

**SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

San Antonio, Texas

**RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT**

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Prepared for

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
Intermountain Region

Prepared by

OCULUS

in association with

**Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio**

Archeologists and Historians

Re-Search

Historian

Luis Torres

Ethnographer

The Broussard Group

Landscape Architects

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CREDITS

National Park Service

Stephen E. Whitesell, Superintendent, San Antonio Missions NHP

Mary Bomar, Assistant Superintendent, San Antonio Missions NHP

Mark Chavez, Chief of Professional Services, San Antonio Missions NHP

James B. Oliver, Landscape Architect, San Antonio Missions NHP

Cherry Payne, Chief of Interpretation, San Antonio Missions NHP

Dr. Rosalind Z. Rock, Historian, San Antonio Missions NHP

Dan Steed, Chief of Resource Management and Visitor Protection, San Antonio Missions NHP

Oculus

Rob McGinnis, Principal-in-Charge, Project Manager

Liz Sargent, Historical Landscape Architect

Rachel Evans, Landscape Architect

Center For Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio

Dr. Robert Hard, Project Director

Dr. Britt Bousman, Project Manager

Anne Fox, Project Archeologist

Diane Cargill, Project Archeologist

Re-Search

Maria Watson Pfeiffer, Historian

Luis Torres, Oral Historian

Luis Torres, Oral Historian

The Broussard Group

Tom Afflerbach, Project Landscape Architect

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1 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 1995, title to the 99.2 acre Rancho de las Cabras property was transferred by the State of Texas to the United States Department of the Interior to be administered by the National Park Service (NPS) part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The Rancho de las Cabras property includes the ruins of the only rancho (cattle ranch) known to remain from the extensive system that supported San Antonio's eighteenth century Spanish colonial missions. At the time, each of the area's five missions maintained at least one ranch that supplied it with livestock; the Rancho de las Cabras property served as part of a ranch supporting Mission Espada. As part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Rancho de las Cabras provides a unique opportunity to interpret this integral and important, but little known, aspect of the region's mission complexes. It also is an excellent location to tell the story of the frontier ranches established during the Spanish colonial period that served as the entry point for cattle ranching in this country and helped to establish many American traditions associated with the Southwest, including cowboys, ranches, and trail drives.

Since 1995, NPS has been involved in a planning process to provide for the protection, management, and interpretation of Rancho de las Cabras property resources, and the development of site improvements to accommodate access by visitors and NPS personnel to this recent addition to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Currently, the remote site is only accessible to the public through guided tours hosted by NPS once a month, and to authorized groups and individuals. Otherwise, the property is gated and no NPS employee is on site. Ultimately, NPS would like to open the property to visitors during normal park visitation hours, and maintain an NPS presence there during that time.

As part of their planning process, NPS engaged OCULUS and its subconsultants—Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio; Re-Search; Luis Torres, Oral Historian; and The Broussard Group—to prepare a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) and Level II Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the site. The CLR 1) documents the evolution of the site's cultural landscape resources; 2) documents and evaluates existing cultural landscape conditions; and 3) recommends appropriate alternatives for treatment guidelines, strategies, and plans for the preservation and enhancement of cultural landscape resources at Rancho de las Cabras.

STUDY BOUNDARIES

Figures 1 and 2

Rancho de las Cabras is located in Wilson County, Texas, three miles southwest of the county seat of Floresville and twenty-three miles southeast of the City of San Antonio. The San Antonio River abuts the 99.2 acre property to the east, and County Route 144 edges it to the west. Picoso Creek traverses the central portion of the property and joins the San Antonio River near its southeastern corner.

The boundaries of the Rancho de las Cabras property include County Route 144 to the southwest, a privately-owned farm to the northwest, Picoso Creek and a privately-owned farm to the north, the San Antonio River to the east, and the Promised Land Dairy to the south.

PROJECT SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Project Scope

Based on the scope of work prepared by the National Park Service titled "Cultural Landscape Report and Cultural Landscape Inventory for Mission Espada: Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park," and dated August 20, 1997, OCULUS and its consultants have undertaken the following tasks to prepare this report:

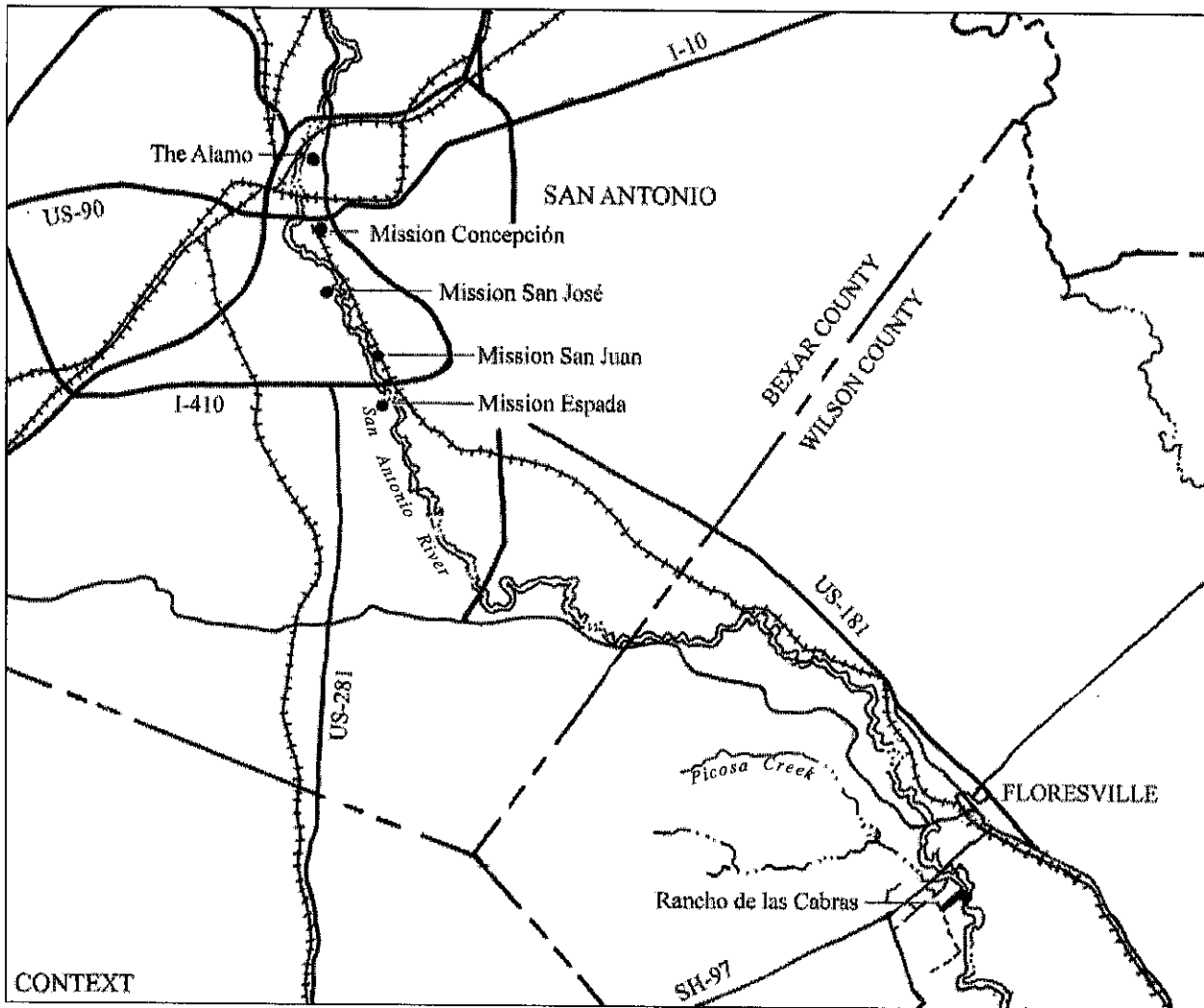
- research of primary and secondary source materials relating to all cultural landscape elements of Rancho de las Cabras, with an emphasis on known resources;
- study of the evolution of the site; preparation of a review of available historic maps, photographs, and written records;
- field investigations to update base mapping, and inventory and document existing landscape features photographically and on base maps;
- review of archeological records for site specific data and preparation of archeological base maps illustrating known archeological resources, as well as those areas in which the potential for archeological resources is high;
- identification of additional areas where supplemental archeological research and investigation may be necessary;
- preparation of a site history, organized into a cultural landscape chronology, that identifies notable periods of landscape development based on historical research of primary and secondary source materials; and identification of key characteristics and components of the landscape during each historic period. The presentation of the information was based on the landscape characteristics identified by the National Register



LOCATION

Map Sources:

U.S. Department of the Interior. Geological Survey. *San Antonio, Texas*. 1:250,000. 1954. Rev. 1980; and Ray Stephens and William M. Holmes, *Historical Atlas of Texas*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1989.

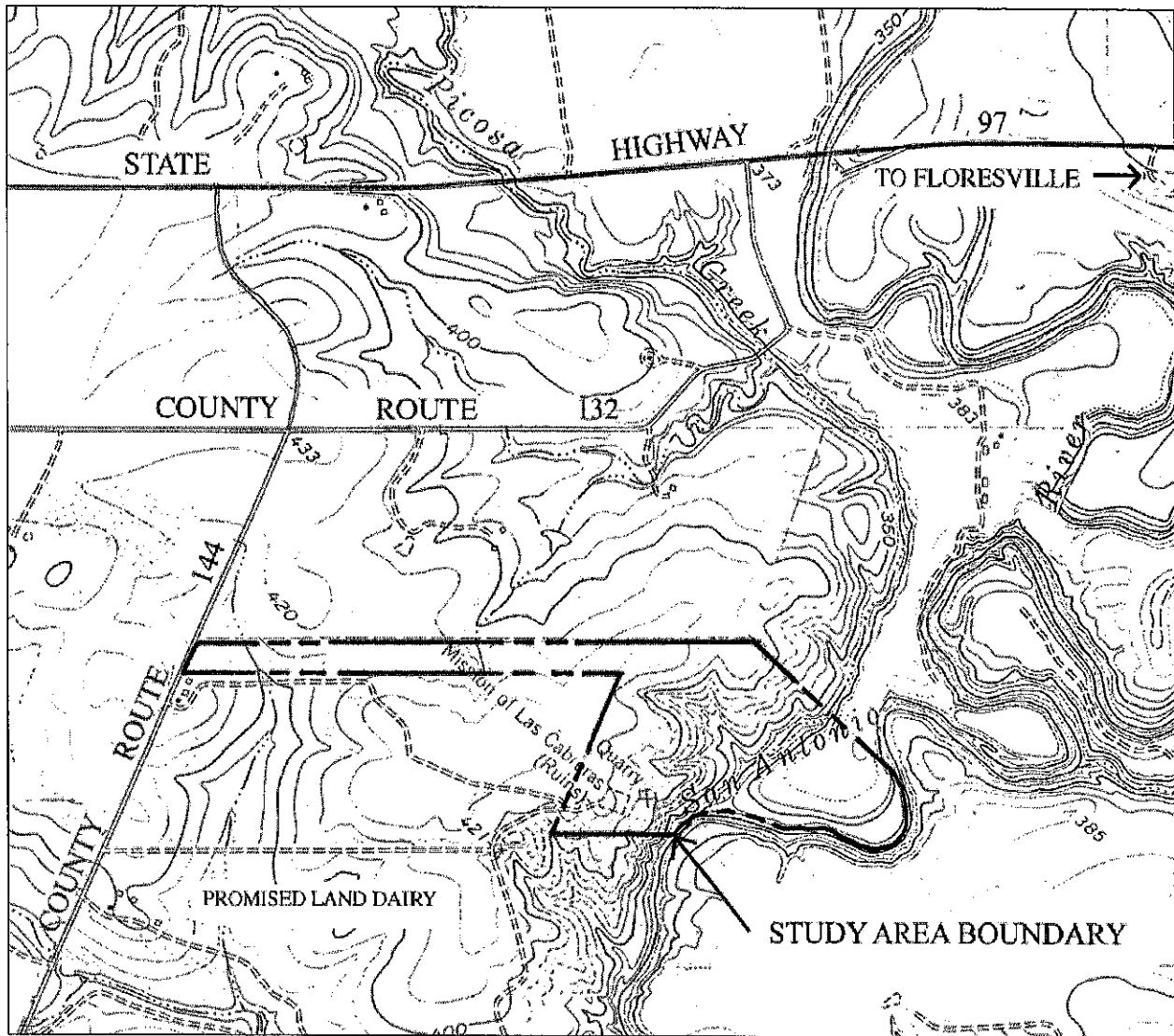


CONTEXT

Figure 1. Location and Context Maps

of Historic Places, including overall landscape organization, responses to natural features and systems, cultural traditions, land uses and activities, circulation systems, views and viewsheds, buildings and structures, archeological resources, small-scale features, patterns of spatial organization, and boundary demarcations. The landscape uses and values of each culture that has occupied and settled this site were taken into consideration as were the sensory/aesthetic characteristics of the landscape;

- preparation of a graphic cultural landscape chronology using base maps of the site to create a series of overlays representing what is known about the landscape during each historic period;
- preparation of a clearly-labeled existing conditions plan based on field surveys that identifies key landscape features such as boundary lines, topography, structures, vegetation, walks, drives, and views and viewsheds;
- preparation of existing conditions documentation that describes the landscape using narrative text and photographs. Presentation of the information was based on the landscape characteristics identified by the National Register of Historic Places, including overall landscape organization, responses to natural features and systems, cultural traditions, land uses and activities, circulation systems, views and viewsheds, buildings and structures, archeological resources, small-scale features, patterns of spatial organization, and boundary demarcations. The sensory/aesthetic characteristics of the landscape were also taken into consideration;
- preparation of a site analysis and evaluation that identifies, from an analysis of the historical text, elements which are significant and contributing to the integrity of the cultural landscape, and which are character-defining. In support of the analysis, graphic analyses, such as diagrams or cross sections, that clearly identify these elements were also undertaken, and existing and potential threats to the integrity of the cultural landscape were identified;
- preparation of a statement of significance, using National Register Criteria;
- assessment of the condition of extant landscape components and characteristics and determination of the integrity of the resource, using National Register Criteria;
- identification of problems and issues associated with resource protection and interpretation, including threats, hazards, and visitor, NPS, and community use;
- development of suggestions for management goals based on the Park's General Management Plan, Statement for Management, and Development Concept Plan; development of objectives to meet goals, including interpretation needs;



Map Sources:

U.S. Department of the Interior. Geological Survey. *Dewees Quadrangle. Texas-Wilson Co. 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)*. 1961. Addition of CR 144 extension and study area boundary based on hand drawn information provided by NPS, SAMNHP personnel.



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 2. Study Area Boundary

- preparation of design guidelines for site development and maintenance that address significant landscape components and provide for continued local community and visitor use, accessibility, interpretation, enhancement of visitor understanding of land use changes, and the highlighting of significant cultural features; identification of the types and degrees of changes that can occur without adversely impacting the landscape's physical and visual character-defining features; illustration of guidelines using text and graphics that provide a coherent and accepted method of evaluating future changes and their effects on existing landscape resources;
- preparation of design alternatives and a treatment plan to direct future site maintenance that address interpretation of the ruins; development of circulation systems and a parking area; development of the entire area to establish such modern infrastructure as a ranger office and comfort facilities; identification of landscaping issues such as site development, preservation of existing plant materials or restoration of historic ones, clearing, screening, hardscape, and irrigation; and preservation and enhancement of historic and existing viewsheds;
- preparation of treatment recommendations based on design guidelines;
- preparation of a Level II Cultural Landscape Inventory form for the site;
- preparation of a bibliography of source materials utilized to develop the Cultural Landscape Report and Cultural Landscape Inventory;
- attendance at review conferences relating to the 50% and 75% review stages of the project, held at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park headquarters building; and
- response to telephonic and written inquiries and comments from the Contracting Officer/COTR during review periods.

Project Methodology

The Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report was prepared in accordance with the guidance offered in:

- NPS-28: *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, Release No. 4;
- The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*;
- NPS-6: *Interpretation Guideline*, Release No. 3;
- NPS-10: *Preparation of Design and Construction Drawings*, Release No. 3;
- NPS-77: *Natural Resources Management Guideline*;

- National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*;
- National Register Bulletin 30: *Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes*;
- *Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design*; and
- *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th edition.

The specific methodology for each of the tasks associated with developing this CLR is described in detail below.

Background Research and Data Collection and Site History

Since the cultural prehistory of Central and South Texas is understood primarily through the discipline of archeology and its associated fields (e.g. archeobotany, zooarcheology, physical anthropology, and geoarcheology), information on prehistoric Native Americans relating to the region was derived from the current archeological literature. The sources examined are written by prominent Texas researchers who have synthesized 40 plus years of archeological work covering the past 12,000 years of human occupation in the region. A copy of these source materials are housed at the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) library, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Secondary source materials were examined for information relating to Native American groups during the Protohistoric and Historic Periods. Papers authored by Professor Thomas N. Campbell, leading ethnohistorian on Indians of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico, were heavily relied upon to provide information about Native American groups and lifeways during initial contact with the Spanish and throughout the Spanish colonial period. Publications provided by other prominent researchers on Texas Indians during the Spanish colonial period were examined as well. Copies of these source materials are housed at the CAR library and the John Peace Library at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

While a great deal has been written about the Spanish colonial period associated with the San Antonio missions, relatively little attention has been paid until recently to the ranching aspect of the local mission experience. General studies concerning Spanish ranching were written by Sandra Meyres in 1969. Jack Jackson wrote the first extensive study of Spanish ranching in Texas in 1986. A monograph on Spanish ranching in deep south Texas was written by Joe Graham in 1994. All of these sources were helpful in a general way, although not specific to Rancho de las Cabras. An unpublished manuscript by James Ivey concerning Spanish use of their lands in the San Antonio area (on file at CAR) provided valuable insight into the history of Rancho de las Cabras during its period of active use. Fr. Marion Habig's history of the San Antonio missions provided dates and details not available elsewhere. A number of other secondary sources were also consulted for information on ranch life at that time.

For the description of physical changes taking place at the ranch headquarters between 1772 and 1852, CAR depended primarily upon the reports of the archeological investigations. There are few other sources of information about that period, aside from Castañeda's Volume IV and the Bexar Archives.

Six separate archeological reports were examined in order to provide information for the subsection "Summary of Previous Archeological Investigations at Rancho de las Cabras" included later in this chapter. A synthesis of archeological results is provided in this subsection as well as a detailed description of each of the six investigations conducted from 1980 through 1997 by CAR. In addition, a composite map was constructed showing the archeological work and identified features of all six investigations (Figure 4). A geomorphological study of the site was conducted as part of the 1997 archeological investigation and a map is provided showing areas which have a high potential for encountering buried cultural material (Figure 5).

Both primary and secondary source materials were examined to compile the history of the Rancho de las Cabras site from 1852 to the present. Ownership research previously published in archeological reports was used as a reference for more extensive title searches in both the Wilson and Bexar County Clerk's offices. Prior owners were then researched to determine their occupations and possible uses of the site. Drawing on this research, it was determined that the site and adjacent lands were important to the late nineteenth century Texas cattle industry, and further study of this period was then conducted. Terry G. Jordan's *North American Cattle-Ranching Frontiers* and the published memoirs of two cowboys, R.J. Lauderdale and John M. Doak (Pirtle, 1936), proved particularly valuable.

There are few late nineteenth and early twentieth century published accounts dealing specifically with the site. The most important of these is the 1934 newspaper article by Adina de Zavala entitled "Mission de las Cabras, Goat Mission Crumbled Ruin near Floresville." Various publications describe the agricultural and industrial development of Wilson County and provide statistics about the area's changing economy. A 1908 U.S. Department of Agriculture soil survey and C.L. Patterson's 1939 publication describing farming in Wilson County clearly document local conditions in the early twentieth century. Additional information was gained from maps published by both the Texas General Land Office, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Texas Department of Transportation.

Dr. Rosalind Rock of the National Park Service provided valuable photographic documentation. Gene Meckel shared the files of the Wilson County Historical Commission, and area resident and historian Steve Raabe generously shared his extensive research on ranching in Wilson County. The Texas Historical Commission provided photographs previously published in a 1976 archeological report. The Adina de Zavala Papers, housed at the Center for the Study of American History at the University of Texas at Austin, were examined because of Miss de Zavala's interest in Rancho de las Cabras, however no pertinent material was located in the

collection. References contained in the Center's newspaper index proved useful only regarding general area history. Finally, oral history interviews conducted by Luis Torres for this project provided previously unrecorded accounts of the site and surrounding area.

Historic Chronology Maps

Historical base maps of the Rancho de las Cabras property currently administered by NPS were prepared for each of the landscape chronology periods identified in the site history. They were based on a review, evaluation, and comparison of primary map and other graphic resources, including photographs, aerial images, and the records of archeological investigations undertaken on the site to date by CAR. Primary and secondary written resources were utilized to corroborate graphic sources, to identify or clarify conflicting information, and to identify potential features and elements in the landscape for which no graphic information was available. Historical maps of the regional context and the *rancho* compound were also prepared based on available primary source information. These maps do not correspond directly to the historic periods developed for the report, but are intended to supplement the information portrayed in the historical base maps prepared for the site's landscape chronology.

All of the site chronology maps have been presented at a consistent scale and configuration using the project existing conditions electronic files maintained in AutoCADD version 13 as a base. Features appearing over two or more time periods are consistently located and represented. Each historic chronology map has been annotated to describe conditions that are difficult to render graphically, such as the composition of vegetative communities and cultural land uses. Conjectural information is identified as such.

Relatively little cartographic documentation exists for the landscape of this region prior to the twentieth century. Limited archeological investigations have yielded information about the *rancho* compound, but not for the areas surrounding it. A more complete understanding of the site's prehistoric and Spanish-colonial era development, use, and settlement will most likely only be possible through additional archeological investigations. In order to supplement the available graphic information of the site's physical history, it was necessary to analyze the broader regional landscape context. A contextual understanding of issues such as vegetation and the impact of ranching and farming on land cover was applied to the preparation of the historic chronology maps.

Existing Conditions Field Surveys

In November 1997 and January 1998, OCULUS project personnel visited the Rancho de las Cabras site to undertake field investigations. They were accompanied by NPS park personnel during the November 1997 visit. During these visits, the existing conditions base map, derived from the electronic mapping files provided by NPS, was field checked for accuracy. Additions, deletions, and other corrections to the base information were recorded in the field, as was the character of the primary landscape features inventoried. Eleven rolls of color print film were taken to document the landscape. The locations of the photographic station points and the

direction of the views were noted on the base map in the field. The photographic station points and all changes to the base map noted in the field were later added to the electronic mapping files.

In January 1998, The Broussard Group project personnel also visited the site to document and analyze its vegetation. This information, which has been organized by vegetative community type, was utilized to prepare the description of vegetation included in the Existing Conditions chapter of the report.

Existing Conditions Documentation

The documentation of Rancho de las Cabras existing conditions is provided in this report through cross-referenced narrative, graphic, and photographic materials. The depiction of the landscape has been organized into the framework of landscape characteristics recommended in National Register Bulletin 30: *Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes*, including:

- Responses to natural features and systems;
- Land uses and activities;
- Buildings and structures;
- Circulation systems;
- Vegetation;
- Small-scale features;
- Views and viewsheds;
- Archeological resources;
- Boundary demarcations; and
- Cultural traditions.

The description of representative landscape characteristics for Rancho de las Cabras is prefaced by an introductory section describing the environmental context and setting, and the overall organization of the site.

Existing conditions documentation was prepared through the review and compilation of information derived from existing conditions base mapping, field investigations, review of photographs taken in the field, and examination of park planning documents, park files, natural resource reports, and the Wilson County soil survey.

An inventory of existing conditions landscape features was prepared based on documentation of the site. Inventoried features are noted in the existing conditions chapter text in bold. The inventory was subsequently utilized to generate the comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions, the condition and integrity assessments, and the list of contributing resources.

Photographs of representative landscape features are included in the Existing Conditions chapter of this CLR. These are referenced in the text. A documentation notebook and electronic file of all existing conditions photographs, and a set of full-scale base maps containing photographic station points was provided to NPS to supplement the representative photographic coverage included in this CLR.

Evaluation of Significance

Although Rancho de las Cabras is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the 1973 nomination form provides little significance information. Based on the site history prepared for this CLR, and the findings of six seasons of archeological survey and testing, OCULUS prepared a preliminary evaluation of significance to serve as the basis for the CLR's comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions. National Register Criteria, as explained in National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, and National Register Bulletin 36: *Historical Archeological Sites: Guidelines for Evaluation* formed the basis for the evaluation. Contextual information regarding the Spanish colonial period was drawn from the Cultural Landscape Report prepared for Mission San José by James & Juarez Architects, and from documents prepared by NPS for Rancho de las Cabras.

Comparative Analysis of Historic and Existing Landscape Conditions

In order to better understand the relationship between the existing park landscape and the landscape that existed during the period of significance, OCULUS prepared a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions. For the most part, the analysis focused on extant features and their date of origin. The three primary goals of the development of the comparative analysis were to:

- 1) understand which features survive from the period of significance;
- 2) establish the basis for an integrity assessment; and
- 3) provide an understanding of the similarities and differences between historic and existing conditions that would contribute to the development of a well-grounded treatment plan for the cultural landscape.

Identification of Contributing Resources

Through the development of the comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions, three lists were prepared that identified contributing, non-contributing, and missing features. Contributing features were deemed to be those surviving from one of the periods of significance; non-contributing features were those whose origin post-dated the periods of significance; and missing features were those that are known or thought to have existed during one of the periods of significance. Conjectural information was indicated as such within the lists. An additional list of features whose origin is as yet undetermined was also prepared.

Condition Assessment

Condition assessments of inventoried landscape features were developed using the following condition categories: Good, Fair, Poor, and Unknown. These categories, adapted from the “Cultural Landscape Inventory, Draft User’s Manual,” are modifications of NPS Resource Management Plan Guidelines:

- **Good:** indicates that the cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The cultural landscape’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.
- **Fair:** indicates that the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3 to 5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. The cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements of the cultural landscape, if left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, will cause the cultural landscape to degrade to a poor condition.
- **Poor:** indicates that the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.
- **Unknown:** not enough information available to make an evaluation.

These condition ratings have been annotated to provide additional information about the feature and condition-related observations made in the field, which, in some cases help to justify and explain the rating.

Assessment of Integrity

Utilizing the approach recommended in National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, OCLUS prepared an assessment of site integrity based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from the periods of significance. The evaluation also took into account the degree to which the seven aspects of integrity—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association—were present. The CLR first summarizes the site’s overall integrity; evaluations of individual aspects of integrity follow the summary. For the purposes of this study, it was determined that the aspects of integrity most relevant to the analysis were location, setting, feeling, and association, since few examples of constructed features survive from the periods of significance.

Recommended Treatment Approach

OCLUS evaluated all of the historic property treatment alternatives defined by the Secretary of the Interior for their relevance to the Rancho de las Cabras site: preservation; rehabilitation; restoration; and reconstruction. Each was considered for its applicability to the specific nature

of site resources within the context of the recommendations of the DRAFT General Management Plan Amendment for the property. OCULUS recommended rehabilitation as the primary treatment approach based on the park's interest in interpreting and providing access to site resources. The other three approaches were variously considered for individual areas or resources as a secondary approach in order to allow for the most appropriate treatment in each case. Otherwise, preservation, which promotes the preservation of existing conditions, was considered too restrictive for current park management needs; restoration, which accurately depicts the form, features, and character of a landscape as it appeared at a specific period, was not considered feasible due to the lack of documentation for the periods of significance; and reconstruction, which involves the depiction of non-surviving features, was similarly considered inappropriate for the site.

Design Guidelines, Recommendations, and Alternatives

Development of this section built on an understanding of the site engendered through the preparation of the site history, existing conditions documentation, and analysis and evaluation portions of the CLR, review of the May 1998 DRAFT General Management Plan Amendment provided to OCULUS by NPS, the documents *Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design*, "Pulling Together: A National Strategy for Management of Invasive Plants," and NPS 77: *Natural Resources Management Guideline*, the park's "Integrated Pest Management" and "Fire Management Plans," as well as the information imparted during meetings at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park with the project team.

Cultural Landscape Inventory

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) was prepared using the information developed for this CLR in conjunction with data provided to OCULUS by NPS, the 1973 Rancho de las Cabras National Register Nomination, and USGS mapping. The data was incorporated into an electronic CLI template provided by NPS. The 1996 "Cultural Landscape Inventory Draft Procedural Guidance Manual," provided to OCULUS by NPS, was utilized for reference.

Personal Interviews

Project oral historian Luis Torres, in conjunction with San Antonio Missions National Historical Park project personnel, developed a list of candidates to interview with potential first-hand knowledge of the Rancho de las Cabras site during the twentieth century. Six of these candidates—those considered to be closest to the site, either as former owners, or long-time members of the surrounding rural community—were interviewed by Mr. Torres. The questions used in the interviews were prepared by Mr. Torres in conjunction with nineteenth- and twentieth-century project historian Maria Watson Pfeiffer of Re-Search after she had conducted sufficient research to predict gaps in documentation.

Each interview took between 45 minutes and an hour and a half. They were conducted in the subjects' homes, around a kitchen or dining room table, primarily in English, except for that with Modesto Flores, which flowed from Spanish into English as it was comfortable to do so. Any pertinent Spanish phrases that were preserved in the text were also translated.

The interviews were recorded and later transcribed; the resultant oral history information is presented in the written form of a conversation. Although every effort has been made to remain true to the rhythms and patterns of each subject's speech, and what appeared to be the meaning of the subject's utterances, the transcriber was mindful of the fact that the text was ultimately going to be read and not listened to. As many of the pauses, interjections, and non sequiturs included on the recordings as possible have been eliminated in the transcription and editing process. For the sake of continuity, the transcriber also relocated sections of the conversations in order to keep references to one subject together, or to improve the flow of the written transcript. The interviews are included in this document as Appendix B; they were provided to the project team during the latter part of summer 1998 so that the information they contained could be incorporated into the CLR.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Figure 3

Introduction

Much of the information that follows has been paraphrased and adapted from historical background and context statements developed for this site and other San Antonio Missions National Historical Park units by and for the National Park Service. The documents consulted include "Rancho de las Cabras Historical Background Information for Interpreters at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park," the 1998 DRAFT "General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment, Rancho de las Cabras Site, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Floresville, Texas," and the *Mission San José Cultural Landscape Report*. Individual sources are cited in footnotes within the text that follows.

Overview Site History and Historical Context

The Spanish missions' primary goal was to secure Spain's northern frontier by converting Native Americans to Christianity and assimilating them into the Spanish culture. In addition, the missions housed the community's religious, educational, and other cultural activities.¹ Several factors determined the siting of these missions. As with previous settlements, those established in San Antonio were placed near a fortification—The Presidio of San Antonio de

¹National Park Service, *San Antonio Missions National Historical Park: A Report on a Study of its Boundaries*, (Santa Fe, NM: U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS, Southwest Regional Office, 1990), 6.

Béxar—to defend the empire’s borders and the region’s residents.² The *presidio*’s location near the San Antonio River, which supported a variety of native plant and animal species and enabled agricultural lands to be irrigated, encouraged settlement in the area.³

The Spanish constructed the Presidio of San Antonio de Béxar and two missions—San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) and San José y San Miguel de Aguayo (San José)—between 1718 and 1721. Sometime between 1720 and 1727, Mission San José was relocated to the west side of the river. Because of religious, political, and military reasons, three additional missions—Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña, San Juan Capistrano, and San Francisco de la Espada—were moved to the San Antonio River Valley from East Texas in 1731.⁴

All Spanish missions on the frontier shared a basic plan: a church and *convento*, or priest’s dwelling, within an open *pueblo*, or Native American village. Outside the pueblos were *huertas*, or gardens, and *labores*, where a variety of crops, including corn, chili, sugarcane, peaches, and cotton, were grown, dams and *acequias*, or irrigation ditches, provided water for irrigation, and pastures for grazing cattle, sheep, goats, and horses were located. Each mission had its own dam and *acequia* system for watering the *huertas* and *labores*. Surrounding the fields were the *ejidos*, or common lands, which were part of the mission grant, and about four square leagues (twenty-seven square miles) in size. These were used for firewood collecting, some pasturing, quarrying, and hunting/gathering. Initially, the missions maintained their livestock in the *ejidos*, but later moved the animals to more distant ranches, or *ranchos*.⁵

Mission Espada’s ranchlands were established along the San Antonio River south of the city of San Antonio based on a grant of land that became known as Rancho de las Cabras. No mention is made of the ranch in available documentation until 1762, although it is believed that the site was utilized for at least a few years prior to this date. Around this time, a stone structure, hereinafter referred to as the *ranch*o compound, was built on the land to house the Indian *vaqueros* (cattle herders or cowboys) and their families who maintained herds of livestock at the ranch for the mission.

²Ibid., 5.

³National Park Service, *San Antonio Missions National Historical Park: Resources Management Plan*, Prepared by Southwest Region, 1986, 7.

⁴James E. Ivey and Marlys Bush Thurber, *The Missions of San Antonio: A Historic Structures Report and Administrative History. Part I: The Spanish Colonial Missions*. (Santa Fe, NM: National Park Service, Southwest Cultural Resources Center, December 1984), 3; and National Park Service, *San Antonio Missions National Historical Park: Statement for Management*. (San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 1980), 2.

⁵The previous three paragraphs were adapted from *Mission San José Cultural Landscape Report*, prepared by James & Juarez Architects for the National Park Service, November 1995, 1-8 - 1-9.

Originally, each mission was entitled to four square leagues of land, or approximately 20,000 square *varas* (a unit of measure, approximately equal to one yard), centered on the *pueblo* or mission settlement. Each mission was to retain an additional three leagues of vacant land in the four cardinal directions that would remain ungranted to others to protect the missionary herds from intermixing with those of Spanish settlers. However, as settlement increased in the San Antonio River valley, suits were brought to acquire the huge tracts of unused lands belonging to each mission. Eventually, this conflict ended with some of the land deeded officially to the missions and the remainder to civilian ranchers from San Antonio.

From 1731 to 1737, Mission Espada obtained cattle from the Queretaran missions of the Río Grande. Mission livestock was still few in number in the early 1740s. By a June 1745 inventory, however, the mission was recorded as having 1,150 cattle, 740 sheep, 90 goats, 31 horses, and 32 oxen.

By the time the *rancho* compound is thought to have been constructed, 1,272 cattle, 4,000 sheep and goats, 156 horses, and 9 *burros* were counted on the ranch. The compound, referred to as “una casa de piedra,” or house of stone, served both as a dwelling and a defensive structure against potential attack.

In 1772, all of the Queretaran missions in Texas were turned over to the administration of the missionary College of Zacatecas. As part of the transfer, a complete inventory of Rancho de las Cabras was compiled. It stated

The mission has on this river at a distance of eight leagues a ranch for the protection of the herdsmen from the hostile Indians. It is enclosed by a wall of stone of a *vara* in width (about 3 feet) and three *varas* in height....It has two entrances with their gateways and gates, one towards the river and the other towards the plain....It has on the inside four *jacales* of wood and thatch.

Beginning in 1770, San Antonio residents increased pressure on the missions, which they believed took up too much of the river valley, leaving insufficient pastureland for their livestock, to release some of their holdings. These efforts led to a judgment which permitted mission lands to be leased by local residents. The first known private rancher to lease the northern portion of Rancho de las Cabras was Ignacio Calvillo, who apparently acquired a lease in 1773 or 1774. The remainder of Mission Espada’s ranchlands, including the *rancho* compound and adjacent areas, continued in use by the mission at least through 1787, and possibly until the secularization of the mission’s property in 1794. By 1820, according to archeological investigations of the site, the stone *rancho* compound was abandoned and allowed to fall into disrepair.

The Calvillo family continued to own and ranch the northern portion of the Rancho de las Cabras property until 1845. The southern portion was granted to Manuel Barrera by the Mexican government in 1833. It is likely that Barrera was in possession of the title to the ruined

rancho compound until it was acquired by Ignacio Calvillo's daughter María del Carmen Calvillo. She transferred this parcel to Edward Dwyer in 1845. Upon the death of Dwyer, the property went through 13 transfers until a 55 acre parcel was sold to Winston and JoAnn Southern in 1970. The State of Texas acquired two parcels totaling 99.2 acres, including the Southern property and an adjacent parcel, in 1982 with the intention of establishing an historical park there and interpreting the Spanish colonial history of the *rancho* to the public. Between 1980 and 1984, the state contracted with the Center for Archaeological Research to conduct five seasons of archeological survey and testing, and documentary research, on and for the property. The findings of these surveys are summarized later in this chapter. Once it became apparent that the state was not prepared to establish a park on the site in the near future, proceedings were initiated to transfer ownership of the property to the federal government. It became part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, administered by the National Park Service, in 1995.

Since 1995, the National Park Service has been involved in the planning necessary to properly protect the site's historic resources, and to provide appropriate interpretation of and visitor access to the property. The site's resources contribute to our understanding of the mission system that was so integral to Spanish colonial settlement in Texas and the American Southwest, and particularly to the San Antonio region. Knowledge of these resources also contributes to our understanding of the evolution of the American cowboy culture that grew up around the Texas cattle industry. For example, the San Antonio mission *ranchos*, in addition to their obvious importance in providing the mission communities with meat and hides, served as one of the entry points and nurseries for the great cattle tradition of the Southwest. What later became the era of the American cowboy in the late nineteenth century had its roots in Spain and Mexico, and was introduced to what is now the United States through, in many cases, the Texas missions during the eighteenth century. The regulations that governed the cattle industry, the techniques for handling herds from horseback, even the cattle themselves, had their origins in the Spanish colonial period. Modern ranching—which has become the symbol and spirit of the American west—is thus rooted in the equipment, vocabulary, and folklore of the Indian *vaqueros*. The Rancho de las Cabras property contains the only known example of the physical remains of a Spanish colonial mission *rancho* along the San Antonio River. It is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas State Archeological Landmark.⁶

⁶The previous nine paragraphs are adapted from the "Rancho de las Cabras Historical Background Information for Interpreters at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park," prepared by Rosalind Z. Rock, Ph.D., Park Historian, September 29, 1995, 2-6; DRAFT "General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment, Rancho de las Cabras Site, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Floresville, Texas," prepared jointly by the staffs of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and Denver Support Office, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, May 1998, 2-3; and "San Antonio Missions, Rancho de las Cabras" information pamphlet, n.d., 1 pp.

ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND

Much of the information that follows has been paraphrased and adapted from historical background and context statements developed for this site and other San Antonio Missions by and for the National Park Service. The primary document consulted was the *Mission San José Cultural Landscape Report*. Specific citations appear in footnotes within the text that follows.

On September 15, 1995, the National Park Service acquired a small portion of the lands once associated with Mission Espada's ranching activities, including the ruins of the stone *rancho* compound, from the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The 99.2 acre property acquired from the State of Texas was comprised of two parcels. The first, which includes the ruins and totals 55.18 acres, was owned by Winston and JoAnn Southern. The state began proceedings to acquire the parcel in 1977; the transfer was finalized in 1982. The second parcel, totaling 43.972 acres, was acquired in 1977 from Egon A. Schneider.

During the Spanish colonial period, the property containing the compound was part of a vast area of land retained by Mission Espada. All of the missions, including Espada, were initially administered by the Spanish government and the Catholic church. However, by 1773 or 1774, portions of Espada's ranchlands are thought to have been leased to private ranchers. By the end of the eighteenth century, much of the mission's lands and quarters were parceled off to residents, particularly after secularization of the missions in 1794. The Mexican government declared ownership of unclaimed lands, including some of the ranchlands, during its brief tenure in Texas, and the Republic of Texas continued this practice. However, many parcels with mission-related resources, including the Rancho de las Cabras property, remained in private ownership after secularization.

Prior to 1977, and after the demise of the missions, property containing the ruins was privately owned by no less than thirteen individuals. Over nearly two hundred years, almost with each change of ownership, it was continually subdivided into smaller and smaller parcels.

The region's Spanish colonial period missions became the focus of preservation efforts during the mid- to late nineteenth century. Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) was the first mission acquired for preservation when the State of Texas purchased it in 1883 for its significance in association with the war for independence against Mexico. Interest in the missions and their associated features, including Rancho de las Cabras, grew throughout the century; in 1895, the *rancho* compound ruins were photographed and described in a small San Antonio tourist publication together with the city's five Spanish colonial missions.

During the early twentieth century, preservation efforts increased. The San Antonio Conservation Society purchased the San José granary in 1928, and subsequently acquired the Espada *acequia*. In 1941, Mission San José became the first National Historic Site west of the Mississippi River. A special cooperative agreement was drawn up between the Department of

the Interior, the Archdiocese of San Antonio, the TPWD, and the San Antonio Conservation Society for administration of the property whereby the church continued to belong to the Archdiocese, and the San José mission compound was transferred to state supervision. In 1962, the San Antonio missions were designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks by the Texas Historical Commission. In 1975, the Mission Parkway Historic/Archeological National Register District was established, following closely the 1973 listing of Rancho de las Cabras on the National Register of Historic Places.

Increasing local interest, combined with recognition of the missions' national significance, led Congress to pass PL 95-625 in November 1978. This act created San Antonio Missions National Historical Park to "provide for the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the Spanish Missions of San Antonio, Texas, for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations of Americans."⁷ The act provided for NPS to either purchase, accept as a donation, or acquire for less than fee interest four of the missions and their associated cultural resources, including the church buildings and their compounds, remains of the *acequias*, dams, an aqueduct, some *labores*, and other related features. At about the same time, as noted earlier, the State of Texas began proceedings to acquire parcels associated with Rancho de las Cabras. The San Antonio missions were designated as State Archeological Landmarks in 1983 by the Texas Antiquities Committee, and in 1983, the National Park Service assumed full administrative responsibility for the missions.⁸

An expansion of park boundaries in 1990 provided the authority to add Rancho de las Cabras to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and negotiations began to facilitate United States Government acquisition of the property from the State of Texas. This transaction was completed in July 1995 when 99.152 acres were transferred to the Department of the Interior to be administered by the National Park Service as part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS

In 1980, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), The University of Texas at San Antonio, conducted a survey and testing project at Rancho de las Cabras for the TPWD. This was the first of five investigations carried out by CAR between 1980 and 1984. The goal of the first survey and testing project was to provide an initial assessment of the site, to make plans for future archeological work, and to delineate cultural and non-cultural resource areas to aid in

⁷National Park Service, *Statement for Management*, 1.

⁸The previous three paragraphs were adapted from *Mission San José Cultural Landscape Report*, prepared by James & Juarez Architects for the National Park Service, November 1995, 1-13 - 1-15.

the development of plans for a park.⁹ The remaining four investigations included archival research and further testing of the *rancho* compound to provide the public with an archeological and historical interpretation of a frontier mission ranch during the Spanish colonial period.

In addition to the five seasons of investigations conducted between 1980 and 1984, CAR conducted a two-stage investigation and preliminary geomorphological assessment in 1997 for NPS.¹⁰ This investigation was prompted by NPS plans to construct a parking lot and visitor contact/interpretation facility near the Spanish colonial ruins of Rancho de las Cabras. Unlike the investigations of 1980-1984, during which archeologists focused their attention on the Spanish colonial ruins, the 1997 investigations targeted an area west of the ruins, with a geomorphological assessment undertaken over the alluvial terraces of the park.¹¹

Results of the 1980-1984 Investigations

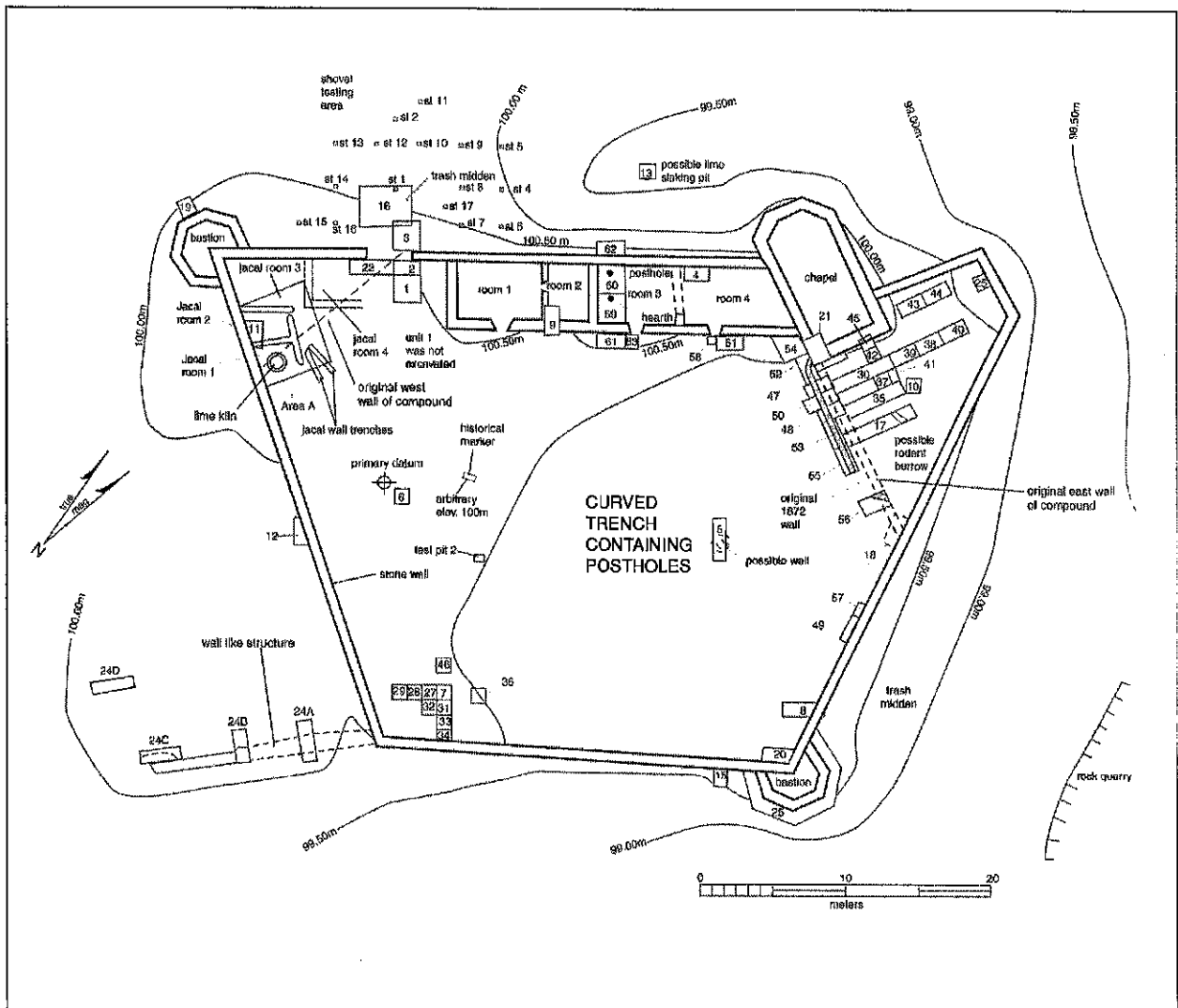
The cultural material recovered by CAR's five-season investigation spanning 1980 through 1984 demonstrates that Rancho de las Cabras was primarily occupied between 1760 and 1820, and that this occupation was related to the ranch hands and families who lived in the ranch compound.¹² By employing excavation units, shovel tests, and trenches, archeologists uncovered several important features at this site. Prominent among them are an irregularly-shaped, stone-walled compound, four rooms with stone wall construction adjacent to and inside the north compound wall, a chapel, two bastions (one extending from the southeast corner and the other extending from the northwest corner of the compound), a northwest gateway (later sealed), a lime kiln, four rooms of *jacal* construction (identified by *jacal* trenches and post holes), two original walls of the *rancho* compound (one located on the east and the other on the west side of the compound), and two trash middens, one located outside the east wall and the other outside the north wall of the compound (Figure 4). Less prominent features, but just as important, include: postholes and sections of *jacal* trenches located in various areas of the interior compound; a possible well (interior compound); possible lime slaking pit (outside north wall of compound); wall like structure which intersects and extends west from the southwest corner of the compound; and areas of disturbance associated with treasure hunters.

⁹James E. Ivey and Anne A. Fox, *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, Wilson County, Texas*, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 104, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1981).

¹⁰Diane A. Cargill, Maureen Brown, Lee C. Nordt, and C. Britt Bousman, *Archaeological Survey at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas*, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 286, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1998).

¹¹*Ibid.*

¹²*Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas*, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Reports, Nos. 104, 121, 123, 143, and 144, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1981-1998).



Map Source:

Map reprinted with permission from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas*, prepared by Diane A. Cargill, Maureen Brown, Lee C. Nordt, and C. Britt Bousman, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 286, 1998), figure 5.

Figure 4. Summary of Archeological Excavation Units

Today, the visible stone walls of the *rancho* compound have an irregular four-sided shape and the compound measures roughly 35.5 meters north-south and 30 to 58 meters east-west. During the archeological investigations, two original walls of the compound were exposed. Based on these two compound walls, an interior circumference of the earliest form of the enclosing wall is 133.9 meters. A 1772 inventory of the *rancho* reports a circumference of 158 *varas* or about 133.8 meters.¹³ The fact that there is only a 10 centimeter discrepancy between the 1772 inventory and CAR's measurements suggests that the two walls identified by CAR as original walls were indeed from the earlier, original construction.

CAR's archeological investigations demonstrate that the original stone wall enclosure did not include the chapel, the area east and south of the chapel, the small triangular area in the northwestern portion of the compound, the two defensive bastions, and the four stone walled rooms. These were later additions, and it is not known in what year or years they were constructed; however, it is surmised that this renovation occurred sometime between 1775 and 1780.¹⁴

Two additional occupations of this site, unrelated to the ranch, have been observed during the archeological investigations conducted by CAR. Lithic artifacts and mussel shell recovered near the base of wall footings (approximately 1 meter below ground surface) are attributable to an early, pre-ranch period. Due to the lack of diagnostic lithic artifacts however, this component cannot be dated. The other occupation, represented by late nineteenth and early twentieth century artifacts, indicates intermittent use of the area by local hunters, treasure hunters, picnickers¹⁵ and various landowners who "... continued to use the site for running livestock and probably briefly used the buildings for storage."¹⁶

The eighteenth century cultural material recovered at Rancho de las Cabras is identical to that found on mission sites in San Antonio. At the site, bone and ceramics were the two most highly represented artifact classes. Of the ceramic class, *Goliad* ware was present in much higher numbers than any other ceramic type. *Goliad* ware is a hand-made, unglazed ceramic which

¹³James E. Ivey, *Archaeological Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas, Second Season*, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 121, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1983).

¹⁴Ivey, *Archaeological Testing*.

¹⁵Ivey and Fox, *Archaeological Survey*.

