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Archaeological Investigations in Front of the Spanish Governor's Palace in Plaza de Armas, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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Archaeological Investigations in Front of the Spanish Governor's Palace in Plaza de Armas, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN FRONT OF THE
SPANISH GOVERNOR'S PALACE IN PLAZA DE ARMAS, SAN
ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

FINAL REPORT (Non-Redacted)

Prepared for:

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Texas Antiquities Committee Permit Number 7299

ASF15-068-00

May 9, 2018

Management Summary

In June of 2015, Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc. (**RKEI**) was contracted by K. Friese + Associates to perform archaeological investigations related to the replacement of a section of water main located to the east of the Spanish Governor's Palace and City of San Antonio (COSA) offices within the Vogel Belt Complex. Since the project was sponsored by a political subdivision of the state and impacted land owned by the COSA, it fell under the jurisdiction of the COSA's Preservation Ordinance (Division 3, Article VI Historic Preservation and Urban Design, Texas Unified Development Code) administered by the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). Furthermore, the project also falls under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas, as overseen by the Texas Historical Commission.

The investigations were conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7299. Kristi Miller Nichols served as Principal Investigator. The project was divided into two phases. Phase I consisted of exploratory backhoe trenching and the monitoring of water main trenching in front of the Vogel Belt Complex. Phase II consisted of the removal of pavers in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace and the monitoring of water main trenching and the replacement of the pavers. To accommodate logistical concerns by nearby property owners and to minimize disruptions, the two phases took place nearly a month apart from each other, beginning in June and completed in July.

The Phase I trench (9.5 meters; 31.2 feet) was excavated to expose the main from the valve to a bend near Dolorosa Street. No cultural materials were encountered in the exploratory trench, and the SAWS contractor was allowed to continue the remainder of the mechanical trenching while monitored by **RKEI** archaeologists. Intact cultural deposits were identified near the southern end of the Phase II trench buried at a depth of 80-103 centimeters below surface in an area offset from the original water main installation trench. The intact deposit yielded only Spanish Colonial artifacts, indicating that *in situ* colonial materials related to the use of the Governor's Palace and Plaza de Armas are potentially present.

Investigations determined that intact cultural deposits dating to the Spanish Colonial Period are found in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace and may extend across large portions of the Military Plaza. Therefore, as it has been the standard practice to date, archaeological investigations should continue to be carried out prior to future subsurface disturbances planned within Military Plaza.

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The staff of Alamo Backhoe Services excavated the backhoe trench and their work is appreciated. The author would also like to extend **RKEI's** gratitude to Mark Denton, Sara Ludena and Linda Henderson of the Texas Historical Commission for their assistance in determining the status of the sidewalk pavers found in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace. Clint Laffere and Lisa Wick were instrumental in preparing the graphics for the following report. They are great professionals that classy individuals. The author would also like to thank Dr. Steve A. Tomka for his guidance throughout the course of the project.

Chapter 1: Introduction

K. Friese + Associates (CLIENT) contracted with **Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc. (RKEI)** on behalf of the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to perform archaeological investigations and trench monitoring associated with the installation of a water main in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace. The project was sponsored by the SAWS, a political subdivision of the state. In addition, the proposed project impacted land owned by the City of San Antonio (COSA). Given these conditions, the project fell under the jurisdiction of the COSA's Preservation Ordinance (Division 3, Article VI Historic Preservation and Urban Design, Texas Unified Development Code) administered by the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). Furthermore, the project also fell under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas, as overseen by the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

The investigations were conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7299. Kristi Miller Nichols served as Principal Investigator. Two locations in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace had been slated for the installation of new water main lines. The old lines were located, disconnected, and new water mains were connected. The project was divided into two phases to allow for the water main installations to occur at different times and not cause too much inconvenience to the surrounding offices during the water outages.

The Area of Potential Effect

The project area is located in downtown San Antonio, bounded on the north by West Commerce Street, on the south by Dolorosa Street, on the west by the Spanish Governor's Palace and the Vogel Belt Complex, and on the east by the San Antonio City Hall building. **Figure 1-1** provides a map of the project Area of Potential Effect (APE) plotted on the *San Antonio East* (2998-133), 7.5 minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle. **Figure 1-2** shows the APE on current aerial photography.

The Spanish Governor's Palace and Presidio de Bexar (41BX179) are part of the Military and Main Plazas National Register (NR) District listed in 1979 (THC 2015). The area is roughly bounded by West Commerce, Flores, and Dolorosa Streets, and the San Pedro Creek. The old presidio building and the surrounding grounds extend west to San Pedro Creek. The compound may have been constructed as

early as 1749. The structure was used as the headquarters and residence of the captain of the Presidio de Bexar. The results of previous investigations conducted in the vicinity of the APE suggest that cultural deposits associated with site 41BX179 may extend into the APE (THC 2015).

The APE constitutes only a smaller segment of the Main and Military Plazas NR Districts, and is located just east of the east walls of the Spanish Governor's Palace and a portion of the Vogel Belt Complex, a historic building located to the south of the Governor's Palace. The Spanish Governor's Palace and the Vogel Belt Complex are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Vogel Belt Complex was initially constructed circa 1888, although a fire destroyed a portion of the building in 1891 (THC 2015). The damaged buildings were rebuilt circa 1892 and appear to have had little change until the renovations that began in late 2013. Prior to the construction of the Vogel Belt Complex, during the Spanish Colonial Period, the area would have been part of the Presidio de Bexar. A portion of the sidewalk located near the front entrance of the Spanish Governor's Palace will be affected by the investigation. The sidewalk is not a contributing element of the site as it was installed in the mid-1980s.

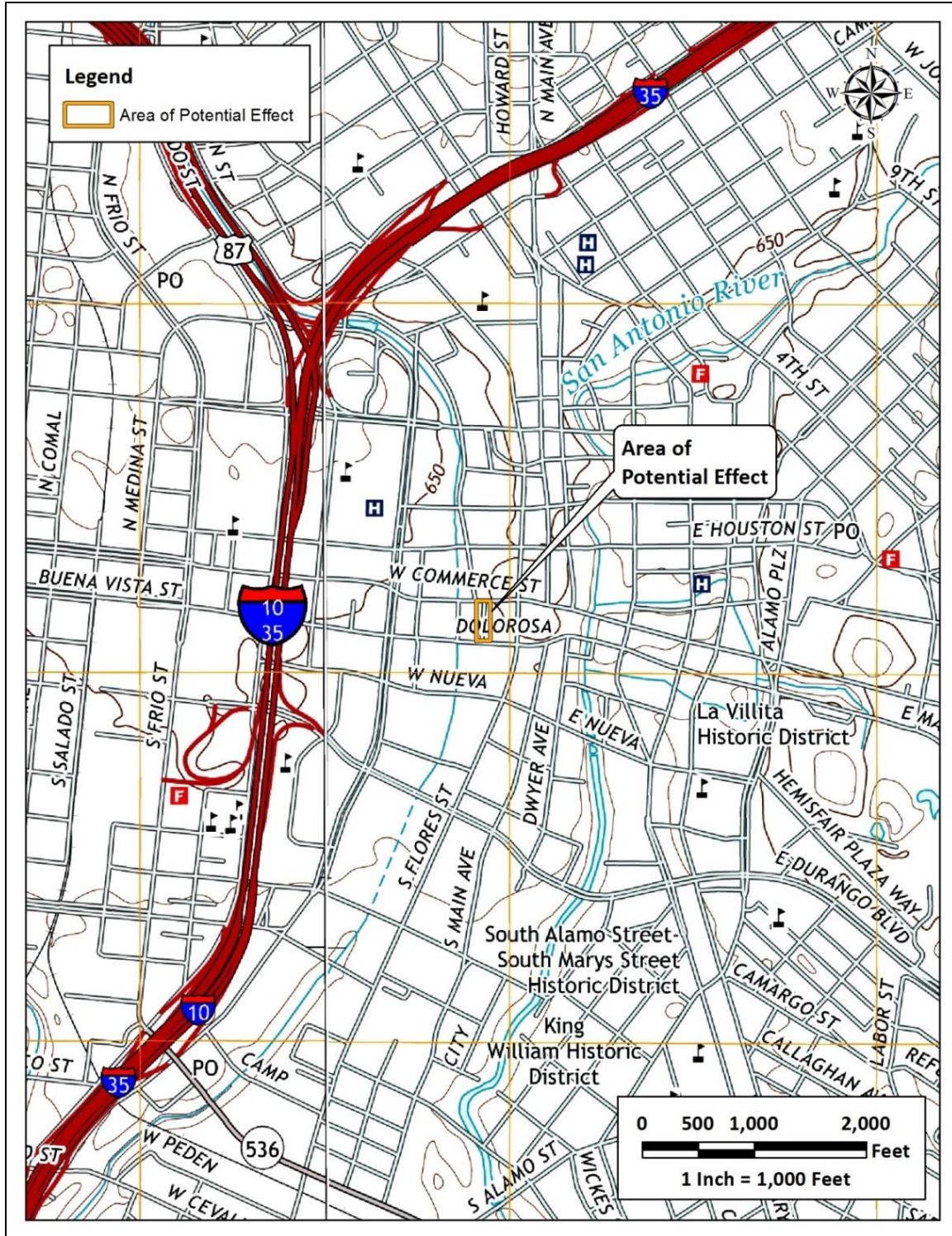


Figure 1-1. The location of the APE on the *San Antonio East (2998-133)* USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map.

