machinery driving across the wall into the structure sometime in the past year. It is still possible, however, to piece together the fragments enough to identify the doorsill and to judge its location in the wall.

The profiles of Test Pit 3 (Fig. 5) reveal that the structure was built on a prehistoric site of undetermined date, represented by fragments of chert and burned, fractured limestone. Above this is a layer of sterile, dark tan soil, above which is a thin sandy deposit, the surface of which was probably the original contact zone when the structure was in use. Cut nails were found in this zone, and above it is the rubble of the fallen walls. A trench along the west wall of the room could be either a wall setting trench or a later disturbance. Stones in the footing were roughly shaped limestone.

The locations of the west and south walls of Room B in Structure 1 were obscured by fallen wall rubble and were not determined by the 1973 excavations. In order to tell whether there was any physical, architectural connection between Structures 1 and 2, it seemed advisable to locate these walls and then to test between the structures for continuing wall lines. Footings for the west and south walls were found to be of the same size and construction as the other walls of the structure. Brief test trenching to the west across both north and south wall lines failed to indicate any continuation of the walls in this direction, and distinct corners are present at the NW and SW corners of Room B.

Test Pit 11 (Fig. 6) was a 3-foot wide trench excavated N-S across the center of Room B in order to examine the construction of the walls and footings, and to determine the stratification and artifact content of the deposit within the room.
Figure 3. Plans of Structures 1 and 2.
Figure 4. Test Pits 2 and 5.
Black clay, burned rock, chert flakes

Black to tan clay

Dark tan, possibly burned

Burned material

Nail, square

Rock

Figure 5.  Test Pit 3.
Figure 6. Test Pit II.
Wall rubble and backfill from previous test excavations were removed down to the top of a thin reddish brown surface beneath which was a brown, ashy layer approximately 3 inches deep. This was trowelled carefully to recover numerous cut nails, sherds of glass and ironstone, animal bones, and fragments of a cast iron stove. Below this level, the soil was dark, brownish black clay with occasional chert fragments and limestone rocks. This graded into a lighter brown clay containing limestone pebbles. There was no indication of a setting trench, and the stones of the wall footing were roughly shaped in contrast to the cut stone of the upper walls. The footing protruded approximately 4 inches at the interior of the wall, but there was no indication of wood sill or rafters setting onto this ledge.

At the intersection of the south wall of Room B with the dividing wall between the rooms, fallen wall rubble was removed to reveal the doorway to the room (Fig. 3). The stonework of the north wall of the structure carried across the entire wall without a break at the dividing wall, indicating that Room B was built at the same time as Room A, and was not a later addition.

Structure 2

Structure 2 is built of quarried limestone blocks set in sand and lime mortar and closely resembles Structure 1 in method of construction, except that the walls are several inches thinner. This building consists of Room A, approximately 9 ft 6 in x 10 ft, and Room B, 10 x 14 ft in size. Built directly against the east wall of Room A is a peculiar subterranean structure with walls of carefully shaped limestone blocks (Fig. 3), the purpose of which has not yet been determined. Hudson, Lynn and Scurlock (1974:17) called this feature a storage chamber, and this may be correct. Excavation of this pit in 1973 (ibid.:34) yielded 1,324 artifacts which dated primarily to the 1840s to 1870s, suggesting that the feature could have been used for a trash dumping pit not very long after it was constructed. The stone which bridged the center of the pit in 1973 (ibid.:Fig. 5) has disappeared, but the pit is otherwise well preserved.

The east wall of Room A was obscured by wall rubble, and in order to reveal the exact wall location, rubble clearing was undertaken to the east of the wall. Test Pit 12, 3 ft wide, was excavated from the top of the rubble downward until the original ground surface beneath the floor of the house was encountered (Fig. 7,a). A distinct, 4-inch wide ledge was found at the top of the footing of the north wall, which still bore impressions and fragments of wood and nails in a mortar layer on its surface. The fill in the room contains large chunks of wall plaster, and there was a distinct deposit of burned wood, ash and charcoal just above the original ground surface beneath the house. The walls appear to have suffered intense heat. On the surface of the deposit of burned material were nails, a horseshoe and a pair of scissors (see Figs. 9,10).

It appears that approximately one-quarter of the original ground surface in Room A was destroyed by Trinity University in their search for walls in 1971. However, the rest is still preserved beneath wall fall and should yield considerable information to the meticulous excavator.
Figure 7. Views of Structures 2 and 3. a, Structure 2, Room A; b, Structure 3, view of general area.
Room B was also badly disturbed by the Trinity excavations. However, it retains at least half of its original floor level, thanks to the protection of a large area of wall rubble inside the east wall. Examination of Test Pit 8 revealed that the soil has been removed to a point well below the floor level in this corner. When the rubble is removed by careful excavation, the location of doorways should be found on the east wall of the structure.

Structure 3

While searching an open clearing beneath the trees to the southwest of the ruins, a collection of limestone rocks was noted which appeared to be purposefully set into the ground. The surface was trowelled and swept and the alignment of rocks recorded for future reference (Figs. 7,a;8). A surface collection in this area yielded ironstone, porcelain and glass sherds, a pipe stem fragment, and a piece of slate, with a curious absence of nails. Future work in the area may reveal the relationship of this feature to the ruins.