¹⁶Anne A. Fox, *Archaeological and Historical Investigations at Rancho de las Cabras, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas, Fourth Season*, (San Antonio, TX: Draft on file at the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1997).

was fired over an open campfire.¹⁷ It was manufactured during prehistoric times and continued to be manufactured during the Spanish colonial period. Numerous lithic flakes, tools, and several projectile points of the Guerrero type were also collected at Rancho de las Cabras. These *Goliad* ware and stone artifacts reflect a Native American presence.¹⁸

Results of the 1997 Investigations

During the course of the Stage 1 archeological investigation conducted during 1997, two important cultural areas were identified near the ruins.¹⁹ Artifacts recovered near the western edge of the ruins demonstrate their association with the Spanish colonial ranch. This area has therefore been identified as culturally sensitive. Further west of the ruins, the second area is comprised of an isolated dark soil (over-thickened A-horizon) which may have formed from anthropogenic activities related to the Spanish colonial ranch. This soil may represent an external dump or a corral area. Recommendations were made to avoid both the “culturally sensitive” and “over-thickened A-horizon” zones during park development.

Four newly identified surface lithic scatter sites were recorded and mapped during the Stage 2 investigation of 1997. Of these, sites 41WN90, 41WN92, and 41WN93 are presently on NPS property, and 41WN91 is located on private land. Due to the paucity of surface and subsurface cultural material, and to previous subsurface disturbance in the form of deep root cutting and plowing, the four sites are considered to have minimal research potential. The three sites on NPS property are currently included in the National Register nomination filed in 1973 and updated in 1976; however, the systematic collection of surface artifacts has, in effect, mitigated these sites by exhausting their research potential. Site 41WN91, located on private property, is not recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register nomination.

The geomorphological investigations were preliminary, with more fieldwork needed to test the proposed working model; however, the conclusions drawn from these investigations suggest widespread potential for finding buried archeological sites in the alluvial terraces.

¹⁷Ivey and Fox, *Archaeological Survey*.

¹⁸Ivey, *Archaeological Testing*.

¹⁹Cargill et al., *Archaeological Survey at Rancho de las Cabras*, 1998.

Summaries of the Individual Field Seasons

A summary of the five field seasons is provided below. It is followed by a summary of the 1997 investigation.

First Field Season at Rancho de las Cabras - 1980

Fieldwork was carried out from late June 1980 to the end of July 1980. Since this was the first testing project at Rancho de las Cabras, little was known about the site, archeologically or historically. The emphasis was on determining the vertical and horizontal extent of cultural deposits, identifying architectural features and the types of materials used in the construction of those features, locating trash middens, and lastly, identifying non-cultural resource areas to be used in the future development of a visitor center and access road to Rancho de las Cabras.²⁰

Three shovel tests (1-3), and 14 test units (2-15) were excavated (Figure 4). Note that Unit 1 was established but not dug. Excavation units ranged in size from 1 x 1 meter to 2 x 3 meters. Units were excavated by natural strata and screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth. The entire project area was surveyed and surface collected.

The 1980 investigation identified the following: standing sandstone block walls up to five and six feet high along the compound's north wall, a room designated as the chapel, an apparent northwest gateway, three rooms of stonewall construction located south of the northern compound wall, and a possible trash pit north of the northern compound wall. Various other features uncovered include: a possible well, a section of a plaster floor, occupation surfaces of hard-packed tan clay, hearth features, post holes, a *jacal* wall trench, manure layers and disturbed areas (presumably associated with treasure hunters' backdirt). CAR, along with TPWD, produced a map of Rancho de las Cabras illustrating the compound walls, chapel, northern rooms and excavation units. During the survey phase of the 1980 investigation, a limited number of prehistoric lithic artifacts was recovered. These artifacts were located mainly along the northern quarter of the northeastern fence line and are probably from an aboriginal site across the fence line to the northeast.²¹ Other chert fragments observed during the survey were determined to be a result of plow manufacture.

Cultural material in the form of ceramics, building materials, glass, metal, and stone objects recovered from the compound area point to a major occupation of the site from approximately 1760 to 1820.²² Recovered faunal remains indicate that the occupants consumed both wild (e.g.

²⁰Ivey and Fox, *Archaeological Survey*.

²¹Ibid.

²²Ibid.

squirrels, rabbits, turkey, javelina, fish, and turtles) and domesticated animals (e.g. cattle, goat/sheep, European pig, chicken). Ivey and Fox²³ concluded that no significant occupation occurred after about 1810 to 1820.

Second Field Season at Rancho de las Cabras - 1981

The second field season was conducted by CAR during July and August of 1981. Archival research was performed concurrently with the fieldwork. The *rancho* compound, or headquarters for the ranching operation, had been defined by the end of the 1980 field season. The goal of the 1981 investigation was to explore further the compound area for evidence of cultural activity, architectural tracings, and stratigraphic sequences.²⁴ Generally speaking, four areas became the focus of the 1981 field investigation: the northwest, southeast and southwest areas of the compound, as well as the northeast corner of the compound (adjacent to, and east and south of, the chapel). The northwest area of the compound was investigated for activity areas and other cultural traces within and outside the *jacal* wall trenches identified in 1980 (designated Area A). Additionally, the trash midden (identified in 1980) was subjected to a more thorough investigation. Excavation units in the northeastern corner of the compound were dug to locate the front or facade of the chapel, gather architectural and stratigraphic information, check for the presence of an earlier compound wall noted in 1980, and locate the position of the northeastern end of the north wall. In the southwest area of the compound, traces of a wall extending west from the southwestern corner were observed and investigated.

Fourteen excavation units (16-25, 24A-D, and Area A) were dug during the 1981 field season (Figure 4). These units ranged in size from 1 x 1 meter to 5 x 6 meters (Unit Area A). Units dug for stratigraphic information were excavated by natural strata (including Unit Area A) and screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth. Units dug for the purpose of gaining architectural information were shoveled out and artifacts observed in the process were collected, but the soil was not screened.²⁵

The results of the 1981 investigation documented the original east wall of the compound (Figure 4). Also observed was the intersection of the original east wall with the later addition of the new wall. A difference in the size and color of sandstone rock between the original and new walls was noted. However, time was too limited to investigate further this apparent difference.²⁶ The front or facade wall of the chapel was identified. Also located in this area was evidence of

²³Ibid.

²⁴Ivey, *Archaeological Testing*.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶Ibid.

a looter's pit. Layers of manure which were observed post-date the use of the chapel. Large stones were found lying on the occupation surface, indicating the decay of the church prior to manure accumulation. Two bastions were identified, one located in the southeast and the other in the northwest sections of the compound. Rubble was removed until the tops of the wall remains were clearly defined.²⁷ Bastion walls and all perimeter compound walls were 66 cm thick. An apparent wall-like structure was defined adjoining the southwestern corner of the compound wall and extending west. Vertical and horizontal excavation was insufficient to determine the true nature of this structure. It appeared to have a very shallow foundation, if any, and no footing trench was observed. The excavation of the trash pit identified in 1980 demonstrated that not one, but at least four overlapping trash pits were present. The volume of the faunal material was too great and the remains (articulated bone) too informative to be recovered during the 1981 season, so this important source of information was covered and left for future investigation. Area A contained trenches and post holes comprising four separate *jacal* rooms, three hearths, occupation floors, a stone wall footing for the original compound wall, and a lime kiln.

The artifacts recovered from the 1981 investigation confirm that the main occupation of Rancho de las Cabras occurred between the years of 1760 and 1820. Late nineteenth and twentieth century occupation of the site (as reflected in artifact type and density) is interpreted to be the result of intermittent visits by local hunters, picnickers, and treasure hunters.²⁸

Third Field Season at Rancho de las Cabras - 1982

CAR returned to Rancho de las Cabras for a third time in June of 1982. Both fieldwork and archival research were undertaken as part of this investigation. Based upon the results of the 1980 and 1981 investigations, the goals in 1982 were to continue testing within the compound's stone wall enclosure for evidence of construction and occupation activity, and to investigate the area adjacent to the chapel for the possible existence of burials.²⁹

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Courtenay J. Jones and Anne A. Fox, *Archaeological Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, Wilson County, Texas, Third Season*. (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 123, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1983).

Twenty excavation units (27-46) were dug in 1982 (Figure 4). These units ranged in size from 1 x 1 meter to 1 x 4.4 meters.³⁰ In addition, two 50 x 75 cm test pits were excavated. All units were excavated by natural strata using a trowel or shovel. The soil removed during trowel excavation was screened through 1/4 inch hardware mesh screens. Soil excavated by shovel was peeled off in thin layers and visually examined for cultural materials.³¹

Two areas within the compound walls were the focus of the 1982 field season. The northeastern corner of the compound (south and east of the chapel) was selected for investigation in order to document the presence of burials. The southwestern corner of the compound was chosen for further work because the 1980 and 1981 investigations demonstrated this area's potential for containing early construction information.³²

Excavations at the southwestern corner of the compound were not able to document early *jacal* structures in this area. Two overlapping post holes were revealed in Unit 34, in line with the post hole documented in Unit 7 during the 1980 investigation. However, *jacal* wall trenches were not observed. These post holes may represent the remains of a *ramada* or perhaps a livestock enclosure.³³ Furthermore, burials were not located in the northeast corner of the compound; however, structural and non-structural features which both pre-date and post-date the construction of the chapel were documented. These features include postholes, a *jacal* wall trench, areas of disturbance (assumed to be related to looting activities), and a shallow basin-shaped pit.

Artifacts recovered during the 1982 field season are similar to those recovered during the 1980 and 1981 investigations and reflect the same types and time period.³⁴ Faunal remains recovered during this project indicate that a wide variety of both wild and domesticated animals were consumed by the inhabitants of Rancho de las Cabras. Recovered bone, by weight, indicates that cow provides the greatest representation (40%) followed by deer, goat, and sheep at 2.5% each; the remaining species represent less than 0.2%.³⁵ McClure notes that many of the domestic species were killed as sub-adults.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Ibid,

³²Ibid.

³³Ibid.

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵W. McClure, "Provenience of Faunal Material," appendix in *Archaeological Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, Wilson County, Texas. Third Season*, by C. J. Jones and A.A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 123. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1983: 54-68).

Fourth Field Season at Rancho de las Cabras - 1983

CAR conducted its fourth investigation at Rancho de las Cabras in July of 1983. Both fieldwork and oral histories were conducted as part of this project. Based on the results and archival research provided by the previous three investigations, the goals of the 1983 project included: documenting the history of construction and the sequential relationship between the chapel and the rooms located inside the north wall adjacent to the chapel, determining the location of the second gate/entrance into the compound listed in Spanish colonial period documents, and conducting oral histories of area residents.³⁶ In addition, the original east wall of the compound was tested to locate the footing trench for this wall and to determine if post holes or *jacal* trenches were present west of the original wall. Previous investigations had identified post holes and *jacal* trenches east of the original east wall and it was thought that they may continue to the west.

Twelve excavation units (47-58) were dug by natural strata in the east part of the compound (Figure 4). Units ranged in size from 50 x 50 cm to 1 x 2 meters. Excavated material was screened using 1/4 inch hardware cloth, however, many of the stratums were shoveled out and were not screened. In addition, five area residents were interviewed for their oral histories concerning Rancho de las Cabras.

The results of the field investigation demonstrate that the south wall of Room 3 (adjacent to the chapel) was constructed after the chapel's west wall. However, the west wall of the chapel is part of the original east wall of the compound, so it is still not known if the chapel and the rooms adjacent to the chapel were constructed at the same time. In addition, a doorway was identified along the south wall of Room 3. Excavation units placed along the original east wall of the compound identified a curved trench containing postholes.³⁷ This trench is believed to have been part of a picket-type fence probably used as a corral. The second gateway or entrance was not located during this investigation.

Artifacts recovered during the 1983 investigation support the same chronological patterning observed during the previous three investigations. The period of continuous occupation appears to have occurred between ca. 1750 or 1760 and 1820 when the ranch was controlled by the mission. Intermittent use of the site occurred during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The later use of the site appears to have involved the running of livestock, storage, picnicking, and treasure hunting.³⁸ Recovered faunal remains show a representation of both wild and domesticated species similar to the previous three investigations. However, analysis beyond species identification was not conducted, so relative representation cannot be addressed.

³⁶Fox, *Archaeological and Historical Investigations*.

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Ibid., and Ivey, *Archaeological Testing*.

Fifth Field Season at Rancho de las Cabras - 1984

CAR returned in late May and June of 1984 to conduct the last of five consecutive field investigations sponsored by TPWD. As part of this project, archival research was conducted by Dr. Thomas N. Campbell, professor emeritus of the Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin. The goals of the 1984 investigation included: systematic shovel testing of the north midden to determine its vertical and horizontal extent, testing of the easternmost stone room located along the north compound wall, and excavation of the south wall of stone rooms located along the north compound wall in order to determine the location of doors and windows.³⁹

Fourteen shovel tests (4-17) were dug in the north midden area, several hand dug trenches were excavated along both faces of the east, south, and west walls of the four stone rooms, and five units (59-63) were dug inside and outside of Room 3 (Figure 4). Shovel tests were not dug by natural nor arbitrary levels. All cultural material collected from the 1/4 inch screen from each shovel test was bagged together. Shovel test depth ranged between 22 and 86 cm, and most shovel tests reached culturally sterile soil. Trenches were approximately 25 cm wide and 40 cm deep, and trench fill was not screened. Units ranged in size from 1 x 1 meter to 2 x 2 meters and were excavated by natural strata. Wall fall rubble and backfill from looter's pits was not screened. However, all remaining matrix removed during the excavation of units was screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth.

The 1984 investigation exceeded its goals and was able to provide additional data on the historic site of Rancho de las Cabras. A selective surface collection of a midden east of the east compound wall indicates that this deposit dates to the same period as the north midden, that of the mid 1700s.⁴⁰ Shovel tests excavated in the north midden demonstrate that this feature deposit may have a limited horizontal distribution. None of the shovel tests, with the exception of one (S.T. 7), encountered the north midden deposits observed in 1981.⁴¹ Excavation units placed outside the north compound wall of Room 3, inside Room 3, and adjacent and south of Room 3 (in the plaza area) were investigated to establish a continual profile of the deposits, thereby providing additional information on the stratigraphic and construction sequence in the north compound area.⁴² What was once thought to be a single room (Room 3), was determined to actually comprise two rooms. This new discovery results in a total room count along the north compound wall of four rooms, rather than the three reported in 1983.

³⁹Anna J. Taylor and Anne A. Fox, *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas, Fifth Season*, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 144, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1985).

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴²Ibid.

The majority of cultural material recovered during this investigation dates from ca. 1760 to 1820. The majority of ceramic sherds are *Goliad* ware. Lithics and mussel shell, however, were recovered beneath the compound occupation surface and pre-date the site of Rancho de las Cabras. Due to a lack of diagnostic lithic material, this earlier occupation of the site cannot be dated.⁴³ Recovered faunal material from this field season demonstrates that the majority of bone fragments are unidentifiable.⁴⁴ However, several taxa are represented, and Steele and Mokrey provide an inventory of each by time period (i.e. pre-ranch, ranch, and post-abandonment of the ranch). Dietary patterns observed include the presence of small fauna in the pre-ranch deposits, and large domestic species of cow, goat, and sheep in the deposits representative of the *rancho* and post-Spanish colonial use of the ranch. During the historic period, deer, turtles, alligators, fish, and birds are present, and “the number of elements of fish particularly suggests that these may have been commonly taken from the nearby San Antonio or other water sources.”⁴⁵ A large proportion of the cow, sheep, and goat were apparently killed as sub-adults. It is suggested that young and tender animals are selected when there are plenty of animals from which to choose.⁴⁶ This is a pattern also observed by McClure⁴⁷ in his analysis of the faunal material recovered during the 1982 investigation at Rancho de las Cabras.

Archeological and Geomorphological Investigation of 1997

An archeological survey at the site of Rancho de las Cabras was conducted in June, July, September, and October of 1997, by CAR.⁴⁸ The investigation was necessitated by NPS plans to build a parking lot and a visitor contact/interpretation facility. The contractual agreement between NPS and CAR called for a two-stage investigation to document cultural resources in the project area. The first stage consisted of a pedestrian survey and shovel testing of an area directly west and south of the ruins (Figure 5). Included in the first stage was a preliminary geomorphological assessment of the park to determine the potential of finding buried prehistoric archeological sites by describing and interpreting the Quaternary alluvial stratigraphy (Figure 7, see Chapter 2). The second stage involved a pedestrian survey and shovel testing of an area adjacent to and west of the Stage 1 area (Figure 5) and an unimproved access road located north and west of the ruins (Figure 6). A total of 25.2 acres was archeologically surveyed and shovel tested during the two-stage investigation.

⁴³Ibid.

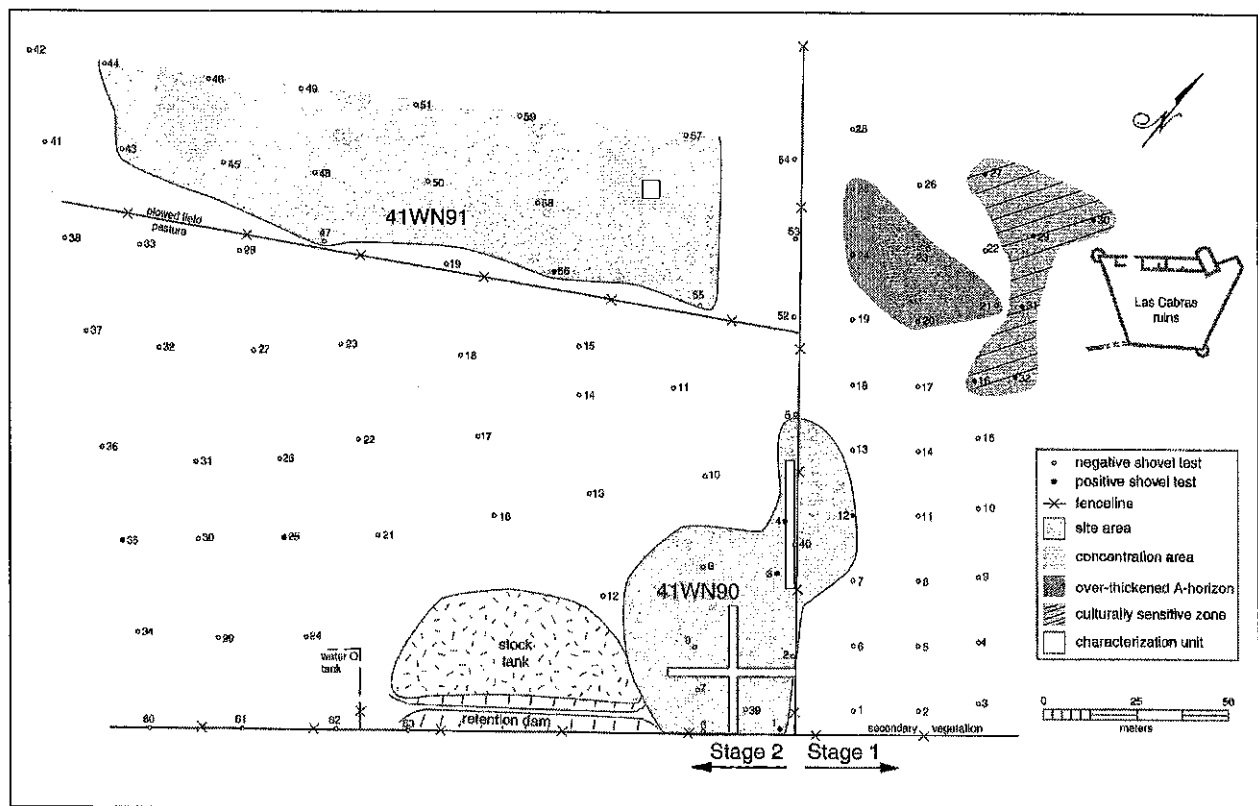
⁴⁴D. G. Steele and E. R. Mokrey, Jr., *Archaeological Investigations of Seven Prehistoric Sites Along Oso Creek, Nueces County, Texas*, 1985.

⁴⁵Ibid., 66.

⁴⁶Ibid.

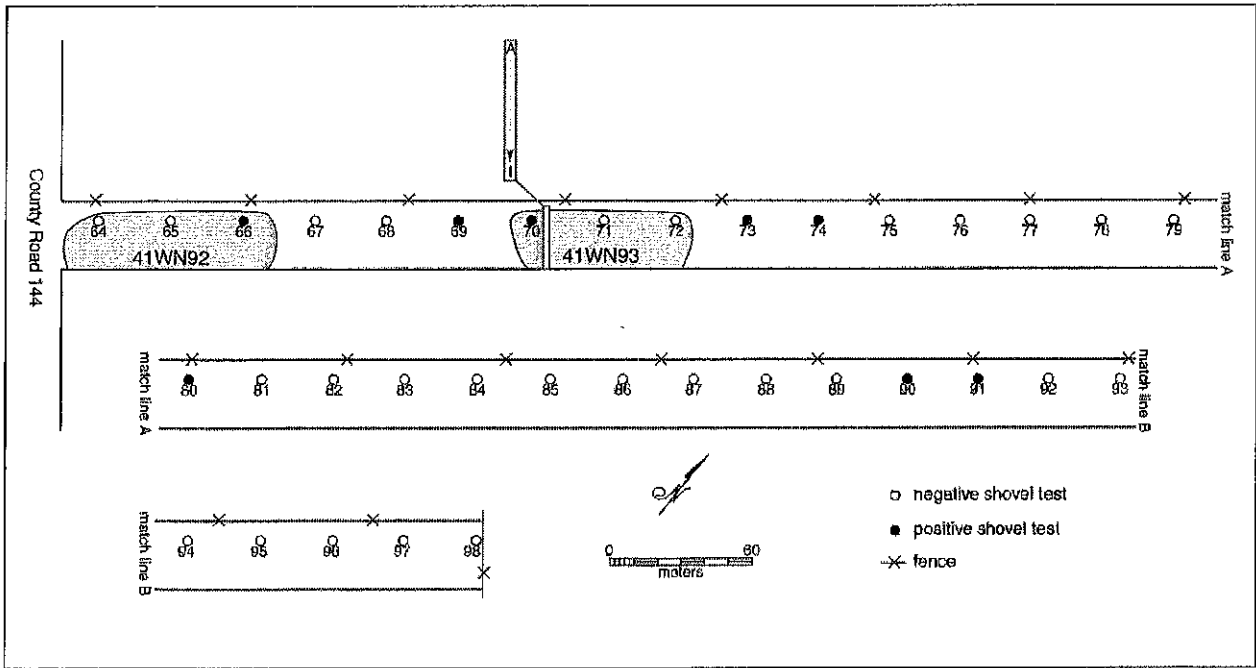
⁴⁷McClure, *Archaeological Testing*.

⁴⁸Ibid.



Map Source:
 Map reprinted with permission from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas*, prepared by Diane A. Cargill, Maureen Brown, Lee C. Nordt, and C. Britt Bousman, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 286, 1998), figure 7.

Figure 5. Stage 1 & 2 Archeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras



Map Source:

Map reprinted with permission from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas*, prepared by Diane A. Cargill, Maureen Brown, Lee C. Nordt, and C. Britt Bousman, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 286, 1998), figure 8.

Figure 6. Stage 2 Access Road Shovel Test Locations

Stage 1

During the Stage 1 investigation, 32 shovel tests were excavated at 25-meter intervals (Figure 5). The shovel tests were approximately 30 cm in diameter and were excavated in 10-cm arbitrary levels to a maximum depth of 50 cm below surface. All soil was screened through a 1/4 inch wire mesh, and all artifacts were collected.

Seven of the 32 shovel tests contained cultural material. Six of the seven positive shovel tests were located fairly close to the west and north walls of the ruins (Figure 5). Artifacts included lithics, bone, and one unglazed red-paste ceramic body fragment. This location was deemed “culturally sensitive” (Figure 5). In addition, an isolated dark soil (over-thickened A-horizon) located west of the ruins was identified (Figure 5). This deposit may have formed from anthropogenic activities associated with Spanish colonial period ranching activities. This anomaly may represent an external corral or a dump area. Both the “culturally sensitive” and “over-thickened A-horizon” areas were recommended for further testing prior to any ground disturbing activities.

Stage 2

During the stage 2 investigation, 98 shovel tests were excavated at 30 meter intervals and transects for pedestrian survey were spaced at 5-meter intervals (Figures 5 and 6). The shovel tests were approximately 30 cm in diameter and excavated in 10-cm arbitrary levels to a maximum depth of 50 cm below subsurface. All soil was screened through a 1/4 inch wire mesh, and all artifacts were collected.

Sixteen of the 98 shovel tests contained cultural material. Artifacts collected from the 16 positive shovel tests included lithic material in the form of flakes and cores. In addition, characterization units and special collections were conducted on four newly identified surface lithic scatter sites (Figures 5 and 6). Material collected from these methods consisted of flakes, cores, bifaces, one possible guadalupe tool, and two post-1900 ceramic sherds. The four newly identified sites were assigned trinomials 41WN90, 41WN91, 41WN92, and 41WN93. Sites 41WN90, 41WN92, and 41WN93 are located on NPS property and are thus included in the 1973 (amended 1976) National Register nomination. The systematic collection of surface artifacts has, in effect, mitigated these sites by exhausting their research potential. Site 41WN91, currently located on private property, is not recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register nomination. Therefore, no archeological investigation was recommended prior to construction in the area of these four sites.

The geomorphological investigations of Rancho de las Cabras are preliminary, and are intended to aid NPS in future plans related to park development. One Pleistocene and three Holocene alluvial units were identified in the project area. (Figure 7, see Chapter 2). The Pleistocene unit appears to correlate with the early to middle Pleistocene Leona Formation. The Holocene units consist of an early Holocene terrace fill (Unit I), a late Holocene terrace fill (Unit II), and a

modern floodplain fill (Unit III). Geoarcheological conclusions suggest a widespread potential for finding buried prehistoric sites. Thus, more fieldwork is needed to test the model of landscape evolution and site distribution.

Recommendations for Additional Study and Investigation at Rancho de las Cabras:

This section includes a summary of the primary questions raised by the CAR archeological investigations at Rancho de las Cabras, as well as recommendations for the additional archival research and archeological investigations that may be necessary to begin answering them. The primary questions are indicated as bulleted items below, and are followed by lists of actions that might be taken to provide answers.

- What are the milestones in the construction history of the Rancho de las Cabras compound?
 1. Delineate the original gate and the post-1772 gate in the northwest corner.
 2. Excavate completely the chapel and immediately stabilize the exposed walls and plaster.
 3. Locate and excavate the well in Unit 5.
 4. Determine whether a tower was built adjacent to the southwest corner.
 5. Find the gate in the east wall.
 6. Determine how the post-1772 walls were constructed and how they differ from the earlier structure.

- What were the various activities that occurred and can be identified archeologically at Rancho de las Cabras? How do they relate to the Spanish colonial ranching industry?
 1. Finish excavating the midden and trash pit outside the northwest corner, and excavate the midden beyond the east wall.
 2. Collect information pertinent to eighteenth century domestic stock ecology (phytoliths, stable isotopes, pollen, and diatoms from dung deposits in the compound).
 3. Collect information concerning the eighteenth century environment (pollen, stable isotopes, diatoms and phytoliths from soils immediately below the compound dung deposits).
 4. Determine the density of archeological artifacts and faunal remains inside and outside the compound with shovel tests laid out on a grid.
 5. Determine the nature of the soil anomaly (over-thickened A-horizon) discovered during the recent survey, and its relationship to ranching or farming activities (i.e., a garden plot, dump, or corral) at the site.
 6. Synthesize the archeological results through a re-analysis of the entire artifact collection and faunal remains recovered during all seasons of investigation in order to answer the following questions:
 - a. What does this tell us about the types and ranges of activities?
 - b. How great was the reliance on domestic versus wild animal resources?

- c. Was much of the domestic stock taken to Mission Espada and ranch staff used wild food sources, or was there an even use of domestic/wild faunal foods between Rancho de las Cabras and Mission Espada?
- What is the nature of prehistoric Native American use of Rancho de las Cabras?
 1. Determine the nature, age, and significance of all archeological resources by conducting a complete inventory of archeological sites over the entire property, including potential buried sites, and a comprehensive geoarcheological study with an associated radiocarbon dating effort.
 2. Determine the age and extent of the prehistoric site located below the north wall in the fifth season.
- How did Native American groups use Rancho de las Cabras, and what was their role in mission-era ranching?
 1. Conduct additional archival research of original documents regarding the Native American activities at Mission Espada and Rancho de las Cabras.
- Who were the *vaqueros*? Were they mission Indians? Were they acculturated natives from elsewhere?
 1. Undertake both archival research of original documents and analysis of cultural material from further archeology to determine who actually lived and worked at the *rancho*.

ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND APPROACHES

During the process of developing this CLR, numerous issues and concerns were identified or raised, based on NPS knowledge of the Rancho de las Cabras property, the archival research undertaken to develop the site history, the preparation of oral histories with local residents, and the attempts of the project team to grapple with evaluation, analysis, and treatment of the site's historic, cultural, and natural resources. In some cases, an approach to addressing concerns and issues has been developed or outlined as part of this CLR; in others, the team has attempted to clearly and succinctly state the issue or concern as part of the evolving process of planning for the development of this new unit as part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The issues, concerns, and approaches that were identified during preparation of this CLR include:

Issues and Concerns Associated with Historic Resource Protection within the Context of New Development of Visitor Access, Interpretation, and Management Improvements

- Preserve the integrity of archeological resources;
- Protect the ruins of the *rancho* compound;
- Allow for visitor access and interpretation in the least-intrusive manner possible; and
- Identify and protect the extant resources associated with the periods of significance.

Issues, Concerns, and Approaches Associated with the Protection of Natural Resource Values

- Mitigate soil erosion;
- Protect and enhance water quality;
- Promote sustainability; and
- Evaluate alternatives for establishing vegetation management programs that consider historic community patterns, potentially reverse mesquite dominance, and address sustainability goals.

Approaches to Further Investigations into the Site's Physical History

- Undertake additional archival and documentary research to continue learning as much as possible about the history of the site;
- Undertake additional archeological investigations, as recommended by previous investigations, to attempt to answer the many questions that remain about the site's history; and
- Query local residents about possible historic photographs of the ruins to learn how they may have changed over the course of the twentieth century.

Approaches to New Development of Visitor Access, Interpretation, and Management Improvements

- Approach the development of all new interventions in a conservative manner until more is known about the history and potential significance of site landscape resources and characteristics;
- Develop interpretive programs and site access interventions that are flexible in order to accommodate future new findings and discoveries;
- Accommodate visitor comfort and safety;
- Comply with the NPS Night Sky Initiative; and
- Make new development compatible with the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The 99.2-acre Rancho de las Cabras property administered by the National Park Service as part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is a portion of the Spanish colonial period ranch that supported Mission Espada through the mid to late eighteenth century. Rancho de las Cabras is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a State Archeological Landmark. It is significant in American history, agriculture, and culture for its

association with Spanish colonial period missions and as the sole known remaining example of a once-extensive system of San Antonio mission *ranchos*. It is also a significant archeological resource which has already yielded, and has the potential to continue to yield, important information about the Spanish colonial period. Rancho de las Cabras meets National Register listing requirements under Criteria A (association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), and D (has yielded and is likely to continue to yield information important in history and prehistory). While insufficient investigation has been undertaken to determine the significance of prehistoric and protohistoric archeological resources associated with the site, preliminary study suggests that the site is also likely to yield information important to our understanding of this period as well.

Although acquisition, preservation, and interpretation of this site by the State of Texas and the National Park Service fit within a strong local context of Spanish colonial period resource preservation, the site's commemorative resources, limited to a ca. 1936 marker, appear insufficient to meet the listing requirements of the National Register's special criteria considerations for commemorative properties.

Few above-ground *rancho* resources remain from the Spanish colonial period. While the existing landscape does not retain integrity to the Spanish colonial and prehistoric periods of significance, various landscape features do survive from these periods. These include the site's compound ruins, riparian woodland communities, landform and topography, expansive views from the ruins and western upland plateau, Picos Creek, views to the San Antonio River, and possibly the quarry site. Surviving features are not sufficient, however, to convey the character of the landscape during either period. Despite the various changes and additions to the landscape that post-date the Spanish colonial period, the site does retain integrity of location. The landscape's integrity of association, feeling, and setting for the Spanish colonial period of significance is greatly diminished due to the loss of the *rancho* compound and other features, such as roads and trails, fencing, and the broad patterns of vegetation, that characterized the period. As an archeological site, however, the site retains sufficient integrity to yield important information about these significant periods.

The archeological record is known to include numerous resources associated with the *rancho* headquarters compound where those who tended the cattle herds are thought to have lived and worked. These resources contribute to our understanding of the mission system that was so integral to Spanish colonial settlement in Texas and the American Southwest, and particularly to the San Antonio region. Knowledge of these resources also contributes to our understanding of the evolution of the American cowboy culture that grew up around the Texas cattle industry, built on the legacy of the mission ranches.

Historic landscapes are rarely static environments. The design guidelines and recommendations provided in this CLR to address the treatment of the site's historic, cultural, and natural resources, including the contributing resources and other significant qualities of the landscape outlined above, are intended to allow NPS to meet current and future functional, maintenance, and management needs at the site, while protecting its resources. Based on the fact that rehabilitation is defined as "the process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions, while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values,"⁴⁹ **rehabilitation** is the primary overall approach to resource management at Rancho de las Cabras recommended in this CLR. Rehabilitation will allow for the establishment of a rich and fulfilling visitor experience, and the implementation of necessary functional site improvements. Rehabilitation will also allow the park to pursue resource management initiatives that are intended to promote sustainability. And, because future archeological investigations are likely to yield important new information regarding the landscape during the prehistoric and Spanish colonial periods, which may in turn spur new ideas for interpretive features and programs, rehabilitation will allow the park enough flexibility to incorporate new findings into park management and interpretation.

Five treatment areas are identified in this CLR for the site for which specific treatment goals have been developed:

Treatment Area 1: *Rancho* Compound

- Preserve and stabilize cultural and archeological resources;
- Interpret the site's history and extant cultural and archeological resources; and
- Interpret on-going archeological investigations.

Treatment Area 2: Quarry

- Preserve the quarry and associated wet areas;
- Stabilize the slopes that pose a risk to visitors and threaten the *rancho* compound; and
- Continue to investigate the history of the quarry. Should more information become known, interpret the quarry through least-intrusive visitor access systems.

Treatment Area 3: Mesquite Uplands

- Consider altering the existing upland vegetative community through vegetation management strategies, such as controlled burning, mechanical clearing, or other suitable methods, to reduce mesquite dominance; and
- Allow for minimal development of pedestrian and service circulation systems to provide access to the *rancho* compound and its environs.

⁴⁹National Park Service, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Heritage Preservation Services, Historic Landscape Initiatives, 1996).

Treatment Area 4: Agricultural Lands

- Maintain the open character and agricultural use of the field north of the confluence of the San Antonio River and Picos Creek until interpretive goals for the area have been identified;
- Transfer the panhandle to a private landowner in order to acquire a potential alternative entrance parcel, as identified in the DRAFT General Management Plan Amendment. Maintain agricultural use through covenants; and
- Develop visitor access and parking facilities, and a visitor contact/interpretation facility within a newly established woodland of native trees and plantings at the potential alternative entrance parcel.

Treatment Area 5: San Antonio River and Picos Creek Riparian Systems

- Protect and enhance these sensitive water resources and their associated riparian habitats;
- Prohibit livestock access and grazing; and
- Accommodate water access by canoeists, rafters, and kayakers in the least intrusive manner possible, should the need for access be demonstrated.

The CLR's cultural landscape management and preservation strategies that support these goals carefully consider the inter-relationships between the site's resources. As further investigations into the documentary and archeological record of the site's history are undertaken, the findings should be utilized to update and evaluate this CLR to assure that management strategies continue to properly address the needs of the park's resources and its visitors.



2 THE HISTORY OF RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS

2 THE HISTORY OF RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS

All Spanish terms are defined the first time they are used and are also included in Appendix A.

INTRODUCTION

The cultural landscape of the San Antonio River valley, of which Rancho de las Cabras is a part, has evolved over many millennia, particularly since the Late Prehistoric indigenous phase (ca. 800 - 1600 A.D.) The region is generally rural and agricultural in character, and limited cartographic documentation of the landscape exists. In order to understand the character of the Rancho de las Cabras landscape throughout its cultural history, all available information, including maps, plats, inventories, wills, deeds, written texts such as journals and diaries of travelers, the historical scholarship that focuses on the indigenous and Spanish colonial periods of the region, and the results of archeological investigations on this site and similar sites, was analyzed and synthesized. Personal interviews with local residents and others associated with the property or the region were also undertaken (see Appendix B), and information provided by these interviews was utilized in the description of later periods of the site's history. Because of the dearth of documentary information uncovered in association with the Rancho de las Cabras site, portions of the physical landscape history detailed in this chapter draw from a contextual model, based upon information available for similar sites and the region as a whole, from which conclusions about the property have been drawn. There remain numerous gaps in our understanding of the site's history and its inhabitants, and it is hoped that future additional investigations of documentary sources and subsurface remains can be utilized to augment this document over time.

The site physical history information prepared for Rancho de las Cabras and presented below is organized into seven historic chronology periods spanning prehistory (ca. 12,000 B.P.) through the present (1998). The seven periods are treated as distinct sections within this chapter. They were established based on the dates of known events and physical developments that are thought to have significantly altered the character, land use, or patterns of the Rancho de las Cabras landscape; major developments mark the transitions between periods. A chronology map has been prepared to illustrate each period of the site's landscape history. The site chronology maps are supported by regional context and *rancho* compound chronology maps that do not correlate precisely to the landscape periods established to organize the site history, but are instead based on available primary source and archeological information. Other available primary and secondary graphic materials relating to the site and its history, including maps, photographs, and illustrations, have also been included in this chapter as figures to support the text.

PREHISTORIC AND PROTOHISTORIC PERIOD (12,000 B.P. - A.D. 1718)

Figures 7-8, 26-27

The natural landscape is the primary organizing principle used to describe the prehistoric cultural history of Central and South Texas. Specific landscape forms and features were identified by the Center for Archaeological Research during archeological and geomorphological investigations at Rancho de las Cabras, and prehistoric cultural period subdivisions are discussed within the larger geological framework.

Late Pleistocene to Middle Holocene Period (12,000 - 4000 B.P.)

A geomorphological investigation at Rancho de las Cabras resulted in the identification of a Late Pleistocene to mid-Holocene alluvial terrace, referred to as T2 (Figure 7).¹ This terrace has the potential for containing evidence of human occupation related to the Paleoindian, Early Archaic, and Middle Archaic periods discussed below.

Paleoindian Period

Paleoindians are the earliest known human inhabitants of the New World. Their presence across the landscape is recognized by the distinctive stone tools and archeological sites they left behind. This early occupation is referred to as the Paleoindian period, and in Central Texas spans approximately 3,200 years, from 12,000 - 8,800 B.P.² Early Paleoindians produced the well-known fluted points of Clovis, Folsom, and Plainview, and later Paleoindians were responsible for the manufacture of the types defined as Golondrina and Scottsbluff.

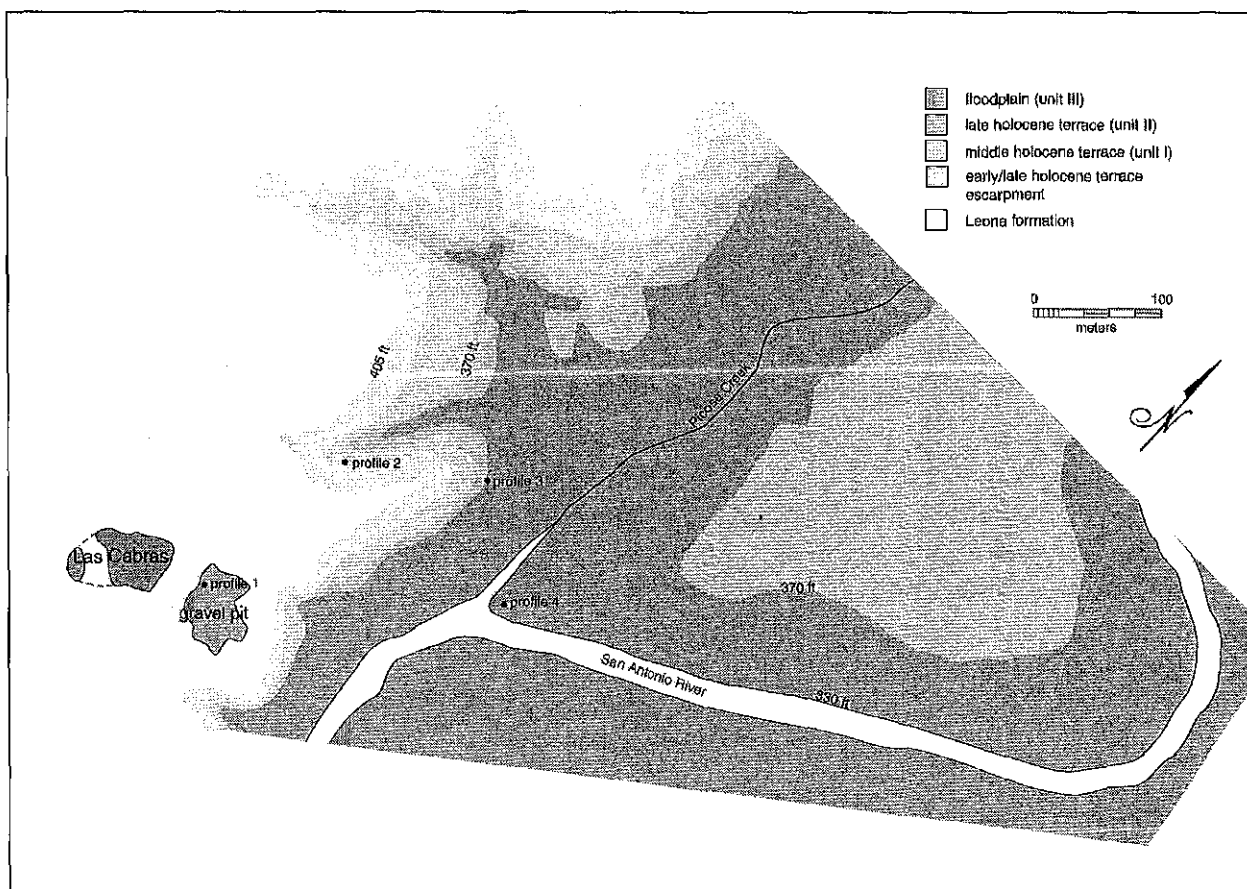
Paleoindians probably consisted of small bands of people who were highly mobile, with large hunting and foraging territories and low population density.³ They have typically been described in the archeological literature as “big game” hunters in pursuit of now-extinct megafauna such as mammoth, *Bison antiquus*, camel, and horse. While this may be true of the initial groups who entered the region, as more archeological data accumulates it appears that early Paleoindians exploited smaller fauna, and presumably plants as well.⁴ At the Kincaid rockshelter in Uvalde County, Clovis-period remains include water turtles, land tortoises, alligator, mice, badger, and raccoon; and reportedly over two metric tons of river bed stones

¹Diane A. Cargill, Maureen Brown, Lee C. Nordt, and C. Britt Bousman, *Archaeological Survey at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas*. (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 286, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1998).

²Michael B. Collins, “Forty Years of Archeology in Central Texas.” *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 66 (1995: 361-400), 381.

³Stephen L. Black, “Central Texas Plateau Prairie,” in *From the Gulf to the Rio Grande: Human Adaptation in Central, South, and Lower Pecos Texas*, edited by T. R. Hester, S. L. Black, D. G. Steele, B. W. Olive, A. A. Fox, K. J. Reinhard, and L. C. Bement. Research Series No. 33. (Fayetteville: Arkansas Archeological Survey, 1989: 17-38), 25.

⁴Collins, “Forty Years,” 381.



Map Source:

Map reprinted with permission from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas*, prepared by Diane A. Cargill, Maureen Brown, Lee C. Nordt, and C. Britt Bousman, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 286, 1998), figure 6.

Figure 7. Known Rancho Prehistoric Sites. (Alluvial terraces east of the 405 foot contour have the potential for containing buried archeological sites.)

were collected by the inhabitants and brought to the rockshelter to cover the muddy floor.⁵ Certainly, with the extinction of the megafauna by 10,000 B.P., other large herbivores such as *Bison bison* and deer (*Odocoileus*) were hunted; however, archeological sites from the later Paleoindian period demonstrate the exploitation of small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.⁶ Overall, as more data on early Paleoindian subsistence is recovered, the perception of big game hunters is giving way to “well adapted, generalized hunters-gatherers with the technology to hunt big game but not the need to rely exclusively on it.”⁷

In Central and South Texas, diagnostic projectile points of the Paleoindian period are recovered from the present ground surface as “isolated finds,” and relatively few Paleoindian sites, or sites with Paleoindian components, have been recorded. When documented, these sites are typically located in rockshelters, upland locations, and deep alluvial terraces. The location of Paleoindian sites has been attributed to the geomorphological history of the region.⁸ Paleoindian sites may be deeply buried in alluvial terrace locations such as in the case of the Berger Bluff site in Goliad County,⁹ Buckner Ranch site in Bee County,¹⁰ and the Richard Beene site in Southern Bexar County.¹¹ In the case of the Berger Bluff site, cultural material was buried more than eight meters below the surface.

Early Archaic

The Early Archaic period in Central Texas spans approximately 2,800 years from 8800 - 6000 B.P.¹² The Archaic Period in whole (Early, Middle, and Late) is viewed as a successful adaptation by hunters and gatherers exploiting modern flora and fauna, lasting approximately 7500 years. Compared to the Paleoindian period, there is an increase in the diversity of lithic artifacts. Projectile point styles diagnostic of this period include Angostura, Early Split Stem, and Martindale-Uvalde. The lithic assemblage also contains grinding and hammering stones, Guadalupe tools, and Clear Fork bifaces.¹³

⁵Ibid.

⁶Thomas Hester, “The Prehistory of South Texas.” *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 66 (1995: 427-460), 435.

⁷Collins, “Forty Years,” 382.

⁸Stephen L. Black, “South Texas Plains,” in *From the Gulf to the Rio Grande: Human Adaptation in Central, South, and Lower Pecos Texas*, edited by T. R. Hester, S. L. Black, D. G. Steele, B. W. Olive, A. A. Fox, K. J. Reinhard, and L. C. Bement. Research Series No. 33. (Fayetteville: Arkansas Archeological Survey, 1989: 39-62), 48.

⁹David O. Brown, *The Berger Bluff Site (41GD30A): Excavations in the Upper Deposit, 1979*. (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 115, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1983).

¹⁰E. H. Sellards, “Pleistocene Artifacts and Associated Fossils from Bee County, Texas.” *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America* 51 (1940): 1627-1657.

¹¹Alston V. Thoms, David D. Kuehn, Ben W. Olive, John E. Dockall, Patricia A. Clabaugh, and Rolfe D. Mandel, “Early and Middle Holocene Occupations at the Richard Beene Site: The 1995 Southern Texas Archaeological Association Field School Project.” *La Tierra* 23[4] (1996): 8-36.

¹²Collins, “Forty Years,” 383.

¹³Ibid.

In Central Texas, the inhabitants of the Early Archaic period are considered to have been comprised of small, highly mobile bands.¹⁴ Native groups probably lacked well-defined territories and may have practiced frequent changes in their group composition.¹⁵ The presence of fire-cracked rock cooking features, ground-stone artifacts, faunal remains of small terrestrial and aquatic fauna, and plant remains of camas bulbs suggest more intensive exploitation of the local resource base compared to the earlier Paleoindian period. It is likely that the generalized hunting and gathering strategy of the late Paleoindian period was maintained by the occupants of the Early Archaic period.¹⁶

Many of the known Early Archaic sites in Central Texas appear to be concentrated along the Balcones Escarpment, near the southern and eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau.¹⁷ The occurrence of sites in this physiographic location might reflect the occupants' need for water during an arid climatic interval. Early Archaic sites are uncommon in South Texas; however, their appearance is typically associated with high terrace or upland locations.¹⁸ Deeply buried Early Archaic components have been documented at Choke Canyon in Live Oak County.¹⁹

Middle Archaic

The Middle Archaic period in Central Texas spans approximately 2,000 years, from 6000 - 4000 B.P.²⁰ Indicative of this period are artifacts known as Nolan, Travis, Taylor, and Bell-Andice-Calf Creek projectile points.²¹ In South Texas, however, the period from 4450 - 2350 B.P. is thought to more accurately reflect the Middle Archaic; common artifact types from this area are Carrizo, Abasolo, and Tortugas.²²

¹⁴Stephen L. Black, "Central Texas," 28.

¹⁵D. A. Story, "Adaptive Strategies of Archaic Cultures of the West Gulf Coastal Plain," in *Prehistoric Food Production in North America*, edited by R. I. Ford, Anthropological Papers 75. (Ann Arbor: Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, 1985: 19-56), 35.

¹⁶Black, "South Texas Plains," 49.

¹⁷Wilson W. McKinney, "Early Holocene Adaptations in Central and Southwestern Texas: The Problem of the Paleoindian-Archaic Transition." *Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological Society* 52 (1981): 91-120.

¹⁸Black, "South Texas Plains," 49.

¹⁹R. F. Scott, *Excavations at Sites 41LK31/32 and 41LK202 in the Choke Canyon Reservoir, South Texas. Part 1: Prehistoric Investigations*. Choke Canyon Series 8. (San Antonio, TX: Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1982).

²⁰Collins, "Forty Years," 383.

²¹Ibid.

²²Hester, "The Prehistory of South Texas," 438.

Human population is believed to have increased during this period based on the large number of archeological sites in Central and South Texas.²³ This increase in population may be due to a climatic change from dry, xeric conditions in the Early Archaic to wetter and cooler mesic conditions in the Middle Archaic. However, pollen research suggests that, while more moist conditions occurred about 6000 B.P., the remaining Middle Archaic period was characterized by drier and warmer conditions.²⁴ It has been suggested, based on projectile point types, environmental data, and archeological sites containing bison faunal remains, that human adaptation during the early part of the Middle Archaic period became more specialized with a focus on bison hunting.²⁵ By the middle to late Middle Archaic period, archeological sites reflect more long-term occupation and intensive use of local resources. The presence of burned rock middens indicate the construction of earthen ovens to cook and render edible plant material such as sotol, cammas bulbs, and acorns. Other resources exploited during this time period include land snails, freshwater mussels, deer, and other mammals.²⁶ The initial appearance of large cemeteries located both inland and on the Coastal Plain suggests population increase and that territorial ranges of hunters and gatherers were becoming more restricted during the Middle Archaic.²⁷

Middle Archaic sites are found in a variety of environmental settings including uplands, along former and present stream channels, and in alluvial locations such as floodplains, low terraces, and natural levees of present stream courses.²⁸

Late Holocene and Late Prehistoric Periods (4000 - 450 B.P., and A.D. 800 - 1600)

A geomorphological investigation at Rancho de las Cabras resulted in the identification of a Late Holocene alluvial terrace, referred to as T1 (Figure 7).²⁹ This terrace has the potential for containing cultural resources related to the Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods discussed below.

²³Story, "Adaptive Strategies."

²⁴C. B. Bousman, "Paleoenvironmental Change in Central Texas; Palynological Evidence." *Plains Anthropologist* 43, (1998): 201-219.