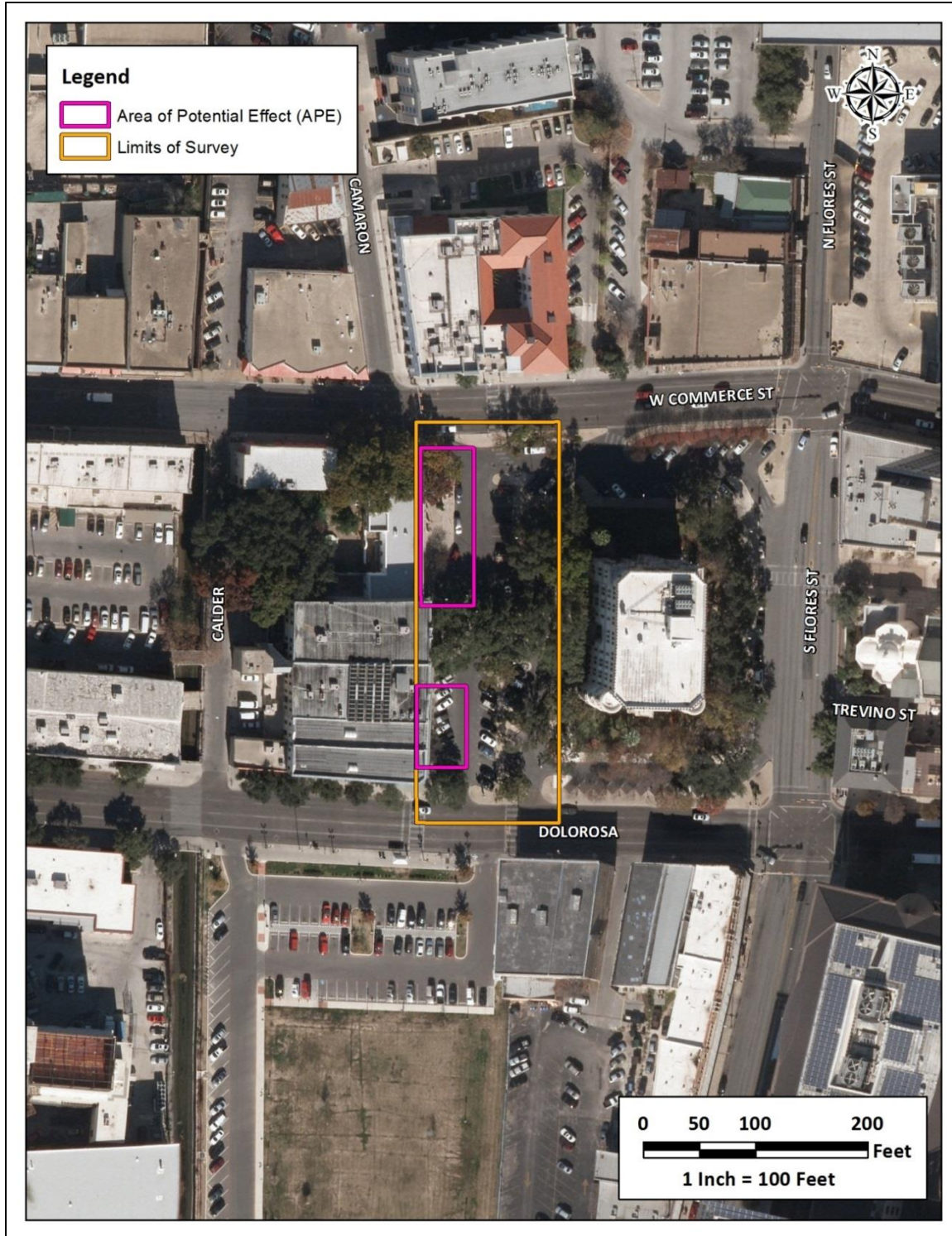


Figure 1-2. The two phases of the installation project that form the APE.

Chapter 2: Historical Background and Previous Archaeology

The vicinity of San Pedro Springs was first described during the Espinoza-Olivares-Aguirre expedition in 1709 (Tous 1930). When the expedition members came upon the location on April 13, they noted its ample supply of water that emanated from several springs along stepped limestone ridges and in their estimation provided sufficient water to support an entire town (Hoffman 1938). Governor Alarcón intended that the first of two frontier towns be established at the San Antonio River. The viceroy had ordered that Alarcón send 30 settler families, artisans as well as the missionaries, and soldiers to the new town. The families were to receive land, livestock, supplies, and a salary (de la Teja 1995). However, less than thirty families volunteered to be part of the venture, and the party that was assembled consisted of an engineer, a stone mason, a blacksmith, women, and children.

The Alarcón party left Rio Grande del Norte on February 16, 1718. Fr. Pedro de Mezquía, who had been a missionary in Coahuila, accompanied the Alarcón expedition and kept a diary of the events. According to the Mezquía diary, the group consisted of seventy-two individuals (Hoffman 1938). Three people were described as “religious” and would likely have been the padres that would help establish the new mission in the San Antonio area. The remainder of the party consisted of soldiers and their families, civilians, and mule team leaders. In addition, the expedition also brought sheep, cattle, goats, horses, and chicken into the frontier (Hoffman 1938). Father Olivares had been increasingly impatient as Alarcón assembled the group and performed necessary duties in the Capital. Olivares had left Saltillo at an earlier date but could not leave the San Juan Bautista Mission as Captain Diego Ramón, commandant of Presidio del Río Grande, refused to provide soldiers to escort the expedition to San Antonio (Weddle 1968). Olivares was forced to wait until Alarcón arrived at the Presidio. Although Olivares had shown so much impatience, Alarcón made the entry into Texas first, leaving days prior to Olivares. The party arrived near the San Antonio River on April 25, 1718 (Hoffman 1938; Weddle 1968). Mezquía indicated that the party came to the “first spring of San Antonio which is about six leagues distant” (Hoffman 1938). The first spring is believed to be San Pedro Springs. Olivares arrived on May 1.

During the first week, Alarcón went on several excursions to investigate the surrounding land (Hoffman 1938). His group found that there was a good water source from both the springs at San Pedro and the headwaters of the San Antonio River. Mezquía noted that there was enough water “for maintaining a populous villa and two or three missions” (Hoffman 1938). Alarcón performed the necessary rituals to

lay claim to the land and allowed Olivares to perform the first mass. Mezquía noted that the location of the new mission “is near the first spring, half a league from a high ground and adjoining a small thicket of live oaks” (Hoffman 1938:318) on the west bank of the river (de la Teja 1995). A provisional hut was constructed by Olivares, to serve as the mission’s church (Cox 2005). The establishment of Mission San Antonio de Valero occurred on May 1, 1718 (Habig 1968; Habig 1990; Weddle 1968). The location was to be temporary, being used until the Native inhabitants returned from their seasonal hunting and gathering trips (Cox 2005). Days later on May 5, 1718, Alarcón established the Villa de Béxar approximately 3.7 kilometers (km) (2.3 miles) from the San Antonio River (Hoffman 1938:318; de la Teja 1995). Mezquía noted that the villa was located between the creek and the river, and the mission was placed at a distance from the villa (Hoffman 1938; Cox 2005).

In contrast to Mezquía’s account, Fr. Francisco de Céliz, who served as the official diarist of the expedition, wrote that the site of the first mission was 3.2 km (1.97 miles, 0.66 leagues) south of the springs, along San Pedro Creek, on the west side of the San Antonio River.

This site is henceforth destined for the civil settlement and the soldiers to guard it, as well as for the site of the mission of San Antonio de Valero, established by the governor about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a league down the creek (Hoffman 1935:49).

Céliz wrote that on May 5 Alarcón claimed San Antonio for Spain. The priest had already performed mass, but the remaining rituals were conducted to take possession of the land (Hoffman 1935:49). Shortly after, Alarcón took some men and a chaplain to search for Espíritu Santo (Hoffman 1935:49). The mission and villa appeared to have stayed at these initial locations during the first year. Fray Olivares constructed his temporary Church of mud and brush “on a small knoll some 30 feet above the creek’s flood plain, well away from the corrupting influences of the military and civilian settlement” (Cox 2005). By winter, the mission had Native groups assembling at its location. Alarcón had left San Antonio in the fall, returning with additional supplies in January of 1719. Accounts indicate that he was happy to see the Native Americans gathered at the mission site upon his return (Hoffman 1935).

The construction of acequias commenced soon after the mission and villa were established in 1718. Mezquía reports on the location of the mission’s acequia indicated that the second, more permanent site for the mission had been determined (Cox 2005; Hoffman 1938). In spring of 1719, Olivares was injured as he crossed the San Pedro Creek on his burro to inspect progress on the acequia (Cox 2005). After he recovered from his injuries, in the summer of 1719, Olivares moved Mission Valero to the east

side of the river (Habig 1990). The second location is often believed to be the spot on which St. Joseph's Church currently stands. Research conducted by Father Habig (1990:159) indicated that a stone chapel had been constructed at the second mission location. Records indicated that the chapel stood until 1756 and was referred to as Capilla de la Santa Cruz (Habig 1990:159).

Mission Valero was moved to its third and final location in 1724 after a hurricane had destroyed much of what had been constructed (Cox 2005). The third location was approximately 1/8 of a mile north of the second site (Habig 1990).

In 1720, Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo was founded on the opposite bank of the San Antonio River, and to the south of Mission Valero and Presidio San Antonio de Bexar. This mission was established to help serve native groups that did not want to reside at Mission Valero because they were not on friendly terms with groups already living there. The original location of Mission San José was along the east bank of the San Antonio River, approximately three leagues from Mission Valero. The mission was then moved to the opposite bank sometime between 1724 and 1729, and relocated to its present site during the 1740s due to an epidemic (Scurlock et al. 1976:222).

In 1722, just two years after Mission San José was started, Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nàjera was formed. The mission was to serve a group of fifty Ervipiami families that came from the Brazos River area (Schuetz 1968:11). Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nàjera was located near or on the present site of Mission Concepción. The mission was unsuccessful due to a lack of funding. An attempt was made to make the mission a sub-mission of Valero, but this failed as well (Habig 1968:78-81). Its doors closed in 1726 (Schuetz 1968:11). Ivey (1984:13) argued that the closure of the mission was due to the natives' lack of interest in entering mission life.

Within the next few years, four other missions were established within the San Antonio area. The remaining three missions were established in San Antonio within weeks of each other in 1731. These three missions, Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción, Mission San Juan de Capistrano, and Mission San Francisco de la Espada, were originally missions established in east Texas. When each failed along the eastern border, they were removed to San Antonio.

The first acequia stretched between the head of the San Pedro Creek to the San Antonio River (Cox 2005). The Upper Labor Acequia also had a tie between the Creek and the River, although the branch of the acequia that originated from the San Pedro Creek was further downstream than the first acequia

and constructed at a later date. It appears to have re-entered the San Antonio River at the same location, though (Cox 2005). San Pedro Creek was noted as being an important source of water for the irrigation of croplands and the consumption by the local inhabitants. Between 1718 and 1731, a total of five missions were established along the Upper Reach of the San Antonio River. Mission San Antonio de Valero was the first in 1718, although it was not moved to its present location until 1724. Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo was established in 1721. Three missions from east Texas were reestablished in San Antonio in 1731: Mission San Juan de Capistrano, Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña, and Mission San Francisco de la Espada.

In addition to the five missions, the civilian community outside of the mission and presidio, Villa San Fernando de Bexar was established by the Canary Islanders. Prior to the establishment of Villa San Fernando, Villa de Bexar had been settled by 30 presidial soldiers, seven of whom were married and brought their families. During the early years of the Villa de Bexar, no formal titles were issued as the property was distributed. If a presidial soldier and his family occupied the property, they likely did not own it (de la Teja 1995). Prior to 1731, soldiers and settlers were issued licenses to build houses on and farm the land surrounding the garrison. The area was considered the royal property of the presidio (Ivey 2008).