THE ARTIFACTS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Since only a relatively small sample of artifacts was recovered during this phase of the project, a brief summary, a provenience chart (Table 2) and illustrations of the more interesting or important objects (Figs. 9,10) will suffice for this preliminary report.

By far the largest majority of the artifacts recovered in the test excavations were square cut nails of various sizes which would have been used in the construction of wooden roofs, partitions and floors in the stone buildings. Judging from this preliminary sample, it would seem that the large number of finishing nails in Structure 2 (Test Pit 12) implies a different sort of construction than that in Structure 1, especially in Room B (Test Pit 11). This plus the remains of framing for a floor in 2A suggest the presence of a wood floor in 2A and the absence of one in 1B. Further weight is given to this argument by the difference in content of the deposits in the two rooms. The size and quantity of the artifacts found in 1B imply the discard and trampling underfoot which takes place on an earthen floor. With the exception of the scissors and horseshoe (which could have rested on the floor, since they were found just above the ash and charcoal layer), no artifacts were found in 2A which could not have sifted through cracks in a wooden floor.

The ceramics recovered were primarily ironstone, a type of ware which was most popular in the San Antonio area in the post-Civil War times. The presence of one sherd of sponged ware, however, suggests that the occupation of the site could have begun in the mid-18th century, a fact which is confirmed by the sherds of decorated English wares recovered from the storage chamber in the 1973 excavations (Hudson, Lynn and Scurlock 1974:78).

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Judging from the results of the 1973 and 1979 testing, it appears that the ruins at 41 BX 180 consist of a small, two-room house (Structure 2) and
Figure 8. Plan of Structure 3.
Figure 9. Ceramics and Personal Items. a, Bisque doll's leg, Structure 1, Room B; b, clay pipe stem fragment, Structure 3; c, porcelain button, Structure 2, Room A; d, stoneware crock or jug fragment, Structure 1, Room B; e, ironstone cup fragment, Structure 3; f, porcelain plate fragment, Structure 3; g, scissors, Structure 2, Room A.
Figure 10. *Miscellaneous Items.* a, horseshoe, Structure 2, Room A; b, padlock, Structure 2, Room A; c, machine part, Structure 1, Room B; d, unidentified hardware fragment, Structure 1, Room A; e, cast iron stove fragment, Structure 1, Room B.
## Table 2. Provenience of Artifacts, 41 BX 180

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Room A</th>
<th>Room B</th>
<th>Room A</th>
<th>Room B</th>
<th>Room B</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TP 1</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TP 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>South Wall</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Clearing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Structure 3</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Kitchen
- Ironstone
- Sponge ware
- Porcelain
- Stoneware
- Glass containers: 1 TP 1, 2 TP 2
- Tin can scrap: 1 TP 1, 2 TP 2
- Bone: 1 TP 1, 17 TP 2

### Construction
- 2d brad: 1 TP 1, 2 TP 2
- 4d brads or nails: 7 TP 1, 32 TP 2
- *6d framing nail*: 16 TP 1, 2 TP 2, 4 TP 3, 35 TP 4
- 8d finishing nail: 2 TP 1, 69 TP 2
- 8d framing nail: 12 TP 1, 10 TP 2
- 10d framing nail: 2 TP 1, 2 TP 2
- 16d framing nail: 1 TP 1, 1 TP 2
- 40d framing nail: 1 TP 1, 4 TP 2
- Nail fragments: 17 TP 1, 17 TP 2
- Wire nails: 1 TP 1, 3 TP 2
- Wood screws: 1 TP 1
- Nut: 1 TP 1
- Hardware: 1 TP 1
- Window glass: 10 TP 1, 1 TP 2
- Plaster: X TP 1, X TP 2

### Personal
- Scissors: 1 TP 1
- Button: 1 TP 1
- Doll’s leg: 1 TP 1
- Pipe stem fragment: 1 TP 1
- Slate fragment: 1 TP 1

### Miscellaneous
- Padlock: 1 TP 1
- Cast iron stove: 1 TP 1
- Machine part: 1 TP 1
- Metal strapping: 1 TP 1, 7 TP 2
- Thin metal scrap: 1 TP 1, 6 TP 2
- Horse shoe: 1 TP 1
- Chert: 35 TP 1, 2 TP 2, 5 TP 3, 14 TP 4, 18 TP 5
- Charcoal: X TP 1, X TP 2, X TP 3

---

*Square cut nail unless otherwise indicated
X = present
a barn with attached room (Structure 1). Although the size of Structure 2 seems very small by modern standards, room sizes and house sizes were smaller in 19th century San Antonio, and on the frontier a two-room stone house was probably considered something of a luxury.

The total lack of artifacts other than nails, hardware and glass fragments in 1A (Hudson, Lynn and Scurlock 1974:78, Table 2) probably confirms the use of this room as a barn, as well as the fact that it apparently had an earthen floor and an unusually wide door (4 ft 6 in, to judge from the sill). The post holes outside the door suggest the presence of a covering roof or lean-to of some sort in this location.