²⁵Collins, "Forty Years," 384.

²⁶Black, "South Texas Plains," 51.

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸Hester, "The Prehistory of South Texas," 439.

²⁹Cargill et al., *Archaeological Survey at Rancho de las Cabras*.

Late Archaic

The Late Archaic period in Central Texas spans approximately 3,000 years from 4000 - 1200 or 1300 B.P.³⁰ Diagnostic of this period are Pedernales, Bulverde, and Darl projectile points.³¹ In South Texas, the Late Archaic period dates from roughly 2400 - 1200 B.P.³² Projectile points distinctive of this period include Ensor, Frio, and Marcos types.³³

Collins claims that the Late Archaic period began “as effective moisture was at its lowest in Central Texas, but gradually the climate became substantially more mesic.”³⁴ The use of heated rock, and therefore the presence of burned rock middens, continues into the Late Archaic period. In the eastern part of Central Texas the replacement of xeric vegetation appears to coincide with a decreased use of heated rock technology. According to Bousman, the Late Holocene (from 4000 B.P. to the present) represents modern climatic patterns that reflect a return to moister conditions.³⁵ Subsistence data indicate the exploitation of plants and small animals. Rather than describing the Late Archaic occupants as hunters and gatherers, Black has referred to them as “collector-gatherers.”³⁶ If site density is a reliable indicator of population density, Late Archaic population was at an all-time high, relative to the preceding periods.³⁷ The presence of cemeteries at sites such as Ernest Witte, Hitzfelder Cave, and Olmos Dam indicates that Late Archaic populations in Central and South Texas were increasing and becoming more territorial.³⁸

Black reports that Late Archaic sites are very common in South Texas, and that diagnostic projectile points from this period are observed in all topographic settings.³⁹

Late Prehistoric

In Central Texas, the Late Prehistoric period spans approximately 800 years from A.D. 800 - 1600.⁴⁰ It is further divided into two phases, the Austin phase (A.D. 800 - 1300) and the Toyah phase (A.D. 1300 - 1600). The bow and arrow and ceramic technology are indicative of the Late Prehistoric period. Diagnostic artifacts include Scallorn and Perdiz projectile points.

³⁰Collins, “Forty Years,” 384.

³¹Ibid., 376.

³²Black, “South Texas Plains,” 51.

³³Ibid.

³⁴Collins, “Forty Years,” 384.

³⁵Bousinan, “Paleoenvironmental Change.”

³⁶Black, “South Texas Plains,” 51.

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Story, “Adaptive Strategies;” and Timothy Pertulla, “Hunter-Gatherer Mortuary Practices,” in *Archaeology of the Rio Grande and Central Coastal Plains, Texas: A Planning Document*, (draft) edited by Steve A. Tomka, Timothy K. Pertulla, and Robert J. Hard. (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 266, Volume 1. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1997): 7-1 – 7-51.

³⁹Black, “South Texas Plains,” 51.

⁴⁰Black, “Central Texas,” 32.

It has been suggested that both the Austin and Toyah phases began in North Texas and spread southward into Central Texas, and subsequently into South Texas.⁴¹ A decline in population is thought to have occurred during the Austin phase, and people appear to have occupied protected rockshelters more than open-air campsites. A cemetery site from the Austin phase shows evidence of intergroup conflict. Used for over a 400-year period, several interments from this cemetery contain embedded arrow points in the bone.⁴² Some researchers believe that subsistence behavior remained basically unchanged from the earlier Late Archaic period, and that the distinguishing characteristic of the Late Prehistoric period appears to be a change in projectile point technology.⁴³ The Toyah phase is thought to represent people from the Southern Plains who moved south and east into Central Texas in pursuit of bison herds. The artifact assemblage found at Toyah sites has been interpreted as tools used in the hunting and processing of bison. The relative importance, however, of bison materials at these sites has been questioned. Black for example, states that "most Toyah sites with faunal remains do indeed have bison bones"; however, careful faunal analysis conducted on materials from the Toyah component of the Panther Springs and Hinojosa sites indicate that deer were more prevalent than bison.⁴⁴ In addition to deer and bison, Late Prehistoric inhabitants in South Texas exploited numerous species including bobcat, gray fox, gray wolf, skunk, raccoon, different species of rodents, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds.⁴⁵ While there may have been a decline in population during the Austin phase, the overall number of Late Prehistoric sites in South Texas attests to a relatively high population density.⁴⁶

Perhaps due to high surface visibility, Late Prehistoric sites are considered numerous in South Texas, and occupation sites are typically found within 50 meters of a dependable water source.⁴⁷ Black explains that this may be more a result of geomorphological processes, or lack thereof, as sufficient time may not have elapsed for alluvial processes to bury or destroy these sites.⁴⁸

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴²Ibid.

⁴³Collins, "Forty Years," 385.

⁴⁴Black, "Central Texas," 32.

⁴⁵Thomas Hester, "Late Prehistoric Cultural Patterns Along The Lower Rio Grande Of Texas." *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 46 (1975: 105-125), 116.

⁴⁶Stephen L. Black, "Archeological and Ethnohistorical Background," in *Archeological Investigations at the Loma Sandia Site (41LK28)*, *Studies in Archeology* 20 (1995): 31-44. (Austin, TX: Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin), 44.

⁴⁷Black, "South Texas Plains," 52.

⁴⁸Black, "Archeological and Ethnohistorical Background," 44.

Protohistoric Period: Native Americans at Contact (A.D. 1528 - 1718)

The Protohistoric period usually refers to a segment of time characterized by early and intermittent contact between Europeans and Native American peoples in a specific area or region. As such, the termination of the Protohistoric and the advent of the Historic period are subject to debate and vary from place to place. For the purposes of this report, the Protohistoric period in South Texas began with Cabeza de Vaca in 1528, and ends with the establishment of Mission San Antonio de Valero in 1718, at which time numerous Native American groups experienced direct and prolonged contact with the Spanish.

The earliest written accounts of Native American groups in South Texas is provided by Cabeza de Vaca of the Narvaez expedition. De Vaca shipwrecked on Malhado Island (west of present-day Galveston Island) in 1528 and spent the following eight years traveling on foot across south Texas and northeastern Mexico.⁴⁹ Another account of this journey is provided by historian Oviedo y Valdes, who wrote a narrative based on a joint report by Cabeza de Vaca and his three companions. Both of these narratives were written after the four Spanish survivors left South Texas.⁵⁰ Although Cabeza de Vaca's exact route is unknown, he is believed to have traveled near the coast from Malhado Island to the San Antonio Bay area. Moving inland along the lower course of the Guadalupe River, he was enslaved by a group known as the Mariame for 18 months. He later escaped, somewhere in the vicinity of present day Alice, Texas, at which point he appears to have moved in a southwesterly direction across south Texas for Panuco, New Spain. In an indirect, inland approach (it is reported that Cabeza de Vaca wanted to avoid encountering any additional coastal groups), he arrived in Mexico City in 1536. Cabeza de Vaca reports the names of 23 Native American groups encountered in his journey across south Texas.⁵¹

It is clear from these early accounts that Native American groups in South Texas had a hunting and gathering adaptation prior to contact with Europeans, and that none of the 23 groups listed by Cabeza de Vaca practiced agriculture. Furthermore, a clear distinction between subsistence patterns practiced by coastal and inland groups is indicated by the absence of coastal groups in popular inland prickly pear collecting grounds, and that inland groups were not reported to have exploited coastal resources.⁵² Beyond group names and relative locations, very little is known of the four coastal groups who occupied the shoreline between San Antonio Bay and an area probably just south of Corpus Christi Bay. It is reported that the coastal Camoles killed the Spaniards from the Penalosa barge—one of five barges built in Florida to return to Panuco, New Spain—which also washed ashore in 1528.

⁴⁹T. N. Campbell and T. J. Campbell, "Cabeza de Vaca Among the Indians of Southern Texas," in *The Indians of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico*. (Austin, TX: Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin, 1988: 7-38), 7.

⁵⁰Ibid.

⁵¹Campbell and Campbell, "Cabeza de Vaca," 13.

⁵²Ibid., 16.

Much more information is provided by Cabeza de Vaca on the 11 inland groups said to be located between the lower Guadalupe and lower Nueces Rivers. This is due primarily to the fact that Cabeza de Vaca lived among the Mariames for 18 months.⁵³ The Mariames were apparently highly mobile with a total foraging distance of approximately 110 miles.⁵⁴ They hunted, fished, and collected wild plant foods. For nine months out of the year (fall, winter, and spring) they occupied the wooded river valley of the lower Guadalupe (river of nuts). This river valley contained pecans, and during bountiful years, many native groups are said to have come from as far away as 50 to 75 miles to camp along its banks and exploit this food resource. The Mariames are reported to have moved up and down the river valley every two to three days during their nine-month stay in the Guadalupe River valley. With the advent of summer, the Mariames migrated southwestward to an area near present day Alice, Texas, to seasonally exploit prickly pear. The prickly pear collecting ground is believed to have been in Jim Wells County, and probably included western Nueces and eastern Duval counties as well. During Cabeza de Vaca's 18-month stay with the Mariames, he reports that they returned to the same location two summers in a row to eat prickly pear. It is interesting to note that several nineteenth-century travelers describe great walls and mountains of prickly pear cactus in the same general vicinity as is thought to be the sixteenth-century prickly pear collecting grounds of the Mariames and others.⁵⁵

In the Cabeza de Vaca and Oviedo y Valdes narratives, this prickly pear collecting ground is referred to in connection with the other ten inland groups. Campbell and Campbell state that the other inland groups probably had a foraging range similar to that of the Mariame; however, a similar subsistence and settlement pattern is not clear, so their total foraging territory may have been less.⁵⁶ In addition to the seasonal exploitation of pecans and prickly pear, other dietary items of the Mariame included deer, (and presumably bison), fish, rats, mice, snails, frogs, lizards, insects, roots, and seeds.

It is clear that linguistic diversity existed among the native groups described by Cabeza de Vaca and his three companions. The language of the inland Mariame was reported to be different from that of the coastal Quevenes, and the Avavares was different from the coastal Quevenes; however, the inland Avavares, apparently by living in close proximity to the Mariames, learned the Mariame language.⁵⁷ In addition, the Maliacones, Avavares, and Cutalchuches are reported to have spoken different languages.⁵⁸ Cabeza de Vaca reports that he and his companions learned to speak six different languages while in South Texas. Campbell and Campbell state that "It is not possible, however, to determine the nature of the linguistic units represented.

⁵³Ibid., 16.

⁵⁴Ibid., 32.

⁵⁵Ibid., 11-12.

⁵⁶Ibid., 32.

⁵⁷Ibid., 25.

⁵⁸Ibid., 29.

Several dialects of one language may have been spoken; or dialects of two or more languages, either related or unrelated, may have been spoken; or each group may have spoken a language unrelated to any of the others.”⁵⁹

It is evident that the availability of certain food resources conditioned the movement of native groups across the landscape. In addition to dietary items, necessary resources such as water and wood (fuel) played an important role in the occupation of the wooded valleys of the Guadalupe and Nueces rivers. For a more thorough treatment of the 23 listed Native American groups in south Texas the reader is referred to Campbell and Campbell 1988.

Major Spanish expeditions across south Texas did not occur until almost 150 years after Cabeza de Vaca and his companions were shipwrecked on Malhado Island in 1528. It was not until 1684, with the establishment of La Salle’s Fort St. Louis on Garcitas Creek, that the northern frontier of “Tejas” became an important consideration for Spain.⁶⁰ Many expeditions took place, including Alonso de Leon’s *entrada*⁶¹ in 1689 in search of La Salle’s fort, and subsequent expeditions which resulted in the establishment of missions in East, Central, and South Texas. Information pertinent to Native American groups along these routes of travel was recorded in the diaries of expedition leaders, engineers, and Franciscan fathers.

During the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the Native American groups in present-day Northeastern Mexico and South Texas were already experiencing pressure from two invading populations: the Spanish and the Apache.⁶² It is known that many groups were displaced from original territories during Spanish colonization of Nuevo Leon, ca. 1596,⁶³ and as the Spaniards continued their northward and eastward expansion over the next 150 years.⁶⁴ Displacement of original native groups also occurred ca. 1650 when the Apache began moving southeastward from the Southern High Plains, and again around 1750 when the Apache moved south onto the Coastal Plain.⁶⁵ Hester writes, in respect to Native American displacement: “At the time of historic contact, the Indian peoples of that region in the central part of the county just three miles northeast of Rancho de las Cabras—Lower Rio Grande Valley of Mexico and Texas—were in turmoil, many displaced from original territories and seeking alliances with

⁵⁹Ibid., 31.

⁶⁰John Francis Bannon, *The Spanish Borderlands Frontier 1513-1821*. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1979): 96-102.

⁶¹expedition

⁶²T. N. Campbell, “The Coahuiltecas and Their Neighbors,” in *The Indians of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico*. (Austin, TX: Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin, 1988: 39-60), 41.

⁶³Martin Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta; Their Role in the History of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico*. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1990), 1.

⁶⁴Ibid., 14.

⁶⁵T. N. Campbell and T. J. Campbell, *Indian Groups Associated with Spanish Missions of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park*. (San Antonio, TX: Special Report, No. 16, Second Printing. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1996), 1, 67.

other groups. This aspect of Indian cultural patterns in the early historic era has often been overlooked.”⁶⁶ Displacement of Native American groups and slave raids (*encomienda*⁶⁷ system) resulted in the decline and fragmentation of native populations.⁶⁸ In addition, European diseases were often transmitted to native groups beyond the Spanish frontier, thereby further reducing indigenous populations.⁶⁹ As Campbell states “By the end of the seventeenth century the Indians of southern Texas were already beginning to face what most hunting and gathering peoples of the world have had to face: population decline, territorial displacement, segregation and ideological pressure, loss of ethnic identity, and absorption by invading populations.”⁷⁰ Although very little research has focused on attempting to trace the displacement of native groups from their original territories, one such study illuminates the potential of such an undertaking. Utilizing primary documents, Salinas has traced the Malahuecos from Nuevo Leon in 1728, northward to the Rio Grande in 1756 to 1757, southward to the mouth of the Rio Grande, and then northward along the Texas coast as far as Copano Bay in 1780.⁷¹ He believes there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the name Malahueco was changed to Malaguitas after their arrival on the Texas coast. Individuals from the Malaguita group entered the San Antonio missions of San Juan, Concepción, and Espada, and were recruited from somewhere along the coast between Copano Bay and the Rio Grande.⁷²

The Native American groups of South Texas and Northeastern Mexico have commonly been referred to as “Coahuiltecans.”⁷³ Based on an assumed shared language, the term “Coahuiltecan” has been applied by both archeologists and ethnohistorians to numerous prehistoric and historic Native American groups from Northeastern Mexico and South/Central and Coastal Texas (Figure 8). More recently, it has been suggested, based on historical and linguistic evidence, that not all native groups were original Coahuiltecan speakers.⁷⁴ In an area that Campbell and Campbell identify as occupied by “Coahuiltecans and Their Neighbors,” over 1,000 ethnic group names have been recorded over a 350-year period.⁷⁵ For a description

⁶⁶Thomas R. Hester, Forward to *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta; Their Role in the History of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico*. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1990), ix.

⁶⁷The *encomienda* system granted large landowners legal title to a group of Indians from which they could extract tribute labor.

⁶⁸Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande*, 15.

⁶⁹Campbell, “The Coahuiltecans and Their Neighbors,” 42.

⁷⁰T. N. Campbell, “The Payaya Indians of Southern Texas,” in *The Indians of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico*. (Austin, TX: Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin, 1988: 97-116), 98.

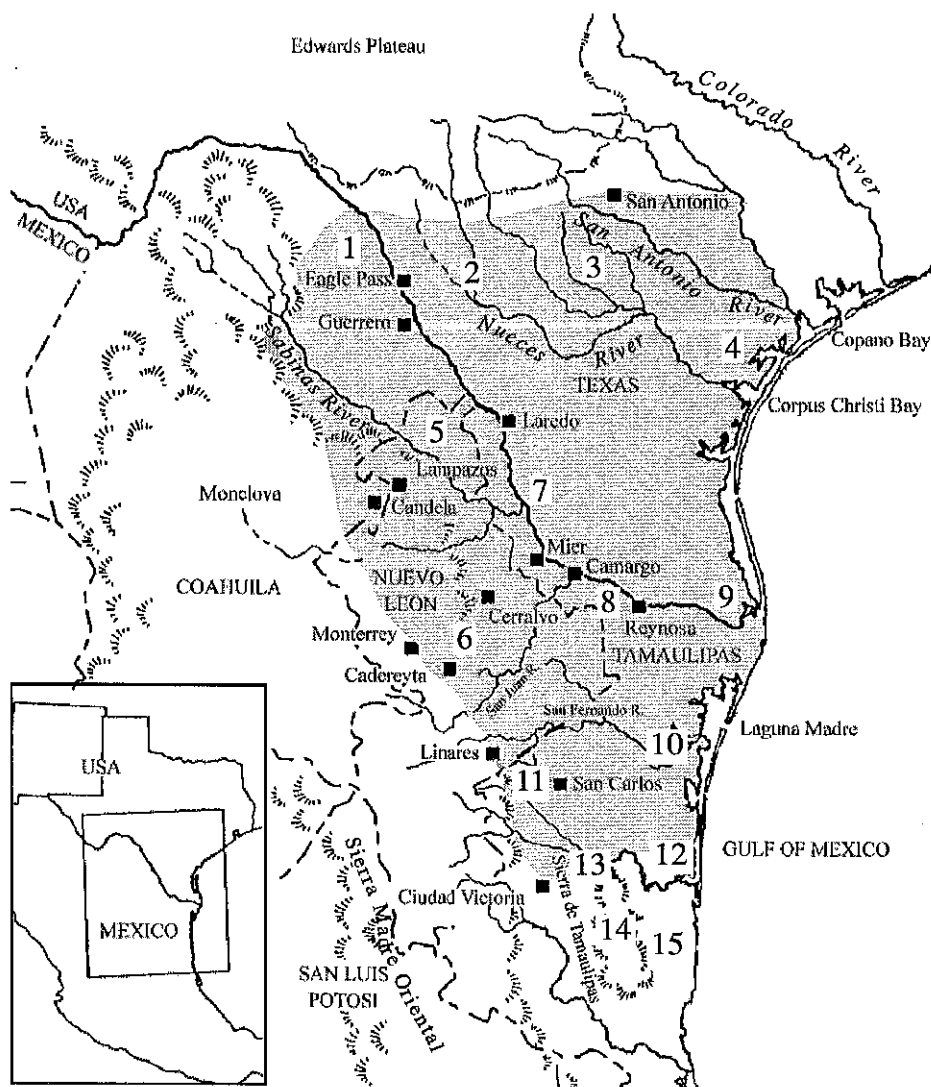
⁷¹Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 46.

⁷²*Ibid.*

⁷³Campbell, “The Coahuiltecans and Their Neighbors,” 39.

⁷⁴Ives Goddard, “The Languages of South Texas and the Lower Rio Grande,” in *The Languages of Native America: Historical and Comparative Assessment*, edited by Lyle Campbell and Marianne Mithun. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1979): 355-389.

⁷⁵Campbell, “The Coahuiltecans and Their Neighbors,” 44.



Map Source:

Illustration adapted from information presented in "Coahuiltecs and Their Neighbors," prepared by T. N. Campbell in *Handbook of North American Indians*, edited by William Sturtevant (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1983).

Figure 8. Territory of the Coahuiltecs and Their Neighbors

of the numerous vagaries encountered in ethnohistorical research of ethnic group names in Northeastern Mexico and Texas during the Protohistoric and Historic periods, see Campbell,⁷⁶ Salinas,⁷⁷ and Schuetz.⁷⁸

Ethnohistoric accounts indicate that Native American groups of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in present-day Northeastern Mexico and South Texas were numerous and highly mobile with relatively large foraging territories ranging from south of the Rio Grande to beyond the Colorado River in Texas.⁷⁹ Native American groups associated with this area occupied an extensive Coastal Plain environment. With the exception of East Texas and southern Tamaulipas groups, there is no indication that agriculture was practiced. The written accounts report the activity of different native groups that coalesced at times to hunt bison and to trade with one another.⁸⁰ Often, three or more native groups were observed together, camped at or near river crossings, and at times, these encampments were recorded as exceptionally large.⁸¹ The Jumano serve as an example for demonstrating the extensive territorial ranges that Native American groups had during this time. On March 29, 1689, the Jumano or Chome were reported by de Leon to have been present along Juan's Creek 15 miles south of the Rio Grande.⁸² Massanet reported the same group at the same location on May 27, 1691. Twenty-two days after Massanet reported the Chome at Juan's Creek, Teran met the Jumano or Chome west of San Marcos. Massanet noted that the Chome and Jumano represented the same native group and that they, as well as other West Texas and other Chihuahua groups "traveled annually to the Guadalupe (the present San Marcos River) to hunt bison and to trade with the local tribes (and also with the Tejas)."⁸³ Approximately a month after they were reported west of San Marcos, the Jumano were recorded near present-day La Grange, Texas, in Fayette County. Members of the Jumano, East Texas Asinai, and local Cantona were again reported in present-day Fayette County in 1693 by Salinas.⁸⁴

⁷⁶T. N. Campbell, *The Indians Of Southern Texas And Northeastern Mexico*. (Austin, TX: Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin, 1988), 44, 49, 97.

⁷⁷Martin Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 1-3.

⁷⁸Mardith Schuetz, "The Indians of the San Antonio Missions 1718-1821." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology. (Austin, TX: University of Texas, 1980): 118-123.

⁷⁹William C. Foster, *Spanish Expeditions Into Texas 1689-1768*. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1995): 265-289.

⁸⁰Ibid.

⁸¹Ibid.

⁸²Foster, *Spanish Expeditions*, 276.

⁸³Ibid.

⁸⁴Ibid.

Given the fact that many Native American groups were displaced from traditional territories, it is difficult to determine which groups may have been indigenous, and which were displaced into a specific area. The Espinosa-Olivares-Aguirre expedition to the Colorado River in 1709 tells of a large encampment of approximately 2,000 individuals near the Colorado River.⁸⁵ Seventy-seven of the 2,000 individuals were represented by four distinct group names. Ethnohistoric research by Campbell demonstrates that only one of the four groups—the Cantona—was possibly native to the area.⁸⁶ The remaining three groups were apparently displaced from their former territories. The Yojuane were Wichita speakers and their homeland was in north-central Oklahoma (north of the Red River). They were probably displaced by the Apache and Osage after 1650.⁸⁷ The language group of the Simaomo and the Tusonibi is unknown; however, they were apparently indigenous to Northeastern Mexico. Campbell states that documents written between 1690 and 1709 indicate that Native American groups between the Colorado and Guadalupe Rivers were hunters and gatherers with total foraging territories comparable to seven or eight Texas-size counties.⁸⁸ These temporary encampments (*rancherías*) observed by the Spanish appear to have represented an amalgamation of several displaced groups or remnant groups, combined with groups indigenous to the area. “What seems to be especially significant is the relatively high frequency of shared encampments during the early historic period.”⁸⁹ This is probably a result of attacks by the Apache and encroachment onto the Texas Coastal Plain by both the Spanish and Apache.

Prior to the establishment of the San Antonio missions, several Native American groups were recorded in the vicinity of San Antonio. In 1690, the Tilpayai (Payaya), Cauya, Semomam, Saracuam, Pulacuam, and Anxau were on the Medina River between present-day Medina and Bexar counties.⁹⁰ Additional groups recorded in the San Antonio area in 1709 include the Sijame, Siupan, Chalome, Paxti, Pampopa, and the Pamaya. With the exception of the Payaya Indians, there is little information available on these Native American groups who included the San Antonio area within their larger foraging territory. Prior to the establishment of the San Antonio missions, accounts written between 1688 and 1717 record ten temporary encampments of the Payaya.⁹¹ They are recorded in various localities ranging from west of the Medina River in southeastern Medina County, to a location identified as “Rancheria Grande” near the confluence of the Little and Brazos Rivers in Milam County.⁹² In 1717, Frenchman St. Denis

⁸⁵T. N. Campbell, “Espinosa, Olivares, and the Colorado River Indians, 1709,” in *The Indians of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico*. (Austin, TX: Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin, 1988), 68.

⁸⁶Campbell, “Espinosa,” 63-70.

⁸⁷*Ibid.*, 64.

⁸⁸*Ibid.*, 68.

⁸⁹Campbell, “The Payaya Indians,” 100.

⁹⁰*Ibid.*, 101.

⁹¹*Ibid.*, 109.

⁹²*Ibid.*, 101-104.

described the Payaya, Pamaya, Tzattoo (Sana and Toho) and Emee-Tziames (Emet and Sijame): “these four wander from this river (the Colorado) to the Medina, always as vagrants.”⁹³ Of the ten temporary encampments recorded by the Spanish and the French, Campbell states that five are located in a limited area in present-day Medina and Bexar counties.⁹⁴ The Payaya were probably Coahuiltecan speakers.⁹⁵

It appears that pecans continued to be an important food resource for Native American groups in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. In 1709, Espinosa recorded pecan exploitation by the Payaya camped on the Medina River. He reported an “abundance of pecan trees along the river and that nuts provided a common foodstuff for all the Indians who at times encamped along its course.”⁹⁶ Espinosa noted that pecans served as food “for the greater part of each year and that some were consumed the following year.”⁹⁷ The Payaya apparently stored unshelled nuts in the ground. In 1720, Pedro Rivera, who was near the Medina River, recorded an abundance of buffalo; deer; bears; birds, especially flocks of young turkeys; and “rats like *gazapos* (young rabbits) that serve as food for the Indians.”⁹⁸ He also noted many types of fish, including catfish, which were said to be “most advantageous” because of their size; and for “much of the year (catfish) serves as food for the Indians.”⁹⁹

Like the Mariames described by Cabeza de Vaca, the availability of seasonal food resources conditioned the movement of the Payaya across the landscape. From Spanish observations, the Payaya’s foraging territory appears to have ranged from west of the Medina River, eastward to the Colorado River. Since the Spaniards’ route of travel limited their observation of the Payaya in other locations, it is difficult to assess whether this described foraging territory represents the total area covered by the Payaya.¹⁰⁰

During the Protohistoric period of 1528 - 1718, the Native American groups of south Texas and Northeastern Mexico were hunters and gatherers, comprised of numerous ethnic units. They were highly mobile with relatively large foraging territories, some of which ranged from south

⁹³Ibid., 104.

⁹⁴Ibid., 109.

⁹⁵Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 36.

⁹⁶Thomas R. Hester, “Historic Native American Populations,” in *From the Gulf to the Rio Grande: Human Adaptation in Central, South, and Lower Pecos Texas*, edited by T. R. Hester, S. L. Black, D. G. Steele, B. W. Olive, A. A. Fox, K. J. Reinhard, and L. C. Bement. Research Series No. 33. (Fayetteville: Arkansas Archeological Survey, 1989: 77-84), 81.

⁹⁷Ibid.

⁹⁸Schuetz, *The Indians of the San Antonio Missions*, 65.

⁹⁹Ibid.

¹⁰⁰Campbell, “The Payaya Indians,” 109.

of the Rio Grande, eastward to the Colorado River in present-day Texas. By the late seventeenth century, these groups were already experiencing pressure from the northeastward expansion of the Spaniards and the southwestward encroachment of the Apaches.

SPANISH COLONIAL PERIOD (1718 - 1794)

Figures 9-14, 26-28

The mission institution was developed to control, Christianize, and Hispanicize the Native American population.¹⁰¹ When this goal was successful, it created a safe haven for subsequent colonization and future expansion. The intent of the Spaniards from the very beginning (post-Conquest) was to make Spanish citizens of the indigenous people, even if that citizenship was limited.¹⁰² The Spaniards, lacking the necessary numbers to expand and colonize New Spain, would create new Spanish subjects, Christianized and Hispanicized by the missionaries.¹⁰³ Mission San Antonio de Valero was established on May 1, 1718.¹⁰⁴ Valero's promoter was Fray Padre Antonio de San Buenaventura Olivares who had first seen the San Antonio area in 1709. For him, this area would clearly serve the material needs of a mission, and he was further impressed by the nature of the local hunters and gatherers. He also argued the importance of this location to authorities in the capital by describing the San Antonio area as a half-way station between the settlements to the west (in the province of Coahuila) and the *presidios*¹⁰⁵ and missions in East Texas.¹⁰⁶ Settlement of San Antonio was, therefore, crucial to securing the entire frontier province of Texas.

The Presidio of San Antonio de Béxar was founded five days after Mission Valero; however, it was not until 1722 that the Marqués de Aguayo, arriving in San Antonio "made some changes and ordered the erection of the *presidio*, much too long delayed."¹⁰⁷ Earlier, in 1720, Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo was founded. And, in 1722, Mission San Francisco Xavier

¹⁰¹Gilberto M. Hinojosa, "The Religious-Indian Communities: The Goals of the Friars," in *Tejano Origins In Eighteenth-Century San Antonio*, edited by G. E. Poyo and G. M. Hinojosa, (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1991: 61-83), 61.

¹⁰²Herbert Eugene Bolton, "The Mission as a Frontier Institution in the Spanish American Colonies," in *New Spain's Far Northern Frontier, Essays on Spain in the American West, 1540-1821*, edited by D. J. Weber (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1979), 59.

Those mission Indians that had become acculturated were limited by social stigma. Officially, once they were termed "gente de razón," they were listed in censuses and referred to in other legal documents as Spaniards.

¹⁰³*Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴Bannon, *The Spanish Borderlands Frontier*, 117.

¹⁰⁵frontier fort

¹⁰⁶Bannon, *The Spanish Borderlands Frontier*, 117.

¹⁰⁷*Ibid.*, 121.

de Nájera was opened for “fifty families of Ervipiami Indians brought from the banks of the Brazos River.”¹⁰⁸ This last mission was in existence for only four years, closing its doors in 1726.¹⁰⁹ Ivey argues that Mission San Francisco de Nájera was terminated because of the unwillingness of natives to enter this mission.¹¹⁰

The year 1731 saw the establishment of the civilian town of the Villa de San Fernando de Béjar as well as three missions moved from East Texas.¹¹¹ These three missions were re-christened upon their relocation on the San Antonio River. Mission La Purísima Concepción de los Ainaí had been established near the Angelina River in 1716 to serve the Hasinai. Upon its relocation on the San Antonio River, it was renamed Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña.¹¹² Mission San José de los Nazones was founded in 1716 (east of the Angelina River) to serve the Nazoni and Nadaco peoples, and with its move to San Antonio was renamed Mission San Juan Capistrano.¹¹³ Mission San Francisco de los Neches was founded in 1690 to serve the Nabedache (Hasinai). Upon its relocation on the San Antonio River, it became Mission San Francisco de la Espada.¹¹⁴

The San Antonio missions had a profound impact on the lives of a significant number of Native American peoples. In 1720, Missions Valero and San José were jointly serving over 500 native individuals; by 1750, the five San Antonio missions were collectively housing more than 800 native residents.¹¹⁵ Indirect evidence suggests that the mission ranches were operated and maintained largely by Christianized Native Americans (mission converts) who lived on them. Known information relating to the Native American peoples associated with Mission Espada in general, and Rancho de las Cabras more specifically, is imparted below.

Known Native Groups at Mission San Francisco de la Espada

Campbell and Campbell report that it has not been possible to identify all Indian groups that were at one time or another present at Mission Espada because earlier mission registers have not been found, and the documents which have been recovered contain few specific names.¹¹⁶ To date, 25 separate Indian group names have been extracted from different documents, and

¹⁰⁸Mardith Schuetz, *The History and Archeology of Mission San Juan Capistrano, San Antonio, Texas*. Volume 1, Historical Documentation and Description of the Structures. (Austin, TX: State Building Commission Archeological Program, Report No. 10, 1968), 11.

¹⁰⁹*Ibid.*

¹¹⁰Jake Ivey, *The San Antonio Missions*. Manuscript on file. (San Antonio, TX: Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1984), 1(13).

¹¹¹Bannon, *The Spanish Borderlands Frontier*, 122, 134.

¹¹²Schuetz, *The History and Archeology*, 12.

¹¹³Elizabeth A. Miller, *The Effect of European Contact on the Health of Indigenous Populations in Texas*. Unpublished Masters Thesis. (College Station, TX: Texas A & M University, 1989), 36.

¹¹⁴Schuetz, *The History and Archeology*, 12.

¹¹⁵Hinojosa, “The Religious-Indian Communities,” 62.

¹¹⁶Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 57.

more await discovery. However, it is important to be aware of the numerous problems associated with the identification of individual ethnic groups, and the reader is referred to Campbell 1988.¹¹⁷ The following group names are currently associated with Mission Espada during the period: Arcahomo, Assaca, Borrado, Cacalote, Caguaumama, Camasuqua, Carrizo, Cayan, Gegueriguan, Huaraque, Malagueta, Mesquite, Pacao, Pamaque, Pootajpo, Saguem, Sarapjon, Siguipan, Tacame, Taguaguan, Tinapihuaya, Tuarique, Uncrauya, Viayan, and Zacuestacan. Prior to entering Mission Espada, these groups came from locations ranging from the lower Rio Grande area (from the Camargo-Mier-Revilla section of northern Tamaulipas, Mexico, to the Rio Grande delta) eastward, to an area between the lower courses of the San Antonio and Nueces Rivers in Texas.¹¹⁸ As illustrated in Figure 8, Campbell places these groups in Areas 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, possibly 9.¹¹⁹ More detail is presented below on the pre-mission locations of select native resident groups known to be present at Mission Espada.

Although we do not know who lived at the mission ranches, indirect evidence suggests that the ranches were operated and maintained largely by Christianized Native Americans (mission converts.) Campbell states that since the construction of the mission structures, *acequias*,¹²⁰ and agricultural fields depended on native labor, it seems reasonable to assume that these same individuals would also have been utilized in maintaining the cattle and horse herds.¹²¹ A direct reference to native involvement in the operation of mission ranches is made in connection with "El Pasthle," the ranch belonging to Mission Concepción. In 1767, El Pasthle was abandoned due to attacks by hostile natives, perhaps Apaches, and Soldier Francisco Sanchez, "who was in charge of the Indians (mission converts)," reported that there were 1,200 cattle in that year.¹²² Another direct reference is made by Solis in 1768 concerning "El Atascoso," the ranch of Mission San José: "the Indians were well trained, the *padre* added, to care for the fields and herds without supervision."¹²³

In 1777, Morfi reports 26 individuals living at "Rancho de las Cabras," nine male and four female adults, and seven male and six female children.¹²⁴ In a 1767 document, Espada missionary Ascísclos Valverde presents the names of native groups present at Mission Espada

¹¹⁷Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 83, 88.

¹¹⁸Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 57-66.

¹¹⁹T. N. Campbell, "Coahuiltecan and Their Neighbors," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, edited by William Sturtevant (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1983), 344.

¹²⁰irrigation ditch

¹²¹Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 96.

It is not known at this point if the *vaqueros* were from among the native populations at San Antonio's missions or from elsewhere. The only references to *vaqueros* found so far in censuses have been to men who have come from the south, in Mexico.

¹²²Felix D. Almaraz, Jr., *The San Antonio Missions and Their System of Land Tenure*. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1989), 37.

¹²³Foster, *Spanish Expeditions*, 204.

¹²⁴Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 50.

See explanatory note, fn 120.

between the years 1753 and 1767. These include Assaca, Cacalote, Caguaumama, Carrizo, Cayan, Gegueriguan, Huarique, Saguem, Siguipan, Tuqrique, and Uncrauya.¹²⁵ The document states that the Caguaumama were particularly numerous. Since Rancho de las Cabras was in existence by at least 1762, it is likely that some individuals from these groups were probably present at this ranch. Campbell states:

The most interesting thing that can be said about these 11 groups is that, so far as is now known, none of them originally lived in the San Antonio area or spoke the Coahuilteco language. Most can be identified as Indian groups that were native to a more southerly area, specifically extreme southern Texas and the adjoining part of what is now the Mexican state of Tamaulipas. Their presence at Mission Espada during the period 1753-1767 strongly suggests that they were remnants of Indian groups that had been displaced by Spanish colonies established by José de Escandon shortly before 1750 at various places along the Rio Grande downstream from Laredo.¹²⁶

Cultural information relevant to the known native groups at Mission Espada is scarce and only a few groups, known to have been present in the other San Antonio missions, are relatively well documented. Below is a summary of what is known for each group name recorded by Valverde between the years 1753 and 1767.

Arcahomo

Campbell and Campbell state that the names Acoma, Axcahomo, and Azcahomo refer to the same group name as the Arcahomo.¹²⁷ The pre-mission location of the Arcahomo is tentatively placed between the lower courses of the San Antonio and Nueces Rivers.¹²⁸ Campbell places the Arcahomo in Area 4 (Figure 8).¹²⁹ Their spoken language has not been identified. The Arcahomo fled Mission Espada in 1737; however, the majority were reported to have returned. If the Arcahomo and the Acoma refer to the same native group, they are still recognized by the Spanish as late as the early nineteenth century. The Acomas are mentioned in a letter by Musquiz in connection with Mission Refugio in Goliad in 1829.¹³⁰ Campbell and Campbell claim that there is some speculation that the Arcahomo may represent the same group as the Como, whom Cabeza de Vaca records.¹³¹

¹²⁵Ibid., 51.

¹²⁶Ibid.

¹²⁷Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 58.

¹²⁸Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 91.

¹²⁹Ibid., 40.

¹³⁰Paul H. Walters, "Secularization of the La Bahía Missions," in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 54, No. 3, (1951), 298.

¹³¹Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 58-59.

Assaca

The Assaca is a poorly documented group. Both the pre-mission location and the spoken language of the Assaca is unknown.¹³² The native group name Assaca is found in the 1767 Valverde report, which lists the native groups present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767. As such, some individuals from this group may have been present at Rancho de las Cabras. Campbell and Campbell speculate that the name Assaca may be a variant of Pajasaque and Masacuaajulam.¹³³

Borrado

Campbell and Campbell¹³⁴ and Salinas¹³⁵ claim that the Borrado entered the San Antonio missions sometime ca. 1750, after the beginning of Spanish colonization of northern Tamaulipas and the lower Rio Grande area. Apparently, a number of groups were collectively referred to by the Spanish as Borrado.¹³⁶ The name Borrado appears to have been assigned to groups present in Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, as well as southern and western Coahuila and Chihuahua.¹³⁷ Campbell believes that the Borrado were “extensively displaced by Spaniards during the eighteenth century,”¹³⁸ and that some entered missions in Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, while others moved across the Rio Grande into Texas to live along the coast. Apparently, it was the Borrado from near the Texas coast who entered the San Antonio missions.¹³⁹ Salinas states that the Borrados’ pre-mission location was apparently the lower Rio Grande area. “In 1768, the Marques de Rubí wrote that the Borrados of the missions at San Antonio and Goliad had been recruited from the lower Rio Grande to replenish the declining Indian populations of those missions.”¹⁴⁰ The Spanish word *borrado* is translated as “smeared with ink” and refers to those groups who tattooed or painted their bodies.¹⁴¹

Cacalote

Campbell states that the pre-mission location of the Cacalote was the Rio Grande Valley, from the delta area upstream to Laredo.¹⁴² Their spoken language is unknown.¹⁴³ The Cacalote were apparently recorded as being present in the Camargo-Mier-Revilla area of northern Tamaulipas

¹³²Ibid., 66, 68.

¹³³Ibid., 59.

¹³⁴Ibid., 23.

¹³⁵Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 90.

¹³⁶Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 88.

¹³⁷Ibid., 133.

¹³⁸Ibid.

¹³⁹Ibid.

¹⁴⁰Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 90-91.

¹⁴¹Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 133.

¹⁴²Ibid., 91.

¹⁴³Ibid., 92.

in the middle part of the eighteenth century.¹⁴⁴ In 1767, Father Valverde listed the “Pacalote” as one of the native groups present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767.¹⁴⁵ This is believed to be a misspelling of Cacalote.¹⁴⁶ Salinas claims that the Cacalotes who entered Mission Espada came from the salt lakes area near the Rio Grande delta.¹⁴⁷ For more information regarding the Cacalotes of the Rio San Juan, and the Guajolotes and Cacalotes of the Lower Rio Grande, the reader is referred to Salinas.¹⁴⁸ Campbell places the location of the Cacalote in Area 7 (Figure 8).¹⁴⁹

Caguaumama

Neither the pre-mission location nor the spoken language of the Caguaumama are known.¹⁵⁰ In Valverde’s 1767 report, he states that between the years of 1753 and 1767, the Caguaumama were numerous at Mission Espada.¹⁵¹ Apparently, Valverde also reports that the Caguaumama were known by the Spanish name, *Cometobacos*, which translates as “tobacco eaters.”¹⁵²

Camasuqua

Camasuqua is one of five different groups collectively referred to as Pamaque. See below: Pamaque.

Carrizo

The name Carrizo appears to be a collective term used after 1700 to designate numerous, unrelated groups living on both sides of the Rio Grande from Laredo southward to the Gulf Coast.¹⁵³ According to available documents pertaining to the San Antonio missions, the Carrizo were only recorded at Mission Espada. They are mentioned in Valverde’s report of Indians present at Espada between the years 1753 and 1767. The collective name of Carrizo apparently referred to specific groups known as Comecrudo, Cotoname, Tusan, and Pajaseque.¹⁵⁴ Salinas states that the name Carrizo also referred to the groups known as Pintos, Tejones, Cotonames, and Casas Chiquitas.¹⁵⁵ The Spanish word *carrizo* translates as “cane,” and the name assigned to these groups appears to refer to the fact that the Carrizo’s houses were covered in cane or

¹⁴⁴Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 59.

¹⁴⁵Ibid.

¹⁴⁶Ibid.

¹⁴⁷Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 46.

¹⁴⁸Ibid., 44-46.

¹⁴⁹Campbell, “Coahuiltecan and Their Neighbors,” 357.

¹⁵⁰Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 66, 68.

¹⁵¹Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 96.

¹⁵²Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 59.

¹⁵³Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 60; Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande*, 94.

¹⁵⁴Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 60.

¹⁵⁵Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 94.

reeds.¹⁵⁶ According to Campbell and Campbell, the Carrizo who entered Mission Espada were probably from the Rio Grande area of Tamaulipas and southern Texas.¹⁵⁷ Salinas makes a distinction between the Western and Eastern Carrizos; however, he states that “it is not possible to draw a boundary line between the two sets, but for practical purposes the division is made about midway between Revilla and Camargo.”¹⁵⁸ Since only the Eastern Carrizos are associated with Mission Espada, they are discussed here. The reader is referred to Salinas for a discussion of the Western Carrizos.¹⁵⁹ In 1757, Lopez de la Camara Alta recorded the Eastern Carrizos as living near a salt lake, which is thought to be La Sal del Rey in present day Hidalgo County, Texas.¹⁶⁰ Later that year, these same Carrizos were said to be located north of the Rio Grande between Revilla and Camargo. Written documents dated between 1764 and 1780 indicate that the Carrizo represented at Mission Espada were recruited from an area between Camargo and the Gulf Coast on the north side of the Rio Grande.¹⁶¹ Apparently, Carrizos were recorded as living in the Camargo area in 1793 where they reportedly hunted, fished and gathered wild plant foods. In 1829, Berlandier recorded language units of the Camargo area, or Eastern Carrizos (now recorded as Yue rather than Carrizos) and today Goddard believes that the Eastern Carrizos spoke the Cotoname language.¹⁶² Campbell places the Carrizo in Area 7 (Figure 8).¹⁶³

Cayan

In Valverde’s 1767 report, the Cayan are reported to have been one of the native groups present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767. They are a poorly documented group and neither their pre-mission location nor their spoken language is known. Campbell and Campbell state that it is possible that the name Cayan is a shortened version of Cayanapuro or Cayanaguanaja, both of which are recorded during the middle seventieth century in Nuevo Leon.¹⁶⁴ Campbell places the Cayanapuro and the Cayanaguanaja in Area 6 (Figure 8).¹⁶⁵

Gegueriguan

The Gegueriguan are recorded in Valverde’s 1767 report as being one of the native groups present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767.¹⁶⁶ They are a poorly documented group and neither their pre-mission location nor their spoken language is known.

¹⁵⁶Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 60.

¹⁵⁷Ibid.

¹⁵⁸Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 92.

¹⁵⁹Ibid., 92-93.

¹⁶⁰Ibid., 94.

¹⁶¹Ibid.

¹⁶²Ibid.

¹⁶³Campbell, *Handbook of North American Indians*, 357.

¹⁶⁴Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 60.

¹⁶⁵Campbell, *Handbook of North American Indians*, 356.

¹⁶⁶Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 61.

Huaraque

The Huaraque are recorded in Valverde's 1767 report as being one of the native groups present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767.¹⁶⁷ Campbell and Campbell believe that the name Huaraque may be a variant of Pauraque (and Paurague), a native group along the lower Rio Grande area.¹⁶⁸ Salinas states that the Pauraques are not mentioned in Spanish documents before 1767; however, it is clear that they occupied an area of the lower Rio Grande.¹⁶⁹ Salinas equates the name Huaraque with that of Pauraque, and with two other groups recorded in Valverde's 1767 report, the Taguariques and Tuaragues. He claims that a 1772 document supports the association of these four names. Apparently, the document refers to the illegal recruiting of Carrizos, Como se Lllaman, Cotonames, and Pauraques from the lower Rio Grande by the San Antonio missionaries.¹⁷⁰ Campbell places the Huaraque in Area 8 (Figure 8).¹⁷¹

Malaguita

The Malaguitas apparently entered Mission Espada after 1750.¹⁷² Their pre-mission location has been traced from Nuevo Leon (1728) to the southern section of the Texas coast in the 1780s;¹⁷³ "Ortiz Parrilla's map links the Malaguita Indians with that part of Padre Island now included in Kleberg County and the northeastern part of Kenedy County."¹⁷⁴ A 1780s document shows the presence of Malaguitas on the islands as far north as Copano Bay; "It is very clear that the Malahuitas who entered the San Antonio missions came from the coastal zone between Copano Bay and the Rio Grande Delta. Documents pertaining to the San Antonio missions, particularly those written between 1760 and 1793, refer to Malaguitas in various connections: in recruiting plans, in actual recruiting, and in retrieving Malaguitas who had fled from the missions."¹⁷⁵ The spoken language of the Malaguitas is unknown. Campbell places the Malaguita in Area 8 (Figure 8).¹⁷⁶

Mesquite

Campbell and Campbell state that the term Mesquite was used by the Spanish to refer to "various apparently unrelated Indian groups of Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, and Texas."¹⁷⁷ Mesquite are known to have entered the San Antonio Missions of San José, Espada, and Valero.

¹⁶⁷Ibid.

¹⁶⁸Ibid.

¹⁶⁹Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 56.

¹⁷⁰Ibid.

¹⁷¹Campbell, *Handbook of North American Indians*, 357.

¹⁷²Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 28.

¹⁷³Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 46-49.

¹⁷⁴Ibid., 48.

¹⁷⁵Ibid., 48.

¹⁷⁶Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 57.

¹⁷⁷Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 48.

It is assumed, based on a 1708 document, that the Mesquite living south of San Antonio entered Mission San José;¹⁷⁸ however, the pre-mission location and language of the Mesquite who entered Espada is unknown. The Mesquite are not mentioned in Valverde's report of Indian groups present at Espada between the years of 1753 and 1767.¹⁷⁹ Campbell and Campbell tentatively place the Mesquite in the San Antonio area southward to the Great Bends of the Nueces River¹⁸⁰ in Area 3, and also in Area 13 (Figure 8).¹⁸¹ The spoken language of the Mesquite is unknown.

Pacao

The Pacao apparently entered Mission Espada in 1731.¹⁸² Campbell and Campbell state that several documents refer to a Pacao desertion in 1737.¹⁸³ The Pacao appear to have been only associated with Mission Espada during its earlier years as they are not mentioned in Valverde's document of Indian groups present during the years 1753 to 1767.¹⁸⁴ The pre-mission location of the Pacao appears to have been between the lower courses of the San Antonio and Nueces Rivers,¹⁸⁵ and their spoken language has been assigned to Coahuilteco.¹⁸⁶ Campbell places the Pacao in Area 3 (Figure 8).

Pamaque

The name Pamaque, meaning "people of the south," is used to designate the Camasuqua, Sarapjon, Taguaguan, Tinapihuaya, and Viayan.¹⁸⁷ The pre-mission location of these groups is believed to be near the mouth of the Nueces River.¹⁸⁸ Only one Pamaque individual is associated with Mission Espada; however, the Pamaque are mentioned in connection with the San Antonio missions of Concepción and San Juan, and in jurisdictional disputes between Mission San Juan and Mission Vizarron of northeastern Coahuila.¹⁸⁹ Apparently, the Pamaque spoke a language other than Coahuilteco prior to missionization.¹⁹⁰ According to Salinas,¹⁹¹ the group name of Pimaraqui probably refers to the Pamaque. In 1766, the Pimaraqui were

¹⁷⁸Ibid., 48.

¹⁷⁹Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 96.

¹⁸⁰Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 66.

¹⁸¹Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 55.

¹⁸²Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 31.

¹⁸³Ibid.

¹⁸⁴Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 96.

¹⁸⁵Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 31.

¹⁸⁶Ibid., 68.

¹⁸⁷Ibid., 33.

¹⁸⁸Ibid.

¹⁸⁹Ibid., 34.

¹⁹⁰Ibid.

¹⁹¹Salinas, *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta*, 72.

recorded along the coastline somewhere between present-day Padre Island and an area southeast of Baffin Bay.¹⁹² Apparently, the Pimaraqui, as well as the Malaguitas, Manos de Perro, Pasnacas, Patun, and Piguissas were native to this stretch of coastline.¹⁹³

Pootajpo

The Pootajpo are reported to have entered Mission Espada before 1734.¹⁹⁴ They are a poorly documented group and neither the pre-mission location nor the spoken language of the Pootajpo are known. Campbell and Campbell suggest that the term Pootajpo may be a distorted version of some other group name.¹⁹⁵ They are not recorded in Valverde's account of Indian groups present at Mission Espada during the years 1753 to 1767.¹⁹⁶

Saguiem

The Saguiem are recorded in Valverde's 1767 report as being one of the native groups present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767. They are a poorly documented group and neither their pre-mission location nor their spoken language is known; however, Campbell and Campbell think that the Saguiem may have come from the lower Rio Grande area.¹⁹⁷

Sarapjon

Sarapjon is one of five different groups collectively referred to as Pamaque. See above: Pamaque.

Siguipan

The Siguipan are recorded in Valverde's 1767 report as being one of the native groups present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767. They are a poorly documented group and neither their pre-mission location nor their spoken language is known; however, Campbell and Campbell think that the Siguipan may have come from the lower Rio Grande area.¹⁹⁸

Tacame

The Tacame apparently entered Mission Espada (after leaving Mission San José) in 1736, and, in 1737, over 200 Tacame are reported to have deserted Espada.¹⁹⁹ The Mesquite are not mentioned in Valverde's report of Indian groups present at Espada between the years 1753 and

¹⁹²Ibid.

¹⁹³Ibid.

¹⁹⁴Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 62.

¹⁹⁵Ibid.

¹⁹⁶Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 96.