Archival research indicates that upon arrival, the Canary Islanders immediately took over the land surrounding the garrison. This land was used as pasture and was originally property of Mission Valero. There had been a lack of cleared agricultural land at the time, leading Captain Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán to allow the Canary Islanders use of the property (de la Teja 1995). The initial plan was for additional Canary Island settlers to be sent to San Antonio after the first group was established. Due to high costs to the Spanish Crown, no more groups were brought to Texas. The Canary Islanders launched a formal complaint against Mission Valero. In 1731, the Canary Islanders established their own villa, named San Fernando de Bexar, with their own church. The arrival of the *Isleños* resulted in the first clearly defined civilian settlement in San Antonio. This group formed the core of the population that establishing the Villa de San Fernando in 1731.

In 1731, with the arrival of the Canary Islanders, the possession of rights to the irrigation water from San Pedro Creek became a key issue. Although the first settlers, including some presidio soldiers, had occupied the land north and south of the presidio, clearing for fields, and constructing an acequia, their lands were given to the Canary Islanders in 1731 according to the orders of the Viceroy. The first families

had not been officially granted the land that they had worked since 1718. In 1733, along with the official land grants given to the *Isleños* of the Villa of San Fernando, the villa was granted 20 percent of the water from San Pedro Creek. The *cabildo* of the Villa then rented out allotments of water to individuals (Porter 2009). The process of holding water rights and allotting time to individuals for irrigation persisted throughout the mission period with *Isleños* and other private individuals trying to buy up the water rights after the secularization of the missions (Porter 2009).

During the early years of the Villa de Bexar and San Fernando de Bexar, the property that was granted to the *Isleños* after 1745 and the settlers changed hands several times. The *Isleños* requested more property in the *Labores*, and attempted to hinder the original settlers from obtaining any more. Though their efforts were not entirely successful, they did slow the amount of property given to the settlers (de la Teja 1995). As grants were passed out, it appears that the *Isleños* would sell their original grants to incoming settlers, or current non-*Isleño* inhabitants, then request an additional grant from the government. By the 1800s, seven families had control of approximately half of the *suertes* that had been distributed during the mid- to-late 1700s (de la Teja 1995).

Spanish Governor's Palace

The history of the Spanish Governor's Palace is based on the assumption that the structure was built to serve as the prime residence of the Spanish Governor during the Spanish occupation of San Antonio in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, early historical documents make no mention of a Spanish Governor's Palace in San Antonio until 1915, when Adina De Zavala championed its' conservation. The original complex was likely built to serve as a private residence, with a single room assigned for the use of the Governor during his visits. Later, the structure became the residence of the captain of the Presidio de Bexar, as it was located in a prime position within the presidio grounds.

Early maps of San Antonio de Bexar depict the structure as a long, rectangular building. The Menchaca map, drawn in 1764, shows the structure with the main entrance facing Plaza de Armas, directly across the plaza from San Fernando Cathedral. The map also shows a fence line in front of the structure, potentially enclosing a livestock pen. A later map dating to 1767 and drawn by José Ramon de Urrutia y de las Casas who served as the cartographer for the Marques de Rubi's inspection of the frontier between 1766 and 1768, labels the structure as "*Casa del Capitan*".

The keystone located above the main entrance to the structure bears the date of 1749 which is typically

acknowledged as the date of construction. However, it is uncertain as to whether the date represents the start of construction, the completion of the building, or an addition during a subsequent renovation. It is possible that the structure had been built prior to the 1749 date, as the Presidio was established in 1718.

José de Urrutia was named captain of the presidio in 1733. At the time he became captain, Urrutia had over 40 years of service dealing Indian nations in the Spanish territories. He died in San Antonio de Bexar in 1741. It is possible that his son, José Miguel de Urrutia, may have been the individual who created the 1767 map, although he would have been 63 years old at the time. Captain José de Urrutia's first child was Antonia de Urrutia (Gibson 2010). Antonia de Urrutia married Francisco Menchaca in Coahuila. It appears they spent some time in San Antonio de Bexar, but most of the children were born at San Juan Bautista del Rio Grande (Gibson 2010). During José de Urrutia's second marriage, he had a son, Toribio de Urrutia, who would become captain of the presidio in 1740 until his death in 1763 (Chipman 2010).

In 1762, Governor Navarrete recounted that he kept an office at the house of the presidio's captain. Angel de Martos y Navarrete became the Governor of Texas in 1759. He served until 1766, and was part of the investigation of the burning of the San Agustin de Ahumada Presidio (Phares 1976). Navarrete once described the captain's house in San Antonio as being made of "stone or rubble and mortar, and a very strong edifice" (Ramsdell 1959).

Antonia de Urrutia died prior to 1747, but had six children survive her. One of her children was Captain Luis Antonio Menchaca (Gibson 2010). Menchaca was the captain of the presidio from 1763 to 1773, following his uncle, Toribio de Urrutia. Menchaca likely resided at the structure known as the Spanish Governor's Palace during his tenure as captain. Archival records indicate that he obtained ownership of the property in 1778, having purchased the property from his uncle's widow (Hafertepe 2003). Luis Antonio Menchaca conveyed the property to his son, José Menchaca, at the time of his death in 1793 (Menchaca Will, 1803, Wills and Probate, Bexar County Archives [BCA] , microfilm, San Antonio Main Library, San Antonio, Texas). Luis Antonio's widow survived until 1800. Shortly after her death, their son José conveyed the property to Juan Ygnacio Pérez for a sum of 800 pesos (Fox 1997). When Ygnacio purchased the Governor's Palace property from Menchaca, the house was "bounded on the East by the guard house and the Plaza de Armas" and "consist[ed] of a living room, another room, a bedroom, two hallways, and a kitchen entirely built of stone, with four stone door casements" (Menchaca to Pérez, 1804, Land Grants and Sales, BCA). The deed also states that the property to the north, a portion of the

same structure, belonged to Maria Luisa Guerrero. She had acquired it from her husband, Jacobo Hernandez (Chabot 1937:35). This property was acquired, in 1819, by Ygnacio for 350 pesos (San Antonio Express [SAE], 2 January 1929).

Juan Ygnacio Pérez was the grandson of a Canary Islander that settled in San Antonio in 1731. Juan Ignacio Pérez married Clemencia Hernandez in 1781. Clemencia was the granddaughter of Andres Hernandez, who was on the first inhabitants of the area to start a privately owned ranch (Jackson 2015). Pérez obtained large portions of land during his lifetime. In 1804, Perez purchased the comandancia (the Casa de Capitan of Presidio de Bexar) from the Menchanca heirs. By 1809, Pérez had established a large ranch below the Medina River (Jackson 2015). Juan Ygnacio (Ignacio) Pérez was a wealthy rancher who served as interim governor from July 1816 to March 1817 (Hafertepe 2003). Juan Ignacio died in 1823, and his wife died just a couple years later.

At the time that Pérez purchased the property, the structure consisted of six rooms. The rooms included a parlor, a room, a bedroom, two passages (*zahuanes*) and a kitchen. The walls of the building, including the window sashes and door jam, were constructed of stone. Pérez used the structure as one of his residences from 1804 until his death in 1823 (Ulrich et al. 2010). He died shortly after retrieving his widowed daughter, Gertrudis, from Monclova. At the time of his death, his son, José Ygnacio Pérez, took over the ranching business and was bequeathed his father's property. The family spent their time between the ranch on the banks of the Medina River, and the residence on Plaza de Armas. Apparently, due to the frequency of Indian attacks at the rancho, his wife and children spent much time at the residence in town (Ulrich et al. 2010). In addition, Pérez fled San Antonio to shield his family from the turbulence caused by the uprisings. They returned to San Antonio in 1846 to find that much of their cattle herd was stolen and portions of his land had been claimed by squatters (Pérez et al. vs. Paschal et al. 1847). Pérez moved his family into the residence on Military Plaza while they fought legal battles to restore their family landholdings.

Prior to his death, José Ygnacio Pérez drew up his will to allocate his property to his heirs. The descendants of Ygnacio Pérez remained owners of the property, although the rooms of the building were rented out for businesses and residences over the years. In 1924, Mary Walsh, the granddaughter of Maria Joséfa Pérez, announced that the family had been offered \$57,000 for the building by a New York firm. The firm planned to demolish the structure to make way for modern construction. Adina De Zavala had been working for 12 years at this point to try to save the structure. The Pérez/Walsh family

stated that they had waited long enough for the structure to be purchased for preservation, but could wait no longer. This spurred De Zavala's organization and other conservation-minded groups in San Antonio to work towards purchasing the property. De Zavala's organization, the Texas Historical and Landmarks Association, had previously obtained an option to purchase the property, but yet had to secure the funds. With the help of the other organizations and the mayor, the sale to the New York firm was stalled to allow for the money to be raised. After several years, Adina De Zavala and the Conservation Society had convinced the COSA to purchase the property to preserve the Spanish Colonial history of San Antonio. De Zavala wrote several articles discussing how the structure was once the residence of the Spanish Governor and should be preserved. It was during this time that the structure began to be referred to as the Spanish Governor's Palace. Archival research indicates that the structure was not the Governor's residence, rather housed the governor's office for him to conduct business while in town (Hafertepe 2003). In 1928, the funds needed for the purchase were included in a \$4,755,000 bond issue that was subsequently approved by voters. The mayor assigned Harvey P. Smith as the architect for the reconstruction. Harvey P. Smith was an up-and-coming architect who studied many Spanish Colonial structures throughout Mexico, California, and Texas.

Smith presented the COSA with a plan to excavate the foundations to determine the original layout. The COSA requested that the property be fully documented prior to restoration. Soon after the COSA accepted Smith's plan, workmen started to clear out the structure and courtyard to remove any "modern" materials in preparation for the restoration. Smith and his crew also excavate around the buildings to expose and outline the wall foundations of the original buildings that were part of the complex (Hafertepe 2003). With the exception of the apparent paving of the sidewalk in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace, the rest of the work carried out by Smith centered on the restoration of the buildings and work in the courtyard of the property. It appears that the original flag stones were removed during the installation of the water main and replaced by those encountered during this project. The replacement of the flag stones and the water main installation took place during the 1980s. Reconstruction of the Palace was completed in July of 1930.

Previous Archaeology

The Spanish Governor's Palace (site 41BX179) has been investigated several times in the past (**Figure 2-1**). Much of the rehabilitation of the structure occurred circa 1929 prior to the time that the Antiquities Code and Section 106 were enacted. This work, conducted by Harvey P. Smith was detailed above.