The content of the deposit in 1B suggests that at some point it served as a kitchen for Structure 2. The use of a separate kitchen was common in Texas in the middle 19th century. The room probably had an earthen floor and might have had a small porch in front which lined up with the front of the barn, allowing a simple pitched roof to cover all. Future excavations will search for indications of such details.

It is interesting to note the orientation of Structure 2 so as to face the southeast. This custom was followed in early Texas in order to catch the prevailing breeze in summer and the sunshine in winter (Crosby 1977:36). The arrangement of Structures 1 and 2 implies a layout within the surrounding stone wall which undoubtedly included other outbuildings as well. A search for indications of these structures should be an important part of the next phase of the investigation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

The intent of the next phase of the archaeological investigations will be to thoroughly document the history of the site, both through archival research and through archaeological excavations. In order to accomplish this, the entire area within the inner perimeter wall should be cleared of underbrush and systematically examined for traces of additional features connected with the ruins. When such features are encountered, they should be recorded and investigated to determine, if possible, their purpose and the time period of their use. In light of the presence of the obelisks with Spanish inscriptions, special care should be taken to determine once and for all if any remains from the Spanish period are present.

Structure 1 should be completely cleared of fallen wall rubble and brush, and the floors examined for traces of partitions and other structural features. The area outside the door of Room A should be cleared off to the original ground level and examined for further post holes or other indications of structures in that area.

Structure 2 should also be cleared and the walls and floors exposed for examination and recording. The area across the east side of this building should be cleaned off to the original ground level and evidence sought to explain the purpose of the "storage chamber" and its relationship to the other structures.

Structure 3 should be mapped and then excavated to determine its purpose and extent and the date of its use. Phosphate testing should be systematically
used in an attempt to determine areas of occupation and to help in locating any further structures which are not visible on surface examination of the area.

Systematic archival research should be undertaken to recover any records of occupation in the immediate area prior to 1838. Interviews with Ganahl Walker and other people who have lived many years in the area should be recorded, and diaries and memoirs of early settlers sought and studied for pertinent information about the history of the area and about mid-19th century farming and building practices in Bexar County.

Finally, the results of this research should be compiled into a comprehensive report which will serve to preserve the history of this particular site for future researchers and historians, and for the descendants of the families who first settled northern Bexar County.

The site itself should be carefully backfilled to preserve what remains of the structures. A sign or marker should be erected to explain the importance of the site and to denote its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
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1977  Architecture of Texana, 1831-1883, Jackson County, Texas.
  *Texas Archeological Survey Research Report 57, Palmetto Bend Reservoir Series 2.*

Hudson, W. R., Jr., W. M. Lynn and D. Scurlock


Raba and Associates, Consulting Engineers


Scurlock, D. and W. R. Hudson, Jr.


Stanfield, J.


DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

Bexar County Deed Records

Bexar County District Court Records
The faunal material from 41 BX 180 was sparse, weighing a total of 112.5 grams, and numbering 9 identifiable bones and 14 unidentifiable mammal bone fragments. Of the five specimens identified, four represented domestic stock and one, wild game. Three specimens remained unidentified, but are mammals other than those already noted. Bone length and girth indicate that they are in the small-to-medium-size animal range, but are probably not squirrel (Sciurus sp.), rabbit (Lepus sp. or Sylvilagus sp.), opossum (Didelphis sp.), armadillo (Dasypus sp.), porcupine (Erethizon sp.), or raccoon (Procyon sp.). This conclusion was based upon visual comparison using skeletons in the faunal collection of the Center for Archaeological Research.

The bone was in a good state of preservation, and none appeared burned. This could indicate removal of the flesh prior to food preparation or preparation utilizing a method not damaging to bone, such as oven roasting and/or pan boiling. Some of the identified specimens and long bone fragments showed evidence of green bone breaks indicating the bone was split while fresh, probably for extraction of the marrow. The shaft of a sheep (Ovis sp.) femur had thin cut marks caused by a sharp narrow instrument, possibly a knife.

Most of the faunal remains were located in Structure 1, Room B, indicating that this may have been a food preparation, serving or storage area (Table 3). The sample is too small to make generalizations about most frequently consumed species, but it does indicate that domestic stock was being consumed more than wild game. A broader picture of the most frequently consumed meats and other important animal species may be obtained with future excavation and identification of faunal remains.
### TABLE 3. PROVENIENCE OF FAUNAL MATERIAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRUCTURE 1</th>
<th>ROOM A</th>
<th>ROOM B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doorsill</td>
<td>Test Pit 1</td>
<td>Test Pit 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tooth (molar)--sheep (<em>Ovis sp.</em>)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRUCTURE 2</th>
<th>ROOM A</th>
<th>ROOM B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Pit 12</td>
<td>Storage Pit</td>
<td>Outside East Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mammal bone fragments (unidentifiable)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRUCTURE 3</th>
<th>ROOM A</th>
<th>ROOM B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Pit 8</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Surface Cleaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No faunal materials were recovered from this area.*