¹⁹⁷Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 62.

¹⁹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹⁹Ibid., 39.

1767. The pre-mission location of the Tacame is tentatively placed between the lower courses of the San Antonio and Nueces Rivers in Area 4 (Figure 8).²⁰⁰ The Tacame are believed to have spoken the Coahuiltecan language.²⁰¹

Taguaguan

Taguaguan is one of five different groups collectively referred to as Pamaque. See above: Pamaque.

Tinapihuaya

Tinapihuaya is one of five different groups collectively referred to as Pamaque. See above: Pamaque.

Tuarique

The Tuarique and Huarique are recorded in Valverde's 1767 report as being present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767. See above: Huaraque.

Uncrauya

The Uncrauya are recorded in Valverde's 1767 report as being one of the native groups present at Mission Espada between the years 1753 and 1767. They are a poorly documented group and neither their pre-mission location nor their spoken language is known; however, Campbell and Campbell speculate that the Uncrauya "were the same people as the Icaura (or Incaura), who in the middle seventeenth century were reported as living in eastern and northeastern Nuevo Leon."²⁰² Campbell places the Icaura in Area 6 (Figure 8).²⁰³

Viayan

Viayan is one of five different groups collectively referred to as Pamaque. See above: Pamaque.

Zacuestacan

The Zacuestacan are reported to have entered Mission Espada before 1734.²⁰⁴ They are a poorly documented group and neither the pre-mission location nor the spoken language of the Zacuestacan are known. They are not recorded in Valverde's account of Indian groups present at Mission Espada during the years 1753 to 1767.²⁰⁵

²⁰⁰Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 55.

²⁰¹Ibid., 92.

²⁰²Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 63.

²⁰³Campbell, *Handbook of North American Indians*, 357.

²⁰⁴Campbell and Campbell, *Indian Groups*, 63.

²⁰⁵Campbell, *The Indians of Southern Texas*, 96.

The Evolution of Ranching in the Early Spanish Period

Nearly every early expedition into Texas in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries had been accompanied by herds of livestock. The Marques de Aguayo in just one *entrada* in 1721 brought 4,800 cattle, 6,400 sheep and goats, and 2,800 horses.²⁰⁶ The cattle and horses left behind by the Spaniards increased rapidly in their new surroundings, and subsequent expeditions remarked on the number of animals running wild in the brush. The missionaries then brought additional livestock as a foundation for their herds. Fr. Antonio Olivares considered it necessary for the establishment of a new mission to bring 18 yoke of oxen, 30 breeding cows, 3 bulls, 17 steers, 100 ewes and 100 nanny goats along with a number of rams and billy goats.²⁰⁷ The livestock thus introduced by each mission, added to the naturally wild animals already in the area, created a nearly limitless pool of cattle and horses available for the taking by a skillful and courageous *vaquero*.²⁰⁸

During the first half of the eighteenth century, the missions conducted most of the stock raising in San Antonio de Béxar. They were particularly successful in this endeavor because they had extensive grants of land and unpaid Indian labor at their disposal.²⁰⁹ Cattle and corn soon became the most important agricultural products of the town. Meat was important in the local diet, and cattle were also an item of trade on the frontier.

At first, the herds were pastured near the missions where they could be controlled and protected from Apache raiders by resident neophytes. It was not long after the arrival of the settlers from the Canary Islands in 1731 that friction began to develop between the townspeople and the missions. One of the principal points of conflict was the increase in the mission herds, which sometimes invaded and trampled the citizens' gardens.²¹⁰ It soon became apparent that the cattle would have to be moved farther away from the town.

At the time of the arrival of the settlers, the Apache had already discovered the little settlement and began to raid their cattle and horse herds,²¹¹ making it unsafe to venture into the countryside. A peace treaty with the Apache in 1749 made it possible to travel safely away from

²⁰⁶Jack Jackson, *Los Mesteños, Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-1821*. (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1986), 10.

²⁰⁷*Ibid.*, 10-11.

²⁰⁸cattle herder or cowboy

²⁰⁹Jesús de la Teja, *San Antonio de Béxar, A Community on New Spain's Northern Frontier*. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1995), 12-13.

²¹⁰Jackson, *Los Mesteños*, 21.

²¹¹James E. Ivey, "Mission Land Use in the San Antonio River Valley," unpublished manuscript. (San Antonio, TX: Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1991), 15.

the town for the first time,²¹² and soon after this, beginning about 1750, the first references appear in the documents to separate ranching establishments some distance from the missions. Since the cattle were free to roam over large distances, it was difficult to determine which animals belonged to a specific ranch or mission.

Traditionally, Spanish ranchers branded their animals so that they could be identified. During the sixteenth century in northern Mexico, great roundups were held “with hundreds of horsemen spread out in an immense circle, driving cattle toward a center ... There the cattle were sorted according to their owners. Unbranded animals or *orejanos*, were divided up among the stockmen.”²¹³ Roundups in the San Antonio River valley were customarily held twice a year, in the spring and the fall, when *vaqueros* from neighboring ranches would drive all the cattle to a central location. There they would separate them according to their owners and brand all the calves that could be identified.²¹⁴

By 1760, most of the San Antonio River valley from the area north of Béxar downstream to La Bahía (Figure 9) had been divided into cattle ranches.²¹⁵ Comparative peace with the Apaches allowed the expansion of citizen cattle raising into the countryside. Ranch hands tended the herds from headquarters located a day’s ride or more from the town.

In the last quarter of the eighteenth century, the *Camino Real*²¹⁶ between northern Mexico and East Texas became essentially a cattle trail used by both the missions and the townspeople. The cattle drives followed the trails south through Presidio del Rio Grande, near present-day Guerrero, and Laredo and northeast as well through Natchitoches, Louisiana. Cattle drives traveled to the annual fair at Saltillo, to the *presidios* on the frontier, and to towns in Nuevo León and Nuevo Santander.²¹⁷ The proceeds of this trade helped to support the mission supply trains and were the principal basis for the support of some of the citizens of Béxar.

²¹²Marion A. Habig, *The Alamo Chain of Missions, A History of San Antonio's Five Old Missions*. (Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1968), 210.

²¹³Joe S. Graham, *El Rancho in South Texas, Continuity and Change from 1750*. (Denton, TX: University of North Texas Press, 1994), 29.

²¹⁴Sandra Myres, *The Ranch in Spanish Texas*. (El Paso, TX: Texas Western Press, Social Sciences Series Number Two, 1969), 26.

²¹⁵Ivey, “Mission Land Use,” 16.

²¹⁶roadway with its origins in game paths and native pathways later used by the Spaniards for military purposes, settlement, and trade

²¹⁷Jesús F. de la Teja, “The Camino Real, Colonial Texas’ Lifeline to the World,” in *A Texas Legacy, The Old San Antonio Road and Caminos Reales, A Tricentennial History, 1691-1991*. Edited by A. Joachim McGraw, John W. Clark, Jr., and Elizabeth A. Robbins. (Austin, TX: Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 1991: 43-48), 46.

These cattle drives were complicated by the task of moving large herds of bulls which, according to Spanish custom, were not castrated and therefore far from docile. Ranchers depended on trained oxen to tame the bulls and break them to the trail. The bulls were harnessed to the oxen with a horsehair rope called a *cabresto* and pulled or dragged until they gave up and became manageable.²¹⁸ This may explain the large numbers of oxen listed in many of the inventories.

Unfortunately, perhaps in response to the sudden expansion of ranching, the Comanches soon began raiding in the vicinity of Béxar. By 1763 they were terrorizing the area ranches, causing many ranchers to give up and retreat to the town.²¹⁹

In 1767, the Jesuit missionaries were forced to give up their work in New Spain, and the Franciscans from the college of Querétaro were given the responsibility of administering their former missions in the Californias, Sonora, and Sinaloa. The missions in Texas that had been under the care of the Queretaran were turned over to the Franciscans from the college at Zacatecas.

The Formative Years, 1718 - 1760

The Franciscans at Mission Espada soon dealt with the pressure of the townspeople to control the rapidly growing mission herds by moving their livestock onto a ranch about 21 miles downstream from the town. This new mission enterprise grew and prospered, partially because the threat of hostile Indian raids had diminished due to a peace treaty with the Apaches.

As an outcome of the 1749 peace treaty with the Apache, mission herds, including those of Espada, were able to be moved further downstream. Espada's ranch encompassed over forty square leagues of rolling pasture land on the west bank of the San Antonio River about thirty miles south of the town of Béxar.²²⁰ According to custom, the cattle were turned loose to graze with no fences and little supervision, undoubtedly mingling with the wild cattle already in the area. A visit from Fr. Francisco Xavier Ortiz in 1745 resulted in a report describing the mission in detail. He reported that the mission had 1,150 cattle, 740 sheep, 90 goats, 81 horses, and 16 yokes of oxen, and described the buildings at the mission, but did not mention a ranch.²²¹ In 1756, Fr. Ortiz reported the mission had 700 cattle, 1,950 sheep, and 108 horses. He also did not mention a ranch.²²²

²¹⁸Myres, *The Ranch*, 27.

²¹⁹Jackson, *Los Mesteños*, 37-38.

²²⁰Myres, *The Ranch*, 28.

²²¹Habig, *The Alamo Chain*, 210.

²²²*Ibid.*

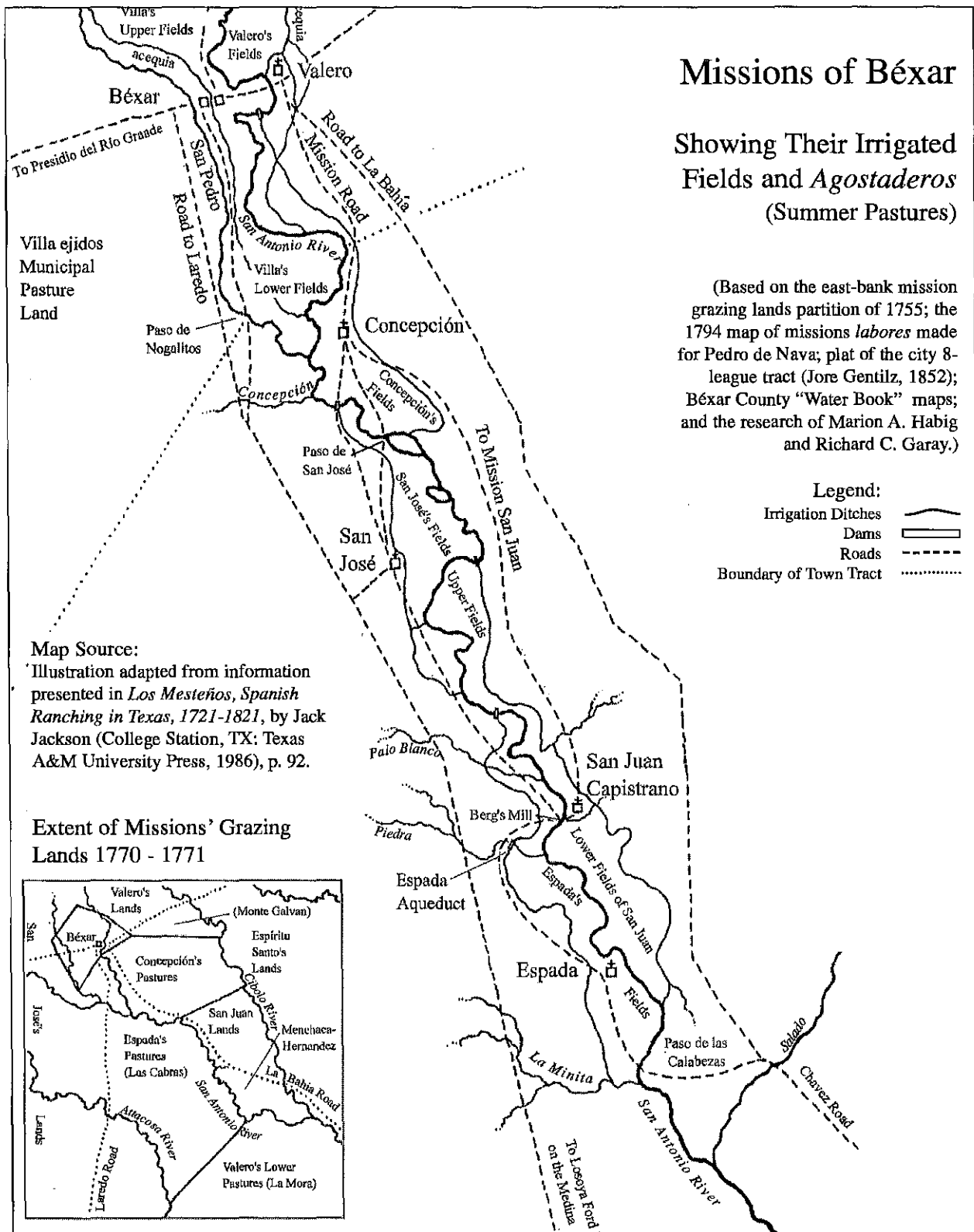


Figure 9. Missions of Béxar, Showing their Irrigated Fields and Agostaderos (Summer Pastures)

Not until 1762 is there any description of a ranch for Mission Espada, although it is possible that at least part of their herds may have already been moved there before this time. In that year, 1,272 cattle; 4,000 sheep and goats; 156 horses; and 9 *burros* (donkeys) were already on the ranch, which was described as having “una casa de piedra,” a dwelling or some sort of structure of stone to house workers and equipment.²²³ The fact that this structure was already standing implies that it had been built at some previous time, probably soon after the 1756 report.

The stone structure mentioned in the 1762 inventory of Espada may have been built in reaction to the Comanche threat. Archeology at Rancho de las Cabras suggests that this first structure was probably a hexagonally-shaped stone enclosure with one or two strong gates. Within and protected by this wall were the *jacales*²²⁴ of the *vaqueros* and their families.²²⁵ This structure was located on the highest point of land in the vicinity, providing a view of the entire river valley to the north and south. Its unusual and somewhat irregular shape (Figure 10) conformed to the landform on which it sat, effectively providing a safe haven for the inhabitants and at the same time commanding its surroundings. Espada’s ranch was at first called the Rancho del Sabanito, according to a 1770 lawsuit,²²⁶ although Fray Solis had referred to it as Rancho de las Cabras in 1768. All later references consistently used the same name.

A complete and detailed inventory of the mission and its ranch was prepared in 1772.²²⁷ This provides the first picture of exactly what went on at the ranch, what it looked like, and how many people lived there.

The mission has on this river at a distance of eight leagues [about 21 miles] a ranch for the protection of the herdsmen from the hostile Indians. It is enclosed by a wall of stone of a vara in width [about 2.8 feet]. The said wall has a length or circumference, of one hundred fifty eight varas [about 432.9 feet]. Item: it has two entrances with their gateways and gates, one towards the river and the other towards the plain. Item: it has on the inside four jacals of wood and thatch²²⁸

²²³Ivey, *Mission Land Use*, 32.

²²⁴rooms constructed of upright logs chinked and clad with adobe clay

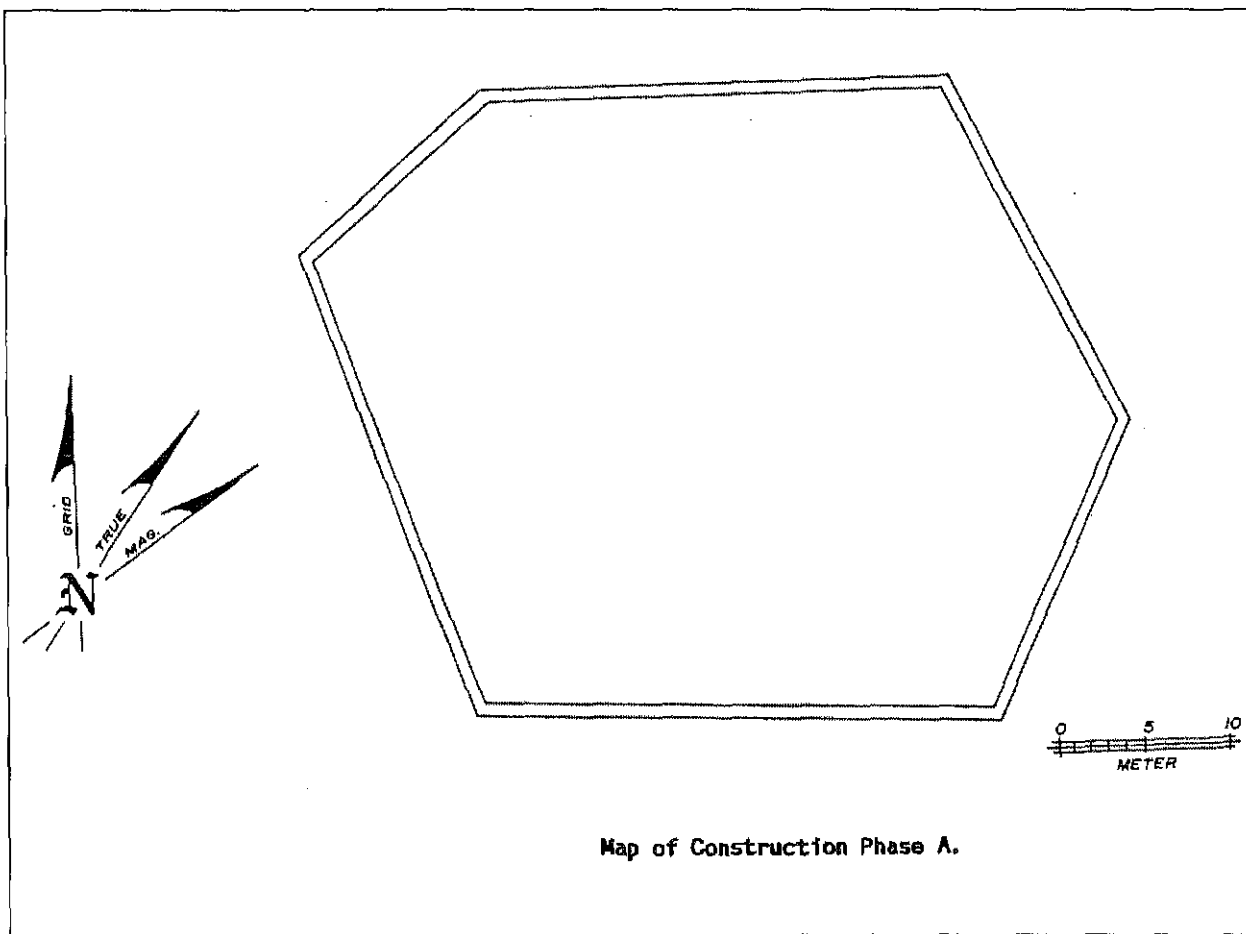
²²⁵James E. Ivey, *Archaeological Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas, Second Season*. (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 121, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1983), Figure 1.

²²⁶Ivey, *Mission Land Use*, 30.

Rancho del Sabanito may possibly have been a reference to another ranch for Espada, similar to secondary ones that existed for Missions Valero, Concepción, and San José.

²²⁷Ivey, *Mission Land Use*, 32-34.

²²⁸*Ibid.*, 32



Map of Construction Phase A.

Map Source:

Map reprinted with permission from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41 WN 30, Wilson County, Texas, Fifth Season*, prepared by Anna J. Taylor and Anne A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 144, 1985), figure 13.

Figure 10. Map of Compound Construction Phase A

Also included were descriptions of “an adequate corral of nailed and tied timbers, and four bull pens of the same material with their barricades and gates for the large livestock and horses.” No mention is made, however, of the exact location of these facilities and so far archeology has not located them. Archeological investigations at Rancho de las Cabras revealed that the circumference of the present wall is larger than that reported in the 1772 inventory. However, by the second season of investigations,²²⁹ testing had revealed buried walls which, when plotted on the map of the structure, came within a few feet of the circumference cited in the inventory. From these investigations, it became apparent that changes had been made to the surrounding walls at some point after the 1772 inventory was prepared.

The inventory also included a detailed listing of all the animals present:²³⁰

Horse Herd

First, 281 breeding mares
Two-year-old fillies: 51
Stallions for the aforesaid: 81
Two-year-old colts: 57
Two-year-old female mules: 15
Two-year-old mules: 17
Young female and male mules to be branded: 41 head
Colts and fillies to be branded: 156
Burros which are *mesos* or *mestizos*: 8
Gelded *burros*: 3
Mules of age: 7
Domesticated mules: 18
Ten female *burros* with their *caballo padre*
Six small benaded *burros*
Domesticated working horses: 75

Pigs

First, 12 sows with three male pigs; an allotment of about 20 pigs kept separate for the Ranch

Small Livestock

The flock or sheep herd: 1,100
The *vaciada*: 1,621 [literally, vacant - not used for breeding]
Goats: 22

Large or Bovine Livestock - At the Ranch

First eight oxen
Nursing cows (or milk cows): 150
Cows not nursing: 1,050

²²⁹Ivey, *Archaeological Testing*, 34.

²³⁰*Ibid.*, 27-28.

In addition to the walled compound, there was a small farm plot planted in corn for ranch use, which was fenced with branches or poles in a manner called *tixera* (literally, scissors) on the frontier. There was also somewhere within the walls a chicken house with 50 hens, 4 roosters, 3 young birds, and one hen with 12 chicks.²³¹

The 1772 inventory included a detailed list of the articles within the *jacales* at the ranch. This is most helpful in giving a picture of how the ranchers were living. The inventory lists axes, pickaxes, a crowbar, an adze, a chisel, an iron plow share, and two branding irons. The housekeeping areas contained pottery from China and Mexico, a caldron and hand mill for making chocolate, a water jar, four *metates*²³² and four iron *comales*,²³³ six copper saucepans, and three copper *ollas*.²³⁴ Fragments of these objects have been recovered during the five archeological seasons at the site.

In all, this is a picture of an active, prosperous ranching operation at the height of the ranching period, with numerous activities under way involving cattle and sheep raising. From these records, the ranch appears to have been largely self-sufficient, raising its own corn and a large flock of chickens, but most likely acquiring some supplies, such as clothing, equipment, and metal goods, from the mission.

Meanwhile, however, complaints had been arising in Béxar about the amount of land the missions were claiming, and pressure was put on the government to do a survey to discover how much of that land was actually used by the missions for ranching. The result was a judgment in 1770 that the missions were not sufficiently employing their ranch lands. Some areas were declared public property and opened to occupation by private owners, while others were to be made available for rent.²³⁵ These rumblings of discontent, along with the gradual decline in the Indian population of the mission, were harbingers of the approaching secularization of the missions in the San Antonio River valley.

Decline of the Ranch, 1772 - 1794

Despite the enthusiastic changes wrought by the Zacatecans, the Indian populations at the missions began to decline and the missions' influence also declined. The herds were gradually depleted as permits were issued to townspeople to round-up cattle, which seemed to give them license to prey upon the mission herds. While these cattle were ostensibly to be used for food,

²³¹Ibid.

²³²flat stones used for grinding corn

²³³griddles

²³⁴Fray Juan Joseph Saenz de Gumiel, "Certificacion, e Ymbentario de la Mission de la Espada, December 14, 1772." (San Antonio, TX: Old Spanish Missions Historical Research Library, Our Lady of the Lake University), Microfilm Roll 10, Frame 4224.

Olla means pot or kettle.

²³⁵Ivey, *Mission Land Use*, 36-37.

many ranchers saw this as an opportunity to drive herds to market in Mexico or Louisiana. Starting with leasing of excess mission ranch lands, the Spanish government was soon granting ownership of portions of mission lands to local citizens.

It seems likely that the Zacatecan friars wasted little time after taking over the mission before they began to make improvements to the *rancho* compound. First they pushed out the northwest corner of the stone structure into an acute angle and added a hexagonal bastion, then added an identical bastion on the opposite, southeast corner (Figure 11). These bastions appear to have been earthen-filled and crenelated, according to the memories of early twentieth century visitors to the site. At about the same time, a stone chapel with a hexagonal apse was added to the northeast corner. The walls of this building would have stood perhaps fifteen to twenty feet high, projecting above the rest of the compound where the walls stood about eight feet in height.²³⁶

As part of this same renovation, four stone rooms were built against the north wall of the compound (Figure 12). These, and the chapel, were roofed with beams and a flat earthen roof. Evidence for this was found during archeological excavations of the compound.²³⁷ These changes turned the site even more into a fortified settlement. Despite continual Comanche threats, there were 26 people living there by 1777.²³⁸

We have little or no information about what was going on at Rancho de las Cabras at this time, other than the fact that it continued in the possession of Mission Espada. Indian raids were continuing in the area until peace was finally restored in 1783.²³⁹ No sooner did the area become safe from Indian attack than the Commandant General, Caballero Teodoro de Croix, issued a decree giving the missions four months to round up and brand their cattle and horses, after which all unbranded stock would belong to the king. All future roundups would be licensed by the governor,²⁴⁰ and a fee of half a *peso* per head was to be paid to the king for unbranded cattle rounded up by private ranchers or by the missions. This resulted in a great roundup in the San Antonio River valley in 1788 (Figure 13). Unfortunately, the missions were unable to participate due to a lack of personnel.²⁴¹

²³⁶Ivey, *Mission Land Use*, 46.

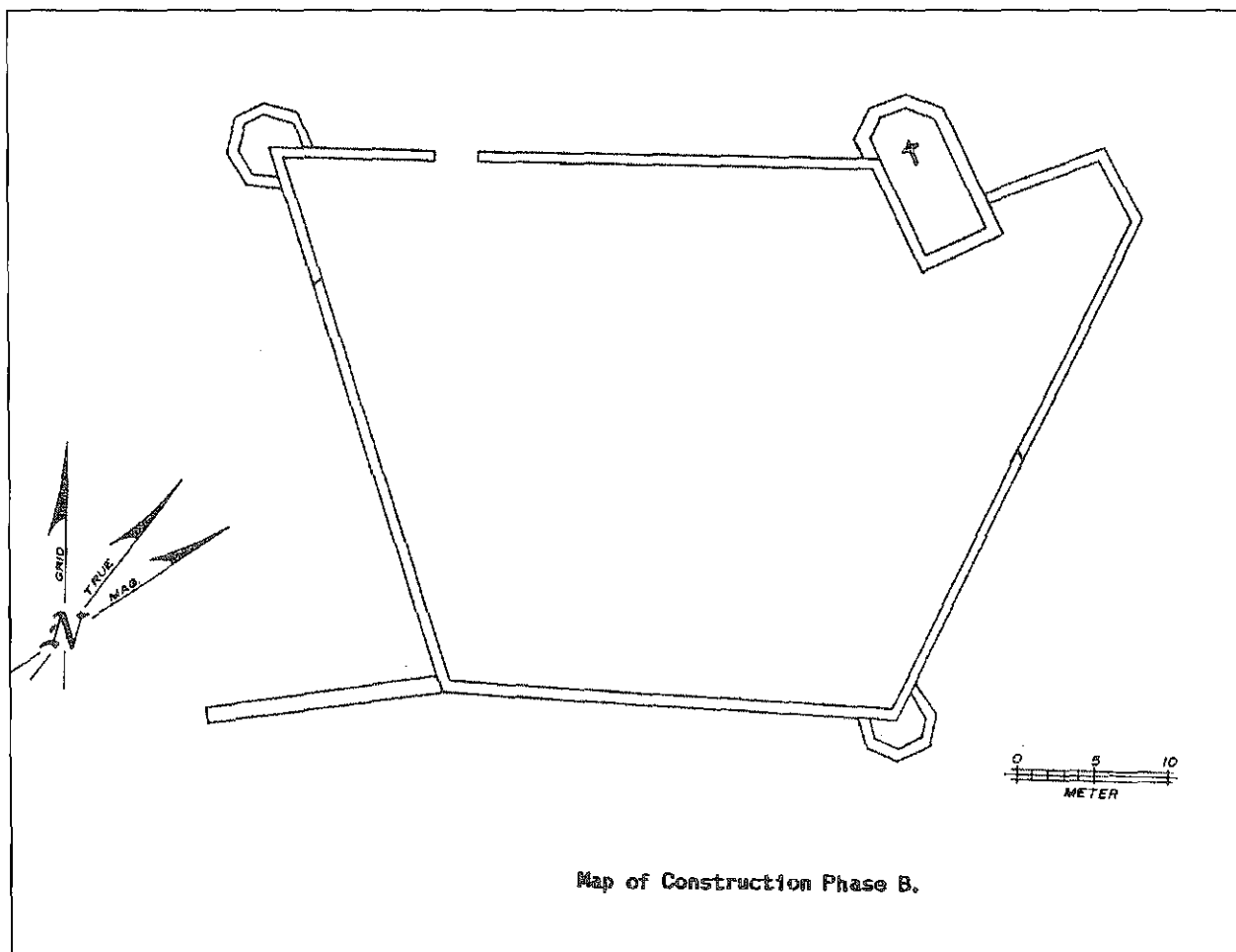
²³⁷James E. Ivey and Anne A. Fox, *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de Las Cabras, Wilson County, Texas*. (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 104, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1981); Anna J. Taylor and Anne A. Fox, *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, 41WN30, Wilson County, Texas, Fifth Season*. (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 144, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1985).

²³⁸Carlos Castañeda, *The Mission Era, The Passing of the Missions, 1762-1782*. Our Catholic Heritage in Texas IV. (Austin, TX: Von Boeckman-Jones Company, 1939), 102.

²³⁹Memorial from the government of the villa of San Fernando and the Royal Presidio of San Antonio de Béxar to Governor Martínez Pacheco, regarding the people's right to the *mesteña* horses and cattle of Texas, *Bexár Archives Translations* Volume 150. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Archives, 1787), 40.

²⁴⁰Jackson, *Los Mesteños*, 155-157.

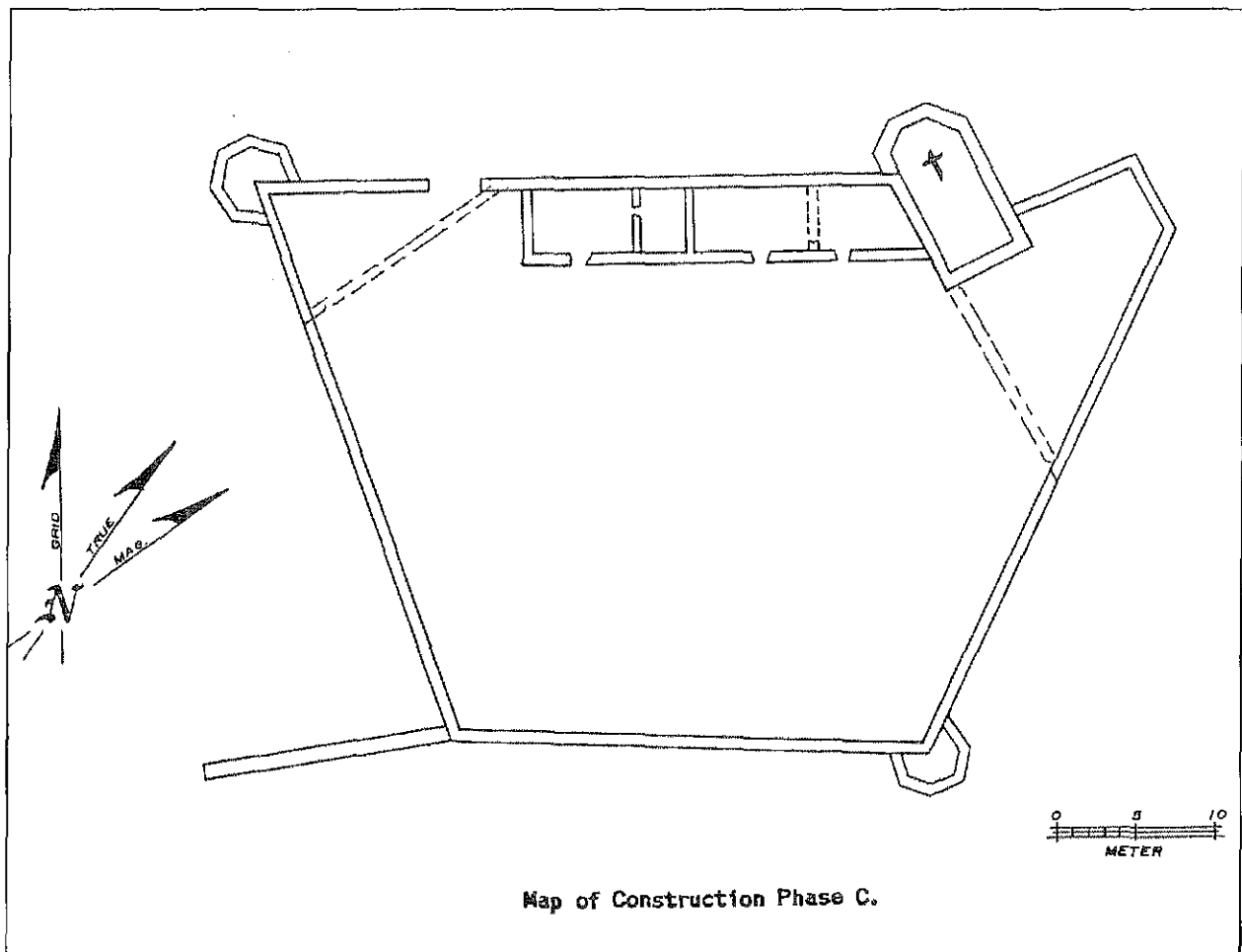
²⁴¹Ivey, *Mission Land Use*, 47.



Map Source:

Map reprinted with permission from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41 WN 30, Wilson County, Texas, Fifth Season*, prepared by Anna J. Taylor and Anne A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 144, 1985), figure 16.

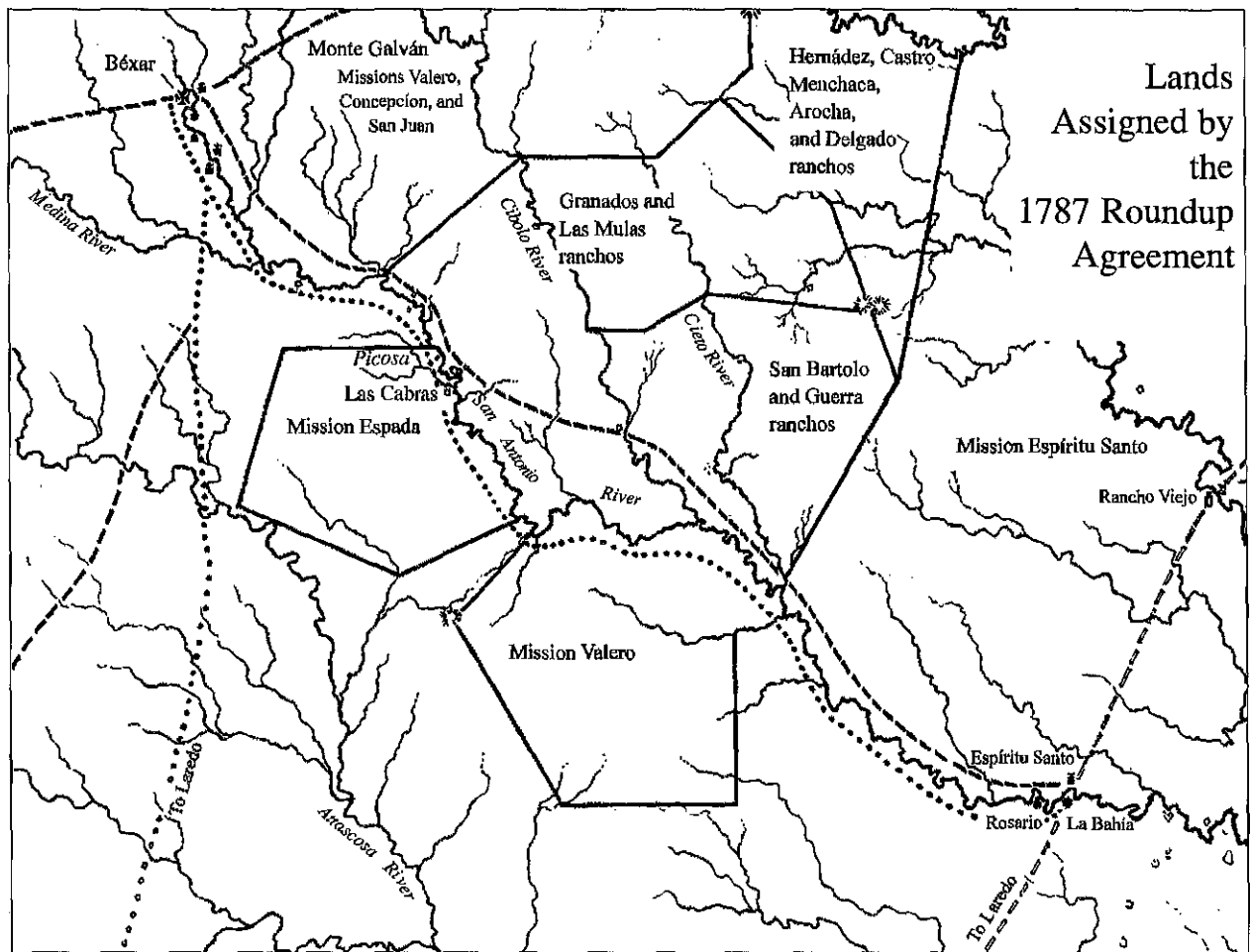
Figure 11. Map of Compound Construction Phase B



Map Source:

Map reprinted with permission from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41 WN 30, Wilson County, Texas, Fifth Season*, prepared by Anna J. Taylor and Anne A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 144, 1985), figure 17.

Figure 12. Map of Compound Construction Phase C



Map Source:
Illustration adapted from information presented
in *Los Mesteños, Spanish Ranching in Texas,
1721-1821*, by Jack Jackson (College Station,
TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1986),
p. 324.

Figure 13. Lands Assigned by the 1787 Roundup Agreement

This, along with local agitation against the missions' large tracts of ranch lands not being used, brought about their sale or lease to local citizens. In 1773-1774, Ignacio Calvillo, a San Antonio citizen, leased two *sitios*²⁴² in the northern portion of Rancho de las Cabras near the ford called "el Paso de las Mujeres." Apparently he continually petitioned for title to this land, probably in the meantime quietly running his cattle there. By 1791 he was officially recognized as a proprietor of the ranch called El Paso de las Mujeres. By 1809, Calvillo was in residence there.²⁴³

In 1794, the missions were secularized and their lands were turned over to the mission Indians, except for those lands leased to secular ranchers. Those ranchers leasing portions of the mission ranches applied for and received ownership of their land. On January 19, 1809, Ignacio Calvillo was granted full title to the two *sitios* he had been leasing at El Paso de las Mujeres to the north of the *rancho* compound buildings (Figure 14).²⁴⁴

INITIAL DISINTEGRATION OF THE RANCH (1794 - 1852)

Figures 15-16, 26-28

The final disintegration of Rancho de las Cabras was initiated by the granting of individual portions to local citizens starting in about 1809. The section of the ranch which contained the compound structure was granted to María del Carmen Calvillo in 1833.

From this point, the mission lands gradually passed into private hands. In most cases ranchers whose lands were adjacent to mission ranches began to acquire sections of them, as was the case with the Calvillo family. By 1809, Calvillo was living on his ranch and had built a group of buildings there. During a raid on his ranch in that year by a group posing as Indians, but including his own grandson, Ignacio was killed and a number of his buildings were burned.²⁴⁵ The ownership of the ranch passed to his daughter, María del Carmen Calvillo, who it appears alternated between living on the ranch and in her home at Mission San Juan for the next fifteen years. In 1828, she applied for a new title to her father's property and moved to the ranch. Soon afterward, in 1832, she applied for, and in 1833, received title to, an additional league and *labor* of Rancho de las Cabras to the southwest of her original grant (Figures 15, 16), this time including the *rancho* compound structure.²⁴⁶

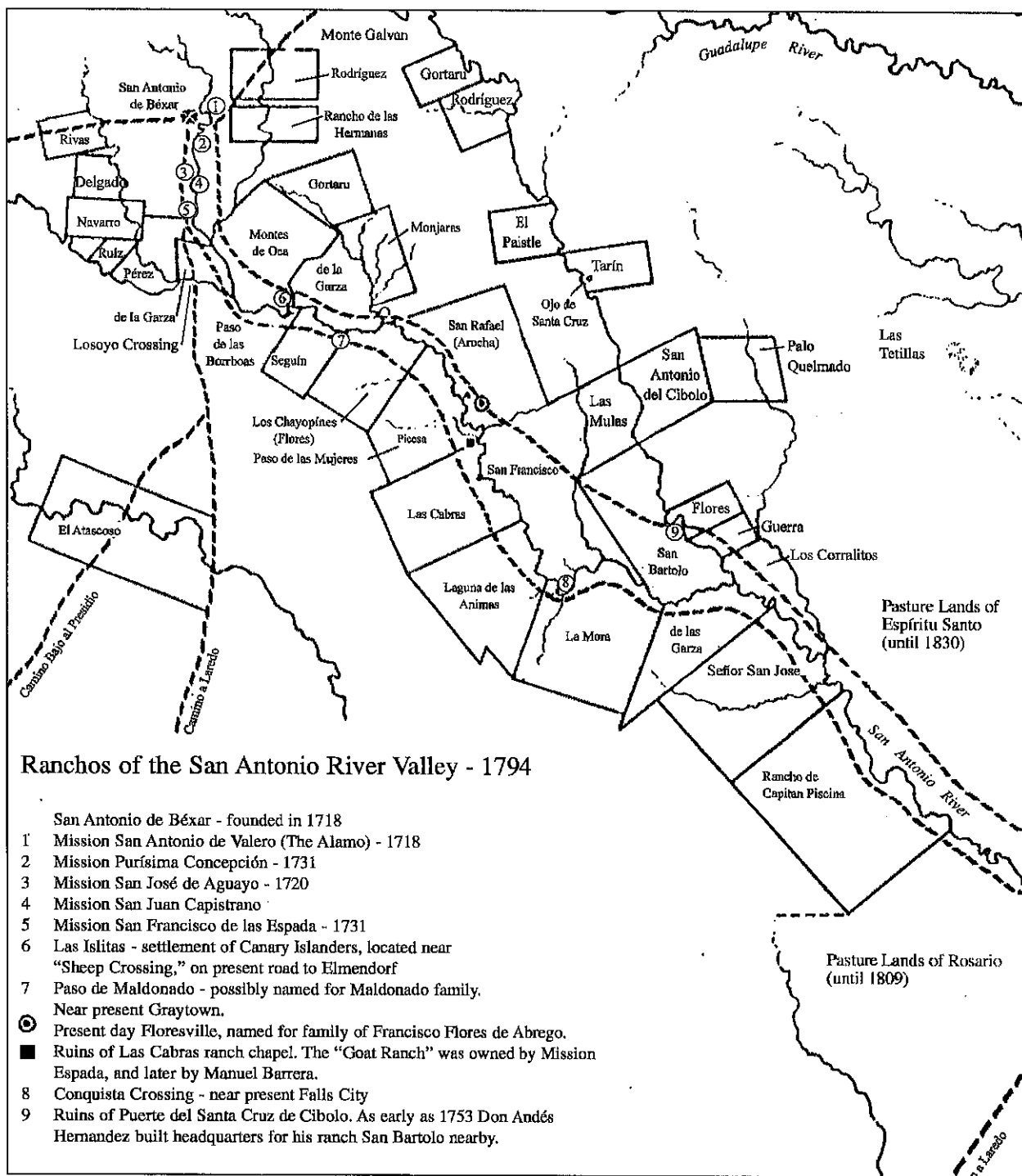
²⁴²one square league or a square 2.6 miles on a side

²⁴³Jones and Fox, *Archaeological Testing*, 5-6.

²⁴⁴Ivey, *Mission Land Use*, 48.

²⁴⁵Jones and Fox, *Archaeological Testing*, 6.

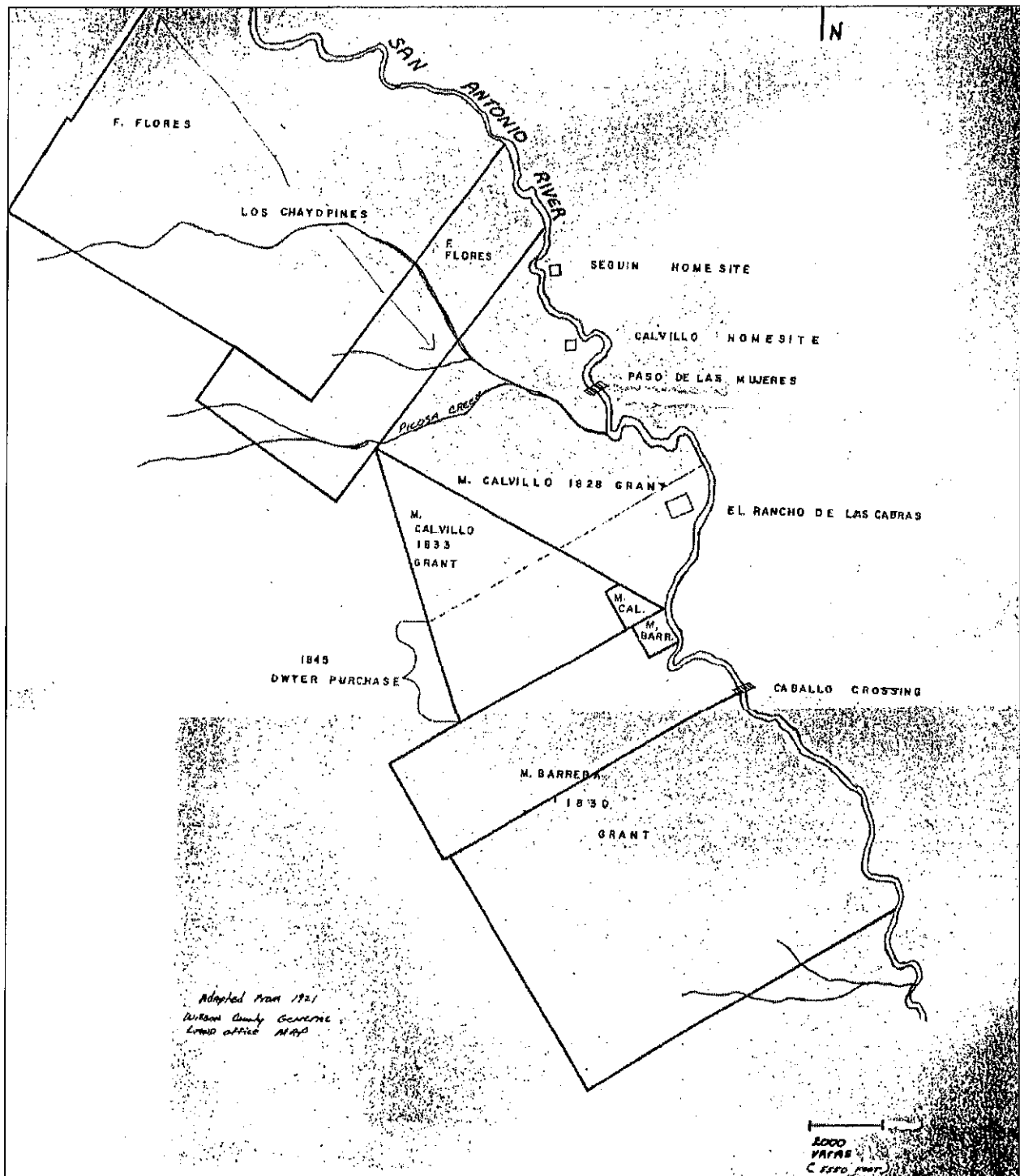
²⁴⁶*Ibid.*, 9.



Map Source:

Illustration adapted from information presented in *Los Mesteños, Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-1821*, by Jack Jackson (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1986), p. 39.

Figure 14. Ranchos of the San Antonio River Valley - 1794



Map Source:
Illustration adapted from 1921 Wilson County
Land Office Map.

Figure 15. Local Plat Map adapted from 1921 Wilson County Land Office Map

To the south of the Calvillo property, Manuel Barrera in 1830 petitioned for and received title to a tract of land commonly called “El Rancho De Las Cabras Viejo” which was in his possession at the time. The land was evidently once part of Espada’s ranch, but had been used for many years by his father.²⁴⁷ This was no doubt another parcel that was first leased after the decree in the 1770s that mandated leasing or selling excess mission lands.

María del Carmen Calvillo began to sell off portions of her ranch in 1844.²⁴⁸ In 1851, when María was 76, her family stepped in and had her declared *non compos mentis*,²⁴⁹ likely in an effort to protect what was left of the ranch property. After she died on January 15, 1856, there was considerable litigation concerning the settlement of María’s estate, which included both the remains of the ranch and the Mission San Juan property.²⁵⁰

THE UNITED STATES CATTLE RANCHING ERA (1852 - 1904)

Figures 17, 26-27

Included in the property that María del Carmen Calvillo sold before being declared *non compos mentis* was a tract that she conveyed to Edward Dwyer in March 1845, described as “the old rancho called Rancho de las Cabras.”²⁵¹ At the time he purchased the land, Dwyer was serving as San Antonio’s mayor, the city’s sixth during the Texas Republic period. His term of office extended from March 30, 1844, until January 1, 1846. Dwyer, an Irishman, was married to Mariana Leal, a descendant of Canary Island settler, Juan Leal Goraz.²⁵² Like many prominent citizens, Dwyer invested heavily in real estate, and his purchase of the Rancho de las Cabras property was only one of his many transactions.

The acquisition of Rancho de las Cabras by Edward Dwyer marked the beginning of the property’s use for large commercial cattle ranching, a practice that dominated the surrounding area through the remainder of the nineteenth century. In January 1853, Edward Dwyer enlarged his holdings in the Calvillo tract, purchasing another 1,181 acres.²⁵³ Dwyer died in 1854, and his estate was partitioned between his widow, Mariana Leal Dwyer, and their three surviving children, Anita, Jose (Joseph), and María.²⁵⁴ María del Carmen Calvillo died two years later on January 15, 1856. Though her estate remained in dispute for another two years, the court

²⁴⁷Ibid.

²⁴⁸Ivey, *Mission Land Use*, 9.

²⁴⁹Bexar County Probate Records 1851: August Session. (San Antonio, TX: Bexar County Court House).

Non compos mentis is a Latin term that has been adopted by the English language. It is used to refer to an individual that is not of sound mind and hence not legally responsible.

²⁵⁰Jones and Fox, *Archaeological Testing*, 10-11.

²⁵¹Bexar County Deed Records (BCDR), Book C2, 42.

²⁵²Frederick C. Chabot, *With the Makers of San Antonio*. (San Antonio, TX: Artes Graficas, 1937), 152-3.

²⁵³BCDR, Book L2, 249.

²⁵⁴Bexar County Probate Court Records (BCPCR), Case #419; and BCDR, Book H2, 468-472.

reaffirmed that María Concepción Gortari and Antonio Duran were her legal heirs and that transactions made on their behalf by Dr. Lucas Munoz were valid.²⁵⁵ This included the 1853 sale of Calvillo land to Edward Dwyer.