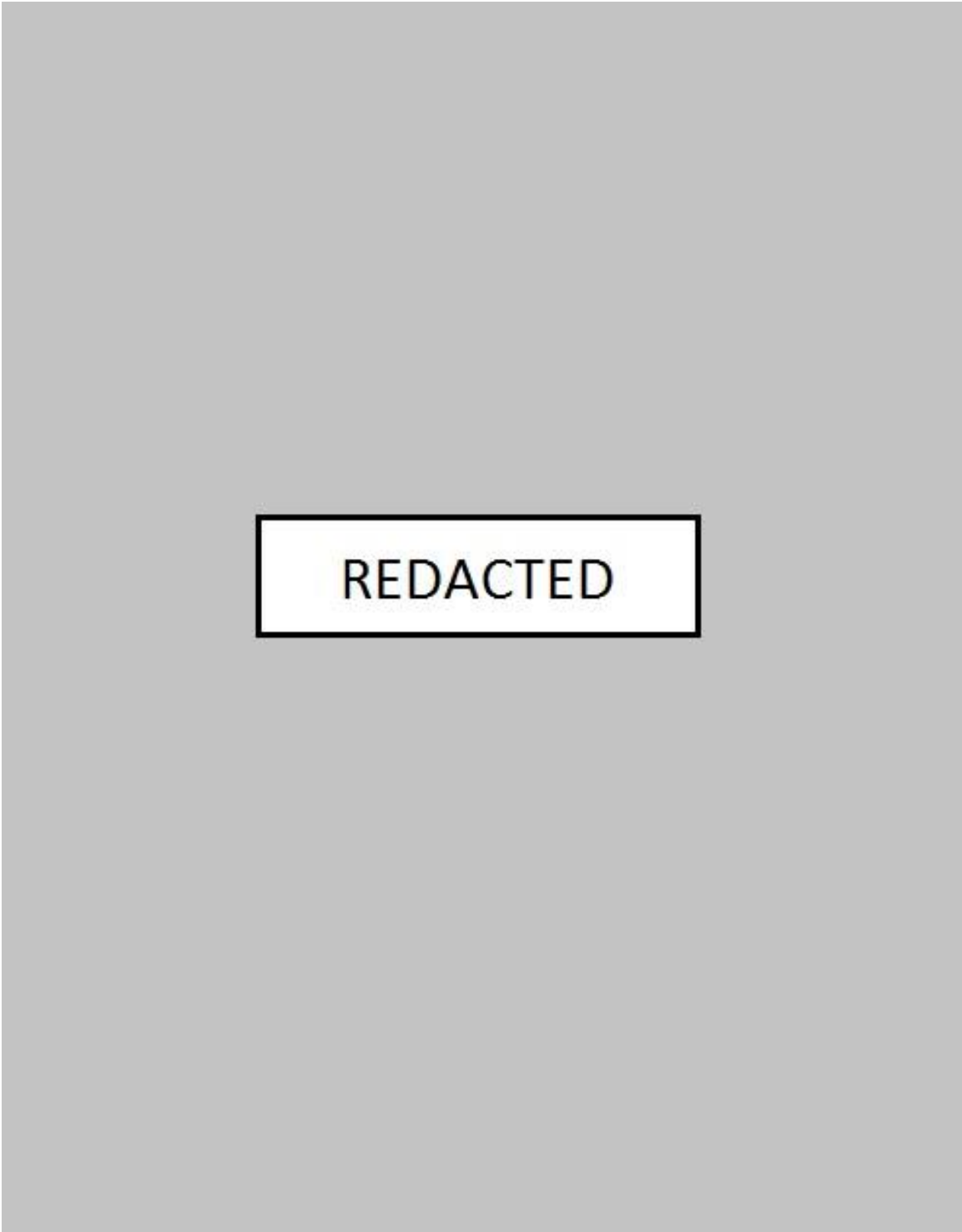


Figure 2-1. The APE showing 41BX179, the Spanish Governor’s Palace, and the Vogel Belt Complex.

Four archaeological investigations were conducted at the Spanish Governor's Palace years after Smith worked in the compound. The first investigation was conducted in 1976 by the Center for Archaeological Research of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA-CAR) (Fox 1977). UTSA-CAR archaeologists excavated units along the northern wall of the Spanish Governor's Palace (**Figure 2-2**). The excavations revealed pockets of undisturbed soils near the north wall of the compound. An intact Spanish Colonial deposit was encountered below the upper zone containing artifacts from the eighteenth and nineteenth century. It was concluded that an *in situ* depositional zone containing colonial artifacts was present within the compound approximately 13 inches below modern surface. One human (infant) burial was encountered at the northeastern corner of the building. The burial appeared to have been associated with deposits dating to the nineteenth century and was not interred during the Spanish Colonial Period. It is unknown if other burials may be present in the vicinity (Fox 1977).

When UTSA-CAR initiated the project, the property was covered by construction debris. Four test pits (labeled Test 1 through Test 4) and three systematically excavated areas (Areas A, B, and C) were opened over the course of the project (Fox 1977). Test 1 determined that disturbed soils extended to a depth of 30 centimeters (cm) below surface (bs) in the vicinity. Test 2 was located along the north wall of the compound inside the courtyard. Test 3 was excavated near the exterior of the northwest corner of the compound. The test unit was excavated to determine if the wall dated to the eighteenth century and extended further north. A wall was located, but appeared to be much narrower in comparison to Spanish Colonial walls. In addition, artifacts encountered dated to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Test 4 was located north of the north wall of the Palace, and has no bearing on the current project.

Excavations in Area A revealed two caliche floors located along the north wall of the structure. The first caliche floor was buried at a depth of 47 cm (18.5 inches) below datum (soil surface was approximately 25 cm/10 inches below datum). It dated to the early nineteenth century and lacked eighteenth century artifacts. The second caliche floor was identified at 58 cm (23 inches) below datum. It dated to the mid-eighteenth century. Ceramics recovered from below the second floor (Puebla Polychrome) dated to the early-eighteenth century. It is possible that these artifacts were deposited at the time of the construction of the adobe presidio in 1721. In addition to the floors, the burial of a small infant was identified near the eastern corner of the front wall. The burial appeared to date to the mid-nineteenth century. The two units excavated in Area B were distributed along the back wall of the presidio. The first unit produced a mixture of eighteenth and nineteenth century artifacts. A stone wall was exposed at 38

cmbs. The wall was examined in greater detail when a 1x1 unit was exposed centered on the feature. Artifacts recovered on top of the wall dated to the nineteenth century. Below the wall, starting at 38 cmbs, an intact Spanish Colonial deposit was encountered extending to a depth of 160 cmbs. Puebla Polychrome and San Agustin fragments were collected during the excavations. Puebla Polychrome ceased production ca. 1725, and San Agustin dates to as early as 1730. The presence of these wares supports the possibility of early eighteenth century occupation.

Excavations in Area C took place in the northeast portion of the project area. The area is approximately 52 m north of the north wall of the Palace. The results of the excavations revealed nineteenth century artifacts and no trace of colonial floors. In summary, excavations conducted during the 1976 project found that portions of the area north of the Spanish Governor's Palace appear to have been disturbed.

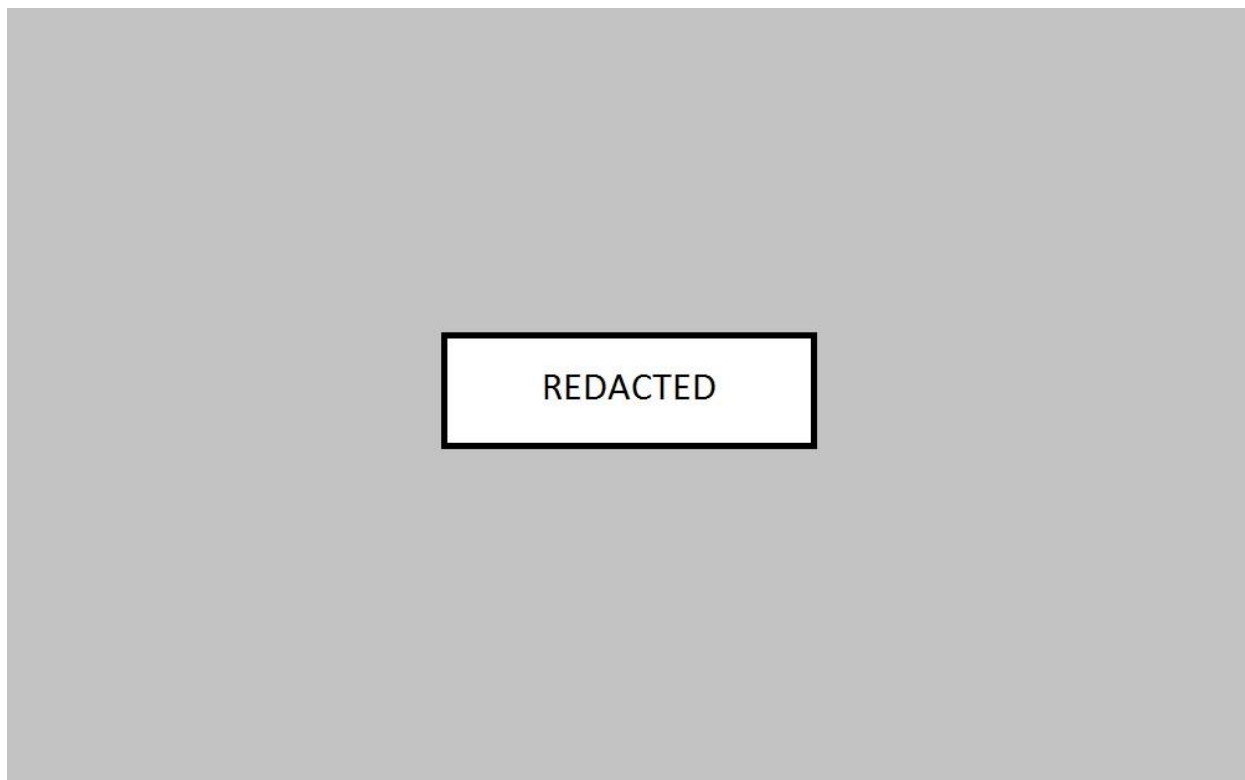


Figure 2-2. The 1976 and 1996 excavations conducted at 41BX179.

The second investigation was conducted in 1996 by UTSA-CAR (Fox 1997). The purpose of the investigation was to gather information concerning the foundation of the front wall (**Figure 2-2**). Colonial deposits were identified some 13 inches below the surface and the base of the 1930s building trench was found at 24 inches below the surface.

The third investigation conducted at the Spanish Governor's Palace took place in 2009 (Ulrich 2010). Excavations focused on the rear courtyard of the compound to clear areas that were to be disturbed by the installation of electrical conduits and fixtures. The excavations encountered the original 1929-30 ground surface used by Harvey P. Smith's crews, underlain (18 to 20 inches bs) by a less disturbed zone that dated to the Spanish Colonial Period.

Abasolo Archaeological Consultants excavated two test pits within the confines of the site in 2011 (Shafer and Hester 2010). One of the units was located in the patio on the north side of the Spanish Governor's Palace while the other was excavated in the western portion of the compound (Shafer and Hester 2010). No intact Spanish Colonial deposits were located in Test Pit 1. Test Pit 2 identified a buried wall base and the remnants of an outdoor activity area and/or feature consisting of scattered bone and charcoal.