No record has been found of how Edward Dwyer or his surviving wife used the Rancho de las Cabras land, though in the context of the area's economy during the 1850s and 1860s, it is assumed that the property was used for ranching. In 1860, on the eve of the Civil War and four years after María del Carmen Calvillo's death, the Rancho de las Cabras land became part of Wilson County as it was created from Bexar and Karnes Counties. The new county had a population of 1,500. In 1867, the county seat was moved to Floresville in the central part of the county, just three miles northeast of Rancho de las Cabras, from its initial location to the north at Sutherland Springs. Disputes over the location of the county seat continued until 1883 when a permanent courthouse was designed for Floresville.

The new county's economy was adversely affected not only by the Civil War, but also by a drought which lasted from 1862 until 1865. According to the first Texas Almanac published in 1867, Wilson County pastures were "fine for sheep, cattle and horses." The county produced mostly corn, cotton, sugar cane and potatoes, though the Almanac described the crops as "not very good, having suffered from drought."

Mariana Dwyer continued to own the Rancho de las Cabras property until her death in 1867. Her estate included three tracts on the San Antonio River that were a part of the "Carmen Calvillo tract containing 1181 acres" valued at \$400 and "1/6 league bought of María Carmen Calvillo on the San Antonio River" valued at \$400.²⁵⁶ The Calvillo land was inherited by Edward and Mariana's son, Joseph Dwyer, a real estate investor who also operated a livery and feed stable in San Antonio. Because Dwyer, like his father, speculated in real estate and did not live in Wilson County, it is likely that the land continued to either lie fallow or was used for ranching.

Joseph Dwyer inherited the Calvillo land just after the Civil War when farming in Wilson County was recovering from the drought, the cattle trade was beginning to thrive, and the population was growing steadily. By 1870, there were 2,556 residents in Wilson County, and this total grew to 7,188 by 1880.²⁵⁷ Cattle were fed on tall prairie grasses and, in 1866, cowboys began to drive them east to Dewitt County and then north up the Chisholm Trail to market at Abilene, Kansas.²⁵⁸ Large ranches soon dominated Wilson County's economy, and

²⁵⁵BCPCR 1857, Book 56.

²⁵⁶BCPCR, Case #804.

²⁵⁷Ron Tyler, *The New Handbook of Texas*. (Austin, TX: Texas State Historical Association, 1996), 6:1011.

²⁵⁸Tyler, *New Handbook*, 1:1042 and 6:1011; and *Floresville Chronicle Special*, September 11, 1909.

these were located in the areas of heavier soil (the south, southeast, and southwest parts of the county). Terry Jordan, an authority on the cattle industry in Texas, estimates that in 1860 the ratio of population to cattle in this area was between 1:2 and 1:5, whereas by 1870, the ratio had increased to between 1:6 and 1:9.²⁵⁹

Large ranches were needed to accommodate the growing cattle industry in Wilson and surrounding counties, and Joseph Dwyer began selling his property. In March 1874, he conveyed one league of land (4,428 acres) "known as the Rancho de las Cabras" to Wilson County rancher John F. Camp for \$2,500.²⁶⁰ This transaction references a survey of the property by John James, District Surveyor of Bexar County. The survey has not been located to date. In a second transaction recorded August 1875, Dwyer conveyed 1,181 acres to Camp for \$1,000.²⁶¹

These purchases allowed John Camp to assemble extensive Wilson County acreage that became known as "Camp Ranch." The ranch, adjacent to the much larger "Deweese Ranch," included a ranch house (Figure 17), cemetery, and school, all located outside of the boundaries of the National Park Service tract. In recounting his career in the cattle business, R.J. Lauderdale recalled traveling to Laredo in 1879 "preparing for the '79 drive and buying cattle for John Camp." He described buying 500 head at a time, driving them to Camp Ranch, and repeating the process until he had assembled 2,500 head:

We branded them and took them to the Camp pasture at Floresville on the San Antonio River. Mr. Camp told me he wanted me to drive that herd to Dodge City and to get an early start.²⁶²

Lauderdale then "struck out for the Western trail." In 1879, he entered into a partnership with John Camp, C.F. Carroll, and Ben Rosser, all of Floresville, with "Ben and John furnishing the money and Carroll and me doing the buying and driving." He described buying cattle in bunches to assemble herds of 2,500 and putting "some on Rosser's Conquista Ranch and some on Camp Ranch." Lauderdale continued to work with Camp as late as 1886, when he drove a herd to Kansas.²⁶³ "After making the deal with Camp, I hired my men and sent them to the Camp Ranch at Floresville to get the wagon and full outfit." He had gathered a herd of 2,700 when Camp arrived and traded the cattle to go to "Independence Ranch." In 1890, Lauderdale went to work for another rancher, William Cassin, in Batesville in Zavala County.

²⁵⁹Terry G. Jordan, *North American Cattle-Ranching Frontiers: Origins, Diffusion, and Differentiation*. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993), 216.

²⁶⁰Wilson County Deed Records (WCDR), Book C, 296.

²⁶¹*Ibid.*, 631.

²⁶²Lela Neal Pirtle (ed.), *Life on the Range and on the Trail*. (San Antonio, TX: Naylor Company, 1936), 141.

²⁶³*Ibid.*, 169.

John Camp sold the 5,600 acres he acquired from Joseph Dwyer to J.M. McCoy and J.R. Murray of Gonzales County for \$53,668 in 1882.²⁶⁴ The sale included 2,072 head of cattle running on Camp's land in both Wilson and adjacent Atascosa Counties. J.M. McCoy and J.R. Murray were "partners in the livestock and pasture business under the firm name McCoy and Murray."²⁶⁵ They owned Camp Ranch for only two years before dissolving their partnership in 1884. Murray sold his interest in the land and cattle to McCoy, who held the ranch until 1886 when he sold it back to John Camp.²⁶⁶

During the 1880s, two innovations changed the South Texas cattle business—barbed wire and the railroad. Barbed wire was introduced to Texas in the middle 1870s, and its use led to fence-cutting wars and state-wide legislation in 1884 prohibiting this practice.²⁶⁷ The open prairie disappeared, mesquite invaded pastures, and as rail lines extended throughout the state, cattle drives were soon a thing of the past. The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad reached Floresville in 1886, facilitating shipment not only of cattle, but of farm goods to distant markets, contributing to the growth of Wilson County's agricultural economy.

After John Camp re-acquired the Rancho de las Cabras land, it remained in the Camp Family until 1904 when Camp Ranch, then encompassing 7,839 acres, was sold for \$32,250 to S.V. Houston and H.S. Tom of Floresville and William Green of Shiner, all well-known area ranchers. Green and Houston turned to land development, and began to divide Camp Ranch into smaller tracts, which they sold to individuals who operated modest-sized farms or ranches. During this same period, the larger Dewees Ranch was also divided and sold. Today, there are no known standing buildings associated with the Camp Ranch. Mr. William Walls who owns a portion of the old ranch, indicates that the ranch house itself was in poor condition and was demolished ca. 1994. An old butcher house, also in poor condition, collapsed in 1998.

THE TRANSITION FROM RANCHING TO FARMING (1904 - 1913)

Figures 18, 26-27

The sale and subdivision of Camp Ranch and other large ranching operations in the area after the turn-of-the-century was encouraged by changes in the cattle industry and the growth of agriculture in Wilson County. In 1902 and 1903, the area was hard hit by the boll weevil. The 1904 Texas Almanac noted that "irrigation farms have only begun to flourish since the ravages of the boll weevil played havoc in Southwest Texas, but with the splendid soil and mild climate, truck farming is fast getting a hold." It was estimated that 150,000 acres in Wilson County were

²⁶⁴WCDR, Book K, 250.

²⁶⁵Ibid., Book N, 7.

²⁶⁶Ibid., Book P, 80.

²⁶⁷Tyler, *New Handbook*, 6:1011.



Photograph Source:
Photograph reprinted with permission courtesy
of Wilson County Historical Commission.

Figure 17. Camp Ranch - Headquarters Home (no longer standing)

being cultivated and that 30 percent of that was comprised of 50 acre farms. In response to agricultural expansion, farmers diversified their crops, and by 1909, peanuts, peas, sweet and Irish potatoes, sorghum, Johnson grass, fruit and some vegetables were cultivated.²⁶⁸

Road construction accelerated to meet the needs of the expanding population, which owned a growing number of motorized vehicles, as well as to facilitate transportation of goods to market. A 1908 U.S. Department of Agriculture soil survey map shows early roads beginning to traverse Wilson County (Figure 18). Long-time area residents recall that paved roads were slow in coming to rural Wilson County. Warren Zook, who was born in 1904 and moved to the area in 1907, recalled, "There wasn't no highway; there were no cars! We went on the east side of the river until they built a road and started to paving it. That became too much trouble, with the first automobiles that came to Floresville, so we started to drive them up the west side of the river. And we did that until ... well, until I graduated from high school [ca. 1921]."²⁷⁰

Theo Boening, born in Floresville in 1909, recalled that each small Wilson County community had a "road boss" who was responsible for maintenance of dirt roads. "When it would rain, there would be such deep ruts here that ... half tracks, they called it. With wagons traveling, every time it rained, those narrow-wheeled wagons would cut the track an inch or so deeper." Road bosses would grade roads and rebuild small bridges following heavy rains. He remembers that Highway 97 was built in 1940, and that his family's road was paved shortly after that.²⁷¹

Camp Ranch acreage that had once been part of the Calvillo property was sold in small parcels for farm land. In 1905, 400 acres of the Camp Ranch that included the Rancho de las Cabras property was sold by S.V. Houston and William Green to O.P. Rushing of Wilson County.²⁷² Rushing sold the same tract the following year to Otto Albert of Lavaca County,²⁷³ who sold it back to Houston and Green in 1910. Regarding Otto Albert's brief ownership of the property, Theo Boening, who is married to Otto Albert's niece, stated, "In those days they didn't use fertilizers, and I don't know whether he tried it a year or two, and then he traded some of that land for some down here, which is better."²⁷⁴ Houston and Green immediately sold the land to Eilert Kuck of Dewitt County.²⁷⁵ Illustrating ongoing changes in the local economy, Kuck

²⁶⁸William Walls to Maria Watson Pfeiffer, August 31, 1998.

²⁶⁹*Floresville Chronicle Special*.

²⁷⁰Warren Zook to Luis Torres, June 10, 1998.

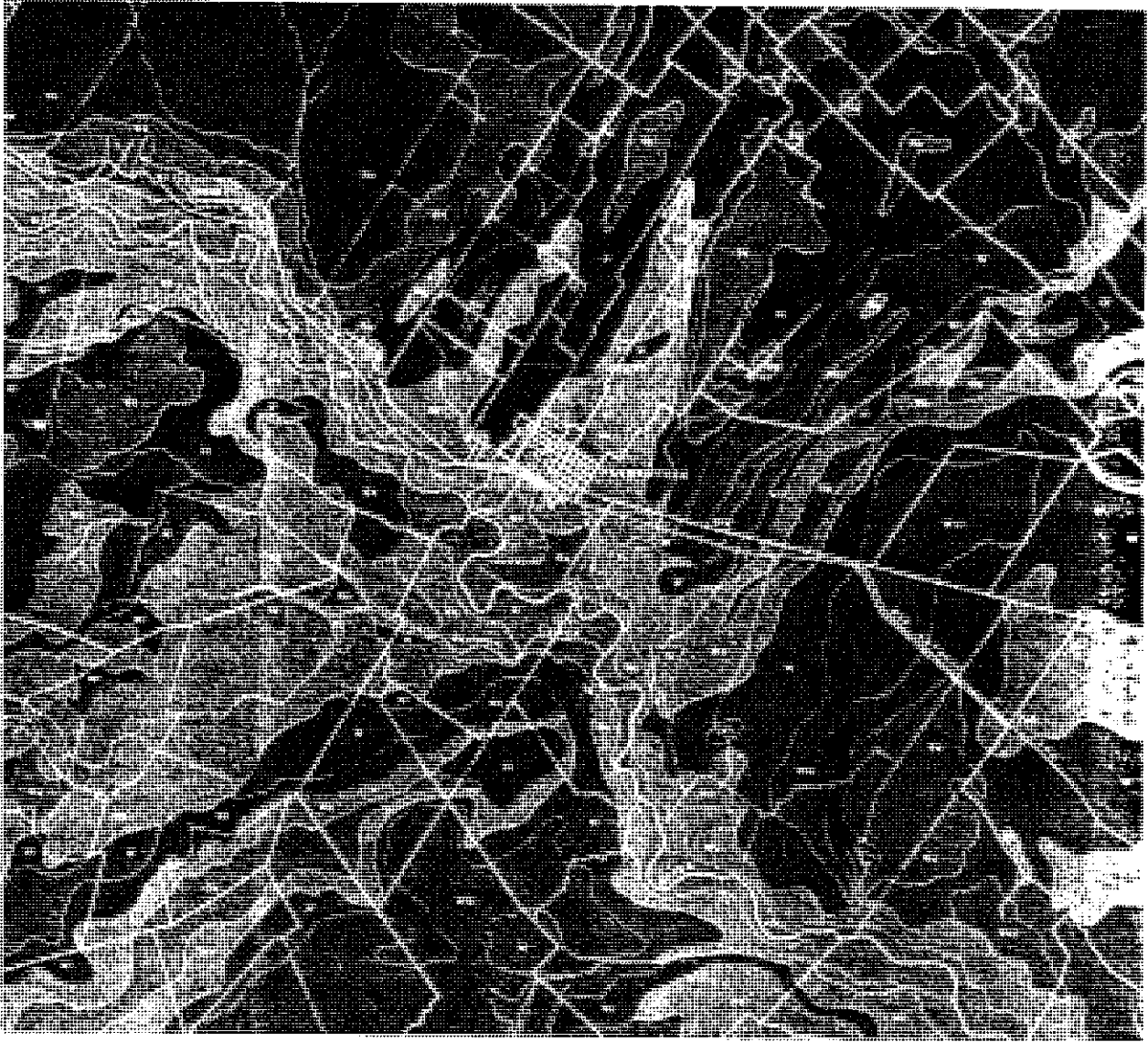
²⁷¹Theo Boening to Luis Torres, June 10, 1998.

²⁷²WCDR, Book 49, 578.

²⁷³*Ibid.*, Book 53, 257.

²⁷⁴Theo Boening to Luis Torres, June 10, 1998.

²⁷⁵*Ibid.*, Book 68, 210.



Map Source:
U.S. Department of Agriculture, W.S. Lyman
and Frank Shroeder. *Soil Survey of Wilson
County, Texas*. Washington D.C.: U.S.
Government Printing Office, 1908.

Figure 18. 1908 Wilson County Soil Survey Map

further divided the 400 acres, and, in 1913, sold 200 acres to Dietrich Ohlenbusch of Kinney County and 200 acres to his brother Henry Ohlenbusch of Uvalde County. The transaction included a “new house and new field,” indicating agricultural activity on the property.²⁷⁶

FROM AGRICULTURAL SITE TO MEMORIAL (1913 - 1977)

(Figures 19-24, 26-27)

The *rancho* compound ruins were included in Henry Ohlenbusch’s 200 acres, which he owned for 13 years, selling the land in 1926 to Judge C. B. Stevenson of Wilson County.²⁷⁷ A 1931 aerial photograph of the region (Figure 19) provides limited information about the character of the site at that time. In the aerial, the alignments of Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River are clearly visible; each is edged by dense woodland cover indicative of the riparian vegetative community that apparently existed at that time. This woodland cover was most likely similar in character to the riparian woodland that exists on the site today. County Route 144 is also visible in the aerial photograph, as is County Route 132. The fencelines that currently parallel the northern and western property boundaries are visible in the 1931 aerial. The majority of the panhandle appears as open agricultural land, except where it crosses a small drainageway. This area appears wooded with scrubby growth. Beyond the panhandle, the remainder of the site appears wooded on the aerial, although the woodland appears to range from dense canopy trees to scrub. While difficult to discern through the woodland cover, the fenceline that currently edges the upland margin and follows the property line between the two parcels that comprise the site appears to have been in existence in 1931. The road leading through the panhandle does not appear on the 1931 aerial; access to the compound ruins appears to have been possible, however, via an unimproved road that parallels the southern property boundary between a wooded drainageway and agricultural fields, and along a hedgerow. This road appears also to have encircled the ruins. It is possible that other unimproved circulation routes existed on the property in 1931, but they are difficult to discern through the woodland cover.

It was in the early years of the twentieth century that the Rancho de las Cabras site suffered greatly from vandalism and deterioration. With the subdivision of large tracts and county road construction, access to the property became easier. The site became the source of building material for area residents who removed stone from the ruins for their own use. The property was also used as a source of *caliche*²⁷⁸ for Wilson County’s expanding road network.

The Rancho de las Cabras site was vandalized in spite of local recognition that it was an important historical resource. As early as 1895, the *rancho* compound ruins were photographed (Figures 20, 21) and described in a small San Antonio tourist publication together with the city’s five Spanish colonial missions:

²⁷⁶Ibid., Book 81, 426.

²⁷⁷Ibid., Book 139, 361.

²⁷⁸chalk-like limestone



Photograph Source:
Aerial, dated September 3, 1931, prepared by
Tobin Surveys, Inc., San Antonio, Texas.

Figure 19. 1931 Aerial Photograph of Region

Mission de las Cabras is on a high bluff on the west side of San Antonio river, five miles below Floresville. It was enclosed in a diamond shaped lot containing about two acres and had a bastion at each end of the diamond with ten porticos, built 1818.²⁷⁹

Adina de Zavala, a key figure in preserving the Alamo, published a long article about Rancho de las Cabras in 1934, quoting from a 1932 presentation by Mrs. Everett Graves to the Texas Historical and Landmarks Association.²⁸⁰ Mrs. Graves' speech was based on her husband's account and sketch of the site, which he visited while surveying the surrounding ranch in February 1902. At the time, Mr. Graves observed what he believed to be a chapel and four other rooms with a rock wall surrounding a patio. The walls were crumbling in many places but appeared to be two to two and one-half feet thick. The ruins were without roofs, but three turrets about ten feet high were visible. A wall ran south from the ruins about fifty feet. Graves also recounted that old timers had heard of services being held in the chapel, of a well in the patio, and of a tunnel leading to the river.

Mrs. Graves noted that the owners had placed a sign reading "Dig all you please, but do not remove rock from the walls," but that the "rock and stone from the old mission has nearly all been hauled away."²⁸¹ Sometime after Mr. Graves' 1902 visit, he and his wife researched and photographed the site. Extant copies of these photographs are of poor quality. Other photographs of the site taken by Lee Birdsong indicate the character of the ruins ca. the 1920s or 1930s (Figure 22).

Miss de Zavala in her article notes that the site's owner in 1934, Judge C.B. Stevenson, had reportedly offered Rancho de las Cabras to the "State of Texas or to any club or society or person who will restore the mission." This offer remains to be documented.

Judge Stevenson is generally blamed for allowing Rancho de las Cabras to be vandalized, and according to at least one source, built a smokehouse on his property from some of the *rancho* compound stones.²⁸² Warren Zook and others recall how the stone was hauled off by individuals and the County for various uses including a bridge, houses, and a dam. Modesto Flores, born in 1929, was a young boy playing at the ruins in the 1930s and remembers how the site changed. "I remember in 1936, 1937, or 1939, the wall was getting smaller and smaller. We used to walk on top of that wall, sun ourselves on it. It had a window in it, that I later found out was a gunport, on the corner in the outer wall."²⁸³

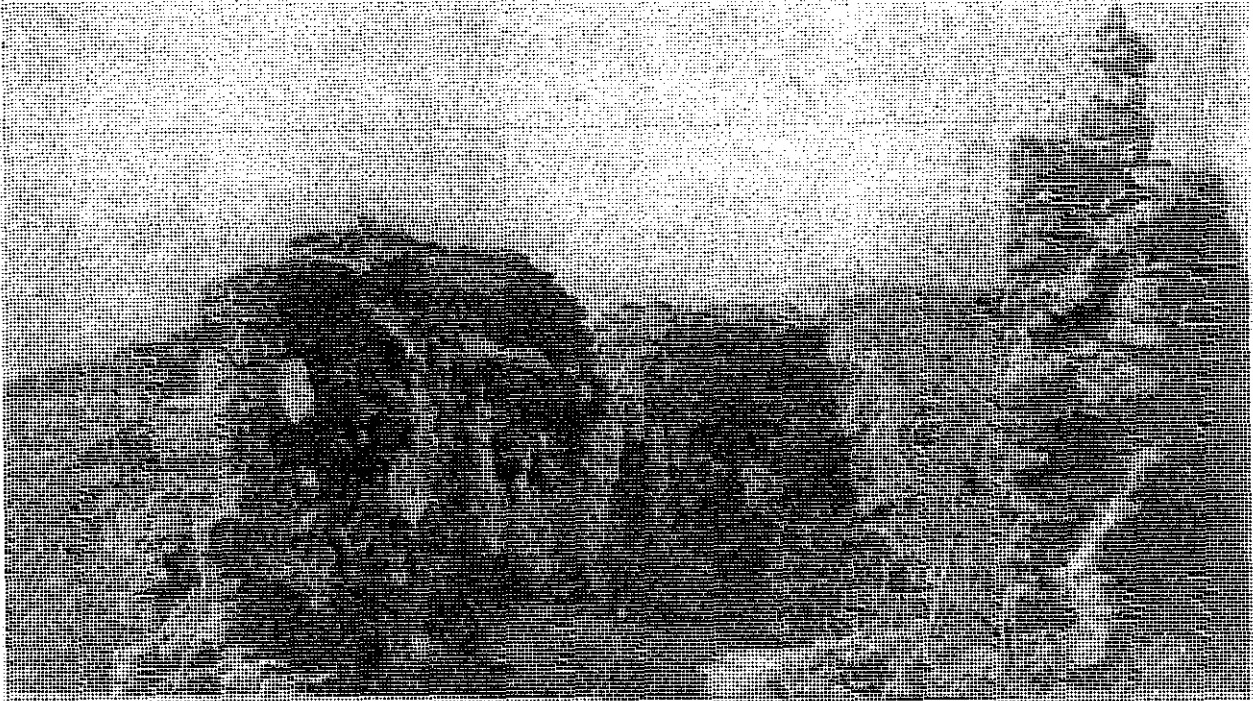
²⁷⁹L.F. Meyers, *San Antonio at a Glance*, (San Antonio, TX: n.p., 1895), 16.

²⁸⁰The Texas Historical and Landmarks Association, a group of patriotic San Antonio women, began to meet in 1887 under the leadership of Adina de Zavala with the purpose of recording the area's history and preserving its historic places. The organization was particularly interested in the Spanish missions.

²⁸¹*San Antonio Express*, June 3, 1934.

²⁸²Theo Boening to Luis Torres, June 10, 1998.

²⁸³Modesto Flores to Luis Torres, July 20, 1998.



Photograph Source:
Photographs #MSS 151-279 & 280 reprinted
with permission courtesy of Houston Public
Library, Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

Figures 20, 21. Rancho de las Cabras Ruins

During this period, Rancho de las Cabras was evidently not discussed in the local school curriculum and was not a topic of general conversation. Still, long-time residents recall the ruins as a place that they and others visited. “No, nobody hardly mentioned it. They weren’t interested in the place. Well, sometimes someone might say: ‘Well, we went fishing down by the mission...but that’s all.’”²⁸⁴ “... I don’t recall it ever being mentioned in school at all, although a lot of the kids would go out there, slip out there at night to camp and go in the river.”²⁸⁵ Warren Zook, whose family property adjoined Rancho de las Cabras, recalled: “... when the Boy Scouts would come out from Floresville to visit me, we’d ride on saddle horses and go up to the old mission, and we would play up there, we would have little battles up there with corn cobs and what not ...”²⁸⁶

Though Rancho de las Cabras was already in ruins by the early twentieth century, Warren Zook, at age 94 the oldest resident interviewed for this study, recalls, “Well, part of the roof was on it when we came to Floresville, and the old doors ... well, there were no doors when I first saw it...” Zook indicates that the lintel was intact, “... and there was a wall around it, and there was a tower on that wall ... a lookout tower.”²⁸⁷ Theo Boening, born in 1909, remembers exterior walls and room partitions approximately three feet tall, possibly with a partial roof and remnants of an altar.²⁸⁸

In spite of its degradation, the property continued to be recognized as a site worthy of preservation. During Texas’ centennial celebration in 1936, a memorial marker was erected at the site of the “Mission of Las Cabreras” (sic). A 1939 publication by C.L. Patterson entitled *Wilson County, Diversified Farming Center of Southwest Texas* described the property, which he called Las Cabra Mission, at length and made an impassioned plea for its restoration as part of the federal work relief effort.

Oh, ye citizenry of my native County ... will a few paltry dollars stand between you and restoration of this connecting link of those heroic founders of our civilization, and our future? Restored, this Mission will attract thousands of tourists every year, be the high-spot in Wilson County tradition, historical interest and elevating sentiment—a priceless gem. A park embracing it, the mouth of the Picosá, the tunnel to the river, with front on the river, can be easily made one of the most picturesque and attractive in this

²⁸⁴Theo Boening to Luis Torres, June 10, 1998.

²⁸⁵Jack Bruce to Luis Torres, March 26, 1998.

²⁸⁶Warren Zook to Luis Torres, June 10, 1998.

²⁸⁷Ibid.

²⁸⁸Theo Boening to Luis Torres, June 10, 1998.



Photograph Source:

Photographs originally printed in *An Archeological and Historical Survey of the Proposed Mission Parkway*, San Antonio Texas, by Kathy Freydenfeldt. (Austin, TX: Texas Historical Commission, 1976). Study attributes photographs to Lee Birdsong through the courtesy of J.T. Jaeggli, Floresville. Negatives for the photographs were located in the files of the Texas Historical Commission.

Figure 22. Rancho de las Cabras Chapel Ruins, ca. 1920s or 1930s

region. Now, while the Federal Government is spending great sums to give employment to our people, let Wilson County appeal to her friendly Congressman to save this Mission as those at San Antonio have been. Do this now, men and women of Wilson County, as you love your children. Give them this sacred playground.²⁸⁹

It appears that after the Centennial period, interest in the site waned, no doubt because of the passing of older residents, although photographs exist of individuals visiting the ruins over the years (Figure 24). Winston Southern, who was born in 1935, and whose wife JoAnn George inherited a partial interest in the site, recalled that there was not widespread knowledge of the ruins during his childhood.

... in fact, I would venture to say that there were a lot of people in Floresville and Wilson County that didn't know there were ruins out there, until they started getting publicized more. Some of the older people that lived out there, were actually born and raised there, they have told stories about going down to the ruins as kids and knowing that they were there, but I don't think they knew much about the missions.²⁹⁰

In 1935, Judge Stevenson conveyed the tract to his daughter and son-in-law Charlie Stevenson Matlock and Lee H. Matlock of Wilson County, and they owned the property until 1940 when it was sold to H.M. Lynn, also of Wilson County.²⁹¹ Lynn only owned the tract for two years, conveying it in 1942 to Victor George of Wilson County, whose descendants owned the land until its acquisition by the state in 1982.²⁹²

JoAnn George Southern inherited a one-half interest in the Rancho de las Cabras land after her parents' death, and purchased the other half from Viola George Shives and her husband Lee V. Shives in 1970.²⁹³ Raised on her parents' farm, JoAnn George Southern remembered that the area around the ruins was thick with vegetation, not suitable for cattle grazing. She described the Rancho de las Cabras site as follows:

It was basically the walls that are standing, the ones that they dug out, found the outlines of, at the last excavations. They always had the monument out there from when my dad bought the property back in the '40s. I must've been about five when my dad bought the place. What I remember of the ruins was that south end. I would say the walls were about five foot high. Of course, as a kid, I thought they were a lot bigger.²⁹⁴

²⁸⁹C.L. Patterson, *Wilson County: Diversified Farming Center of Southwest Texas*. (San Antonio, TX: C.L. Patterson, 1939), 5.

²⁹⁰Winston Southern to Luis Torres, March 26, 1998.

²⁹¹WCDR, Book 183, 251, and Book 204, 251.

²⁹²Ibid., Book 212, 519.

²⁹³Winston and JoAnn George Southern to Luis Torres, March 26, 1998; WCDR, Book 432, 17.

²⁹⁴Southern to Torres, March 26, 1998.

Mrs. Southern recalled that prior to her father's acquisition of the site, during its ownership by Judge Stevenson, rock was hauled from the ruins "to build bridges and roads ... those rocks were scattered over the city and the town here for years ..."²⁹⁵ She and Mr. Southern attributed this work to the "State" and a program that they called the PCA [possibly the WPA], which did work around the ruins.

... they built a little short wall ... just from remembering, I'd say it was somewhere like two feet high. Just kind of a border around that area, and it was built out of those rocks. But when we moved there, I remember my mom say they came with this big truck and said that they were going to get more rock ... and when they talked to my dad, and told them what they were doing, he told them 'no you're not going to take any more!' And after that, [the ruin] was pretty well left alone. So I'd say that the major deterioration was up to that point.²⁹⁶

A WPA project at the *rancho* compound remains to be documented, but work by this and other Depression-era programs at historic sites was ongoing in South Texas throughout the 1930s. For example, the Civil Works Administration (CWA), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), and Work Progress Administration (WPA), all had projects at San Antonio's Mission San José at that time.²⁹⁷

JoAnn George Southern recalled that either the state or county was responsible for digging a *caliche* pit "between the mission and the river" sometime in the 1950s to provide road base (roads in the area continued to be developed during this time as illustrated in Figure 23), apparently explaining the excavation near the ruins.

... my dad told them 'If you can find some so that you don't have to destroy or come anywhere close to those old ruins, then I'll sell you some.' Where they finally located it was between the mission and the river, and it turned out to be almost solid rock, so they had to bring a rock crusher in. I'll never forget that, because Dad went down there everyday to watch what they were doing, because he wanted to make sure that if they dug up something, [he'd know about it].²⁹⁸

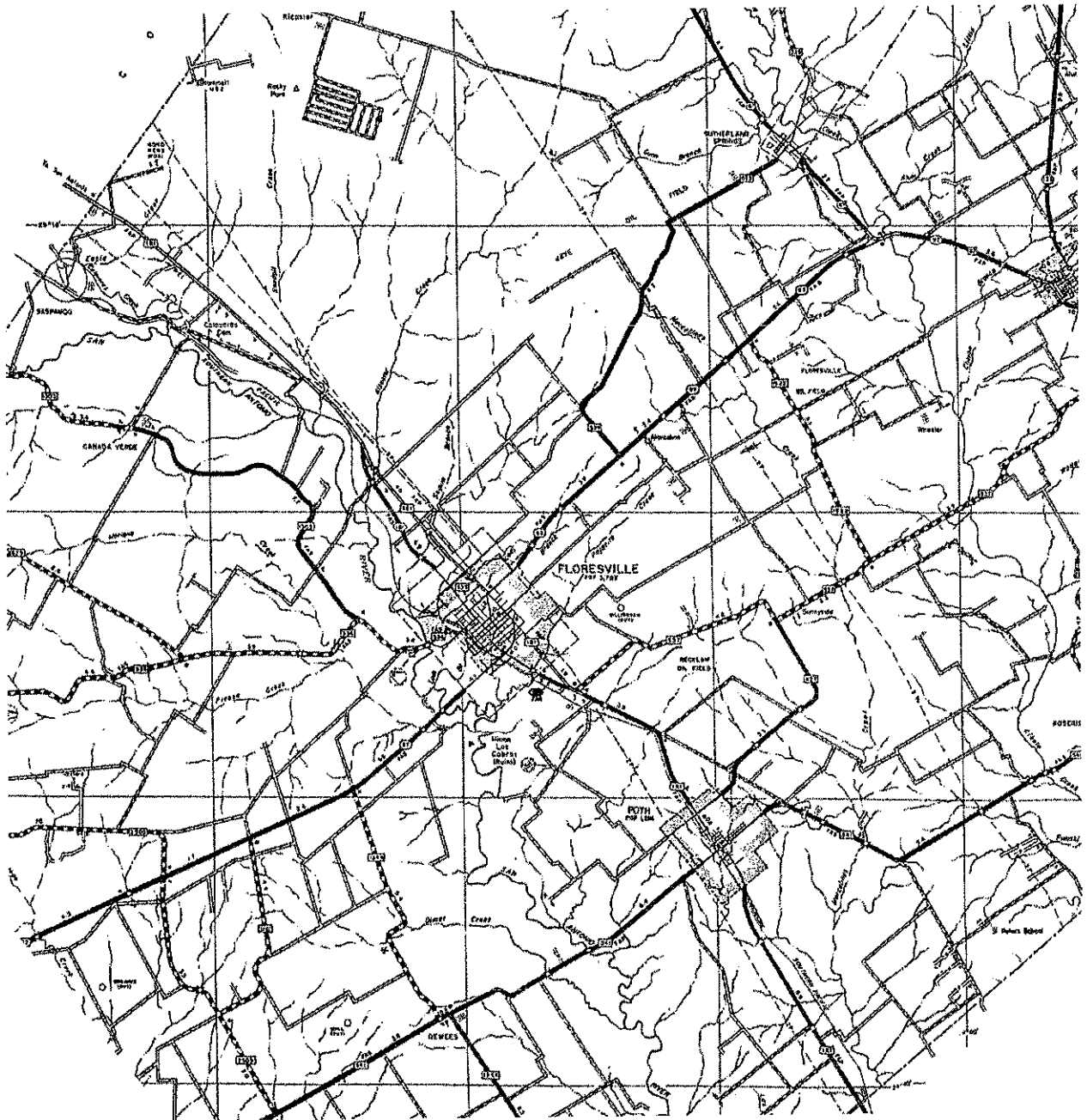
Because there were persistent rumors of a tunnel running between the ruins and the San Antonio River to provide an escape route in case of Indian attacks, Mr. George was particularly interested in what might be uncovered. "Dad wanted to see if they would get into something that would disclose that tunnel, but it never happened. We never saw anything."

²⁹⁵Ibid.

²⁹⁶Ibid.

²⁹⁷James & Juarez, Architects, *Mission San José Cultural Landscape Report*. (Santa Fe: National Park Service, 1995), 2-74.

²⁹⁸Southern to Torres, March 26, 1998.



Map Source:
State Department of Highways and Public
Transportation. *General Highway Map, Wilson
County, Texas*. Transportation Planning Division
in cooperation with the U.S. Department of
Transportation, Federal Highway
Administration, 1964.

Figure 23. *General Highway Map, Wilson County, 1964*



Photograph Source:
Photograph reprinted with permission courtesy of
Wilson County Historical Commission.

Figure 24. Mrs. Gail Shrieber at the Ruins, ca. 1965

After JoAnn George Southern and her husband purchased the property in 1970, they cleared brush from around the ruins and planted coastal Bermudagrass for cattle grazing. Winston Southern recalled that he “shaped the river banks also, and planted on the river banks and everywhere.”²⁹⁹

Rancho de las Cabras was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on March 20, 1973. Some 40 years after Texas’ centennial celebration, the nation celebrated its Bicentennial, and the State of Texas began proceedings to acquire the Rancho de las Cabras site with the intention of establishing a state park. In 1976, Egon A. Schneider conveyed 43.972 acres to the State of Texas.³⁰⁰ This land was part of a 265 acre tract acquired in 1954 and 1962 by Schneider from Troy E. Talley.³⁰¹ The 265-acre tract has been traced as early as 1911, and evidently resulted from the division of Camp Ranch after the turn-of-the-century. The state also began proceedings in 1977 to purchase 55.180 acres of the George/Southern property, which was finally acquired in 1982.³⁰²

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS (1977 - PRESENT)

(Figures 25-28)

The State of Texas owned the Rancho de las Cabras site when, in 1980, the Center for Archaeological Research of the University of Texas at San Antonio conducted the first of five seasons of archeological survey and testing on the property. Figure 25 illustrates the condition of the ruins at that time. Five reports have been published to date documenting the findings of these investigations. After completion of the archeological investigations, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) determined that it would be difficult to establish a state park on the site for some time. They had the *rancho* compound ruins covered with sand and soil to protect them from further deterioration. During TPWD administration of the site, no improvements were made.

Senate Bill 1829 creating the San Antonio Missions National Park was signed by President James E. Carter on November 10, 1978, and the National Park Service assumed full management responsibilities of the missions in 1983. In 1991, PL 101-628 was passed by Congress authorizing the expansion of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park to include other mission-related features including Rancho de las Cabras. Negotiations were then begun to transfer 99.152 acres from the State of Texas to the National Park Service. This transaction was completed in July 1995. Today, the Rancho de las Cabras site is administered by the National Park Service as part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

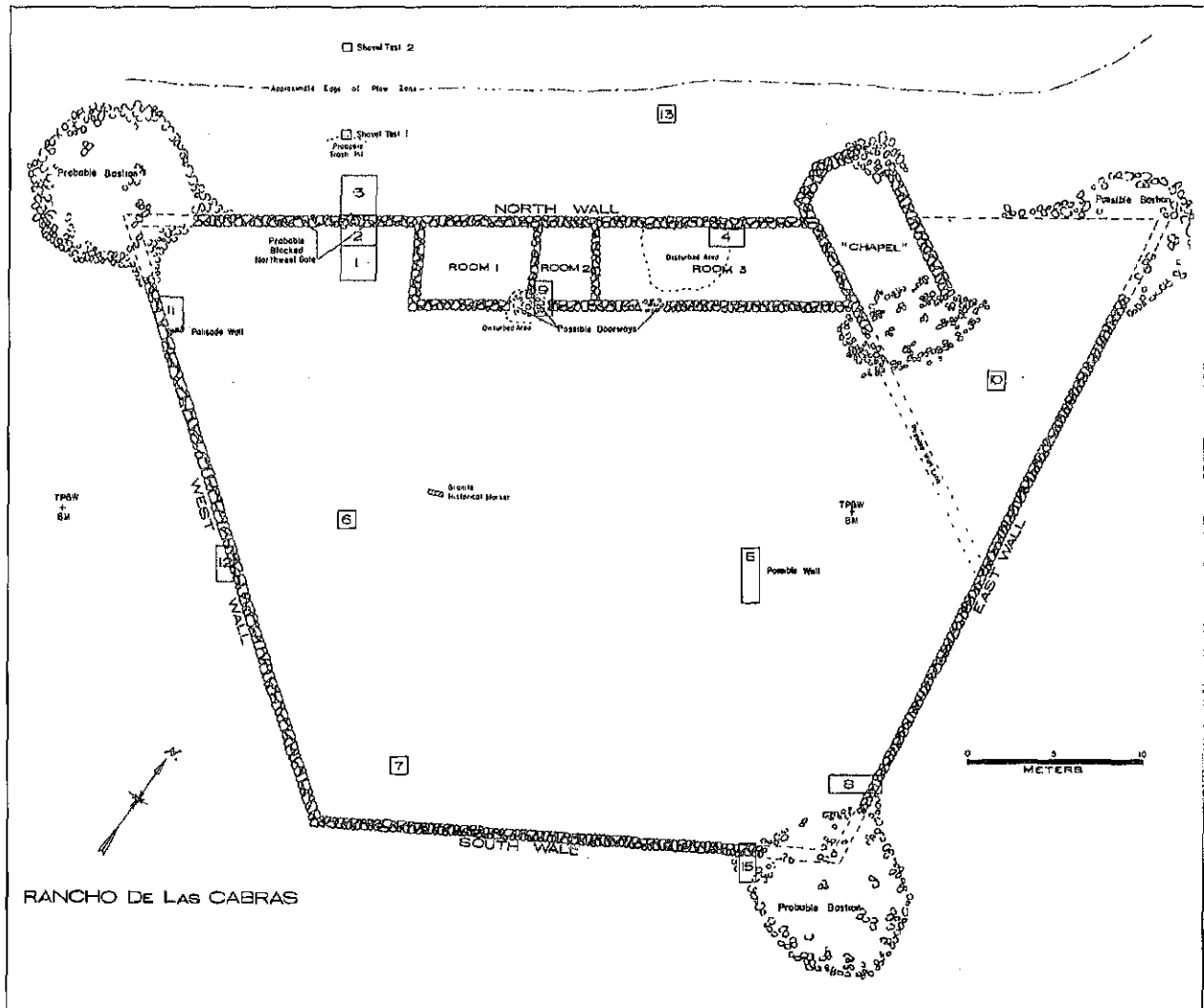
²⁹⁹Ibid.

³⁰⁰WCDR, Book 489, 916.

³⁰¹Ibid., Book 284, 426; and Book 353, 338.

³⁰²Cause No. 9474, 218th Judicial District Court, Wilson County.

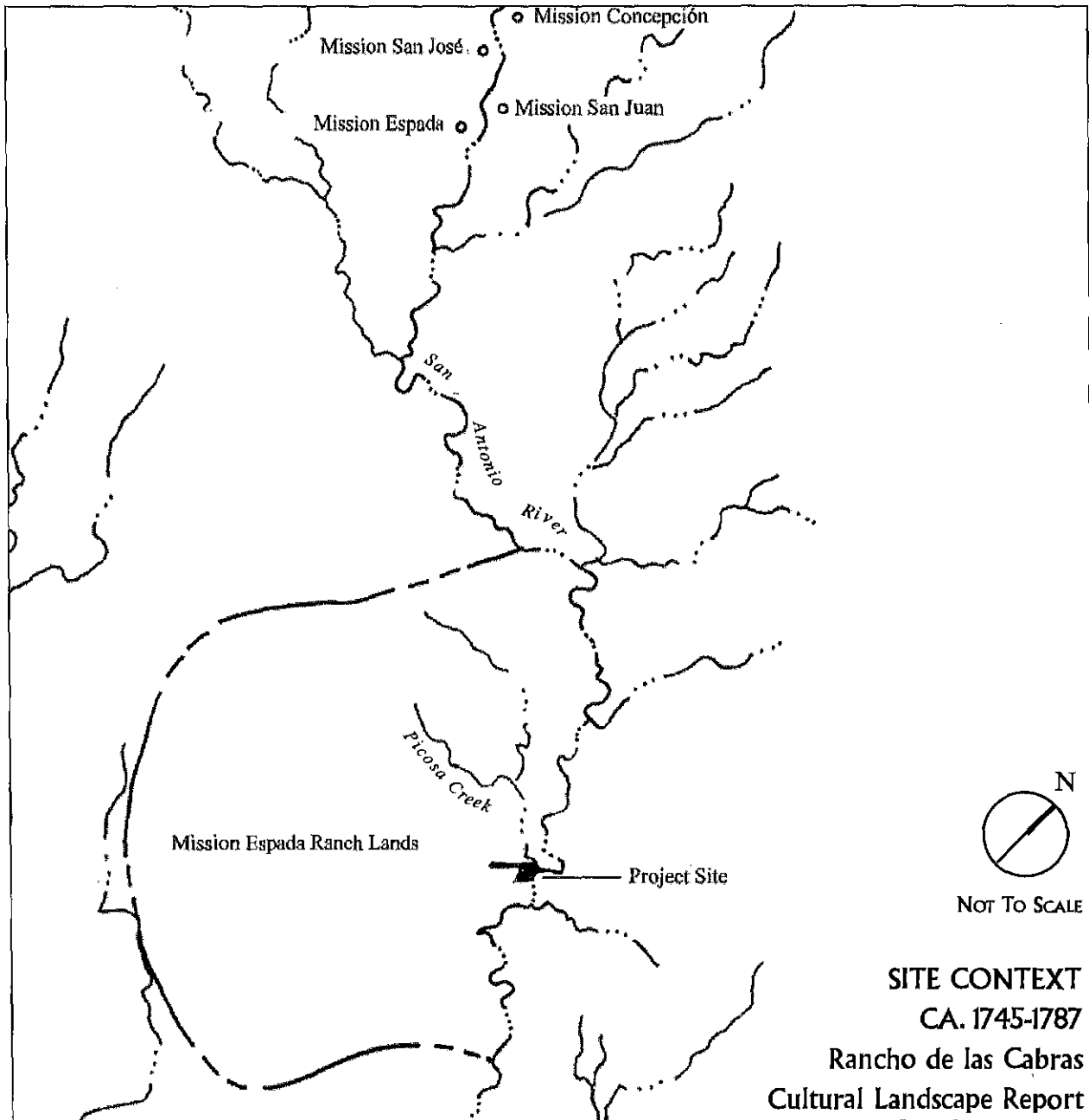
In early 1996, a series of public meetings was held with government officials and interested residents to discuss an amendment to the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park General Management Plan (GMP) to deal with the future treatment of the Rancho de las Cabras site. A draft of this document was issued in August 1998 for public comment and discussion at public meetings in September 1998. Subsequent to these meetings, a final plan will be prepared for the development of Rancho de las Cabras as an interpreted historic site. In 1997, the National Park Service also contracted for the preparation of this Cultural Landscape Report to be completed in fall 1998. While it is hoped that further investigation into documentary resources and sub-surface remains on the Rancho de las Cabras property will continue to yield additional information about this important site, the GMP amendment and CLR provide a detailed summary of our current understanding of its cultural history and resources that can be utilized to protect them and convey their significance to the public.



Map Source:

Map reprinted with permission from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, Wilson County, Texas*, prepared by James E. Ivey and Anne A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 104, 1981), figure 2.

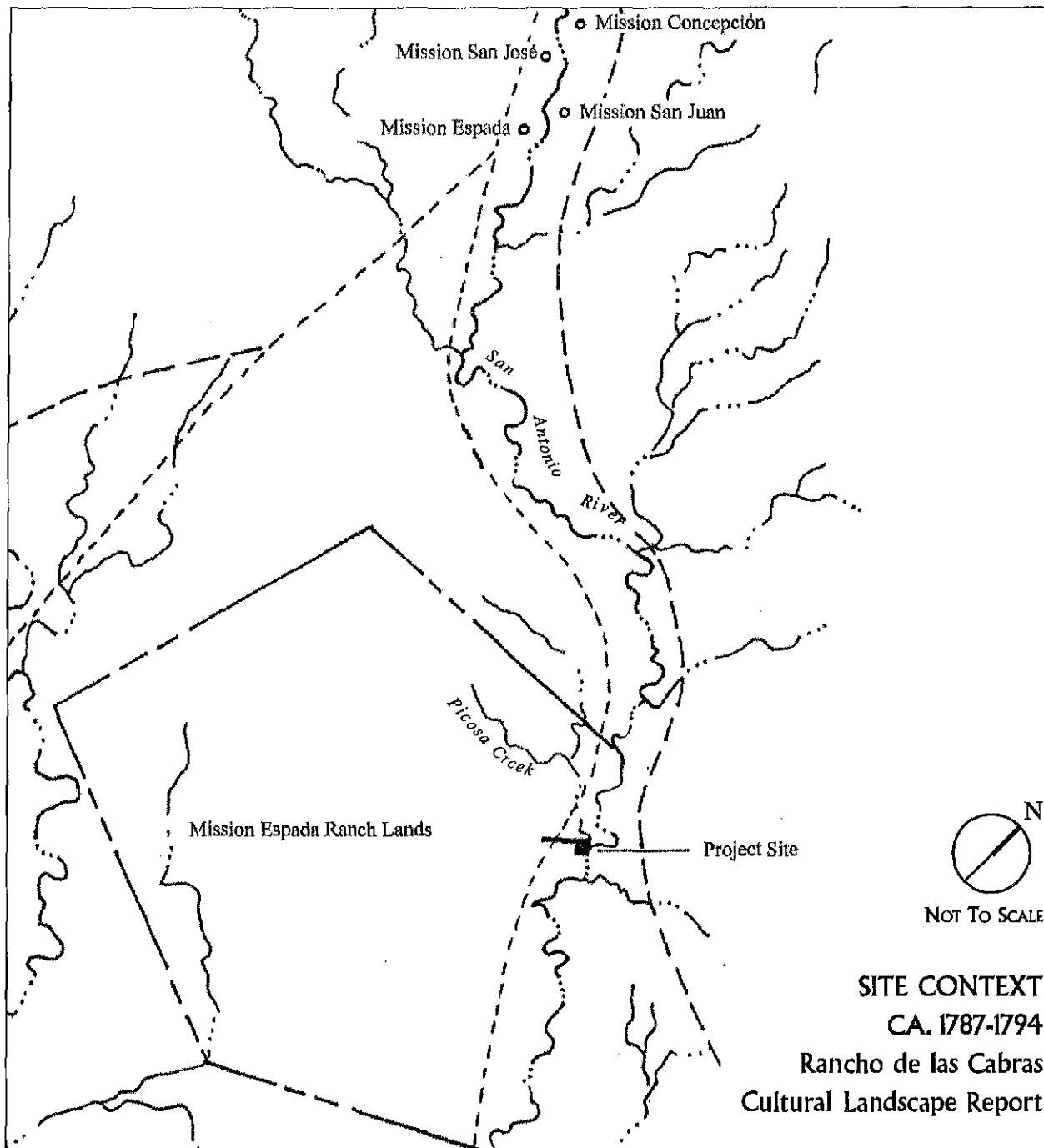
Figure 25. Map of the Compound (1983)



Map Sources:

U.S. Department of the Interior (U.S.D.I.)
Geological Survey. *San Antonio, Texas*.
1:100,000-scale topographic map, 1985; and JYJ
Architects and Jake Ivey, "Ca. 1760 River
Valley with the Villa de Béxar, Valero and San
Jose, and Ejidos," in *San Antonio Missions
Cultural Landscape Report—San José*, 1995,
figure 3.

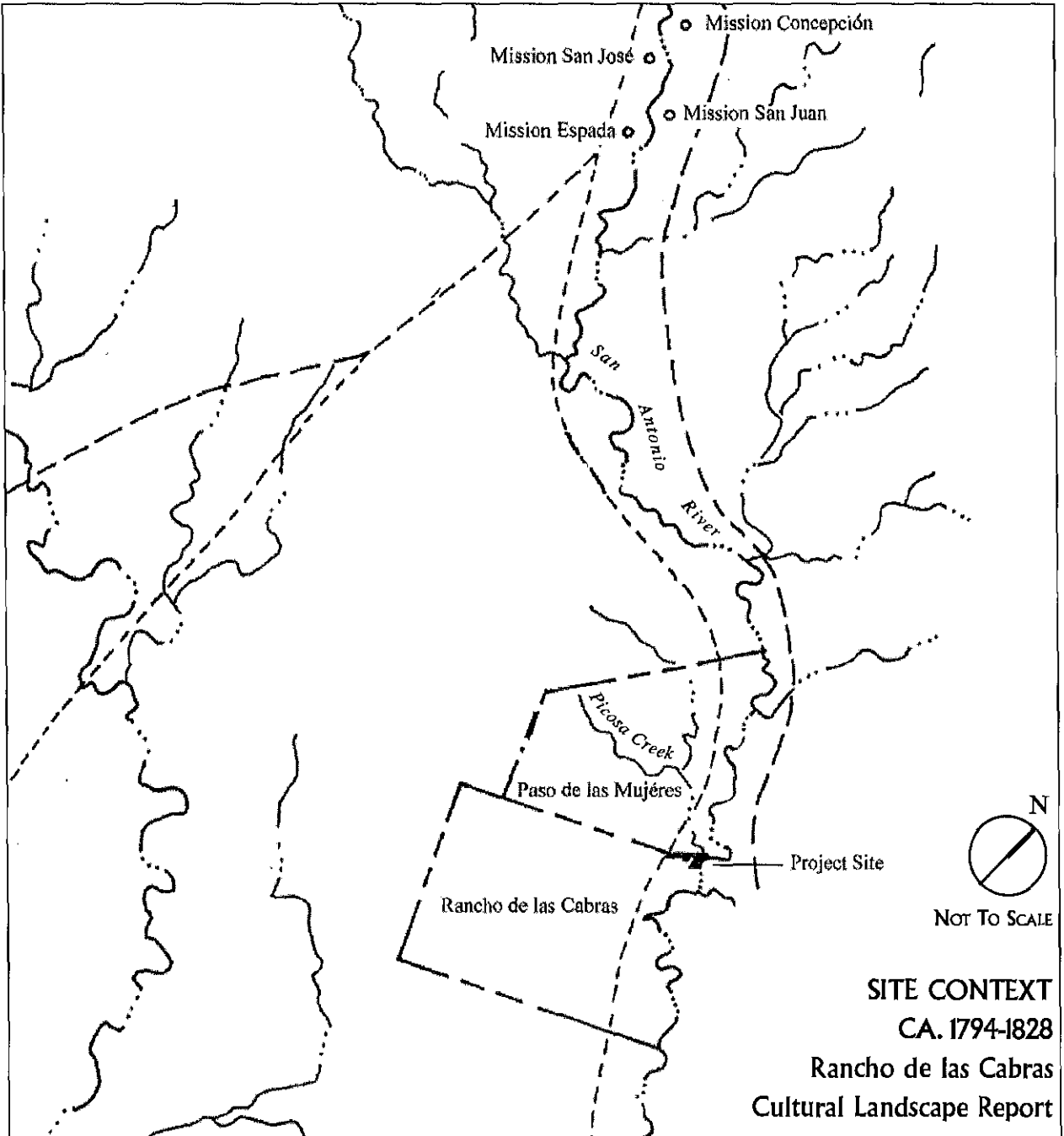
Figure 26a. Chronology of Contextual Landscape Development, ca. 1745 - 1787



Map Sources:

U.S.D.I. Geological Survey. *San Antonio, Texas*.
1:100,000-scale topographic map, 1985; and
illustration, p. 324, in Jack Jackson, *Los*
Mesteños, Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-
1821, (College Station, TX: Texas A&M
University Press, 1986).

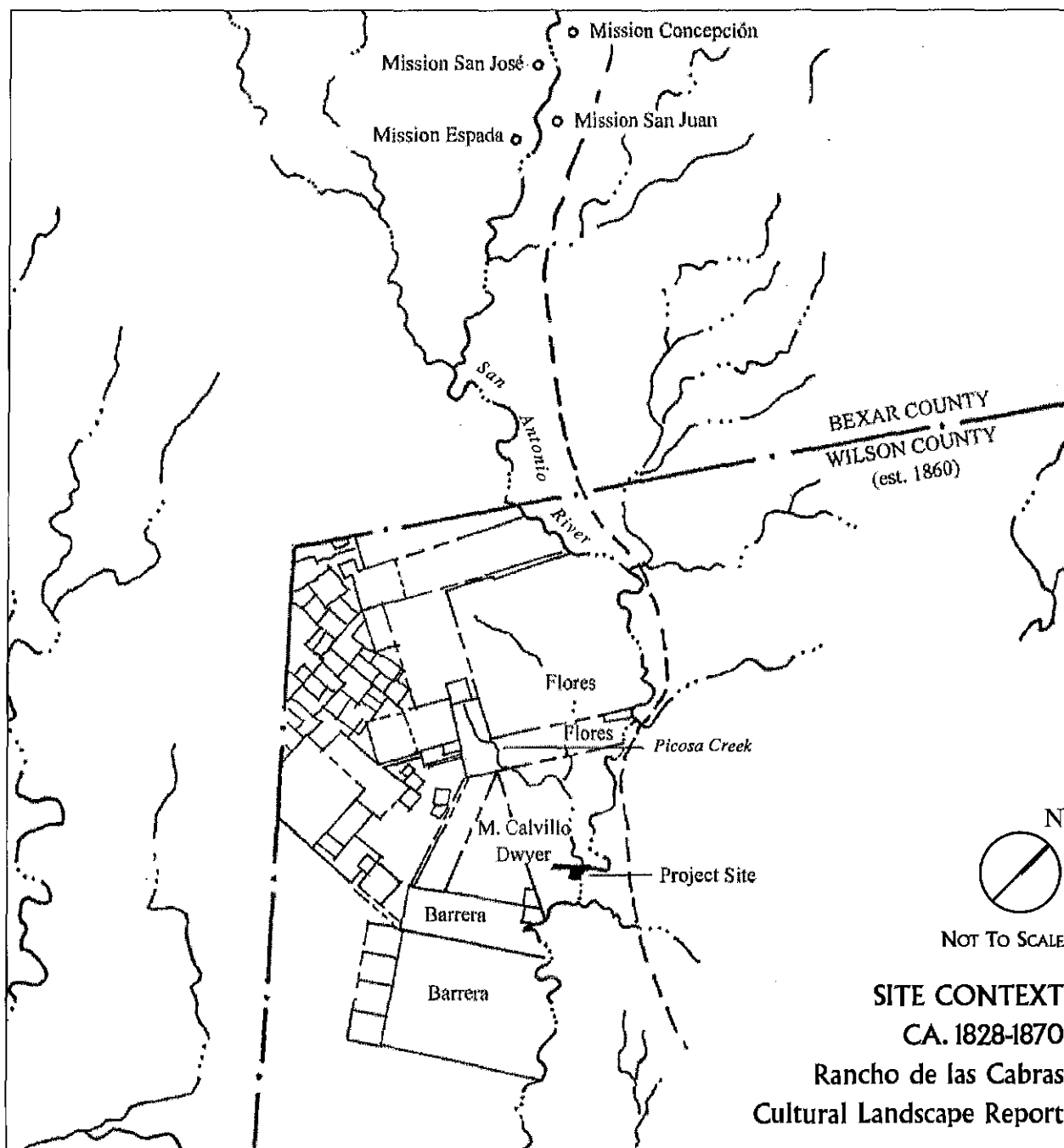
Figure 26b. Chronology of Contextual Landscape Development, ca. 1787 - 1794



Map Sources:

U.S.D.I. Geological Survey. *San Antonio, Texas*. 1:100,000-scale topographic map, 1985; and illustration, p. 39, in Jack Jackson, *Los Mesteños, Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-1821*, (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1986).

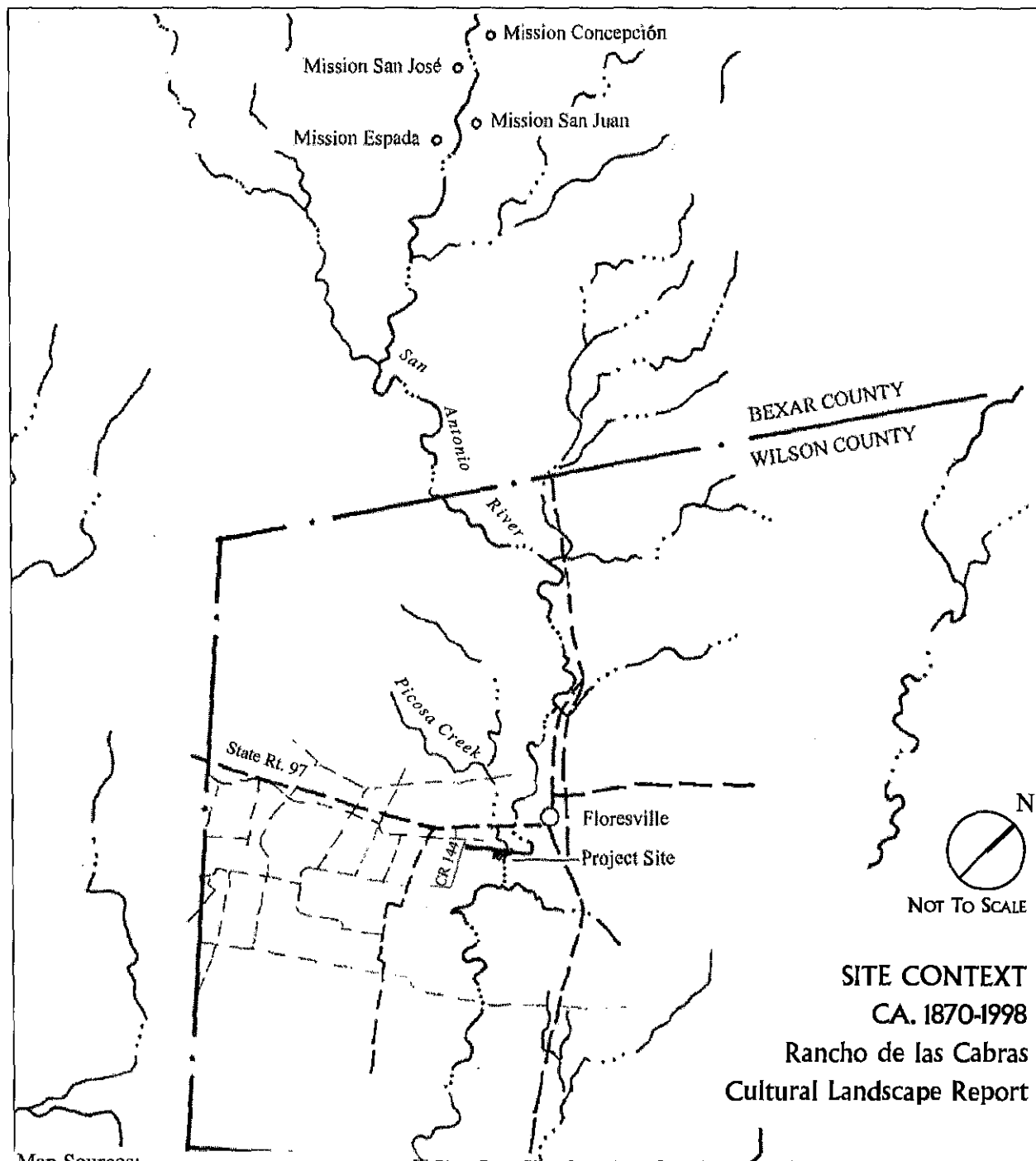
Figure 26c. Chronology of Contextual Landscape Development, ca. 1794 - 1828



Map Sources:

U.S.D.I. Geological Survey. *San Antonio, Texas*. 1:100,000-scale topographic map, 1985; and illustration, p. 39, in Jack Jackson, *Los Mesteños, Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-1821*, (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1986).

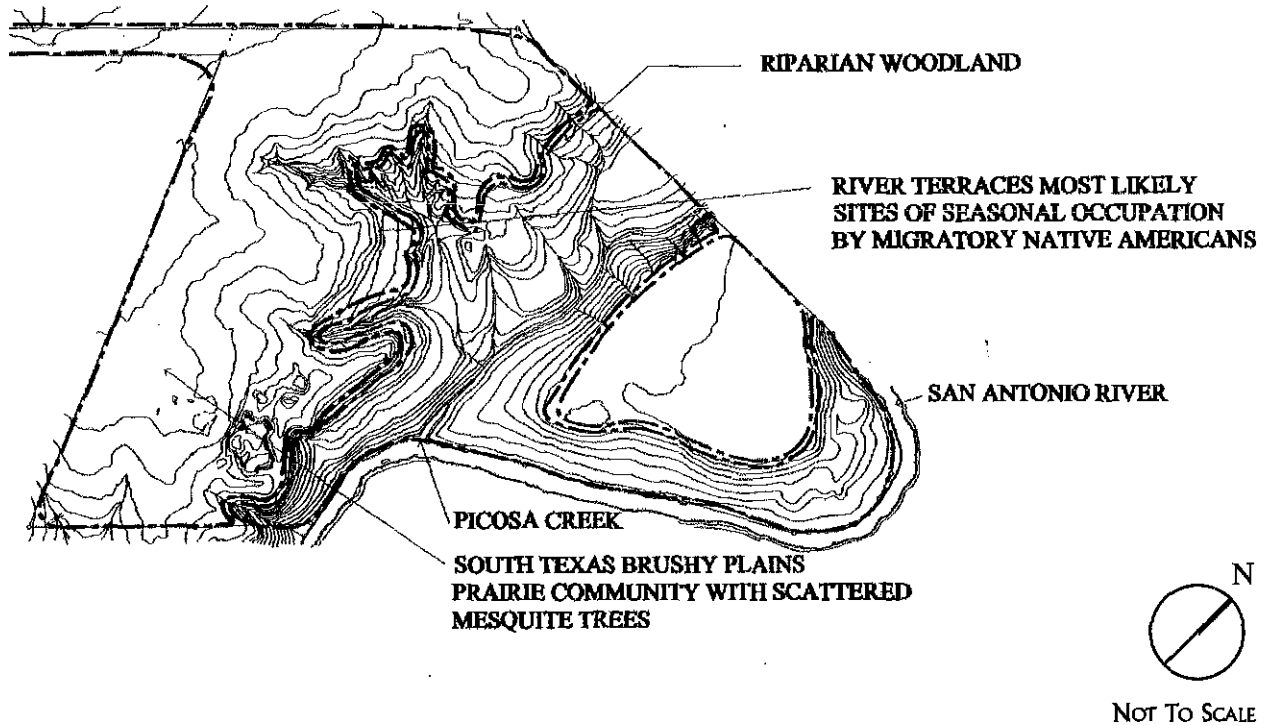
Figure 26d. Chronology of Contextual Landscape Development, ca. 1828 - 1870



Map Sources:

U.S.D.I. Geological Survey. *San Antonio, Texas*.
1:100,000-scale topographic map, 1985; W.C.
Walsh, Commissioner of the General Land
Office, "Map of Wilson County," copyright
1879; and local plat map adapted from 1921
Wilson County Land Office Map.

Figure 26e. Chronology of Contextual Landscape Development, ca. 1870 - 1998

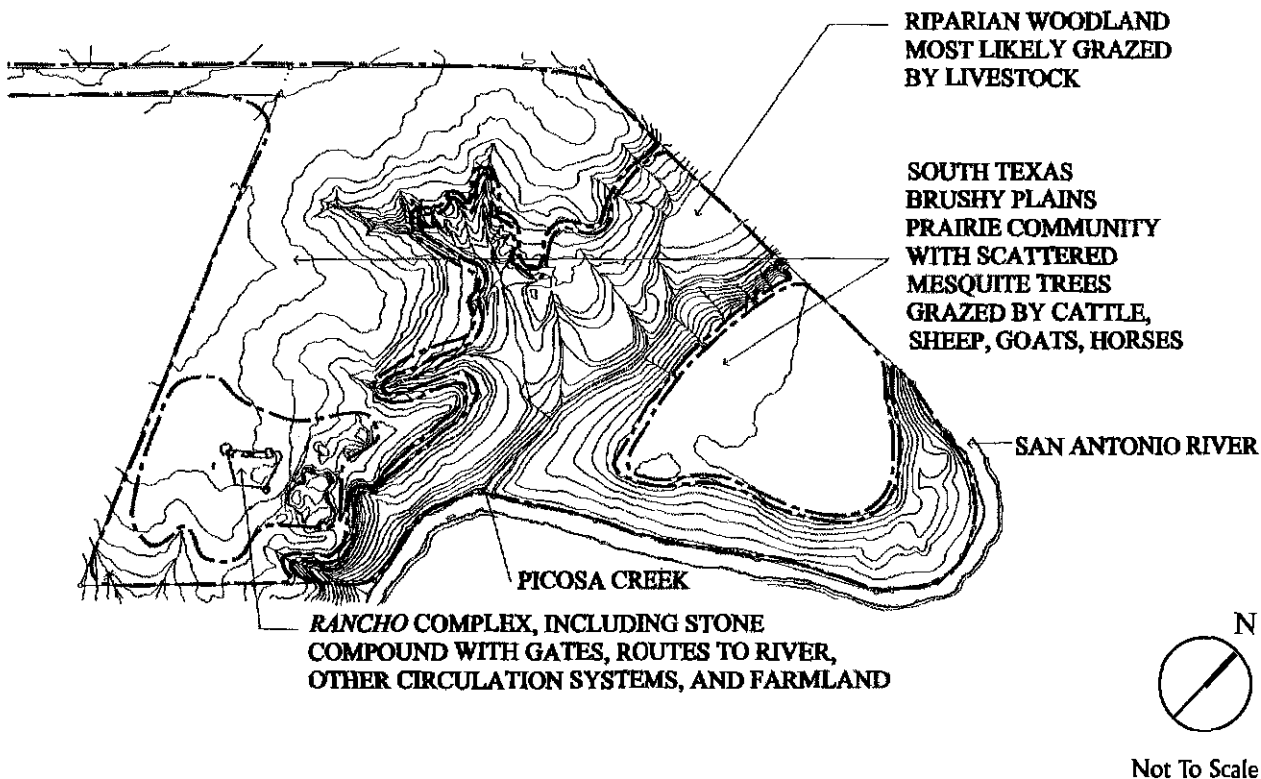


Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; OCULUS, Chapter Two, "The History of Rancho de las Cabras," in *Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report*, 1998; Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Reports, Nos. 104, 121, 123, 144, and 286, summarizing archeological survey and testing at Rancho de las Cabras between 1980 and 1998; Robin W. Doughty, *Wildlife and Man in Texas, Environmental Change and Conservation*, College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1983; and Jack M. Inglis, *A History of Vegetation on the Rio Grande Plain*, Austin, TX: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Bulletin No. 45, 1964.

**PRE-EUROPEAN CONTACT TO CA. 1718
Landscape Chronology Map
Rancho de las Cabras
Cultural Landscape Report**

Figure 27a. Chronology of Site Development, pre-European Contact to ca. 1718

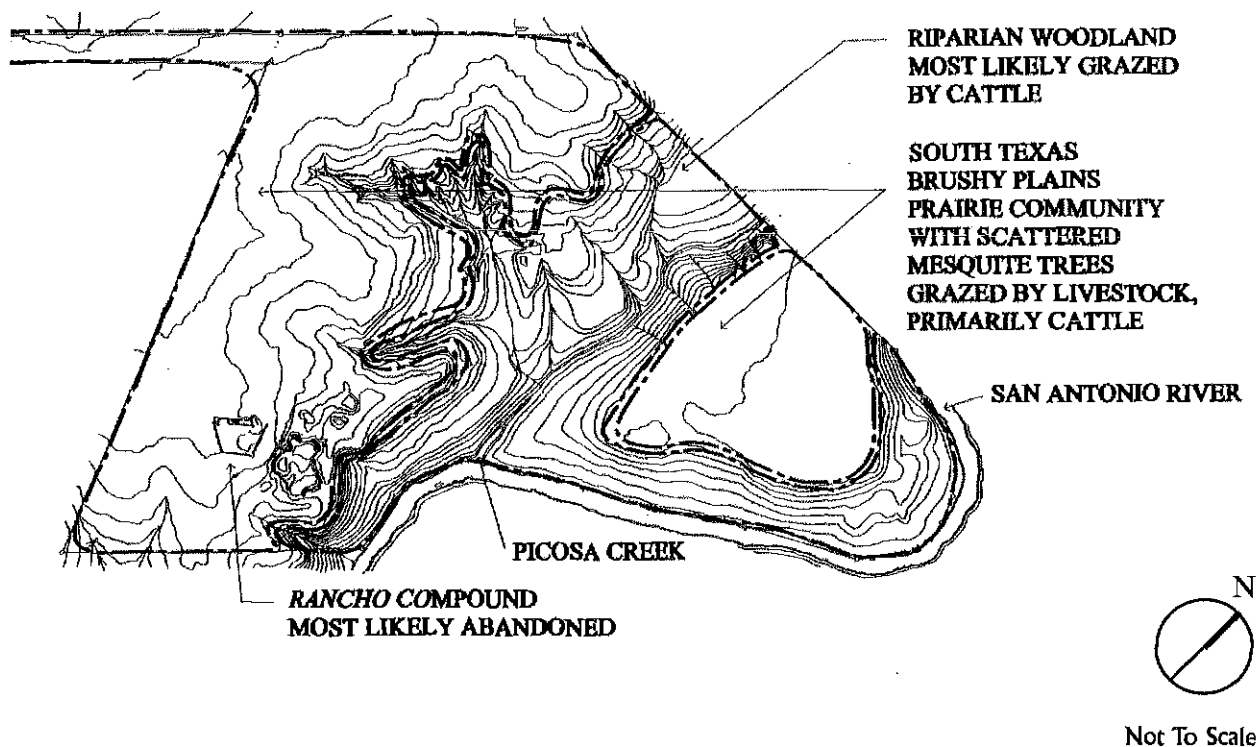


Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; OCULUS, Chapter Two, "The History of Rancho de las Cabras," in *Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report*, 1998; Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Reports, Nos. 104, 121, 123, 144, and 286, summarizing archeological survey and testing at Rancho de las Cabras between 1980 and 1998; Robin W. Doughty, *Wildlife and Man in Texas, Environmental Change and Conservation*, College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1983; and Jack M. Inglis, *A History of Vegetation on the Rio Grande Plain*, Austin, TX: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Bulletin No. 45, 1964.

**MISSION PERIOD CA. 1718-1794
Landscape Chronology Map
Rancho de las Cabras
Cultural Landscape Report**

Figure 27b. Chronology of Site Development, ca. 1718 - 1794

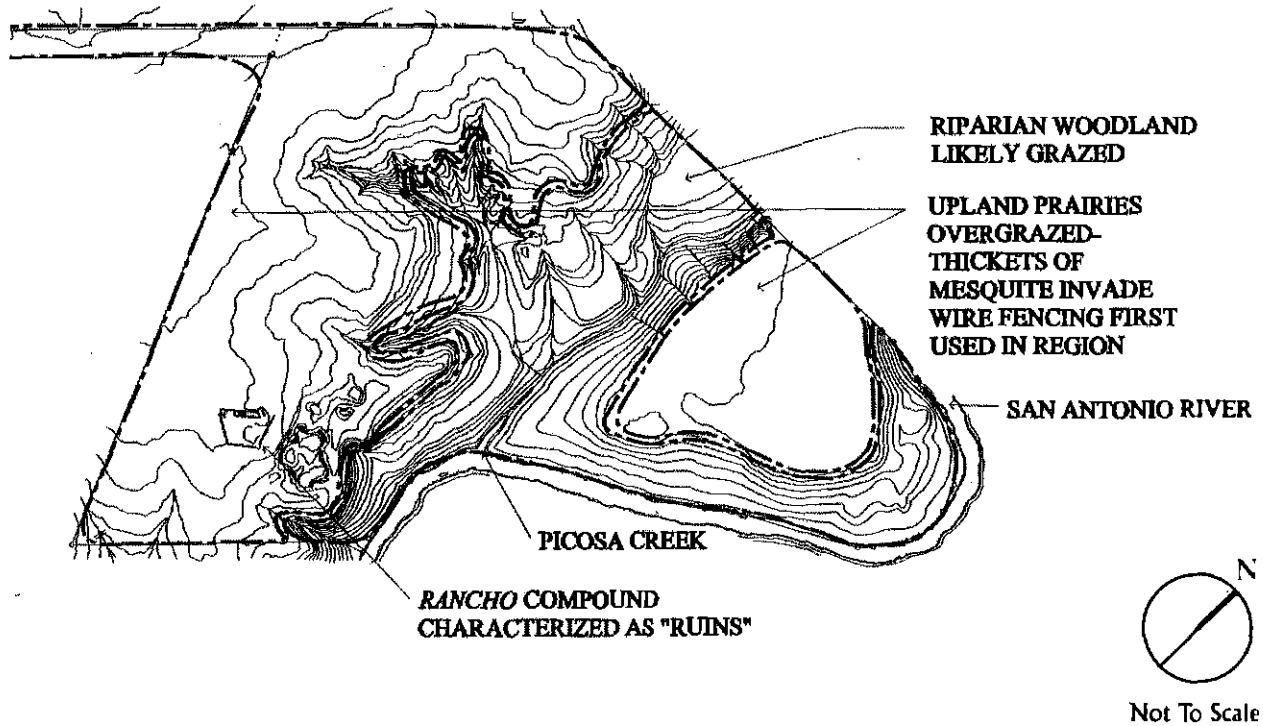


Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; OCULUS, Chapter Two, "The History of Rancho de las Cabras," in *Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report*, 1998; Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Reports, Nos. 104, 121, 123, 144, and 286, summarizing archeological survey and testing at Rancho de las Cabras between 1980 and 1998; Robin W. Doughty, *Wildlife and Man in Texas, Environmental Change and Conservation*, College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1983; and Jack M. Inglis, *A History of Vegetation on the Rio Grande Plain*, Austin, TX: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Bulletin No. 45, 1964.

**INITIAL DISINTEGRATION
OF THE RANCH PERIOD
CA. 1794-1852
Landscape Chronology Map
Rancho de las Cabras
Cultural Landscape Report**

Figure 27c. Chronology of Site Development, ca. 1794 - 1852



Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; OCULUS, Chapter Two, "The History of Rancho de las Cabras," in *Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report*, 1998; Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Reports, Nos. 104, 121, 123, 144, and 286, summarizing archeological survey and testing at Rancho de las Cabras between 1980 and 1998; Robin W. Doughty, *Wildlife and Man in Texas, Environmental Change and Conservation*, College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1983; and Jack M. Inglis, *A History of Vegetation on the Rio Grande Plain*, Austin, TX: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Bulletin No. 45, 1964.

UNITED STATES CATTLE RANCHING PERIOD

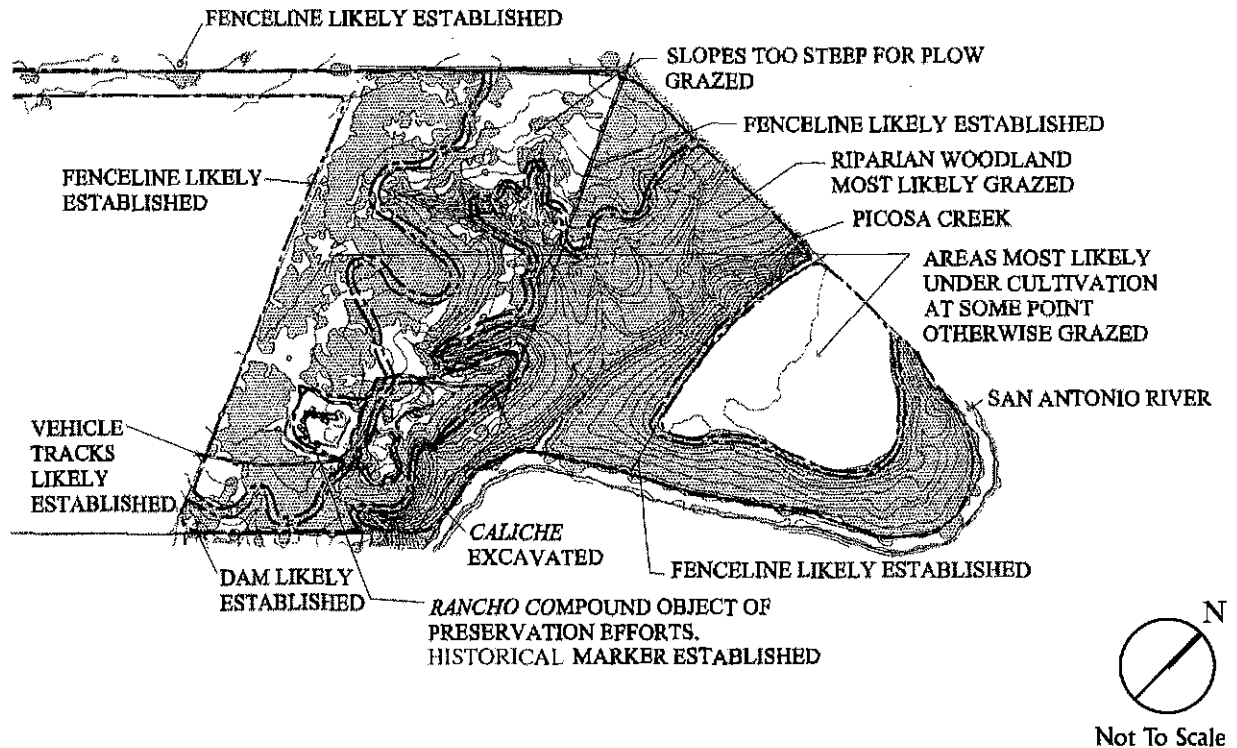
CA. 1852-1904

Landscape Chronology Map

Rancho de las Cabras

Cultural Landscape Report

Figure 27d. Chronology of Site Development, ca. 1852 - 1904

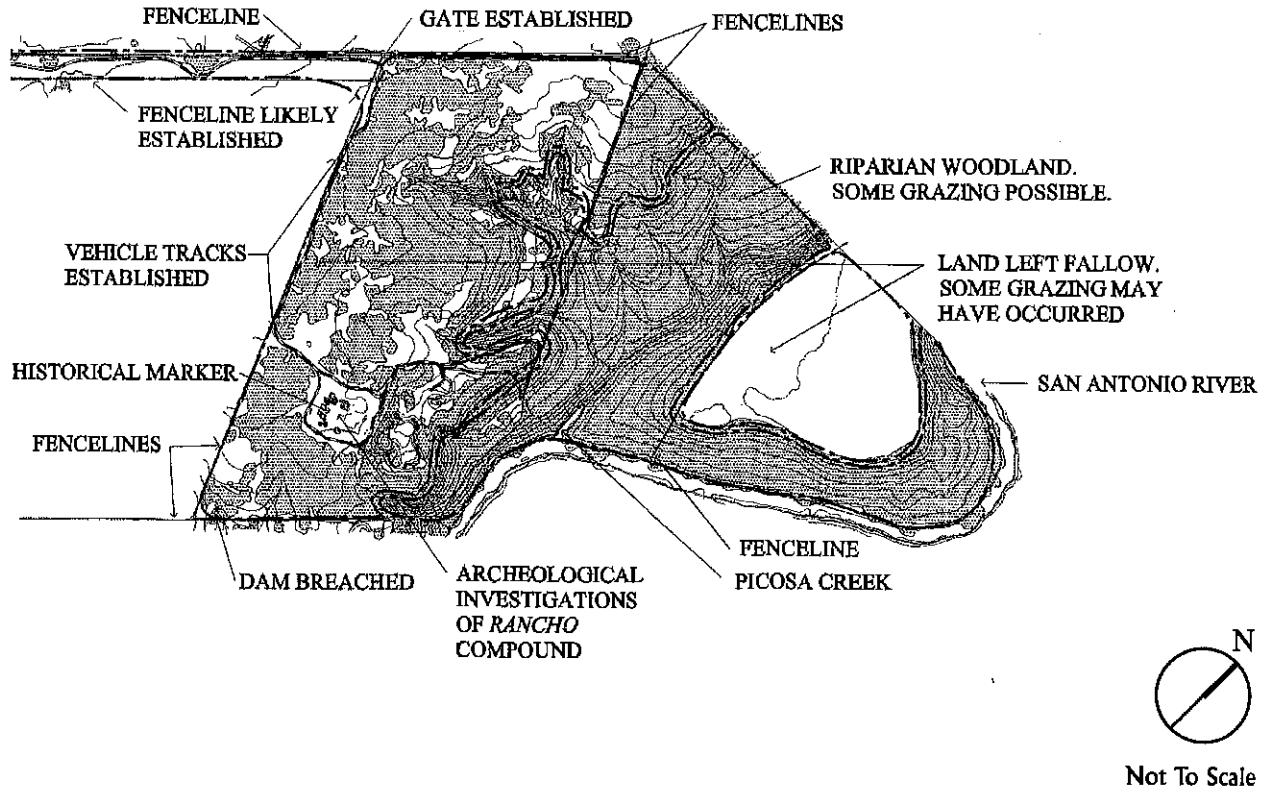


Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; 1931 aerial photograph prepared by Tobin Surveys, Inc.; U.S.D.I., Geological Survey, *Dewees Quadrangle, Texas—Wilson Co. 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)*, 1961; OCULUS, Chapter Two, "The History of Rancho de las Cabras," and Appendix B, "Oral History Information," in *Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report*, 1998; Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Reports, Nos. 104, 121, 123, 144, and 286, summarizing archeological survey and testing at Rancho de las Cabras between 1980 and 1998; Robin W. Doughty, *Wildlife and Man in Texas, Environmental Change and Conservation*, College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1983; and Jack M. Inglis, *A History of Vegetation on the Rio Grande Plain*, Austin, TX: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Bulletin No. 45, 1964.

THE TRANSITION TO FARMING AND PRESERVATION CA. 1904-1977
Landscape Chronology Map
Rancho de las Cabras
Cultural Landscape Report

Figure 27e. Chronology of Site Development, ca. 1904 - 1977

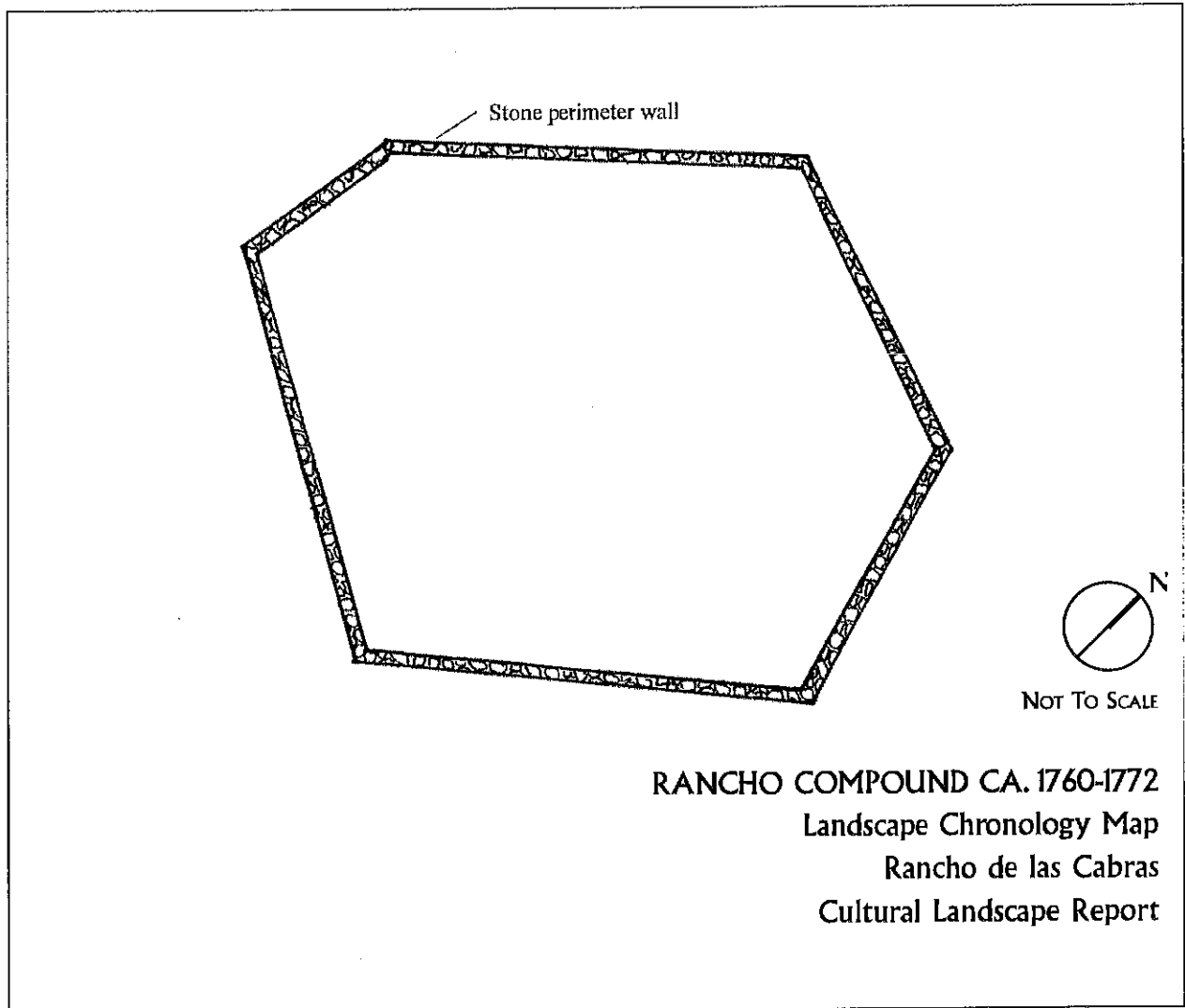


Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; OCULUS, Chapter Two, "The History of Rancho de las Cabras," in *Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report*, 1998; Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Reports, Nos. 104, 121, 123, 144, and 286, summarizing archeological survey and testing at Rancho de las Cabras between 1980 and 1998; Robin W. Doughty, *Wildlife and Man in Texas, Environmental Change and Conservation*, College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1983; and Jack M. Inglis, *A History of Vegetation on the Rio Grande Plain*, Austin, TX: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Bulletin No. 45, 1964.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP PERIOD CA. 1977-1998
Landscape Chronology Map
Rancho de las Cabras
Cultural Landscape Report

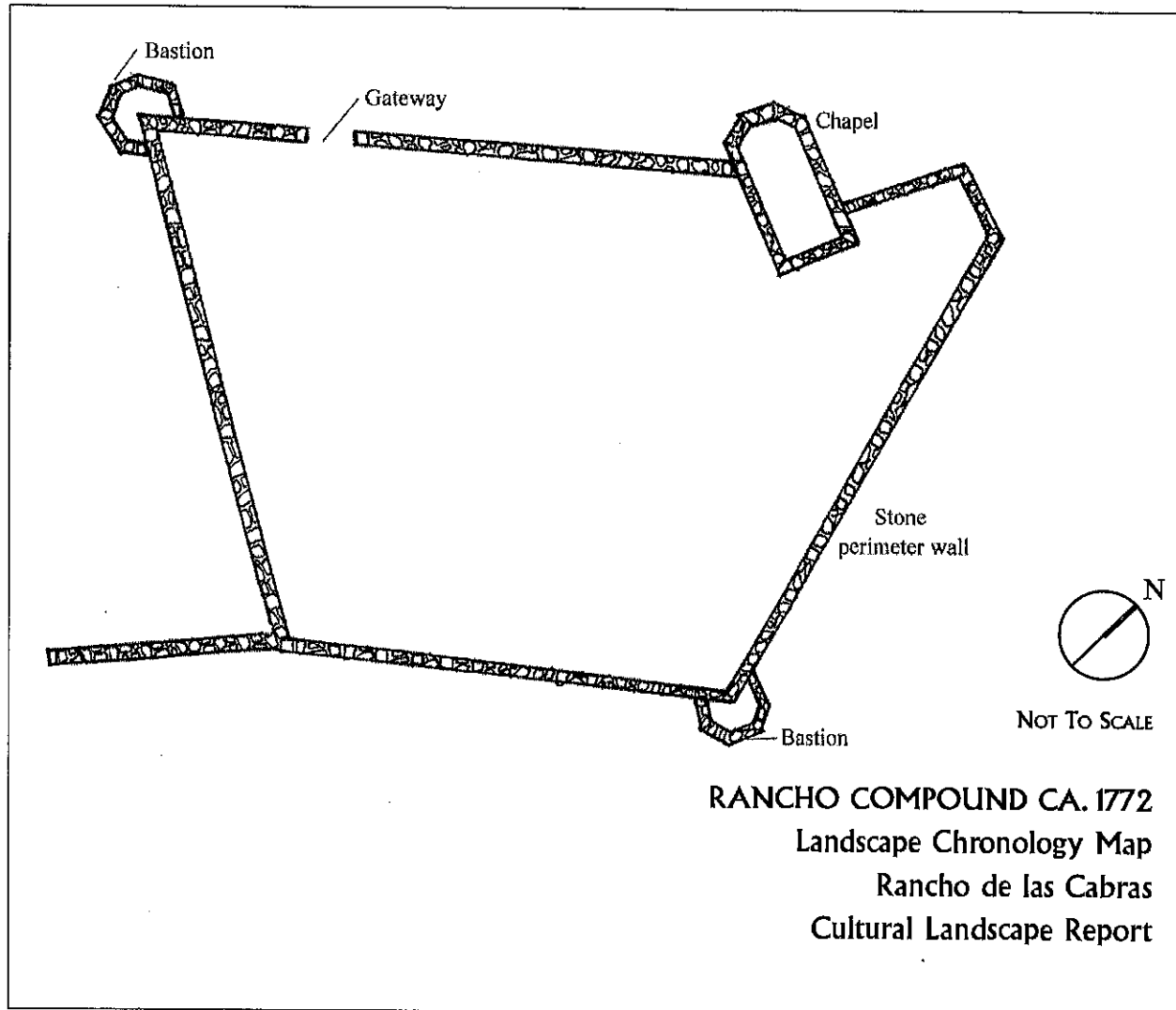
Figure 27f. Chronology of Site Development, ca. 1977 - 1998



Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; and Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41 WN 30, Wilson County, Texas, Fifth Season*, prepared by Anna J. Taylor and Anne A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 144, 1985), figure 13.

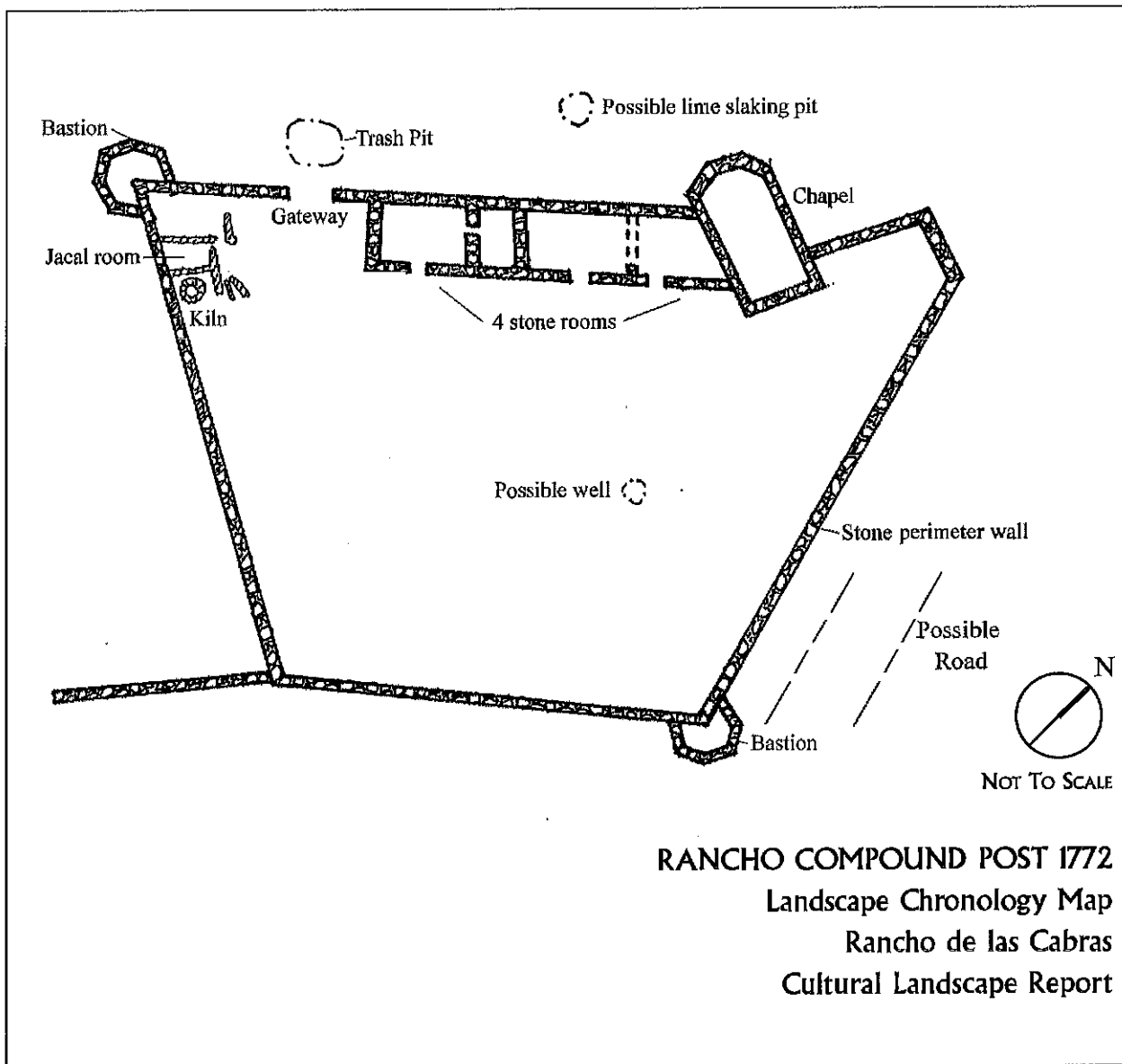
Figure 28a. Chronology of Rancho Compound Development, ca. 1760 - 1772



Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; and Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41 WN 30, Wilson County, Texas, Fifth Season*, prepared by Anna J. Taylor and Anne A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 144, 1985), figure 16.

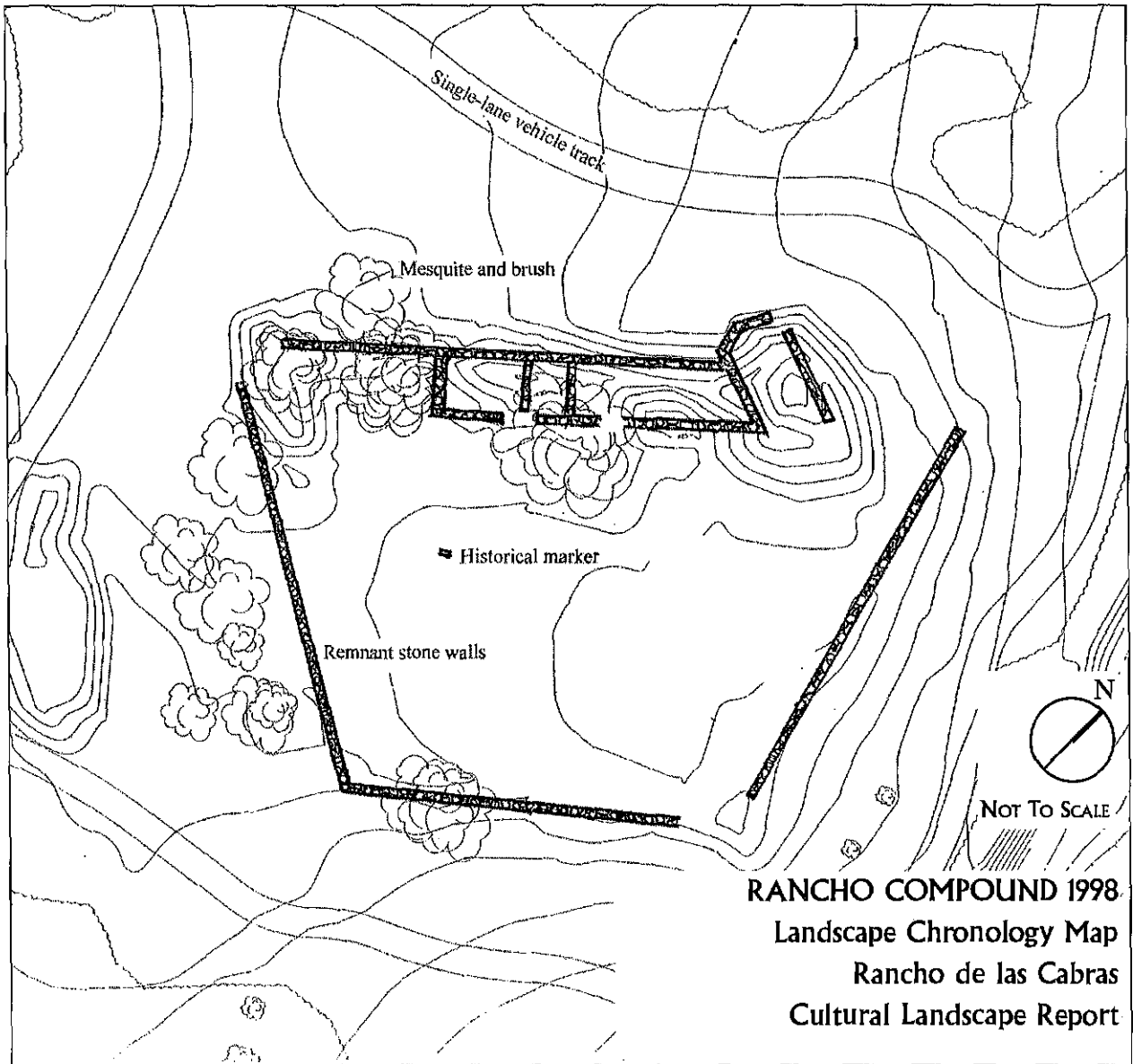
Figure 28b. Chronology of Rancho Compound Development, ca. 1772



Map Sources:

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; and Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 41 WN 30, Wilson County, Texas, Fifth Season*, prepared by Anna J. Taylor and Anne A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 144, 1985), figure 17.

Figure 28c. Chronology of Rancho Compound Development, post 1772



Map Sources

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, electronic file of topographic survey of Rancho de las Cabras property; Bain Medina Bain, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors, San Antonio, TX; and Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio in *Archaeological Survey and Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, Wilson County, Texas*, prepared by James E. Ivey and Anne A. Fox, (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 104, 1981), figure 2.

Figure 28d. Chronology of Rancho Compound Development, 1998



3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

This chapter provides written description and graphic illustration of the landscape observed at Rancho de las Cabras by the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) project team during field investigations undertaken in fall 1997 and winter 1998. A set of maps—Figure 29—located throughout the chapter indicates the character of the site at the time. The features described herewith are labeled on the maps, and many are also found in the existing conditions photographs that accompany the text. Field investigations were used by OCULUS to verify and update the base mapping provided to the team by the National Park Service (NPS), and to photographically document existing conditions. OCULUS supplemented their empirical understanding of the site by reviewing park planning documents, the *Soil Survey of Wilson County*, and USGS mapping. The resultant existing conditions documentation information is presented below in three sections: 1) an overview of the site's environmental context setting; 2) a general description of the site as a whole; and 3) a more detailed description of individual site features, organized according to the landscape characteristics identified in National Register Bulletin 30: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT AND SETTING

Located in Wilson County, Texas, three miles southwest of the county seat of Floresville and twenty-three miles southeast of the City of San Antonio, Rancho de las Cabras is a 99.2-acre site that contains the archeological remains of a Spanish colonial era *rancho* compound and a small portion of its associated rangeland that once supported Mission Espada. Since 1995, the property has been administered by NPS, and included within San Antonio Missions National Historical Park as its most distant unit. Between 1982 and 1995, Rancho de las Cabras was administered by the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Though grazing has been excluded from the site since it was acquired by the state, the property was used primarily for the grazing of livestock and other agricultural pursuits for much of the previous two hundred year period. Prehistoric occupation of the *rancho* landscape appears to have pre-dated Spanish colonial settlement by perhaps thousands of years.

The Rancho de las Cabras property is located within the San Antonio River valley of the Gulf Coastal Plains physiographic province. This area was once part of the ocean floor. Rock underlying Wilson County soils are all of sedimentary origin and consist of alternating sand, silt, and clay strata. Rancho de las Cabras is generally located within the Venus-Aransas-Loire

soil association that edges the San Antonio River. These soils vary in their permeability characteristics; many are clayey, or sit above clayey lower layers, and are calcareous. These soils have formed from river alluvium.