Excavations also have taken place in the Vogel Belt Complex located immediately south of the Spanish Governor's Palace (see **Figure 2-1**). In 2013 and 2014, UTSA-CAR conducted excavations within the basement of the complex during the renovations to the building. These investigations recovered nineteenth and twentieth century deposits, as well as Spanish Colonial artifacts.

Chapter 3: Project Methodology

Field Methods

To accommodate logistical concerns by nearby property owners and to minimize disruptions, the project was divided into two phases completed nearly a month apart from each other, beginning in June and finished in July. Phase I consisted of exploratory backhoe trenching and the monitoring of water main trenching in front of the Vogel Belt Complex. The Phase I excavations encompassed approximately 31-feet of the parking lot. Phase II consisted of the removal of pavers in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace and the monitoring of water main trenching and the replacement of the pavers. These excavations encompassed approximately 39.5-feet (12.1 meters [m]) of the paved sidewalk in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace. The work area was surrounded by temporary fencing and it encompassed a sufficiently large area to allow for sufficient work space, the temporary on-site storage of equipment and the storage of the pavers which had to be removed from the front of the Spanish Governor's Palace side walk prior to trenching.

Because it was not known if the original waterline installation encountered archaeological deposits or not, the **RKEI** Scope of Work, developed in coordination with the OHP, called for the archaeological investigation of sections of both trenches. These exploratory investigations were to take place prior to the monitoring of the trenching that was to be conducted by a SAWS sub-contractor. Based on the findings of the first exploratory trench excavated in the Phase I area, prior to the excavations scheduled for Phase II, and in consultation with the COSA-OHP representatives, it was decided that the exploratory trenching was not needed prior to the monitoring of the trenching in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace.

Exploratory Backhoe Trenching

SAWS inspectors informed the archaeologists that the expected depth of the SAWS water main was approximately 4 to 5 feet (1 m) bs. To ensure that the initial exploratory archaeological trenching did not damage the buried waterline, at the request of SAWS representatives, the trench was excavated only to a depth of 3 to 3.5 feet (1 to 1.1 m) below the parking lot surface. The trench was approximately 10 feet (3 m) in length and 3 feet (1m) wide. The documentation of the trench consisted of the clearing of a

representative segment of each trench wall for careful scrutiny. The cleared wall was photographed with a scale, and a detailed profile drawing was made of the soil strata noted. All artifacts noted in the representative trench wall segment were shown on the profile.

Trench Monitoring

Following the excavation of the exploratory archaeological trench in the Phase I area, the SAWS consultant immediately began the excavation of the remainder of the trench for the installation of the waterline. The **RKEI** archaeologist monitored this excavation of the remainder of the trenches occurred once SAWS was ready to proceed with the installation of the new water main. Since it was decided that no exploratory trenching was to be excavated in the Phase II area, an **RKEI** archaeologist was present to monitor the removal of soils from within the original waterline trench located in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace during Phase II. Soils were inspected for historic and prehistoric material related to the use of the Spanish Governor's Place during the Spanish Colonial Period, as well as occupation of the area prior to European contact. The soils were also inspected to ensure that previous installation of the water main did not encounter and disturb human burials.

Laboratory Methods

RKEI proposed a diagnostics only artifact collection policy during investigations. Cultural material collected during the exploratory trenching and monitoring were prepared for curation in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR Part 79, and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Artifacts were processed in the **RKEI** Archaeology Laboratory where they were washed, air dried, and stored in archival-quality bags. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each label displayed provenience information and a corresponding lot number written in pencil.

Field notes, field forms, photographs, and field drawings were placed into labeled archival folders and converted into electronic material. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper, labeled with archivally appropriate materials, and placed in archival-quality plastic sleeves. All field forms were completed with pencil. Ink-jet produced maps and illustrations were placed in archival quality plastic page protectors to prevent against accidental smearing due to moisture. A copy of the report and all digital materials were burned onto a CD and permanently curated with field notes and documents. All project related documentation and artifacts were temporally housed at the **RKEI** Archaeology Laboratory prior to being submitted for permanent curation at UTSA-CAR.

Chapter 4: Investigation Results

To minimize disruption to the general public and nearby establishments, the trenching associated with the installation of the two segments of water main was carried out during two distinct mobilization periods (Phase I and II; **Figure 4-1**). The project had two principal goals: 1) to ensure that archaeological deposits, if present, would be identified and their research value evaluated; and 2) complete the field work in a timely manner. The Phase I portion of the project focused on the installation of a new water main in front of the Vogel Belt Complex. The length of this water main segment was approximately 31 feet (9 m). The second phased of the project involved the installation of a segment of water main pipe in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace, along the paved sidewalk. Phase II consisted of the removal of pavers in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace, the monitoring of water main trenching, and the replacement of the pavers. These excavations encompassed approximately 129.5 feet (39.5 m) of the paved sidewalk in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace.

The Phase I archaeological exploratory trenching was scheduled to take place early in June to during a narrow window to ensure the completion of the phase before the opening of the restaurant in one of the Vogel Belt Complex and before planned events within the nearby Spanish Governor's Palace. The Phase II trench monitoring was scheduled a month later to accommodate event schedules for the Spanish Governor's Palace.



Figure 4-1. Location of the Phase I and Phase II trenches.

Phase I

On June 9, 2015, staff of **RKEI** assisted by Alamo Backhoe and operator Rick Cavaness, excavated a short exploratory trench in front of the Vogel Belt Complex near the eastern beginning point of Phase I. The goal of this trench was to expose the fill in the original water main trench and examine its contents and the stratigraphy of the trench wall. A water main break that occurred a few years earlier resulted in trenching to expose and repair the valve. The outlines of this trench were still visible in the pavement allowing **RKEI** to place the exploratory trench to straddle the recent work by SAWS and the older portion of the water main line (**Figure 4-2**). A mini-excavator was used to dig the exploratory trench.



Figure 4-2. The RKEI exploratory trench in Phase I.

In the southern portion of the trench, the upper 40 cm of matrix consisted of a layer of asphalt followed by base (**Figure 4-3**). A layer of concrete was encountered 40 cmbs. The recently patched area in the northern portion of the trench contained a layer of asphalt underlain by flowable fill. The mini-excavator had difficulty breaking through the concrete and the flowable fill. A hammer drill was utilized to help

break through the material. The upper layer of concrete extended to approximately 50 cmbs. Beneath the concrete was a layer of flowable fill followed by another layer of concrete at 68 cmbs. The second layer of concrete was approximately 15 to 20 cm thick. Below the concrete, the remainder of the matrix consisted of a mix of gravels and flowable fill. The trench was excavated to a terminal depth of 3 feet (1 m) bs to insure that the old water main line would not be damaged during the excavations.

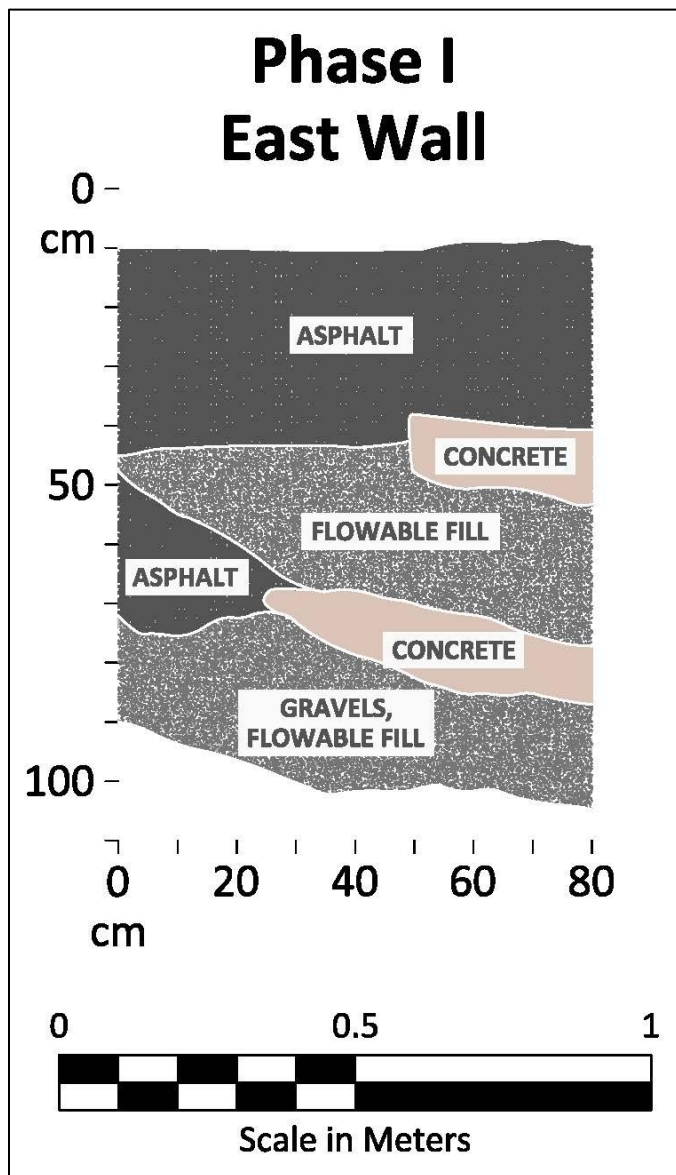


Figure 4-3. East Wall profile of Phase I trench.

No cultural material was encountered during the excavation of the exploratory trench. The matrix revealed during the trenching consisted of construction materials related to the installation and repair

of the water main. Therefore, the material removed from the exploratory trench was not screened. As soon as it was apparent that the trench fill did not contain historic cultural materials and the trench profiles revealed only construction matrix, **RKEI** recommended that the excavation of the remainder of the trench could be carried out by the construction contractor hired to install the water main.

The SAWS excavation of the water main trench commenced on June 10, 2015, and occurred over two days. The trench was placed slightly to the east of the archaeological exploratory trench to uncover both the recently repaired valve and the old water main line. The SAWS trench was approximately 9.5 m (31 feet) in length. The water main was encountered approximately 1.5 m (5 feet) bs.