The primary land use within Wilson County is agriculture, including crop production and grazing. The main crops grown in the county are hay and peanuts. Rainfall in the region averages 28.5 inches per year.¹ Irrigation water is available from deep wells, and from the San Antonio River and small creeks. Hundreds of years of agriculture and grazing have had a marked effect on county soils. As noted in the Wilson County soil survey,

The influence of man as a soil-forming factor should not be overlooked. At first, he burned the vegetation and planted his crops. In recent years he fenced the range, stocked it, and permitted it to be overgrazed. Then he plowed the land and planted crops. Because of poorly timed tillage and his use of heavy machinery, he compacted the soil and in some areas reduced aeration and infiltration of water. By harvesting the crops, exposing the bare soil to the elements, and allowing runoff and soil blowing, he reduced the amount of organic matter and the proportion of silt and clay particles in the plow layer. In some areas he changed the moisture regime by irrigating. These activities have had a marked effect on the soils of the county.²

Native plant communities have also been significantly altered by cultural practices. The site is located in the South Texas Brushy Plains vegetation region that is naturally dominated by coarse bunch grasses, short grasses, and prickly pear and other thorny xerophytes such as mesquite, huisache, catclaw, and yucca. The relative concentration of mesquite within upland communities has increased dramatically since the early nineteenth century. When land is left fallow after being used for agriculture, volunteer successional vegetative communities often reflect past land use and do not return to the original flora.

Hardwood trees, including such species as post and live oak, hickory, pecan, cottonwood, and hackberry, also occur in groves throughout the region. These species are more prevalent in the lowlands associated with stream corridors, which are also generally more wooded due to available water.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Rancho de las Cabras property is composed of two contiguous parcels, oriented northwest to southeast, that lie between County Route (CR) 144 and the San Antonio River. The northwestern parcel, 55.18 acres in size, includes a long, linear portion, hereinafter referred to as the panhandle, that is 100 feet in width and 3/4-mile long, and a rectangular block. Located

¹U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, *Wilson County Soil Survey*, 1977, 1.

²Ibid.

on the upland plateau west of Picoso Creek, the parcel provides access to the site and the *rancho* compound ruins from CR 144 (Photo D1) approximately one mile south of its intersection with State Highway 97, via an unimproved, single-lane vehicle track. Associated with the vehicle track are two metal farm gates that limit visitor access at either end of the panhandle, informational signage, and fencing along the property boundaries. The *rancho* compound ruins are located in the southernmost part of the rectangular block and occupy a high point of the plateau that commands a 360 degree view of the surrounding landscape when there is no woody vegetation to intervene. The long views afforded from this high point most likely contributed to its selection as the site of the *rancho* compound; they most likely would have enhanced defense and facilitated livestock management.

The site's second parcel is 43.972 acres in size. It includes escarpments and floodplains associated with Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River, and an upland plateau, located north of the confluence of these two waterways, that is characterized by improved pasture and edged by perimeter fencing to the west.

The landform associated with the Rancho de las Cabras property is dominated by the two upland plateaus noted above. Elevations over the property range from approximately 430 feet at County Route 144 to 330 feet along the San Antonio River and Picoso Creek. The character of the landscape changes dramatically over the course of the property's uplands, sloping river terraces and escarpments, deeply etched drainageways and arroyos, and water course floodplains. Landform, hydrology, soil conditions, and vegetation all reflect these changes. The upland areas are characterized by gently sloping terrain and scrubby vegetation, such as mesquite and bunch grasses. Between the upland areas and stream corridors are steeply-sloped terraces that become more wooded along their lower slopes. Drainageways that carry overland flow from rainstorms etch these escarpments. The head and side walls of many of the drainageways and arroyos are currently being eroded by the overland flow of stormwater. The bottomlands that edge the river and creek are gently sloped floodplains heavily vegetated with lowland riparian species of hardwood trees and understory grasses.

Evidence of past and recent agricultural use of the landscape exists on the property in the form of barbed wire and electric fencing, improved pasture areas, cattle tracks, and a network of unimproved vehicle tracks that lead to the prominent cultural features. These include, in addition to the *rancho* compound ruins, a breached earthen dam along one of the drainageways, and an abandoned quarry that is said to have supplied *caliche* for local road construction, but may also have supplied sandstone to construct the original *rancho* compound. An etched stone historical marker placed near the *rancho* compound ruins in 1936 by the State of Texas indicates the significance of the site. The property is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas State Archeological Landmark.

EXISTING CONDITIONS DOCUMENTATION BY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTIC

Overall Landscape Organization and Patterns of Spatial Organization

Figures 29a, 29b

The Rancho de las Cabras property is generally composed of a series of four **landforms** that characterize the site from northwest to southeast. These include: a western upland plateau; an escarpment composed of a series of river terraces cut by arroyos; the floodplains of Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River; and an eastern upland plateau. Besides landform, vegetation is the other landscape component that establishes broad patterns of spatial organization over the property. For each of the four landforms identified for the site, their associated patterns of spatial organization are described in more detail below.







Western Upland Plateau. The northwestern portion of the property consists of a gently sloping upland plateau that includes the panhandle-shaped access way, the *rancho* compound ruins, most of the vehicle track network, fencing, an abandoned quarry, and a breached earthen dam. While portions of this western upland are relatively open, groves of mesquite and other large woody shrubs and trees dot the landscape, providing a constantly-unfolding series of small open spaces edged by plant thickets. To the south and southeast, the plateau is edged by the woodlands that dominate the spatial character of the escarpments and river terraces.

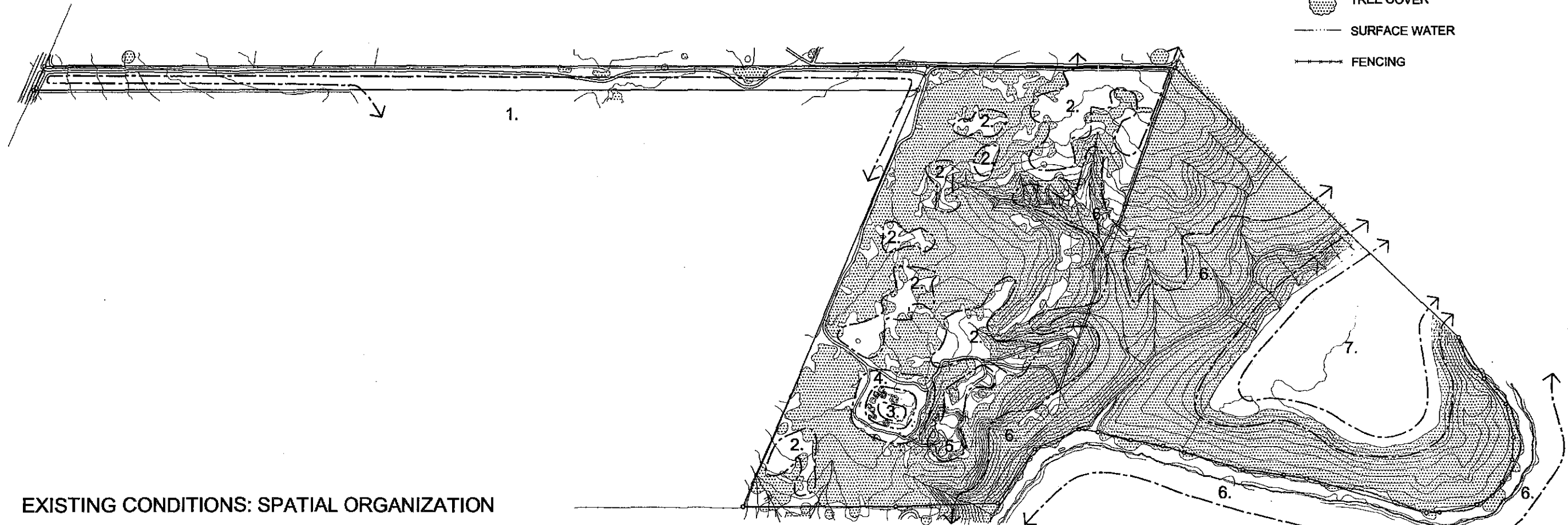
Many spaces reside within the broader expanse of the plateau. The panhandle is characterized by open grassland bounded by fences, and views of neighboring farms. The abandoned quarry includes an open space edged by perimeter vegetation and mounds of residual and discarded soil and rock. The area of the breached dam is characterized by a drainageway etched into the surrounding topography that is edged by a thicket of surrounding vegetation. The *rancho* compound ruins include a small space formed by dense perimeter vegetation, stone rubble, and the sand mounds protecting the remnant compound walls. From many parts of the compound it is still possible to view across the expanse of the upland and the nearby river valley.

Escarpment. Edging the western upland terrace to the southeast is the more steeply sloped escarpment of river terraces that falls away towards Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River, including various intermittent **drainageways** and two more deeply etched **arroyos**. Spatially, the arroyos are narrow open corridors with a closed canopy above. The escarpment, which is generally wooded, lacks a cohesive spatial quality, but includes a strong western boundary in the form of the sloping terrain.

Floodplain. The Picoso Creek and San Antonio River floodplains edge the escarpment to the southeast. The **Picoso Creek** floodplain is characterized by a wide space flanked by the escarpment walls and a closed canopy above. The creek corridor itself is a long linear space within the wider floodplain (Photo A17). The San Antonio River corridor is a narrow, gorge-like space with a canopy that extends above all except the river, and edges formed by the escarpment slopes (Photo C1).

BASE MAP LEGEND

-  CONTOUR LINES (10 FOOT INTERVALS)
-  PROPERTY BOUNDARY
-  SINGLE-LANE VEHICLE TRACKS
-  TREE COVER
-  SURFACE WATER
-  FENCING



EXISTING CONDITIONS: SPATIAL ORGANIZATION







1. PANHANDLE AND OPEN AGRICULTURAL FIELDS BOUNDED BY FENCING
2. SMALL OPEN GRASS FIELD SPACES BOUNDED BY BRUSH
3. INTERIOR SPACE OF THE RANCHO RUINS
4. NARROW OPEN GRASS CORRIDOR RINGING THE RANCHO RUINS
5. QUARRY SPACE BOUNDED BY SOIL AND STONE CLIFFS AND CUTS
6. LINEAR RIPARIAN AND ARROYO CORRIDORS BOUNDED BY STEEP SLOPES, ESCARPMENTS, AND CLIFFS
7. AGRICULTURAL FIELD BOUNDED BY TREELINES AND RIPARIAN WOODLAND

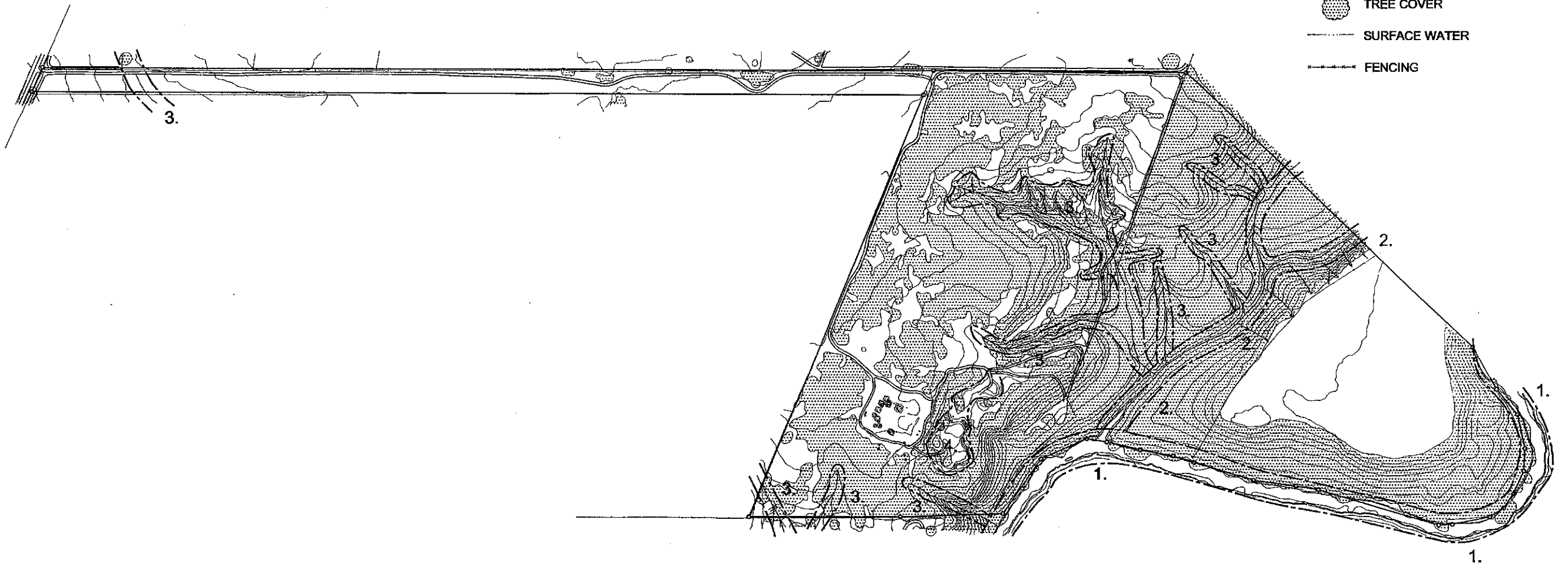


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DRAWN: RE		RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS EXISTING CONDITIONS: SPATIAL ORGANIZATION	68,010
TECH. REVIEW: RMM		SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK	PKG. NO. SHEET 2
DATE: November 1998			OF 12

Figure 29a. Existing Conditions: Spatial Organization

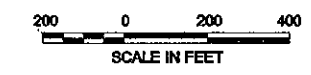
BASE MAP LEGEND

-  CONTOUR LINES (10 FOOT INTERVALS)
-  PROPERTY BOUNDARY
-  SINGLE-LANE VEHICLE TRACKS
-  TREE COVER
-  SURFACE WATER
-  FENCING



EXISTING CONDITIONS: SURFACE WATER AND HYDROLOGY

- 1. SAN ANTONIO RIVER
- 2. PICOSA CREEK
- 3. DRAINAGEWAYS AND ARROYOS
- 4. QUARRY WET AREAS



DESIGNED: HISTORIC	SUB SHEET NO.	TITLE OF SHEET RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS EXISTING CONDITIONS: SURFACE WATER AND HYDROLOGY SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK	DRAWING NO. 472
DRAWN: RE			68,010
TECH. REVIEW: RMM			PKG. NO. SHEET
DATE: November 1998			3
			of 12

*Figure 29b. Existing Conditions:
Surface Water and Hydrology*

Eastern Upland Plateau. To the north of the confluence of Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River is a second relatively level upland plateau, characterized by a large open room edged by walls of trees.

Responses to Natural Features and Systems

Evidence of past cultural responses to natural features on this property include the: siting of the Spanish colonial period *rancho* compound on a high point with commanding views; possible Spanish colonial period construction of a well within the compound to establish a convenient supply of potable water (subject to further archeological investigation); twentieth century construction of an earthen dam to impound the flow of a small nearby drainageway, most likely in order to provide water for livestock; use of the site as a **quarry** to supply *caliche* for local road construction needs (Photo I12), and possibly sandstone for construction of the compound; fencing of upland areas to contain grazing livestock; and establishment of a network of vehicle tracks, primarily in upland areas, to provide access to the majority of the site's cultural features.

Land Uses and Activities

Currently, the primary land use of the property is as an historic site open to the public on a limited basis for the interpretation of natural and remnant historic and cultural landscape features. Other land uses in evidence on the property include utility corridors, such as the major overhead electric line (Photo D4) and buried gas line easement that cross the panhandle, and agriculture (grazing), based on the cattle tracks (Photos A18 and B5) and manure observed during field investigation in the eastern pasture and the San Antonio River and Picoso Creek floodplains. The primary activities that have taken place on the property since it was acquired by the state are the various archeological investigations that have been undertaken to augment our knowledge of the site's history and resources.

Buildings and Structures

Figure 29c

There are no extant buildings located on the property. The ruins of various portions of the *rancho* compound and a small earthen dam are the site's only structures. The ruins of the **rancho compound** include remnant walls (Photos K30 and K31) associated with a Spanish colonial era structure originally composed of dwellings, a chapel, bastions, and other features that housed and protected mission members involved in tending the *rancho's* livestock. The ruins consist of remnant wall sections, some of which are only a few inches to a foot high, and others which stand up to six and eight feet in height. There are no sections of roofing that remain. The above-ground resources are currently protected beneath irregular mounds of sand and soil installed by the State of Texas during their administration of the property. Volunteer vegetation has colonized portions of the mounds. Stones that have fallen, or been removed from, the compound walls are visible in the vicinity of the soil mounds. The known resources associated with the compound ruins are further discussed below under "Archeological resources."

The **earthen dam** located in the southwestern corner of the property appears to have been constructed to impede the flow of a small drainageway leading towards the river and establish a tank to provide water for livestock. The dam has been breached and no longer impounds water (Photo J2).

Circulation Systems

Figure 29d

The primary circulation network associated with the property is the system of single-lane vehicle tracks that provides access to the majority of the site's cultural resources. The system includes the **entrance road**, an unimproved, single-lane vehicle track that leads into the site from County Route 144 (Photo E2), parallels the panhandle's northern boundary, and splits into two roads at the end of the panhandle. One of these is a single-lane **vehicle track that follows the northern property boundary** (Photo E5) to the edge of the plateau. The other is a single-lane **vehicle track that follows the western property boundary** (Photo I28) before turning east and leading to and **surrounding the ruins and the quarry** (Photo J4). The surfaces of these roads are composed of grass and hard-packed earth, and are rutted in places. It is sometimes difficult for vehicles with low clearances to successfully navigate the road system during dry periods owing to the rutting. During rainy periods, the roads are generally impassable for all vehicles except those with four-wheel drive.

An additional unimproved, single-lane, grass-surfaced vehicle track leads off to the northeast from the road encircling the ruins and quarry. This **vehicle track travels along the property's upland margin** and parallels the barbed-wire fencing located at the edge of the upland slope, before joining the road that follows the northern property boundary. It appears to have been created by a bulldozer (Photo A12).

Vegetation

Figure 29e

Nine vegetation types have been identified on the Rancho de las Cabras property based on species compositions and community maturity. Transitions between types are gradual in some areas and abrupt in others. The majority of the types can be classified into two major associations: Upland South Texas Brush in various stages of succession; and Riparian. Three isolated types, not considered part of either of these two associations, were also identified that are the result of recent, intense, cultural use of the site. Each vegetation type, and its dominant species, is described below within the appropriate association.

Upland South Texas Brush is the dominant vegetation association of the site, both in total area, and in visual presence. It is referred to as an upland association due to its location on the upper elevations of the site. However, it occurs frequently at most elevations within this region in agricultural landscapes that have been allowed to go fallow.

The dominant woody species of this association include:

honey mesquite	<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>
spiny hackberry	<i>Celtis pallida</i>
prickly pear	<i>Opuntia engelmannii</i>
tasajillo, pencil cactus	<i>Opuntia leptocaulis</i>
allthorn, crucifix thorn	<i>Koeberlinia spinosa</i>
Texas ebony, ebano	<i>Pithecellobium ebano</i>
bluewood condalia, brasil	<i>Condalia hookeri</i>

Other species include:

Texas buckthorn, lotebush	<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i>
coma, safron-plum bumelia	<i>Sideroxylon celastrinum</i>
goatbush, amargosa	<i>Castela erecta</i>
wolfberry, tomatillo	<i>Lycium berlandierri</i>
Spanish dagger	<i>Yucca treculeana</i>
agarita, desert holly	<i>Mahonia trifoliata</i>
Texas persimmon	<i>Diospyros texana</i>

Within the site, the Upland South Texas Brush association can be divided into four vegetation types. These types reflect such conditions as terrain, underlying soils, previous land uses, and the amount of time that an area has been fallow. These four vegetation types are named and described below, and their locations are illustrated on an accompanying map (Figure 29e).

Early Succession from Improved Pasture

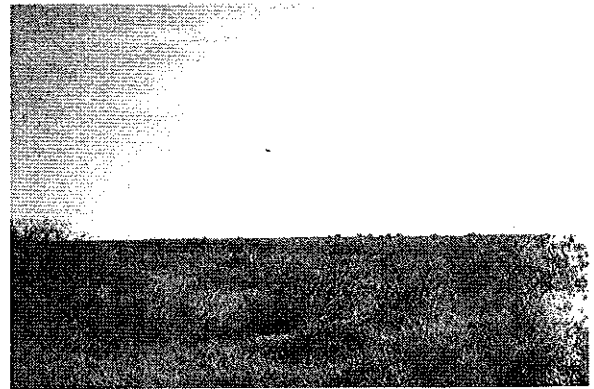
This type is characterized by the openness of its vegetation, which is dominated by grasses, including remnants of improved pasture grasses—mainly coastal Bermudagrass—and scattered woody plants (Photo I15). The woody plants include the typical early invaders of the brush association: honey mesquite, prickly pear, pencil cactus, spiny hackberry, and Spanish dagger. The height of the vegetation is typically less than ten feet. Along fencelines there is also some agarita, condalia, and goatbush. Within the property, the terrain associated with examples of this vegetation type is relatively level.



I15. Vegetation representative of the “early succession from improved pasture” community.

Early Succession from Native Pasture

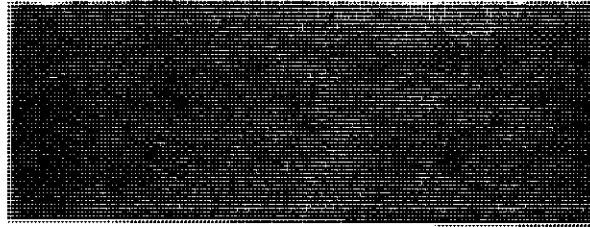
This type is similar to the “early succession from improved pasture” type described above. The primary difference between the two occurs in the groundcover vegetation. Rather than improved pasture grasses, the groundcover, where present, consists of curly mesquite, big bluestem, and little bluestem. The dominant woody species are the same early invaders of the brush as indicated above. The terrain associated with examples of this vegetation type begins to slope towards the lowlands. It is likely that these sloped areas were beyond the reach of the plow, so that native grasses were never replaced with the improved pasture grasses (Photo E7). However, the pasturelands that constitute this type have been overgrazed to the point that large areas have become denuded of vegetation, and headward erosion has begun to eat into the uplands from the lower slopes.



E7. Vegetation representative of the “early succession from native pasture” community.

Secondary Succession from Native Pasture

This type is similar to the early succession types described above, and the edges between the three types are not well defined. The primary distinction between them is in the height of the vegetation. Within this type, the early invading species have reached a height of approximately fifteen feet, providing a habitat for wildlife, which, in turn, has supplied seed for additional species, such as Texas buckthorn, coma, wolfberry, allthorn, and Texas persimmon, to invade (Photo A6). The overall density of the vegetation is also greater. The terrain in this area begins to fall away towards the stream corridors, with occasional steep valleys and areas of extreme headward erosion (Photo A8). Some species have migrated to this area that are typical of riparian regions. These include an occasional live oak and hackberry along the lower slopes, especially at the heads of the valleys.



A6. Vegetation representative of the "secondary succession from native pasture" community.

Advanced Succession from Native Pasture

This type occupies an area that has been separated from other portions of the site by a fence. The transition in vegetation between this area and adjacent areas is abrupt. Within this type, the vegetation is much taller and denser; in some places it is so dense as to be almost impassable. The canopy reaches a height of twenty feet, and the heights of the individual plants are greater (Photo B23). Species found in this type are similar to those listed above under "secondary succession from native pasture."



B23. Vegetation representative of the "advanced succession from native pasture" community.

Riparian vegetation on this site occurs along the banks of the San Antonio River, the valley of Picoso Creek, and the lower slopes of the escarpment that edges the upland plateau. This is the second most dominant association on the property, covering an area almost equal in size to the Upland South Texas Brush association. Since it can only be accessed by descending the steep slopes below the uplands, and the canopies of the trees barely break the plane of the upland, its visual impact is minimized from the areas of the site that are typically visited.

The dominant woody species that comprise this association include:

live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>
cedar elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>
cottonwood, alamo	<i>Populus sp.</i>
willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>

Other species include:

pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>
Texas ash	<i>Fraxinus texensis</i>
flameleaf sumac	<i>Rhus lanceolata</i>
hackberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
smilax, greenbriar	<i>Smilax sp.</i>
Texas persimmon	<i>Diospyros texana</i>

Riparian vegetation can be divided into two types: upper and lower. The division relates to topographic elevation and its relationship to the seasonal availability of water. The two types are described below and their locations are illustrated on an accompanying map (Figure 29e).

Upper Riparian

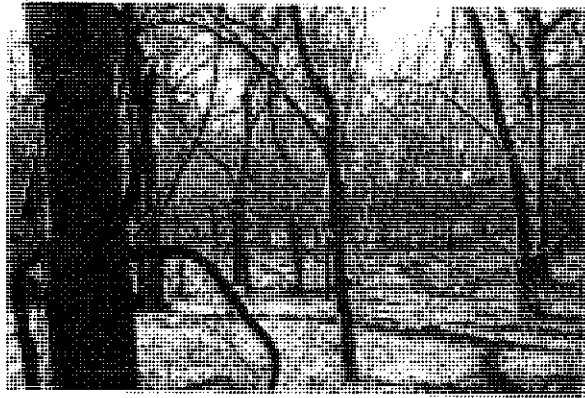
The upper riparian vegetation type occurs within a transitional strip located between the Upland South Texas Brush and lower riparian areas. The edges of the type are not well defined at either interface. At approximately the 375 foot contour, cedar, elms, hackberries, sumacs, and oaks begin to dominate the vegetation. They are small in size, immature, and moderately dense at first (Photo A15). Caliper, height, and density become greater with the descent of the slope, and greenbriar and persimmon appear within the understory. The height and maturity of the vegetation is limited by a lack of water during certain times of the year. At approximately the 350 foot contour, the vegetation changes to lower riparian.



A15. Vegetation representative of the "upper riparian" community.

Lower Riparian

The lower riparian vegetation type occurs at an elevation where water is available year round. It is dominated by a few species. There are numerous mature and many aged individuals (Photo B22). Live oak, cedar elm, and cottonwood here regularly attain heights of fifty feet or more and calipers of 40 inches. Occasionally, pecans, willows, and ashes appear along the stream banks. Understory vegetation is lacking, either due to clearing and grazing activities, frequent flooding, excessive shade, or a combination of the three. The forest floor is littered with fallen trees of all sizes, as are the banks and channels of the water resources. Occasionally, alien species occur along the banks of the river. Some of these may have washed downstream from San Antonio and taken root.

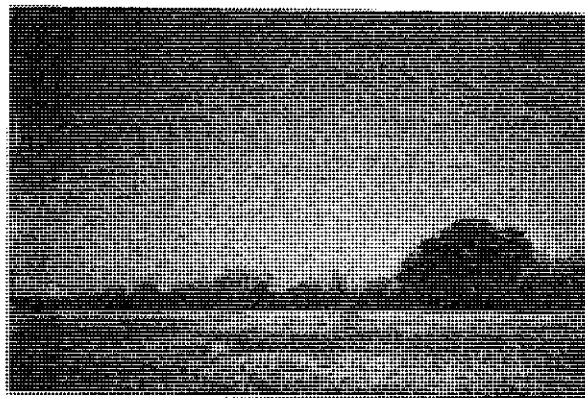


B22. Vegetation representative of the "lower riparian" community.

Additionally, there are three minor vegetation types that occur in isolated parts of the property: 1) improved pasture; 2) recently disturbed imported vegetation; and 3) recently disturbed quarry. Each appears to be a fairly recent addition to the site, and a direct result of cultural activities.

Improved Pasture

This type occupies the flat plateau north of the confluence of the San Antonio River and Picoso Creek. It is maintained as a pasture composed of improved grasses, mainly coastal Bermudagrass (Photo B10). Small mesquite trees have begun to invade portions of this area, indicating that the very early stages of brush succession have begun. The zone ends abruptly at a fenceline, and is edged by the vegetation type referred to above as "advanced succession from native pasture."



B10. Vegetation representative of the "improved pasture" community.

Recently Disturbed Imported Vegetation

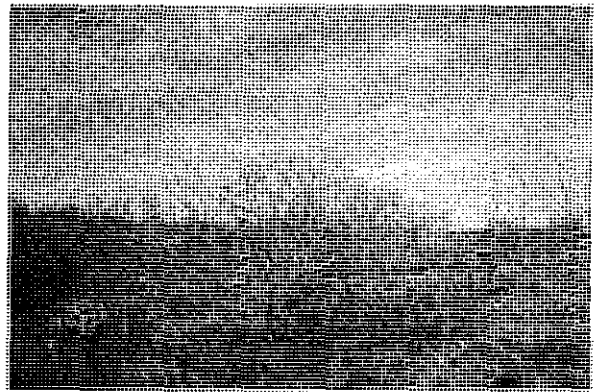
This type exists in the area around the *rancho* compound ruins. The vegetation consists primarily of some mature brush that appears not to have been disturbed when the ruins were covered with mounded sand, and alien grasses that were either imported with the sand, or installed for erosion control (Photo G5).



G5. Vegetation representative of the "recently disturbed imported vegetation" community.







Recently Disturbed Quarry

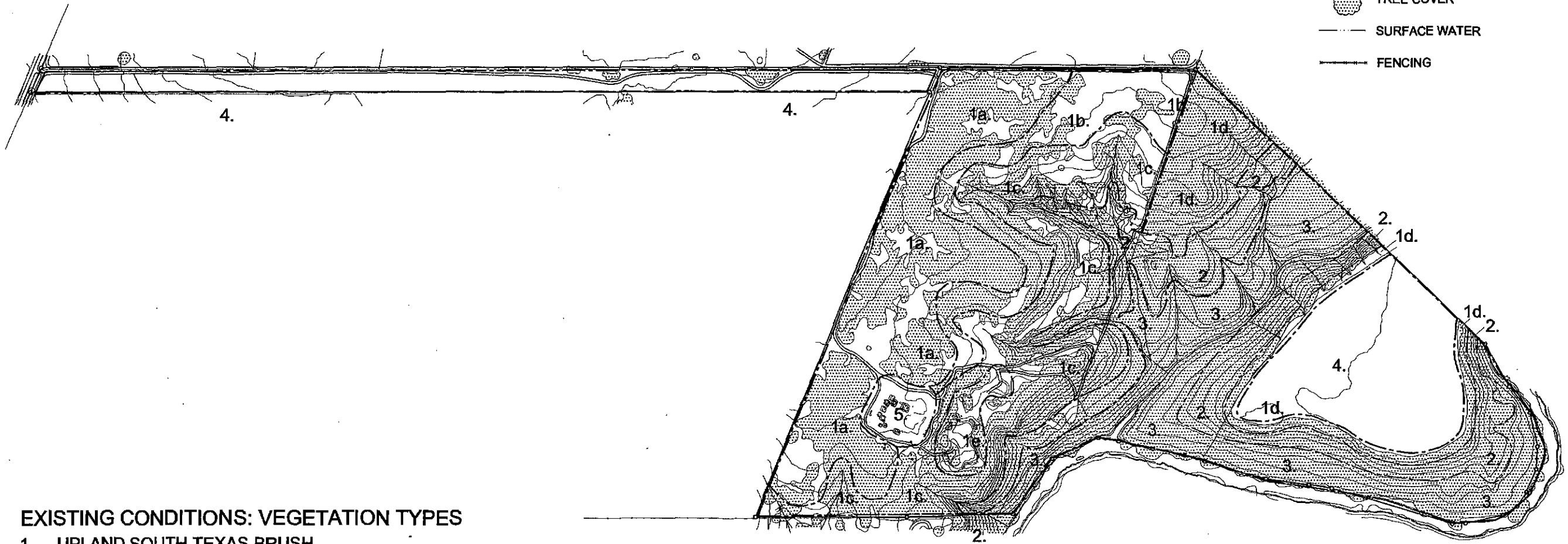
This type occurs below the *rancho* compound ruins in an area which has been excavated during the twentieth century to quarry *caliche* and possibly gravel and sandstone. The existing vegetation is typical of the Upland South Texas Brush association. However, due to a lack of topsoil, vegetation is sparse (Photo H25). The dominant species are mesquite, yucca, and roosevelt weed (*Bacharris sp.*)



H25. Vegetation representative of the "recently disturbed quarry" community.

BASE MAP LEGEND

-  CONTOUR LINES (10 FOOT INTERVALS)
-  PROPERTY BOUNDARY
-  SINGLE-LANE VEHICLE TRACKS
-  TREE COVER
-  SURFACE WATER
-  FENCING



EXISTING CONDITIONS: VEGETATION TYPES

- 1. UPLAND SOUTH TEXAS BRUSH
 - 1a. EARLY SUCCESSION FROM IMPROVED PASTURE
 - 1b. EARLY SUCCESSION FROM NATIVE PASTURE
 - 1c. SECONDARY SUCCESSION FROM NATIVE PASTURE
 - 1d. ADVANCED SUCCESSION FROM NATIVE PASTURE
- 2. UPPER RIPARIAN
- 3. LOWER RIPARIAN
- 4. IMPROVED PASTURE
- 5. RECENTLY DISTURBED IMPORTED VEGETATION
- 6. RECENTLY DISTURBED QUARRY



DESIGNED: HISTORIC	SUB SHEET NO.	TITLE OF SHEET RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS EXISTING CONDITIONS: VEGETATION TYPES SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK	DRAWING NO. 472 68,010
DRAWN: RE			PKG. NO.
TECH. REVIEW: RMM			6
DATE: November 1996			OF 12

Figure 29e. Existing Conditions: Vegetation Types

Small-scale Features

Figure 29f

Small-scale features associated with the Rancho de las Cabras property include the etched stone historical marker located near the *rancho* compound ruins, wood-post-and-barbed-wire and metal-post-and-electric-wire fencing, two metal farm gates, and miscellaneous painted wood informational and regulatory signs.

The Texas state **historical marker** located within the *rancho* compound ruins is composed of a block of smooth gray-white granite, approximately four feet in height and two feet wide, that is carved to a point at top (Photo E23). The front face of the block is decorated with a bronze star and laurel wreath set above carved or etched text that reads:

The site of the
Mission of Las Cabrerias
A ranch chapel
visited regularly and maintained by
the Franciscan missionaries
of San Antonio
near the ancient settlement of
Las Islitas (now Graytown)
attended by the Canary Islanders,
their descendants, Mexicans, natives
and others living in this vicinity
established in the
middle-eighteenth century

Erected by the State of Texas
1936

As noted earlier, wood-post-and-barbed-wire **fencing** parallels the **panhandle and northern property boundary** (Photo E3), the **western property boundary** (Photo I28), and the **southern property boundary** (Photo J12), and runs north to south along the edge of the **western upland plateau** (Photo A10). The fencing along the northern and western property boundaries is on federally-owned land. Other perimeter fencing is located on adjacent properties. Elsewhere on the property, metal-post-and-electric-wire fencing edges the **eastern upland plateau** (Photo B7) between the San Antonio River and the northern property boundary.

A metal **entrance gate** limits access into the site from County Route 144 (Photo D4). Another metal farm **gate** is located at the **northeastern end of the panhandle** (Photo D19). Signs associated with the entrance road include a "Beware of Snakes" sign located near the northeastern end of the panhandle, **two wooden signs at the ruins** (Photos G10 and J26), and a "Private Property" sign. Other signs located elsewhere on the property include a large painted sign northeast of the *rancho* compound ruins and another small sign along the southern property boundary that indicate that the site is state-owned land.

Views and Viewsheds

Figure 29g

From the western upland plateau and *rancho* compound ruins, **panoramic views** open up to much of the surrounding terrain (Photo K5). Volunteer vegetation, including mesquite trees, currently obscure portions of these views. Where there are no trees, long views are afforded across the upland, the escarpment, and the river and creek beyond. Floresville is also visible from the *rancho* compound area. Adjacent farm land is visible from both the western (Photo I28) and eastern upland plateaus. A farm and associated structures are visible to the west and north; portions of the Promised Land Dairy complex are visible to the south from the southern edge of the property (Photo I36); and a trash dump (Photo J24) and modern houses (Photo J12) are visible to the south.

Archeological Resources

The property's Spanish colonial era archeological resources have been the primary focus of investigations to date. Five seasons of excavations, shovel tests, and other investigations of sub-surface resources have revealed substantial information about the *rancho* compound and eighteenth century life at the site (see Chapter One's "Summary of the Previous Archeological Investigations at Rancho de las Cabras) and have yielded numerous artifacts that particularly contribute to our understanding of life on the site during the period. Illustrations of the compound developed based on these investigations (Figures 4, see Chapter One, and 25, see Chapter Two) indicate what is known about the configuration of the *rancho* compound, including its **perimeter walls, gates, two bastions, a chapel, well, four rooms, a lime slaking pit and lime kiln, middens and trash pits, ramadas, jacales, a road trace, and livestock yards**. All of the remaining above-ground portions of these features are currently covered with mounded sand to protect them from deterioration (Photo K30).

Artifacts recovered from the *rancho* compound during archeological investigations performed in the early to mid 1980s can be organized into three categories: Spanish colonial period occupation, ca. 1760-1820; sporadic visitation during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; and pre-Spanish colonial deposits for which specific dates have not yet been determined. The Spanish colonial period artifacts are associated with the operations of a cattle ranch, with connections to the Catholic Church and the area's Spanish mission system, and with daily life. Variously composed of ceramics, glass, metal, bone, construction materials, and lithics, they can be organized into collections relating to kitchen and household activities, clothing and personal life, stable and workshop items, armaments, and construction materials.

Examples of artifacts relating to kitchen and household activities found on site include glass fragments from wine and pharmaceutical bottles, copper and brass fragments from pots, pans, *comales* (griddles) and metal knives, and ceramic fragments of tableware and cooking utensils. Analysis of these artifacts by archeologists suggests that they are of varying origins, ranging from Europe and Spain, to Mexico and the local area. The ceramic artifact deposits uncovered on the site include a large number of shards of *Goliad* ware, typically an unglazed ceramic formed by hand into bowls and jars and fired over open campfires that appears to be an outgrowth of the pottery fashioned by prehistoric peoples. Other ceramics types found on site include galera ware, majolica, Chinese porcelain, and French faience. Bone deposits are associated with local fishes, turtles, snakes, birds, and mammals, as well as domesticated livestock. They suggest that the inhabitants of the *rancho* compound were likely to have eaten a wide range of locally-available wildlife, in addition to the stock tended at the site.

Artifacts identified at the *rancho* compound associated with clothing and other personal items include sewing equipment, clothes, shoes, buckles, jewelry, and religious adornments. These items are composed variously of glass, textiles, and metal, such as copper and iron. Artifacts composed of glass include trade beads from Venice, Italy, jewelry containing glass sets, and black jet rosary beads. Metal objects discovered on site include ornamental shoe buckles, and

religious ornaments, such as rings and crucifixes. Textiles, including bits of clothing, were also recovered. The artifacts associated with stable and workshop items include fragments of wire, parts of harnesses, saddles, and *coscojos* (the various danglers and jinglers used to decorate Spanish horsefittings), hardware, branding irons, tools, knives, and a non-native limestone grinding stone/knife whetting stone that was most likely imported from the Texas Hill Country. Artifacts, such as horse harness and branding iron fragments, belie the site's cattle industry history.

Artifacts found at the site that are associated with armaments include European- and locally-made gunflints and lead musketballs, as well as arrow point-shaped objects commonly referred to as "mission" points.

Various artifacts relating to construction were also identified. These include nails, mortar with plastered or whitewashed surfaces, wood fragments, copper furniture tacks, pin hinges, and a fragment of a chert punch or drill base.

The artifacts uncovered within the area of the compound that appear to date from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries occur mostly on the surface or in the first stratum of soil, and include chinaware, stoneware, glass beverage bottles, cut and wire nails, tin can fragments, baling wire, and cartridge cases. Archeologists involved with excavation of the site have determined that these artifacts are indicative only of sporadic site visits by local hunters, picnickers, and treasure hunters. There are also layers of cultural material that have been observed beneath the Spanish colonial era deposits within the compound that may relate to prehistoric occupation of the site. Little investigation of this material has been undertaken to date.

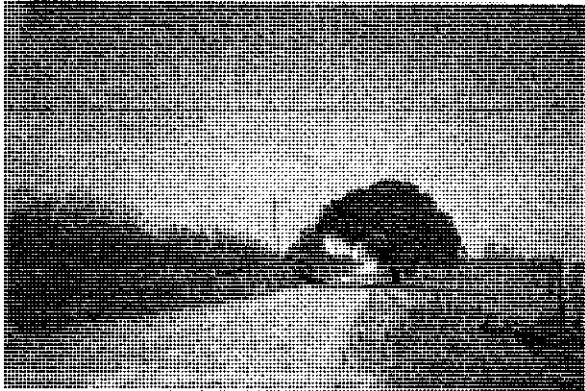
Elsewhere on the site, possible prehistoric artifacts, such as arrowheads and other stone tools, and artifacts from other periods have also been observed along the escarpments and river terraces where erosion has occurred (Photo A13). The site also contains trash piles located in the arroyo just northeast of the ruins (Photo I4). Though the items visible at the surface appear to date from the twentieth century, these features may be covering older deposited materials and debris.

Boundary Demarcations

Readily observable boundary demarcations include the barbed wire fencing described earlier that runs along the northern side of the panhandle, a portion of its southern side, and along much of the southern and western boundaries, and the San Antonio River that constitutes the site's southeastern boundary. Changes in landcover between the mesquite and scrub on the Rancho de las Cabras property and the agricultural cropland that occurs on adjacent properties provide a visual contrast that also serves to demarcate current property boundaries.

Cultural Traditions

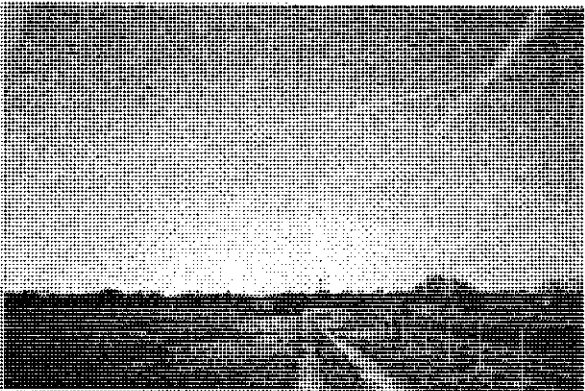
There appear to be no cultural traditions currently associated with the property.



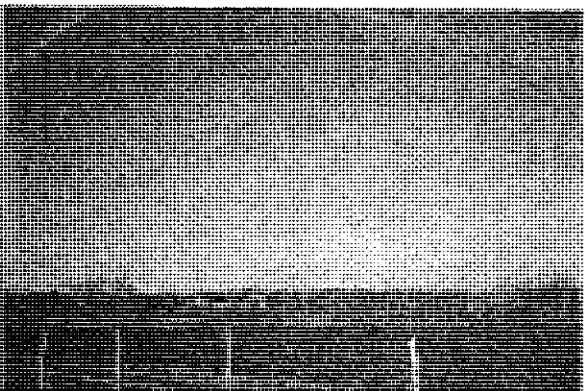
D1. View north along County Route 144, which provides access to the Rancho de las Cabras site.



D4. View east of the metal gate limiting access to the property from County Route 144. An overhead powerline that crosses the property is visible in the background.



E2. View southwest along the single-lane vehicle track that leads into the property through the panhandle.



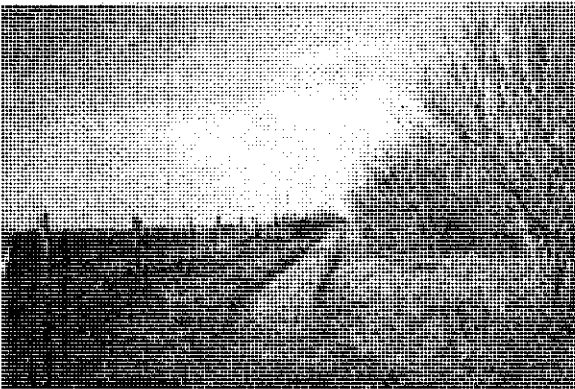
E3. View north of a privately-owned farm property that edges the site.



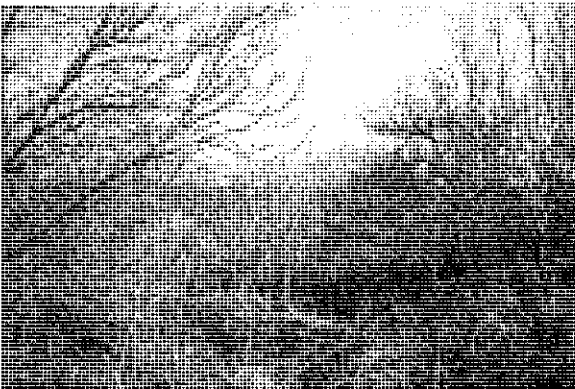
D19. View east along the single-lane vehicle track that leads into the property. The road is edged to the north by wood post and barbed wire fencing along the property boundary. A second metal gate stands at the junction between the panhandle and the rest of the property. Just beyond the gate, the vehicle track forks. One fork follows the northern property boundary, the other, the western boundary.



E5. View east of the single-lane vehicle track that continues along the northern property boundary after the gate.



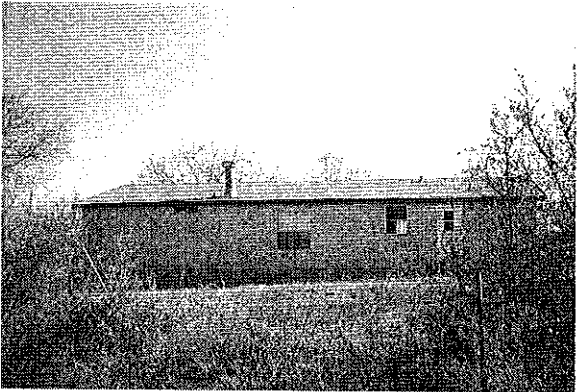
I28. View north of the single-lane vehicle track that parallels the western property boundary after the gate. The wood post and barbed wire fencing that marks this boundary is visible in the photograph, as is farmland that abuts the property to the west.



J2. View southeast toward the breached earthen dam located in the southwestern corner of the property.



J24. Views to the south from the property include this pile of refuse.



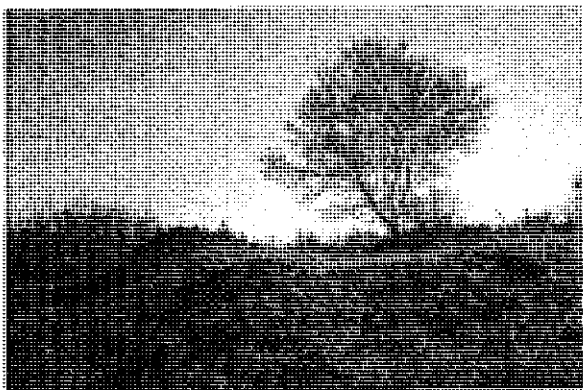
J12. View southeast to a neighboring dwelling.



I36. Portions of the Promised Land Dairy are also visible to the south from the property.



J4. View north towards the single-lane vehicle track that leads toward the *rancho* compound ruins from the western property boundary and encircles them.



K30. View south of a portion of the *rancho* compound ruins currently protected beneath mounded sand.



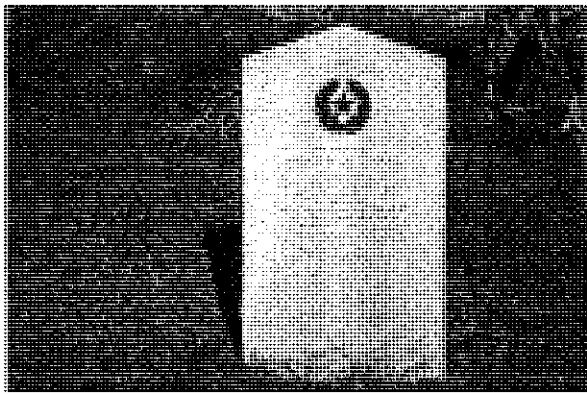
K31. Remnants of the original sandstone blocks that were utilized to construct the *rancho* compound walls are visible in places.



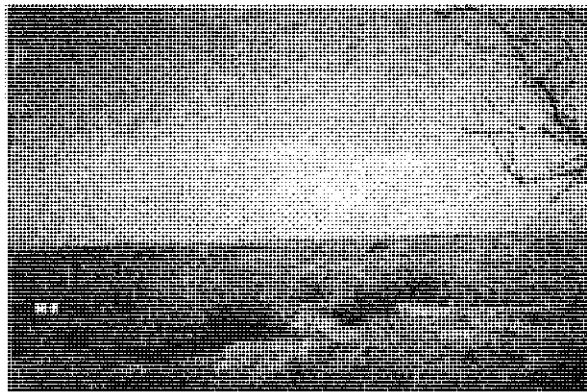
G10. Two wooden signs were erected at the site of the ruins during State of Texas ownership of the property. One is visible here.



J26. View southwest of the second wooden sign erected by the state at the ruins.



E23. View northwest of a granite historical marker, erected at the site of the ruins in 1936.



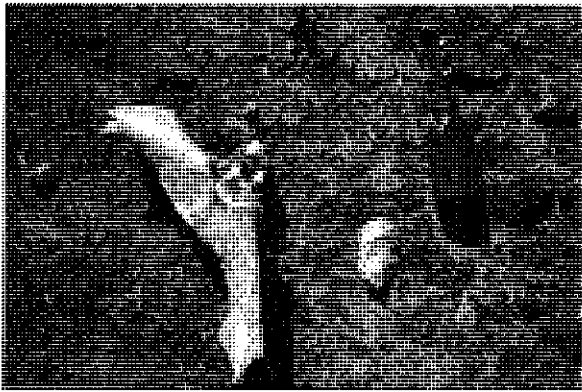
K5. View north from the *rancho* compound ruins of the surrounding landscape.



I12. There is evidence that *caliche* and possibly sandstone were once quarried to the east of the *rancho* compound ruins.



A8. The upland where the *rancho* compound ruins are located is edged by a more steeply-sloped escarpment that falls away towards Picos Creek and the San Antonio River. Portions of the escarpment are eroding badly.



A13. Cultural artifacts are sometimes visible around the property, especially where erosion is occurring.



A12. A bulldozed vehicle track, which is mostly impassable, follows the edge of the western upland plateau.



A10. A wood post and barbed wire fence parallels much of the bulldozed road. These two features once marked the boundary between the two parcels that now constitute the Rancho de las Cabras property administered by the National Park Service.