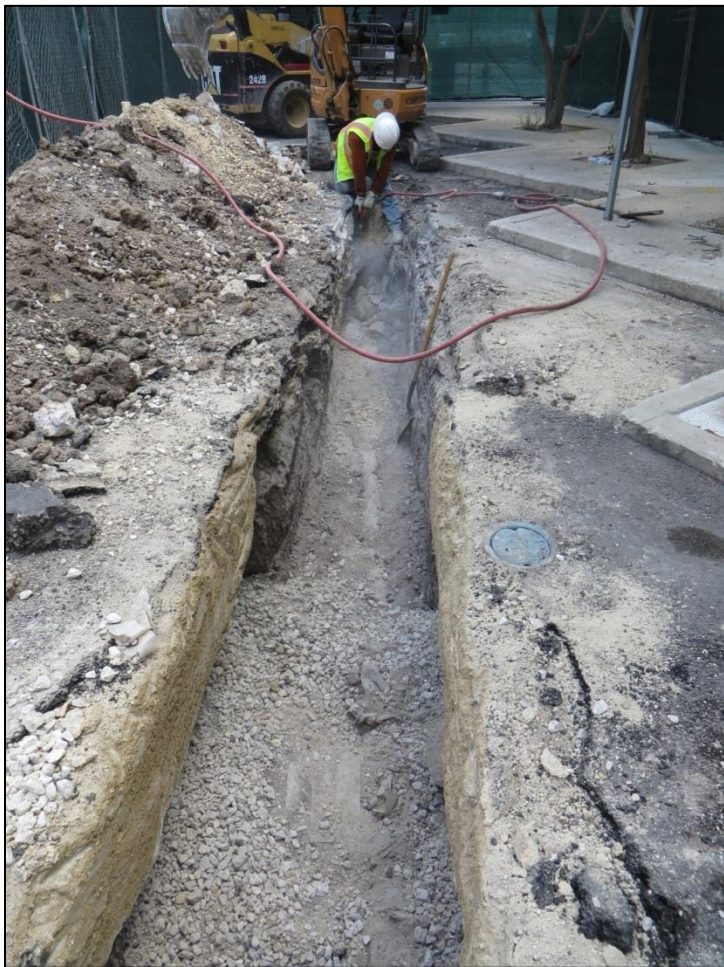


Figure 4-4. The remainder of the Phase I trench excavation.

The SAWS excavations were monitored by the **RKEI** Project Archaeologists. These excavations also encountered the layers of asphalt, flowable fill, and concrete noted in the **RKEI** exploratory trench

(Figure 4-4). In addition, near the middle of the trench, the monitor noted a section of clay loam matrix in the wall of the trench. The matrix noted in the wall of the trench did not appear to be disturbed. Careful inspection of the trench walls noted gravels and roots but did not reveal any cultural material embedded in the clay loam matrix. Near the southern end of the trench, excavations exposed a thick layer of concrete that extended from approximately 40 cmbs to just above the water main, measuring nearly 1.1 m in thickness. This concrete layer capped an old bend in the pipe. A hammer drill and jackhammer were used to remove the concrete to expose the water main. In the west wall of the southern portion of the trench, a pocket of clay loam soil was encountered. No cultural material was noted in the wall or the removed matrix. Roots from a nearby tree were present.

Once the bend in the main was identified, SAWS worked to expose the pipe to cut and replace a section. The northern portion of the trench contained river gravels that made the process difficult. SAWS installed the new line in the evening to not interrupt water service to the surrounding establishments.

Phase II

Because of the absence of undisturbed soils that contained cultural materials in the Phase I excavation area, **RKEI** staff recommended to the COSA-OHP that an exploratory trench may not be warranted in the Phase II portion of the trench. The COSA Archaeologist, Kay Hinds, concurred with the recommendation. The Phase II trench was located in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace. Staff of San Jacinto Materials, stone masons experienced in working with historic architecture, were contracted to remove the section of the pavers in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace to allow for access to the water main. The pavers were originally installed by the same firm during the 1980s and are not considered historic in age nor are they contributing elements to the Spanish Governor's Palace National Historic Landmark Site.

Once the pavers were removed and temporarily stored within the fenced job site, it was decided that the excavation would begin near the southern end of the trench in the vicinity of a connection valve. This valve was situated in the asphalted parking lot just east of the beginning of the paver sidewalk. The initial excavation by the SAWS contractor resulted in a 3 m long north/south oriented trench that did not encounter the expected water main. The soils excavated from this short trench contained a number of artifacts (cut bone and glass fragments) but given the small area exposed and the mixture of concrete and asphalt being removed from this trench, it was not possible to determine whether the deposits were disturbed or intact. When the water main could not be located, the contractor decided to

shift strategies and begin the excavation of the trench at the north end in the vicinity of a water-hydrant and near the north end of the paved sidewalk.

Prior to the inception of the trenching, the limestone pavers had to be removed. The pavers were imbedded into a layer of concrete that was approximately 20 cm in thickness. Once the limestone paver blocks were removed, an impact hammer and small jackhammer were used to break through the underlying concrete. Approximately 10 m of the northern section of the trench, contained caliche gravels below the flowable fill (**Figure 4-5**). The water line was encountered within the gravels. A small section of the trench exhibited brown clay loam soils associated with landscaping, specifically nearby trees that are planted through the sidewalk. No cultural material was noted within the matrix associated with the trees.



Figure 4-5. Use of the impact hammer. Portion of the Phase II trench, facing south.

The middle section of the Phase II trench encountered a pocket of brown clay loam mixed in with the concrete and flowable fill. The clay loam contained a few artifacts including a saw-cut bone fragment, an aqua bottle base, a few fragments of aqua and clear glass, and unidentified metal fragments. Based on the presence of clear and aqua glass, and saw cut bone, it was ascertained that the materials may at best represent a mixed deposit. More importantly, the materials were in a pocket of soil that was embedded in or surrounded by concrete and flowable fill. The wall of the trench in the vicinity of the pocket of soil consisted of caliche, gravels and flowable fill indicating that the soil was introduced into the trench as an isolated dump rather than having fallen out of the trench wall.

A section of the trench, approximately 2 m in length, contained construction sand and water utility lines that serviced the Spanish Governor's Palace (**Figure 4-6**). The matrix surrounding the line leading to the Spanish Governor's Palace was very moist in comparison to the rest of the trench.



Figure 4-6. Phase II trench showing sand and water line servicing the Spanish Governor's Palace.

As the trench continued to the south it extended off the paved sidewalk and across a short portion of the asphalt parking lot. The asphalt encountered was approximately 10 cm thick in most places. It sat on top of a layer of concrete that was approximately 20 cm thick. A layer of base material, measuring 15 to 20 cm in thickness was observed below the concrete. Below the base material, the excavations encountered brown clay loam. In the area above the water main, the matrix was disturbed.

As the trench continued toward the valve in the parking lot, it met up with the short trench that was dug earlier to locate the water main and valve. The orientation of the long trench showed that the short trench was excavated to the east and outside of the original trench. With the excavation of the long trench having passed immediately next to the short trench, the larger area provided a better opportunity to the Project Archaeologist to observe the walls of the short trench. The first segment of the short trench that was cleaned for profiling was the 80 cm south wall of the short off-set trench. The inspection of the stratigraphy revealed the outline of the east wall of the original trench wall that was dug to install the water main (**Figure 4-7**). To the east of the trench outline were a series of horizontal fill layers (zones) immediately under the asphalt and base continuing to a depth of 72 cmbs. Below Zone 5 was a homogenous dark brown clay loam soil that continued to the base of the trench wall at 130. This stratum appeared to be intact and contained cultural materials.

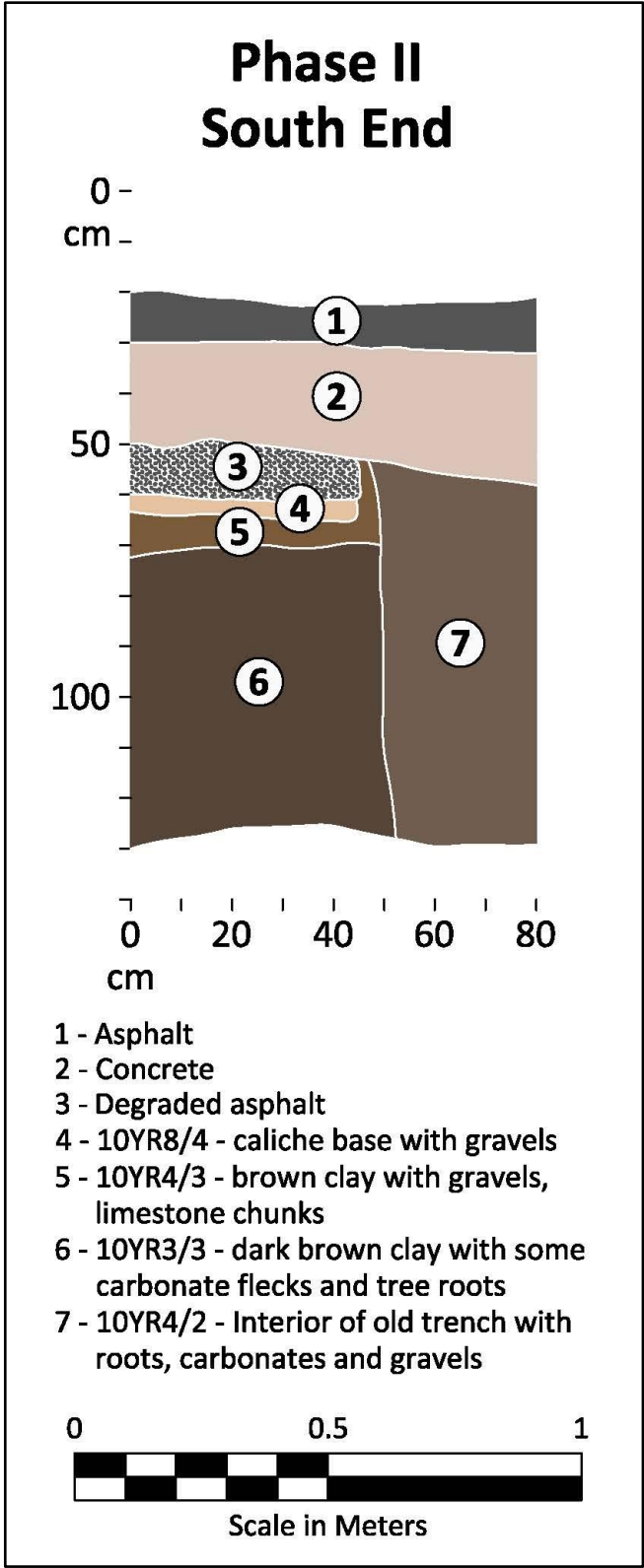


Figure 4-7. Profile of the south wall of off-set Phase II trench, note the outline of the original trench.

Following the inspection of the south wall of the off-set trench, the 3 m long east wall of the trench was cleared and a 1 m section was profiled. The east wall profile indicated that the thick intact soil zone that contained cultural materials in the south wall profile, could be subdivided into three sub-units. The only one of these sub-units that contained *in situ* cultural materials was Zone 6B found between 80 and 103 cmbs (Figure 4-8).

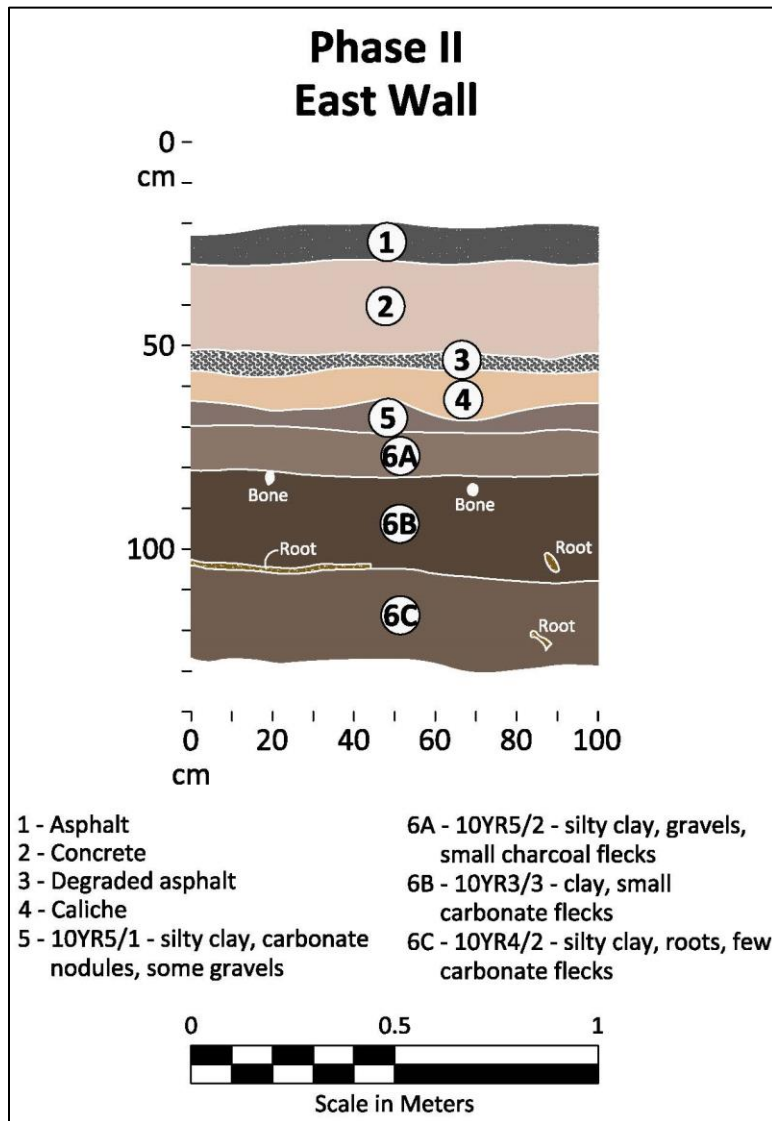


Figure 4-8. East Wall profile of Phase II off-set trench showing intact soils and cultural zone.

The cultural material encountered in Zone 6B consisted of artifacts that could be associated to the Spanish Colonial Period. None of the artifacts recovered during the cleaning of the east wall of the trench post-dated the Spanish Colonial Period (see Chapter 5). The majority of the material noted consisted of animal bone that exhibited cut marks. Lead glazed ceramic sherds were collected and returned to the **RKEI** Archaeology Laboratory for further inspection. No glass was encountered in the section of trench.

Following the completion of the profiling, and as the mechanical excavation of the trench continued, a catastrophic water main break was experienced. As a result, the southern half of the trench flooded before the main could be turned off. Once the standing water was pumped from the trench and it dried out, SAWS repaired the break and replaced the exposed line within the entire trench. No additional trenching was conducted and the monitoring was concluded.

Following the backfilling of the Phase II trench by the SAWS sub-contractor, the staff of San Jacinto Materials proceeded with the reinstallation of the cement base and the limestone pavers. Once the pavers were replaced, gravelly sand with a cement component was poured over the area and introduced into the cracks as filler. At the completion of this task, the surface of the sidewalk and the nearby parking lot was pressure washed and the original parking spaces were relined.

Chapter 5: Artifact Discussion

No cultural material was encountered during the excavation of the Phase I trench. This chapter discusses the small collection of artifacts recovered from the short off-set trench located at the southern end of the Phase II excavations. The temporally diagnostic materials were collected from the trench wall and the back dirt that had been stored on the edge of the trench. The back dirt was not screened but rather spread out on the asphalt and the few artifacts noted were collected. Table 5-1 presents the material collected from the southern portion of the Phase II trench.

Table 1. Artifacts recovered from investigations.

| Provenance | Class | Type | Count | Date of Manufacture |
|------------|-------------------------|---|-------|-----------------------------------|
| Phase II | Native American Ceramic | Goliad | 2 | Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century |
| Phase II | Spanish Colonial | Unglazed Wheel Thrown, possibly Valero Ware | 1 | Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century |
| Phase II | Spanish Colonial | Red Burnished Ware | 3 | 1725-1800 |
| Phase II | Spanish Colonial | Yellow and Green Lead Glazed | 3 | Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century |
| Phase II | Spanish Colonial | Immature Lead Glazed | 1 | Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century |
| Phase II | Spanish Colonial | Unglazed Wheel Thrown L | 1 | Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century |
| Phase II | Spanish Colonial | Red Burnished Ware | 3 | 1725-1800 |
| Phase II | Spanish Colonial | Black Lusterware | 1 | 1750-1850 |
| Phase II | Tin Glazed | Puebla Blue on White II | 1 | 1775-1800 |
| Phase II | Tin Glazed | San Elizario | 1 | 1750-1850 |
| Phase II | Metal | Cuprous | 1 | |
| Phase II | Brick | Handmade | 1 | |

The small number of ceramics recovered during the inspection of the short off-set trench that contained intact deposits included Native American-made (n=2) and Spanish Colonial Period (n=11) specimens. No other ceramic types were encountered that post-date the Spanish Colonial Period.

Native American Ceramic Wares

The most common Native American-made ceramic variety that has been recovered at Spanish Colonial Period mission sites in San Antonio is the Goliad Ware. Goliad Wares are handmade, unglazed, low-fired ceramics made of local clays tempered with moderate to finely crushed and ground animal bones. Since the burning of the bone reduces crushing and grinding time, it is assumed that the animal bone is burned prior to its introduction into the clay matrix.

Given its technological similarity to the bone tempered Leon Plain Wares associated with the Late

Prehistoric Toyah Phase, archaeologists generally assume that Goliad Wares are a continuation of the Toyah Phase technological tradition into historic times. However, the exact relationship between Goliad and Leon Plain Wares is not known, nor do we have a clear understanding of how indigenous groups acquired the knowledge to make bone tempered ceramics. The continuity of the technological details between the two types suggests that historic Indians were directly exposed to descendants of Toyah Phase potters or that vestiges of the Toyah Phase extend into the Spanish Colonial Period. Two fragments of Native-made ceramic were recovered from the back dirt derived from the short off-set trench near the southern terminus of the Phase II trench (**Figure 5-1**).



Figure 5-1. Native American Ware recovered from the southern end of Phase II trench.

The two small fragments recovered from the trench range from reddish brown to brown color and have an even core that matches the color of the two faces. The lack of a dark gray core indicates that the specimens were fired in an oxidizing environment and at sufficiently high temperatures to burn off the organics that typically accumulate and remain in the center of the typical Goliad specimens. The paste lacks a noticeable sand component and as such it matches the Navarro clays found in abundance throughout the upper reach of the San Antonio River basin. The small specks of white inclusions appear

to be animal bone, although no systematic petrographic analysis of the specimens was conducted.

The lack of a dark core and the bright red color of the ceramics suggest high temperature firing conditions which are not characteristic of most Goliad firing conditions. Therefore, the specimens may represent so called Colono Wares rather than the typical Goliad Wares. Colono Wares are ceramics made using traditional clay fabric preparation methods but creating vessel forms that mimic nontraditional vessel forms, and are often fired in kilns rather than using traditional open air bonfire techniques. Given that these specimens match these characteristics, they likely should be identified as Colono Wares (Ulrich 2004).

Spanish Colonial Ceramic Wares

Spanish Colonial wares were made in the Spanish-occupied areas in Mexico during the colonial period. The most popular manufacture sites were in Puebla, Guanajuato, and Mexico City. These wares made their way to San Antonio by mule train and are common finds at sites that were inhabited during the mission period. The Spanish Colonial wares can be divided into three different glaze types: Unglazed, Lead Glazed, and Tin Glazed.

Unglazed Wares

Wheel Thrown, Possible Valero Ware

One rim sherd of an unglazed wheel thrown vessel was recovered in the trench backdirt (**Figure 5-2**). The wheel thrown variety of ceramic that was encountered during the project likely is Valero Ware, but it does not exhibit the red-brown paint decoration on the exterior. These sherds exhibit the same orange paste as Valero Wares and are uniform in color due to a controlled firing atmosphere. The orange pasted body exhibits the striation lines characteristic of manufacture on a pottery wheel. The manufacture of these vessels is believed to have occurred in Mexico throughout the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth century (Fox and Ulrich 2008). The vessels are typically large and may have been used for water storage.



Figure 5-2. Wheel thrown ceramic recovered from Phase II trench, possible Valero Ware.

Red Burnished Ware

Three sherds of Red Burnished Ware sherds were recovered from the southern portion of the Phase II trench (**Figure 5-3**). Two of the three sherds represent rims. Red Burnished Wares are another variety of unglazed earthenware that was recovered during trenching. Although never officially designated as a type, this ware is characterized by the color of the paste and the surface treatment. It was first recognized by Curtis Tunnell at Mission San Lorenzo and at Mission Valero (Fox and Ulrich 2008). It has been encountered at many other Spanish Colonial sites in Texas.



Figure 5-3. Three fragments of Red Burnished ware.

Red Burnished Ware is characterized by a dark red to black paste with a highly polished surface. The paste is fine-grained and uniform throughout the sherds. The vessels were coated with a thin red slip that was burnished to a high gloss in most areas. Matte areas were present but contained glossy swirls and loops as decoration. Often firing created spalls that leave the sherd surface speckled by white or black (Fox and Ulrich 2008). The Red Burnished vessels were handmade, possibly in Central Mexico, throughout the eighteenth century (Fox and Ulrich 2008).

Lead Glazed Wares

Lead glazed sherds are typically associated with the Spanish Colonial occupation of the area, although their dates of manufacture could extend into the mid- to late-nineteenth century, depending on the type.

Yellow and Green Glazed

Yellow and Green Glazed is another variety of the Sandy Paste Lead Glazed Wares. The vessel walls of this type are often thicker than the tin glazed ceramics. The glaze used on these vessels appears to have a yellow and/or green tint. Green decorations on the rim are often seen (although can be broken down into the Yellow and Green Glaze II variety). Vessel forms were often utilitarian and held up well during the transit from Mexico to San Antonio (Fox and Ulrich 2008). Four lead glazed sherds were recovered from the southern portion of the Phase II trench: three Yellow and Green Lead Glazed, and one

immature lead glazed. One of the three Yellow and Green Glazed sherds was located in the profiled wall of the trench. The sherd was recovered from Layer 4 as the wall was cleared for the profile. The sherd represented a vessel base. The remaining three sherds were body sherds that were collected from the trench (**Figure 5-4**).



Figure 5-4. Yellow and Green Lead Glazed wares.

Black Lusterware

Two varieties of Black Lusterware have been noted at sites in Texas, both of these originating from Mexico. One variety exhibits a buff colored paste, while the other exhibits a terra cotta paste. The single example recovered from the southern portion of the Phase II trench was a rim sherd that exhibited the buff colored paste (**Figure 5-5**). The terra cotta pasted versions were recorded as being produced in Michoacan, Mexico between 1750 and 1850 (Fox and Ulrich 2008). It is thought that the buff pasted versions are contemporaneous.



Figure 5-5. Mexican Black Lusterware.

Tin Glazed Wares

Tin Glazed ceramics manufactured in Mexico are often referred to as *majolicas*. The tradition can also be seen in Italy, Spain, France, and Moorish influenced regions. The two sherds were small in size, making identification difficult. Nonetheless, paste color, decoration color, and other identifying characteristics were used to place the sherds in types.

Tin glazed ceramics are manufactured using a potter's wheel to form the vessel. The vessels are all kiln-fired. The glaze used on the vessels is a lead glaze with a tin additive that creates an opaque, enamel-like surface after firing. Once the glaze is set, the decoration is painted on the desired surfaces and fired again. *Majolicas* often have a high gloss and vibrant designs.

Puebla Blue on White II

Puebla Blue on White II is a variation of Puebla Blue on White. The type is restricted to only cups and small bowls. Puebla Blue on White II is common at Texas Colonial sites, but has also been recovered in Florida and California as well although lumped into the Puebla Blue on White. This type has the same

creamy white background glaze but exhibits two to three pale blue bands just under the rim. Under the bands are petals or floral designs in a darker blue with additional thin pale blue bands underneath. A trio of dark blue dots is also another design that is noted on Puebla Blue on White II. The paste of the sherd is typically tan colored (Fox and Ulrich 2008).

Puebla Blue on White II is a type of *majolica* that arrives during the later mission period in Texas. It is believed that the ware made its way to Texas between 1775 and 1800 (Fox and Ulrich 2008). One fragment of *majolica* recovered from the southern end of the Phase II trench was identified as Puebla Blue on White II (Figure 5-6A).

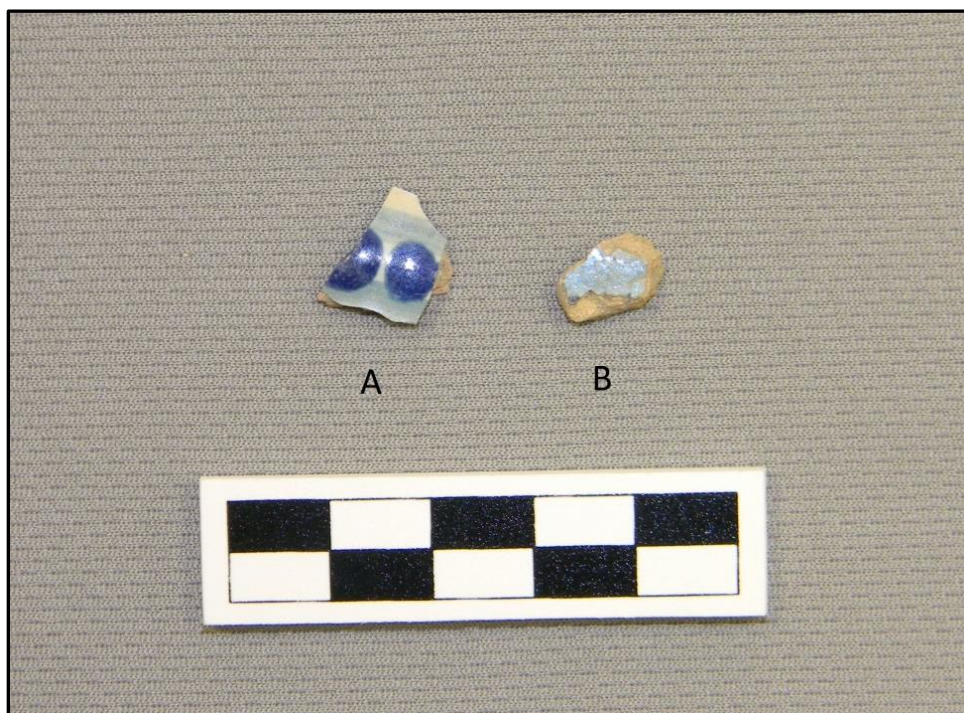


Figure 5-6. Two *majolica* sherds recovered from Phase II trench: a) Puebla Blue on White II; b) San Elizario.

San Elizario Polychrome

As part of the Puebla Blue on White Tradition, San Elizario Polychrome exhibits a vibrant blue and white coloring. The ware was first separated as its own type in 1968 after previously being called Puebla Polychrome II. San Elizario Polychrome is common at most Spanish Colonial Sites in Texas (Fox and Ulrich 2008). One sherd of *majolica* recovered from the Phase II trench was identified as a fragment of

San Elizario (see **Figure 5-6B**).

San Elizario is very similar to Puebla Blue on White in design. They both exhibit a blue rim band with petals and floral designs under. The central image is typically a crane-like figure. What separates San Elizario is the use of brown/black lines bordering the rim band and used as accents on the floral images and the crane (Fox and Ulrich 2008). The paste is usually pink, but cream ones have been encountered. San Elizario appears to be common in Texas between 1755 and 1780, although dates of manufacture are likely 1750 to 1850 (Fox and Ulrich 2008).

Chapter 6: Discussion and Recommendations

RKEI was contracted by the CLIENT on behalf of SAWS to perform archaeological investigations and monitoring associated with the installation of new water mains located in the parking lots east of the Spanish Governor's Palace and the Vogel Belt Complex which houses new COSA offices and other business establishments. Because no archaeological investigations were conducted at the time of the original utility installations, and since the Plaza de Armas and the nearby Spanish Governor's Palace is a National Historic Landmark, the COSA-OHP requested that archaeological investigations be carried out prior to the water main installation and that the re-excavation of the water main trench be monitored for cultural debris.

The project falls under the jurisdiction of under the jurisdiction of the COSA's Preservation Ordinance (Division 3, Article VI Historic Preservation and Urban Design, Texas Unified Development Code) administered by the OHP. Furthermore, the project also falls under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas, as overseen by the THC.

To minimize disruption to the use of this portion of Plaza de Armas, the installation project was divided into two segments each corresponding to a short segment of water main line. Phase I consisted of exploratory backhoe trenching and the monitoring of water main trenching in front of the Vogel Belt Complex. Excavations were to take place in the parking lot immediately east of the sidewalk. Phase II was to take place in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace and involved the removal of pavers in front of the Spanish Governor's Palace prior to the water main trenching, followed by the replacement of the pavers. The two phases took place nearly a month apart from each other, beginning in June and finished in July. The investigations were conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit #7299. Kristi Miller Nichols served as Principal Investigator.

In coordination with the COSA-OHP, **RKEI** was to excavate an exploratory trench within each phase of the installation at each location of the new water lines prior to the remainder of the trench being excavated for the line installation. The matrix removed from the trench was to be screened to recover cultural material. Once the exploratory trench was cleared by the **RKEI** archaeologist, the SAWS sub-contractor would be allowed to excavate the remainder of the trench while the archaeological monitored the activity.

The prescribed strategy was employed during Phase I of the project. The deposits that were encountered during the initial archaeological exploration and subsequently during the trench monitoring consisted of construction debris and flowable fill. No intact matrix was identified during the Phase I work and no cultural materials were noted. Given the negative findings from Phase I, **RKEI** archaeologists recommended that the archaeological investigation preceding mechanical trenching and should be eliminated and instead the trenching carried out by SAWS contractors should simply be monitored.

RKEI contracted with San Jacinto Materials, a highly experienced group of stone masons, to remove the stone pavers located on the sidewalk in front of the main entrance to the Spanish Governor's Palace. Once the pavers were removed, the excavation of the trench commenced. The northern half of the trench encountered concrete and fill material to the top of the water main. During the trenching of the southern portion, the trench was widened in search of a joint. The widening was off-set some 80 cm from the original trajectory of the principal trench. This offset exposed a zone of undisturbed matrix consisting of clay loam buried at a depth of 80 cmbs of the asphalt. This intact depositional zone was 20-25 cm in thickness and contained low densities of cultural materials. A small quantity of material was collected during the scraping of the trench wall to define stratigraphic boundaries and conduct profiling. These materials, consisting of a variety of ceramics, date exclusively to the Spanish Colonial Period. The manufacture dates for most of the ceramic types encountered range from the 1700s to the 1850s. One fragment of Puebla Blue on White II *majolica* dates from 1775 to 1800.

Following the documentation of the stratigraphy and the extraction of the small number of artifacts, the pavers were reset by the stone masons and a mix of sand, cement and small gravels were introduced in the spaces between the pavers to fill in gaps. Due to the cultural material recovered within undisturbed soils in the southern end of the Phase II trench, **RKEI** recommends the extension of the 41BX179 site boundary to encompass the buried deposits encountered in the off-set trench. Site 41BX179, the Casa del Capitan and Presidio de Bexar, is a National Historic Landmark. The artifacts encountered within the trench appear to relate to the use of the area as part of the Presidio. The new boundary should include the section of Phase II trench that contained cultural material. However, it is highly likely that intact deposits are present elsewhere in the plaza that are associated with the Spanish Colonial occupation and use of the Presidio.

Although the project consisted of the re-excavation of a previous water main trench, the significant

archaeological information that the project produced is somewhat surprising. Most importantly, the project identified intact deposits below the asphalted parking lot of the Plaza de Armas in front of the Vogel Belt Complex. The intact deposits begin at roughly 53 cm below the parking lot surface and continued to the base of the trench at 128 cmbs. Sandwiched within this deposit is a zone containing Spanish Colonial materials. This cultural zone extends from 80 cm to 103 cmbs. The artifacts recovered from this zone consist of a variety of ceramic fragments dating the Spanish Colonial Period (1700s to the 1850s). At least three plain reddish brown sherds appear to contain small fragments of crushed animal bone. While the clay fabric of these sherds is reminiscent of Goliad plain wares, the high –temperature firing suggests that the fragments represent vestiges of Colono Wares, that is, the manufacture and/or firing of ceramic wares using either non-traditional forms, or non-traditional firing techniques.

Given the potential for additional undisturbed deposits being present below the surface of Plaza de Armas, **RKEI** recommends that archaeological investigations be carried out ahead of any future ground disturbing activities.

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