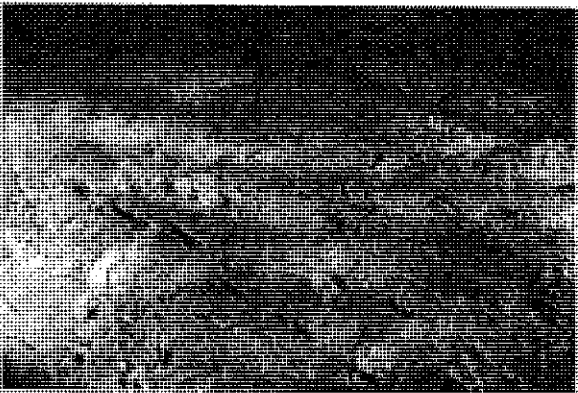
I4. Refuse has been discarded in various locations around the site.



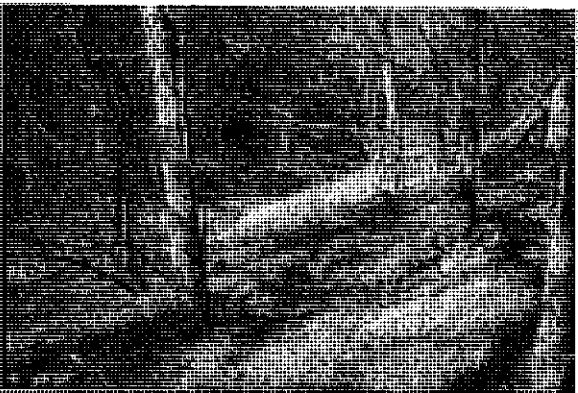
A17. View northeast of Picoso Creek.



CI. View southwest of the San Antonio River.



A18. The footprints of cattle are evident along the banks of the creek and the river.



B5. Cattle also appear to have established routes of travel along the stream corridors.



B7. An agricultural field occupies the level plateau north of the confluence of Picos Creek and the San Antonio River.



4 ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

4 ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 99.2-acre Rancho de las Cabras property administered by the National Park Service as part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is a portion of the Spanish colonial period ranch that supported Mission Espada during the mid to late eighteenth century. It is significant as the only San Antonio mission ranch known to remain from a once-extensive system.

Although few above-ground resources associated with the *rancho* remain from the Spanish colonial period, the site's archeological record has yielded, and may be expected to continue to yield, important information about the *rancho* headquarters compound and its environs where those who tended the cattle herds are thought to have lived and worked. These archeological resources contribute to our understanding of the mission system that was so integral to Spanish colonial settlement in Texas and the American Southwest, and particularly to the San Antonio region. Knowledge of these resources also contributes to our understanding of the evolution of the American cowboy culture that grew up around the Texas cattle industry, and was built on the legacy of the mission ranches.

Rancho de las Cabras is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas State Archeological Landmark. The property is significant in the areas of American history, agriculture, archeology, and culture. Rancho de las Cabras meets the listing requirements of the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A (association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), and D (has yielded and is likely to continue to yield information important in history and prehistory). While the existing landscape does not retain integrity to the Spanish colonial period, site archeological resources retain a high degree of integrity. The site is primarily significant as an archeological resource with a great potential to yield information important to our understanding of Spanish colonial history. Insufficient investigation has been undertaken to determine the significance of prehistoric archeological resources associated with the site. However, preliminary study suggests that it is likely to yield information important to our understanding of this period as well.

Elements related to the United States cattle ranching era (ca. 1852 - 1904) would be important if found, but there are no apparent buildings, structures, or sites on the property associated with this period. Another potential aspect of significance that was considered as part of this study is the site's association with late nineteenth and twentieth century efforts to commemorate and

preserve Spanish colonial period resources. However, only the granite marker erected to memorialize the site during the 1936 Texas Centennial is of note within this context. Otherwise, the site's commemorative resources and associations appear insufficient to meet the listing requirements of the National Register's special criteria considerations for commemorative properties.

Criterion A

Rancho de las Cabras is associated with the operations of the Spanish colonial missions that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of San Antonio, Texas, the American Southwest, and the nation. It is associated with the cultures of both Spanish colonizers and Native Americans. In 1731, Mission San Francisco de la Espada was one of three missions re-established on the San Antonio River from what is now East Texas. Mission Espada was part of the Spanish colonial system for the establishment and management of a defensive and settlement frontier in the American Southwest. In addition to the land necessary for the mission's compound, each mission was granted land for farming and ranching. Espada's grazing land became known as Rancho de las Cabras—the Goat Ranch—and it provided livestock for the inhabitants of the mission. Rancho de las Cabras, in its support of Mission Espada, is significant in the agricultural and cultural history of the Texas frontier.

The missions and their ranches played a major role in the development of the American cattle industry, a significant phenomenon in westward expansion. The regulations which governed the industry, the techniques for handling herds from horseback, even the cattle themselves, had their origins in the Spanish colonial period. Therefore, modern ranching inherited the equipment, vocabulary, and folklore of the Indian *vaqueros* (cattle herders or cowboys).¹

Criterion D

Rancho de las Cabras has yielded and is likely to continue to yield critical information about the Spanish colonial period. Archeological investigations conducted at Rancho de las Cabras indicate that the site is an important and significant cultural resource related to Spanish mission ranching during the Spanish colonial period. The archeological deposits appear to be intact and undisturbed, and as such may provide invaluable information in the interpretation of a mission ranch as a frontier institution. The archeological record of the *rancho* compound is the sole known example of this type of resource in the region. The site can be expected to reveal information concerning Spanish colonial life, including the manner in which Spanish and Native American cultural traditions were adapted to mission life, the organization of the mission landscape, historic land use, and ranching and other agricultural practices.

¹Information derived from National Park Service, Rancho de las Cabras informational brochure; and James & Juarez, Architects (comp.), *Mission San José Cultural Landscape Report*, (San Antonio, TX: Prepared for U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, 1995).

James Ivey, one of the site's principal archeological investigators to date, notes in his 1983 summary of archeological investigations that: "The potential for Rancho de las Cabras is very great. Rancho de las Cabras is one of the best preserved Colonial sites in Texas in terms of archeology, and it is certainly one of the most important in terms of cultural and historical studies. It would not be excessive to say that it is a site which is critical to our understanding of the development of the San Antonio River Valley."²

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

As currently understood based on available documentation and archeological evaluation, Rancho de las Cabras is thought to have been primarily occupied as part of Mission Espada's ranchlands between ca. 1760 and 1820. This period constitutes the primary period of significance for the property, one that imparts a unique identity to the site and has the potential to yield the most information about this important aspect of mission life. While the property continued to be utilized by subsequent owners as part of larger ranching complexes, it appears that it was never again occupied or served as a primary component of a cultural system.

Future investigations of prehistoric resources located on the property, however, may indicate that the period of significance should be expanded to include earlier periods of occupation and settlement. In order to provide a conservative approach to the evaluation of the Rancho de las Cabras landscape, the comparative analysis undertaken for this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) and summarized in the next section includes information about both the prehistoric and Spanish colonial periods.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF HISTORIC AND EXISTING LANDSCAPE CONDITIONS

In order to better understand the relationship between the existing Rancho de las Cabras property landscape and the landscape that existed during the periods of significance (Prehistoric and Protohistoric occupation, ca. 12,000 B.P. - 1718 A.D., and Spanish colonial use and settlement, ca. 1760 - 1820), this CLR includes a comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions. In addition to comparing existing landscape conditions to those that existed during the periods of significance, the analysis provides information regarding extant features and what is known about their date of origin. Known missing features are also identified in this section. The three primary goals in preparing this comparative analysis are to:

²James E. Ivey, *Archaeological Testing at Rancho de las Cabras, 41 WN 30, Wilson County, Texas Second Season* (San Antonio, TX: Archaeological Survey Report, No. 121, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1983), 42.

- 1) understand which features, if any, contribute to each period of significance;
- 2) establish the basis for an integrity evaluation that addresses the degree to which the extant landscape resembles the landscape during the periods of significance; and
- 3) provide an understanding of the similarities and differences between historic and existing conditions that will contribute to the development of a well-grounded treatment plan for the cultural landscape.

The analysis is organized according to the majority of landscape characteristics used to present Chapter Three's existing conditions documentation information, including:

- responses to natural features and systems;
- land uses and activities;
- buildings and structures;
- circulation systems;
- vegetation;
- small-scale features;
- views and viewsheds;
- boundary demarcations; and
- cultural traditions.

The features that have been identified through archeological investigations are described in Chapters One and Three; a separate discussion of archeological features is not presented in this section. Each landscape feature that is discussed individually is highlighted in bold. Lists of contributing, non-contributing, undetermined, and missing features follow this section.

Responses to Natural Features and Systems

Since few above-ground resources or documentary descriptions of the landscape survive from the periods of significance for the site, the ways in which the inhabitants took care of their needs and the needs of their livestock can only be imagined or discerned through archeological analysis. Primary among these needs would have been access to fresh water, building materials, sources of food consisting of both animal and plant life, and the ability to defend occupied sites from attack.

Those who occupied the site during the prehistoric period most likely utilized Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River as a source of water and possibly food. During Spanish colonial occupation of the *rancho* compound site, however, a more local water source would have been desirable. Recent archeological investigations of the compound area have uncovered a possible **well site** that may have served the occupants during this period. According to local legend, there may also have been a **tunnel** constructed during the Spanish colonial period that connected the compound with the river. No documentary evidence of this feature has been discovered. Although the breached **earthen dam** located to the southwest of the compound was

most likely established to provide a water source for the livestock maintained on the property, based on the oral histories presented in Appendix B, it appears to have been constructed during the twentieth century.

Little is known about the materials utilized by locally indigenous peoples for construction purposes. It is likely that the river and creek embankments and terraces were wooded during the prehistoric period. Trees from these woodlands could likely have served as a source of building material during the prehistoric period.

During the Spanish colonial period, trees from riparian woodlands were most likely utilized to construct various landscape features, such as *jacales* and *fences*, from wood, in addition to furniture, vessels, and agricultural implements. Known archeological remains of wooden landscape features, such as *jacales* and *fences*, are described in more detail in the “Buildings and structures,” and “Small-scale features” sections below.

Otherwise, sandstone was an important component of the compound structure during this period. It is possible that the property’s **quarry**, located near the compound ruins to the east, may have served as the source of sandstone for building the compound’s defensive wall structure. While it is not known whether this quarry site provided building materials for the compound, its location would have been ideal to facilitate construction of the structure. Oral history information collected for this study indicates that *caliche* was excavated from the known quarry site during the twentieth century. It remains possible that the same site may have been utilized earlier to excavate the sandstone used to construct the *rancho* compound. Oral history information also indicates that much of the sandstone that originally comprised the compound walls has been removed over the years by local residents and possibly local governments for use in nearby construction projects, including a bridge, school, and portions of dwellings and outbuildings.

Artifactual evidence that lime-based plaster was used to construct portions of the *rancho* compound exists in the archeological record. A possible **lime slaking pit**, located just north of the compound walls, and a **lime kiln**, located in the northwestern corner of the compound, have also been investigated archeologically. During the Spanish colonial period, plaster created from lime was a popular construction material used to replicate traditional Spanish practices. The plaster would have been prepared on site using the slaking pit and kiln. The property is known to have a plentiful supply of good quality *caliche* (soft, chalky limestone), based on personal interviews with past owners of the property who remember the material being quarried on site during their tenure. It is assumed that the lime slaking pit and kiln were components of the Spanish colonial era occupation of the site.

A 1983 report on the second season archeological investigations undertaken on the site notes:

The limekiln was probably of the type known as a "flare kiln," which was charged with fuel and limestone, fired, emptied of lime, and charged and fired again, as opposed to a "running kiln," which is charged with alternating layers of fuel and limestone, and fed more fuel and limestone at the top while burning continues. Burned lime is continuously removed from the bottom through a "draw hole" during the firing. The kiln at Rancho de las Cabras is not large enough to permit easy removal of lime from the side vent, and was probably charged and emptied from the top. Lindsay (1975:10), in his discussion of limekilns and their use in the 18th century, says:

... the more sophisticated flare kilns were often subterranean except for the top of the wall....Most flare kilns were circular with a cylindrical interior, though some tapered slightly toward the base.... The best material for building kilns was brick, but this was expensive and most kilns were constructed of whatever stone was available. The most durable stones were granite and flint, but other hard stones such as sandstone were adequate. De Ramecourt recommended that mortar should not be used in those parts of the kiln exposed to the heat of the fire, but rather clay mixed with water....De Ramecourt also noted that in Provence, kilns were lined with well-beaten clay to protect the masonry...

The clay at Rancho de las Cabras apparently would not fire hard, and consequently the kiln had to be relined frequently. Much of the debris from the limekiln in Area A was burned red sandy clay, probably cleaned out of the kiln and discarded. To permit more control of the rate of firing, Lindsay (1975:10) says:

... the opening at the base of the kiln, through which the fire was fed ... was situated on the side opposite the prevailing wind, and often was further sheltered with a sunken approach. When the fire was started this opening was controlled by a door or masonry blocking which regulated the air supply to the fire....A wind baffle was erected around the top of the kiln. In some kilns this was a fixed wall; in others the baffle was a moveable wooden screen....On top of the kiln itself the limestone was covered with large flat stones roughly set in clay, leaving a few holes for smoke to escape.

The stone wall of the compound immediately behind the kiln and the nearby *jacal* walls would have served as a wind baffle. Lindsay (1975:37) adds that the firing of the kiln produced steam, smoke, and fumes that were quite unpleasant, if not actually harmful, to nearby residents. The limekiln at Rancho de las Cabras, being about a *vara* (85 cm) in internal diameter, was small compared with those described by Lindsay (1975:10). ...

In association with the lime making process, there would have been a lime slaking pit of some sort, where the lime was slaked by being mixed with

water, then stored until needed. No such pit has yet been clearly identified, but it is possible that Unit 13, excavated the first season, located a portion of such a pit. The unit was excavated to a smooth white *caliche* or lime surface with a distinct slope and basinlike curvature (Ivey and Fox 1981:28, 29).

A dependable water supply would have been needed for the slaking operation, as well as for all the other needs of the ranch. It is unlikely that this need could have been met by the carrying of water by hand from the river. Furthermore, the overall appearance of the site as having been intended for defense argues for a water supply within the compound. The most likely location for this is last season's Unit 5 (Ivey and Fox 1981:18), which located a small circular depression with cracking of the earth within and around it indicating that some sinkage had occurred in the area.³

Little is known about use of the landscape to generate a regular food source during the periods of significance, including the hunting and fishing practices of occupants during either period, or the cultural manipulation of natural resources that occurred to facilitate hunting. It is possible that locally indigenous populations utilized fire here, as elsewhere, to manipulate the character of woodland cover for hunting. Preliminary evaluation of archeological investigations of similar sites has suggested that native populations did not engage in agriculture to any great extent.

Archeological analysis of the faunal remains recovered during investigation of the *rancho* compound indicates that the diet of the site's occupants took advantage of local mammal, fish, and bird populations in addition to the livestock that was maintained on the property. Historic documentation that survives from the Spanish colonial period indicates that agriculture was practiced at the *rancho* compound. In particular, **fenced garden plots** are mentioned in period documents. Evidence of these have not yet been discovered during archeological investigations.

The siting of the *rancho* compound itself takes advantage of a local high point, with **panoramic views** of the surrounding countryside. These views would have aided the occupants in keeping track of livestock herds and allowing for advance warning of potential attack. This feature is described in more detail under the "Views and viewsheds" section below.

Land Uses and Activities

Prehistoric land uses were most likely associated primarily with **hunting** and the **gathering of food**. Land uses established during the Spanish colonial period consisted of **agriculture**, in the form of **garden plots**, **crop fields**, and the **pasturing of livestock**, **residential**, and the use of the chapel to conduct **religious services**. To date, no interments have been identified on the site, although it is possible that future archeological investigations may locate a cemetery on the property dating from the Spanish colonial period.

³Ibid., 38-39.

Currently, none of these land uses is being practiced on the site, although **agriculture (grazing)** has occurred until recently within the improved pasture located north of the confluence of Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River, and cattle continue to find their way onto the site ostensibly to drink from Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River. The current and intended land use of this publicly-owned historic site is **interpretation** of natural and remnant historic and cultural landscape features. Sustainable agricultural programs that address vegetation management could be utilized to interpret historic agricultural uses of the landscape.

Archeological investigations of the site's resources has been an on-going activity since the property was acquired by the State of Texas, and later the Department of the Interior. Continued work in this area will be utilized to enhance interpretive programs.

Buildings and Structures

The only building known to have existed through history on the site is the sandstone **rancho compound**, constructed, and enlarged at least once, during the Spanish colonial period. The majority of this structure is in ruins. As noted earlier in this document, the compound was composed of various interior buildings enclosed within a perimeter wall. The interior buildings constructed of sandstone that have been identified to date through archeological investigation include a chapel, four rooms, and two bastions. Evidence of additional compartments or rooms that are thought to have been constructed of wood and plaster, referred to as *jacales*, also exists within the archeological record. There is currently no evidence that other buildings or structures existed on the property prior to or after the *rancho* compound.

The small breached **earthen dam** located in the southwestern corner of the property constitutes the only other vestige of a structure currently extant on the site. Based on oral history information collected for this study, the dam was constructed during the early- to mid-twentieth century to impound water in a tank for livestock.

Circulation Systems

Nothing is known about circulation routes that most likely existed either on the property or nearby during the Spanish colonial and prehistoric periods. **Trails or roads** most likely led to the *rancho* compound from the nearby *caminos reales* that paralleled the river during the Spanish colonial period, and were likely based on routes established earlier by locally indigenous peoples. Important river crossings were located north and south of the site—Paso de las Mujeres, and Caballo crossing—presumably within Espada's ranchlands. Documentary evidence suggests that the *rancho* compound originally included two gates that provided access to the river and to the ranchlands. One has been discovered archeologically in the compound's northwestern wall. Additional investigations have indicated the possible presence of a road trace paralleling the southeastern wall of the compound. Further investigation of site circulation features and systems is needed to understand how the compound functioned in relation to the larger landscape.

The date of origin of the **single-lane vehicle tracks** that currently exist on the property is unknown. The vehicle track that encircles the ruins appears on a 1931 aerial of the property and a ca. 1961 USGS map. The others do not, and may post-date the middle of the twentieth century.

Vegetation

The evolution of vegetative ecology in the region has been variously documented. Review of some of the literature that addresses regional ecology suggests a contextual model that helps to consider the nature of vegetation on the site over time. Because there are so few above-ground resources that date from the periods of significance, a comparative analysis of vegetation becomes critical in imparting an understanding of how much the current landscape suggests, or has the potential to suggest, the historic ranchlands of Rancho de las Cabras. The information that follows relates only to vegetation on a gross scale and the effects of land use practices on community composition; at this time, there is no record of gardens or other ornamental vegetation on the site, and little information has been uncovered about agricultural crops during the Spanish colonial period other than the mention of a fenced corn field near the compound.

Prior to the Spanish colonial period, it is believed that the dominant vegetative communities on this site would have fallen into two categories: **Upland South Texas Brush**, and **Riparian**. Most of the upland areas would have supported an open prairie composed primarily of bunch grasses, small shrubs and prickly pear, with a few mesquite trees. River terraces and floodplains would have supported a more wooded community dominated by pecans, oaks, and cottonwood trees that became more dense at the lower elevations where water was available over longer periods. It is not known to what extent locally indigenous peoples manipulated either community for hunting or agriculture.

During the Spanish colonial period, the pasturing of livestock was introduced to the area. Cattle, horses, goats, and sheep, although not present in extremely large numbers, would have had a dramatic affect on the vegetation of the area. Livestock was allowed to roam freely at the time. Trampling and consuming much of the existing vegetation, and compacting the soil, these livestock would have eradicated many of the most sensitive and delicate prairie species. The understory of the riparian woodland would have similarly been altered, and was most likely opened up by the livestock. Topsoil was most likely lost to erosion where plant cover was eradicated.

After the decline of the missions, the site and the region continued to support ranching. During the mid- to late-nineteenth century, barbed wire fencing was introduced, confining livestock to defined fields. This led to over-grazing and further degradation of the prairie communities. The result was a shift in the ecological balance of upland prairie communities and the seemingly irreversible invasion of mesquite into pasturelands.

During the early part of the twentieth century, agriculture became a larger component of the region's economy, many ranches were subdivided, and crops such as peanuts, peas, sweet and Irish potatoes, sorghum, Johnson grass, fruit, and some vegetables, began to be cultivated on a large scale. The western portion of the Rancho de las Cabras upland exhibits evidence of having been cultivated at one time, most likely during the earlier part of the twentieth century. A 1931 aerial photograph indicates, however, that scrubby vegetation was present over much of the property at that time, suggesting that the site had been left fallow. At some time between 1961 and the present, agriculture was reintroduced to portions of the property, in particular the eastern upland plateau.

Existing vegetation patterns reflect, to a great degree, the past land use history of the site. The majority of the upland areas include vegetation that is representative of successional communities evolving after the abandonment of agriculture. Upland communities range from improved pasture, to early succession from improved pasture, through advanced succession from native pasture. Mesquite most likely occupies a much higher percentage of the upland "prairie" areas than it did prior to, or during, the periods when ranching was the dominant land use.

The existing riparian communities most likely represent their prehistoric counterparts more closely than the upland communities. Much of the riparian woodland on the site is composed of dense stands of aged canopy trees, and relatively well-developed understory and groundcover layers. Few invasive alien plants were identified during site visits by project team members, and existing species are consistent with eighteenth century descriptions of species observed in the region.

Small-scale Features

There are no small-scale features on the site that survive from the periods of significance. It is assumed that **wooden fencing** was utilized during the Spanish colonial period to fence kitchen garden and other crop fields from roaming livestock, and to form pens for the animals. Archeological investigations have uncovered what are thought to be the remains of wooden fence posts associated with pens for livestock within the compound walls. Written documentation of the *rancho* describe the enclosed garden plots that existed beyond the perimeter sandstone walls at that time; investigation of areas outside the compound walls has yet to yield evidence of these features.

The dates of origin for the majority of the existing small-scale features on the property have not yet been determined. Existing **fencing** along the panhandle, western and southern property boundaries, and along the upland plateau appears to date from the early- to mid-twentieth century. The fencing that follows the western upland plateau marks the boundary between two

parcels that were acquired separately by the State of Texas in 1977 and 1982. The fencing that edges the eastern upland plateau is electrified and was likely constructed after the mid-twentieth century. The two metal farm **gates** that limit access to the property also appear to be recent additions to the property. Based on oral history information collected for this study, some fencing was established within the last decade. This most likely includes fencing along the southern margin of the panhandle.

The **historical marker** located near the ruins is known to have been placed on the site in 1936. The date of origin of various wooden **signs** located on the property are not known, but they appear to date from State of Texas ownership.

Views and Viewsheds

Little is known about the availability or importance of views on this site during the prehistoric period. It is likely, however, that locations which provided a good **prospect** were sought after by locally indigenous peoples. The potential to view the surrounding landscape would have been an important consideration in establishing occupation sites, for their potential to protect against attack, and for hunting. Artifactual evidence of locally indigenous peoples has been discovered on two river terraces located on the site. Occupation of these terraces may have allowed for proximity to fresh water, as well as a prospect towards the water. To enhance **views for hunting**, it is possible that locally indigenous peoples manipulated the surrounding understory and herbaceous layers of vegetation.

Historic documentation of the Spanish colonial period indicate that the *rancho* compound was sited on a local high point with **panoramic views** of the surrounding landscape. The location of the compound most likely provided defensive advantages, and the ability to follow the movement of livestock. Historic views from the compound ruins appear to be partially compromised today by groves of mesquite trees.

Boundary Demarcations

The landscape now included within the boundaries of Rancho de las Cabras has undergone numerous changes of ownership patterns since the Spanish colonial period. Nothing is known about the existence or demarcation of boundaries of any kind during the prehistoric period, or even the early Spanish colonial period. Towards the end of the Spanish colonial period, the Calvillo family applied for title to the site. Documents referring to property delineation at that time suggest that natural boundaries, including water bodies such as the **San Antonio River**, served as markers in boundary descriptions at that time. The majority of these exist beyond current property boundaries. The San Antonio River, however, has remained a consistent eastern margin for the site since the Spanish colonial period.

Later subdivisions of the historic ranch were marked by owners in various manners, most particularly with **fences** after the introduction of wire fencing in the late nineteenth century. The barbed wire fence that edges the western upland is one such property line that dates from the early to mid-twentieth century. Roads or road easements were often sited along the boundaries between properties, as can be seen on nineteenth and twentieth century maps of the region. Because the existing Rancho de las Cabras property is generally a subdivision of larger parcels, few of the earliest demarcations fall within current property boundaries.

Cultural Traditions

Little, if anything, is known about the cultural traditions associated with the locally indigenous peoples that occupied this site during the prehistoric period. Similarly, there are few documentary sources that discuss daily life at the compound during the Spanish colonial period. However, analysis of the artifacts uncovered during archeological investigations does suggest that certain traditions were transported to the site from other cultures by the occupants.

A discussion of the artifacts discovered in 1983 archeological investigations provides this insight into cultural traditions at the site:

The artifacts recovered this season relate a number of things about life at Rancho de las Cabras. The horse harness and branding iron fragments are indicative of the cattle industry operating from this site; the rings and crucifixes indicate the close relationship between the site and the Catholic Church, and the other items are of daily life in the compound. It is interesting to note that no artifacts have been found in the two seasons of work which would explicitly indicate the presence of women or children living at the compound, although historical records do indicate that several families, including women and children, did live here at least in the 1780s. Future work may tell us more about the home and family life of the occupants of Rancho de las Cabras.

The fact that the crucifixes and at least one of the finger rings found at Rancho de las Cabras are identical to those found not only in other parts of the San Antonio River Valley, but also in other parts of the American frontier, such as Fort Michilimacinac, raises some interesting speculations. The most obvious conclusion is that religious activities in Texas were supplied, in part, from the same sources that supplied other frontier areas of the New World, areas that were not Spanish. In essence, the supplies in use at Rancho de las Cabras originated a very long way off; a world-wide system of trade supported the religious effort in Texas, of which the ranch was just one small component....

The presence of large quantity of *Goliad* ware as the basic utility ware of the ranch and the significant amount of lithics in use show that a strong tradition of ceramic making and lithic utilization was continued on the site. The

presence of these traditions are considered to be the result of the presence of a significant number of local or regional Indians as members of the population, and represent an Indian methodology for handling the basic tasks of daily life at the ranch. The ranch offers us a unique, self-contained laboratory for the study of the culture that resulted from the combination of regional Indian cultural traditions and an overlay of the more dominant of the cultural traditions of the Spanish frontier—a study, in other words, of acculturation.⁴

Another tradition—that of the cowboy—is thought to have developed at sites like Rancho de las Cabras based on the type of cattle ranching which took place in the region. As noted earlier, the regulations which governed the industry, the techniques for handling herds from horseback, even the cattle themselves, had their origins in the Spanish colonial period. Modern ranching can be said to have inherited the equipment, vocabulary, and folklore of the Indian *vaqueros*.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

Figure 30

Based on field investigations and an understanding of the site's landform, topography, hydrology, cultural features, and vegetation, the Rancho de las Cabras property has been divided into ten landscape character areas. Each landscape character area represents a discrete portion of the site that is defined by physical landscape characteristics and the type and/or concentration of historic landscape features present. One of the character areas—the Escarpment—however, is composed of three discontinuous portions of the site. Each of the ten landscape character areas listed below are subsequently described in more detail:

- Panhandle
- *Rancho* Compound
- Quarry
- Mesquite Upland
- North Arroyo
- South Arroyo
- Escarpment (includes three discontinuous areas)
- Picoso Creek
- Agricultural Field
- San Antonio River

The **Panhandle** character area is comprised of the long, linear portion of the property that includes the access road into the site from County Route 144. Features associated with the Panhandle character area include a single-lane vehicle track, metal farm gate, barbed wire fencing, and informational signage. Much of the area is maintained in grass fields, although it also includes clumps of trees and some shrubs in the existing drainageways. A major overhead electric transmission line and buried gas easement cross the Panhandle area.

⁴Ibid., 23-24.

The **Rancho Compound** character area is located in the southwestern corner of the property. It includes the *rancho* compound ruins, which are currently protected under mounded sand, vegetation consisting of grasses, mesquite trees, and prickly pear cactus, an historic marker erected on the site in 1936, informational signage, and an unimproved single-lane vehicle track that encircles the ruins. Long views are afforded from the *rancho* compound ruins, located on a high point of this upland area.

The **Quarry** character area abuts the *Rancho* Compound character area to the east. Two single-lane vehicle tracks lead into the quarry from the *rancho* compound. The area is characterized by the evidence of past quarrying activities that are known to have yielded *caliche*, and possibly gravel and sandstone, for construction. Stormwater currently ponds within the depressions formed from past quarrying activities where it is not able to drain. Wetland vegetation has colonized the margins of the areas susceptible to ponding. The center of this character area is generally open, while the outer margins are wooded, mostly with mesquite trees.

The **Mesquite Upland** character area is composed of the upland plateau that dominates the western portion of the property to the east of the panhandle. The terrain within this area is gently sloping. Vegetation is characteristic of the Upland South Texas Brush association in various stages of succession, and includes mostly low-growing grasses and scrubby shrubs, interspersed with groves of mesquite trees. Included in this area is the breached dam located in the far southwestern corner of the property, a metal farm gate, barbed wire fencing along the property boundary and along the edge of the upland plateau, and a system of unimproved single-lane vehicle tracks.

The **North Arroyo** character area abuts the eastern edge of the Mesquite Upland character area. It is comprised primarily of steeply sloped drainageways that empty into Picoso Creek. This character area is mostly wooded and includes vegetation representative of both the Upland South Texas Brush and Riparian associations. The drainageways are dry unless carrying stormwater. Many of these are severely eroded along their side and head walls. A portion of the barbed wire fence and unimproved road that generally edge the property's western upland area run through this character area.

The **South Arroyo** character area also abuts the eastern edge of the Mesquite Upland character area. It is similarly comprised of steeply sloped drainageways, undergoing some severe erosion along their side and head walls, that empty into Picoso Creek. This character area is mostly wooded and also includes vegetation representative of both the Upland South Texas Brush and Riparian associations. Refuse and discarded building materials were observed within the area in early 1998.

The **Escarpment** character area includes three discontinuous areas that edge the Mesquite Upland character area to its east. It includes the steeply sloped terrain that mediates between the western upland plateau and Picoso Creek. Erosion is evident at the heads of some of the

drainageways and slopes located in this area. The majority of the escarpment character area is wooded, dominated by vegetation representative of both the Upland South Texas Brush and Riparian associations. Cultural features located within the character area include a portion of the barbed wire fence and unimproved road that generally edge the property's western upland, and artifacts that appear to relate to prehistoric occupation of the landscape.

The **Picosa Creek** character area includes the stream corridor, its banks and floodplain, and the primary drainageways leading to it. Much of the character area is wooded and characterized by vegetation typical of the Riparian association. A portion of the barbed wire fence and unimproved vehicle track that generally edge the property's western upland run through this character area. In 1998, there was evidence that wildlife as well as cattle have been accessing the stream through this area.

The **Agricultural Field** character area consists of the eastern upland plateau located between Picosa Creek and the San Antonio River. An electric fence cuts across the western side of the character area. The landscape is primarily open and dominated by low-growing grasses, although it appears to be undergoing the early stages of succession. In 1998, there was evidence that cattle have been grazing in the area.

The **San Antonio River** character area includes the edge of the river, its banks and floodplain, and the adjacent steeply-sloped terrain. Riparian association vegetation dominates this area. A portion of the electric fence that is included in the Agricultural Field landscape character area crosses the center of the area, and barbed wire fencing crosses its western corner. There is evidence that wildlife as well as cattle have been accessing the stream through this area.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES

The following section summarizes the condition assessments made by OCULUS for the Rancho de las Cabras landscape features identified during field investigations performed in fall and winter of 1997-1998. These condition assessments reflect a pedestrian-level investigation of landscape features made by historical landscape architects in the field, without additional materials analyses or review by other professionals such as horticulturists, arborists, engineers, materials conservationists, or architects. Each landscape feature has been given a condition rating selected from a list of four possible categories developed from the National Park Service's Cultural Landscape Inventory Draft User's Manual, and defined as follows:

Good - indicates the cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The cultural landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair - indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within three to five years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. The cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements of the cultural landscape, if left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, will cause the cultural landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor - indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Unknown - not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Many of the landscape feature condition assessment ratings have been annotated to include specific condition-related observations made in the field that help to justify and explain the rating. Archeological sites and resources have not been assessed for their condition.

Responses to Natural Features and Systems

- Quarry Poor
Erosion and sloughing of side slopes, poor drainage.
- Picoso Creek Fair
Disturbance of banks, loss of vegetation due to access by livestock.
- Landform Good
Some erosion of slopes.
- Drainageways Fair
High levels of erosion.

Buildings and Structures

- Rancho compound ruins Fair
- Breached earthen dam Poor

Circulation Systems

- Entrance road Fair
This unimproved road is composed of *caliche*, which absorbs stormwater. Once wet, this surface is difficult to navigate.
- Vehicle track along western property boundary Poor
Poor drainage, insufficient road surface.
- Vehicle track along northern property boundary Poor
Poor drainage, insufficient road surface.
- Vehicle track along upland margin Poor
Poor drainage, insufficient road surface.
- Vehicle tracks surrounding ruins and quarry Poor
Poor drainage, insufficient road surface.

Vegetation

- Early succession from improved pasture vegetative community Fair
- Early succession from native pasture vegetative community Fair
- Secondary succession from native pasture vegetative community Fair
- Advanced succession from native pasture vegetative community Fair
- Upper riparian vegetative community Fair
- Lower riparian vegetative community Fair
- Improved pasture vegetative community Fair
- Recently disturbed imported vegetation vegetative community Fair
- Recently disturbed quarry vegetative community Fair

Small-scale Features and Boundary Demarcations

- Entrance gate Fair
Needs repair.
- Gate at end of panhandle Fair
Needs repair.

- Fencing along panhandle and northern boundary Fair
Mostly intact, needs some repair. Ownership not determined.
- Fencing along western property boundary Fair
Mostly intact, needs some repair. Ownership not determined.
- Fencing along southern property boundary Fair
Mostly intact, needs some repair. Ownership not determined.
- Fencing along the upland margin Fair
Mostly intact, needs some repair.
- Historical marker Good
Needs cleaning.
- Signs at compound Fair
Deterioration from weathering.
- Fence along eastern field margin Fair
Mostly intact, needs some repair.

Views and Viewsheds

- Panoramic view from *rancho* compound ruins Fair
Vegetation obscures portions of the view.

IDENTIFICATION OF CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES

The following list of features survive from the site's periods of significance—prehistory, and 1760-1820—and are organized according to the landscape characteristics utilized in the comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions. All existing park features are identified as either contributing, non-contributing, or undetermined. Features known to be missing from the periods of significance are listed subsequently. Only features that are located within current park boundaries are evaluated as contributing or non-contributing.

Contributing Resources

Responses to Natural Features and Systems

- Picoso Creek
- Landforms
- Drainageways/hydrology

Land Uses and Activities

- Agriculture (grazing)

Buildings and Structures

- *Rancho* compound ruins

Circulation Systems

- None

Vegetation

- Lower riparian vegetative community

Small-scale Features

- None

Views and Viewsheds

- Views to the San Antonio River from the western upland plateau
- Portions of the panoramic view from the *rancho* compound

Archeological Resources

- *Rancho* compound, including walls, bastions, chapel, possible well, lime kiln, and lime slaking pit, *jacales*, possible road trace, middens

Boundary Demarcations

Cultural Traditions

- None

Non-Contributing Resources

Responses to Natural Features and Systems

- Quarry (*caliche* excavation)
- Earthen dam

Land Uses and Activities

- Electric transmission line
- Buried gasline easement
- Public park
- Archeological investigations

Buildings and Structures

- None

Circulation Systems

- Entrance road
- Vehicle track along western property boundary
- Vehicle track along northern property boundary

- Vehicle track along upland margin
- Vehicle tracks surrounding ruins and quarry

Vegetation

- Early succession from improved pasture community
- Improved pasture community
- Recently disturbed imported vegetation community
- Recently disturbed quarry community

Small-scale Features and Boundary Demarcations

- Entrance gate
- Gate at end of panhandle
- Fencing along panhandle and northern property boundary
- Fencing along western property boundary
- Fencing along southern property boundary
- Fencing along the upland margin
- Fencing along eastern field margin
- Historical marker
- Signs at compound

Views and Viewsheds

- Views to neighboring dwellings and discarded refuse

Cultural Traditions

- None

Undetermined

Responses to Natural Features and Systems

- Quarry (possible sandstone excavation)

Land Uses and Activities

Buildings and Structures

Circulation Systems

- None

Vegetation

- Early succession from native pasture community
- Secondary succession from native pasture community
- Advanced succession from native pasture community
- Upper riparian community

Small-scale Features

Views and Viewsheds

Archeological Resources

Boundary Demarcations

Cultural Traditions

- None

Missing Features

Responses to Natural Features and Systems

- Possible tunnel to river
- Possible well

Land Uses and Activities

- Residential
- Agriculture (cropland)

Buildings and Structures

- *Rancho* compound, including chapel, bastions, rooms

Circulation Systems

- Possible trail or road leading to the compound from regional primary circulation route(s)
- Possible paths and trails connecting features of the *rancho*
- Possible compound interior circulation
- Possible path(s) to river

Vegetation

- Crop plots
- Kitchen gardens

Small-scale Features

- Corral fencing
- Lime slaking pit
- Lime kiln

Views and Viewsheds

- Expansive views from the *rancho* compound, unencumbered by groves of trees or other vegetation

Boundary Demarcations

- None

Cultural Traditions

- *Vaquero* lifeways
- Mission religious practices

INTEGRITY ASSESSMENT

The assessment of a landscape's integrity is based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from a property's period of significance, taking into consideration the degree to which the individual qualities of integrity are present. The seven qualities or aspects of integrity included in the National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As noted in National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred; **design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property; **setting** is the physical environment of a historic property; **materials** are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property; **workmanship** is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory; **feeling** is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and **association** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

National Register Bulletin 15 also states that

integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance....Historic properties either retain integrity (that is convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register Criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity. To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey significance. Determining *which* of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant.

For the Rancho de las Cabras property, the majority of the extant resources associated with the period of significance are archeological, and the primary aspect of the site's significance relates to these archeological resources. For those resources that do survive from the Spanish colonial period, such as the compound ruins, landform and topography, and some natural systems, the aspects of integrity that are most important are location, setting, feeling, and association, and

the integrity assessment that follows will focus on these. In regard to the integrity of archeological resources, it is generally based on the potential of the resources to yield important information about the period, and the assessment will be based on this criteria.

Overview of Rancho de las Cabras Integrity

Based on the analysis and evaluation of the property undertaken earlier in this chapter including the comparison of historic and existing landscape conditions, the Rancho de las Cabras landscape does not retain integrity from either period of significance. As an archeological site, however, the site retains sufficient integrity to yield important information about these significant periods.

Some of the site's natural resources, such as Picoso Creek, its landform and topography, views, and riparian woodland communities may survive from the prehistoric period. A limited number of features, including the site's landform and much of its topography, the riparian woodland communities, Picoso Creek, views from the ruins, and possibly the quarry site, appear to survive from the Spanish colonial period. The surviving features are not sufficient, however, to convey the character of the landscape during either period.

Despite the various changes and additions to the landscape that post-date the Spanish colonial period, the site does retain integrity of location. The landscape's integrity of association, feeling, and setting for the Spanish colonial period of significance is greatly diminished due to the loss of the *rancho* compound and other features, such as roads and trails, fencing, and the broad patterns of vegetation that characterized the period.

Integrity Assessment Using Four Primary Aspects

The property retains a high degree of **integrity of location** in association with the Spanish colonial period of significance as it continues to exist as a site on the location of the historic *rancho* and retains sufficient undeveloped land around the ruins to convey the sense of an historic ranch.

Rancho de las Cabras retains limited **integrity of setting** for the Spanish colonial period. Much of the surrounding area continues to be used for ranching and agriculture, which contributes to the integrity of setting. Although some incompatible development has occurred within the site's viewshed, portions of the site remain in open fields, with views of the surrounding landscape that are relatively unencumbered by large-scale urban, industrial, or residential development. The texture of the landscape, including the invasion of mesquite over prairie land, and the prevalence of crop fields where livestock once roamed, however, has changed considerably. These factors, coupled with the loss of cultural features and lack of pastured livestock, diminish the site's integrity of setting.

The site also retains limited **integrity of feeling** for the Spanish colonial period of significance, based on the criteria discussed above under integrity of setting. The continued presence of landforms and water resources that characterized the site and helped to structure the landscape during the Spanish colonial period can be utilized to support an understanding of its cultural landscape development. However, the current evidence that the property has been left fallow for some time diminishes the integrity of feeling, as do some twentieth century features such as vehicle tracks and barbed wire and electric fencing.

Few above-ground resources survive from the Spanish colonial period to provide **integrity of association** for this period. The ruins and associated panoramic views of the surrounding landscape provide important connections between the two periods. Otherwise, however, the site lacks integrity of association.



5 DESIGN GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5 DESIGN GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The treatment and design guidelines and recommendations that comprise this chapter were prepared to provide San Antonio Missions National Historical Park with a comprehensive vision for the Rancho de las Cabras cultural landscape that will guide long-term management and interpretation of the site. They arise from a synthesis of work undertaken by OCULUS and its consultants to prepare other aspects of this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), from information gathered by OCULUS project personnel during various meetings at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and from review of various park planning documents. These documents included the:

- July 1982 *General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan* for San Antonio Missions National Historical Park;
- July 1980 *Statement for Management for San Antonio Missions National Historical Park*;
- 1995 “Interim Interpretive Prospectus for Rancho de las Cabras”; and
- May 1998 DRAFT “General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment, Rancho de las Cabras Site, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Floresville, Texas.”

The information included in this chapter is intended to address the challenges associated with balancing resource protection and interpretation. Park planning documents stress the park’s need to identify, preserve, and protect existing natural, cultural, and historic resources, and to institute appropriate management and interpretation programs at Rancho de las Cabras based on an understanding of the identified resources. The treatment and design guidelines and recommendations included in this CLR address this need by identifying an overall flexible approach to the protection, preservation, and maintenance of all site resources, and recommending a body of specific concepts for managing and providing access to the site’s cultural landscape.

This chapter is divided into four sections: 1) Management Goals and Objectives, 2) Preservation Approach, 3) Preservation and Design Guidelines, and 4) Preservation and Design Recommendations and Alternatives. The first section—Management Goals and Objectives—summarizes the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park management goals and objectives for the Rancho de las Cabras site as outlined in park planning documents,

focusing on the most recent DRAFT General Management Plan Amendment, and then expands upon these to integrate the issues raised by this CLR. The second section—Preservation Approach—outlines the alternatives recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for treating historic landscapes, and identifies the alternative that best suits the resources and management objectives of the Rancho de las Cabras site. This section also includes a description of five treatment areas identified for the park as part of this CLR for which resource-based variations on the park-wide recommended treatment approach have been developed. The third section—Preservation and Design Guidelines—provides guidance on how to approach the preservation of resources and development of facilities at Rancho de las Cabras. The fourth section—Preservation and Design Recommendations and Alternatives—focuses on design alternatives and recommendations to be considered by park managers that address the treatment of site resources and the development of new facilities intended to provide for visitor access, site interpretation, and resource management.

MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

This section summarizes the management goals developed by San Antonio Missions National Historical Park for Rancho de las Cabras to date, and supplements them with suggestions for additional goals and objectives that are based on the work undertaken to prepare this CLR. The goals and objectives focus on resource protection and the enhancement of the visitor experience. They are intended to provide an overarching approach to resource preservation. Specifically, they address the following five management issues:

- Cultural and Historic Resource Management;
- Natural Systems Management;
- Interpretation;
- Visitor Access; and
- Safety and Maintenance.

Two of the most challenging resource management issues that the National Park Service (NPS) will face at Rancho de las Cabras will be vegetation and archeology. The management of these two types of resources is discussed in more detail at the end of this section.

Current Site Mission Goals and Interpretive Themes

Current site mission goals and interpretive themes are outlined in the May 1998 DRAFT “General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment, Rancho de las Cabras Site, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park,” and the September 8, 1995 “Interim Interpretive Prospectus for Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park” and summarized below. The suggested site resource management goals and objectives that follow are based on the information presented in these two documents.

Mission Goals

- The preservation of the *rancho* ruins will be management's highest responsibility;
- The visitor to the *rancho* will learn about its role in the life of Mission Espada and in the evolving Southwest cattle and ranching industry;
- As soon as budgeting and staffing allow, the *rancho* will be open to the public and staffed on a scheduled basis;
- The community of Floresville will be encouraged to "adopt" the site, with local volunteers becoming involved in its interpretation and maintenance;
- The historically inaccurate monument in the *rancho* compound will be removed; and
- The proposed uncovering and preservation treatment of the walls, the exposure of the occupation levels, and archeological investigations will be open for public viewing, and will be interpreted.¹

Interpretive Theme

Currently, the interpretive program for Rancho de las Cabras deals with the history of the site, its relationship to the missions of San Antonio National Historical Park, and the park's primary interpretive theme: the San Antonio missions' conversion and acculturation of the many Indian groups served as a means to settle and, therefore, enforce Spain's claim to this remote frontier.

As of the development of this CLR, Rancho de las Cabras' interpretive theme is: The mission ranch was a critical component of a self-sufficient mission community. In addition, as noted in the park's interim interpretive prospectus for the property, the sub-themes for Mission Espada and Rancho de las Cabras are:

- A. The Mission as a vocational education center, instructing the Indian converts so they would have a livelihood within the Spanish frontier society.
- B. The Mission as an economic center, with the contributions of its farmlands, ranches, and tradesmen in the development of the region.²

¹National Park Service, DRAFT "General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment, Rancho de las Cabras Site, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Floresville, Texas," Prepared jointly by the staffs of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and Denver Support Office, Intermountain Region, May 1998.

²National Park Service, "Interim Interpretive Prospectus for Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park," September 8, 1995.

The following suggested management goals and objectives represent a potential framework for the management of the Rancho de las Cabras site to meet the policies and planning objectives included in park planning documents, such as those cited above.

Suggested Cultural and Historic Resource Management Goals and Objectives

Goal: Identify and preserve historically significant resources through proper research, planning, and treatment.

- Objective 1: Undertake research of documentary sources to identify additional information relating to the history and physical character of the Rancho de las Cabras site during the Spanish colonial and subsequent periods.
- Objective 2: Undertake archeological investigations of the *rancho* compound to support work produced to date, and to address the questions raised in earlier investigations.
- Objective 3: Undertake additional archeological investigations of the immediate environs of the *rancho* compound to support work produced to date and to address the questions raised in earlier investigations, including learning more about the use of these areas, the location of additional features, and their role in *rancho* operations.
- Objective 4: Undertake analysis, planning, and design in order to develop protection, stabilization, and preservation measures for the *rancho* compound structural remains including removal of all brush and trees on and within the immediate vicinity of the archeological sites and structural remains.
- Objective 5: Undertake archeological investigations to determine the site history and chronology of the quarry and its possible role in the construction and maintenance of the *rancho* compound and related features.
- Objective 6: Undertake archeological investigations of known and potential prehistoric sites to learn more about the cultural landscape during this period and the relationship between prehistoric, Spanish colonial, and post-Spanish colonial occupation.
- Objective 7: Undertake archeological investigations of the modern dump sites located within the arroyos north of the *rancho* compound in anticipation of their removal.

Suggested Natural Systems Management Goals and Objectives

Goal: Promote and protect healthy water resources, associated riparian systems, and other natural systems and features capable of supporting a diversity of plant and animal life. Mitigate existing conditions currently degrading the landscape, and prevent further degradation.

- Objective 1: Halt unauthorized grazing and water access by livestock on park lands through control of boundaries, access agreements, and associated control measures.
- Objective 2: Establish, enhance, or maintain vegetative cover at the tops of arroyos as buffer and filter zones and to mitigate soil erosion.
- Objective 3: Establish a monitoring program to determine the presence of invasive alien plant species and their impact on native plant populations and communities.
- Objective 4: Undertake floral and faunal surveys to determine the presence of rare and endangered species and their habitat.
- Objective 5: Stabilize the slopes of the quarry to protect visitors and park staff, and prevent sloughing soil from encroaching on the area around the *rancho* compound.
- Objective 6: Investigate the value of the quarry's wet areas as habitat prior to altering drainage patterns.
- Objective 7: Incorporate sustainability in the development of vegetation management plans.
- Objective 8: Consider alternative vegetation management strategies that have the potential to reduce mesquite colonization of areas once dominated by open prairie.

Suggested Interpretative Goals and Objectives

Goal: Offer programs and services to the visitor which advance an understanding, appreciation, and awareness of the prehistoric and Spanish colonial significance of the site, and its natural and scenic values. Interpretation should be viewed as a dynamic element of the visitor experience that evolves over time as new information becomes available through research and archeology, and funding levels allow for proper sustained stewardship of interpretive features and systems. Interpretive aids might include permanent and temporary exhibits, publications, brochures, audio programs, and curriculum-based education programs, as well as personal services interpretation.

- Objective 1: Promote visitor access to and interpretation of archeological investigations.

- Objective 2: Undertake analysis, planning, and design in order to develop protection, stabilization, and preservation measures for the *rancho* compound resources that may include revealing the form of the structures as an interpretive aid.
- Objective 3: Promote visitor access to and interpretation of the rehabilitation of *rancho* compound structures.
- Objective 4: Develop an interpretive program to tell the story of Spanish colonial era *rancho* life supplemented with available information regarding other periods of the site's occupation. Provide interpretive opportunities as part of an interpretive trail system, and within a visitor contact/interpretation facility.
- Objective 5: Consider maintaining, or enhancing, current levels of personal services interpretation.
- Objective 6: Consider developing an overlook that allows visitors to observe the larger landscape and its systems, and to interpret the scale of the *rancho* and its relationship with Mission Espada within the context of the San Antonio mission system.

Suggested Visitor Access Goals and Objectives

Goal: Ensure that all visitors have access to the site and its stories in the least-intrusive manner possible.

- Objective 1: Provide vehicular access into the site leading to a visitor contact/interpretation facility.
- Objective 2: Develop a visitor contact/interpretation facility that is compatible with the site's rural surroundings. Minimize the visibility of the facility from the *rancho* compound and associated interpretive areas.
- Objective 3: Provide facilities for visitor comfort and shelter during extreme weather conditions, including hot temperatures and storms.
- Objective 4: Develop a pedestrian interpretive trail system that provides connections between access route(s) into the site, the *rancho* compound, its environs, the San Antonio River, and possibly an overlook that affords views of the larger landscape.
- Objective 5: Develop a trail that provides site access to the San Antonio River by rafters, canoeists, and kayakers, should there be a demonstrated need.

Suggested Safety and Maintenance Goals and Objectives

Goal: Establish a well-maintained environment that protects to the fullest extent possible the visitor and those affiliated with site maintenance and management. Develop sustainable facilities that can be supported by available maintenance staffing and funding levels.

- Objective 1: Stabilize the slopes of the quarry to control sloughing.
- Objective 2: Document and remove the barbed wire fencing existing on the site.
- Objective 3: Limit visitor access to steep slopes.
- Objective 4: Clearly mark and identify the system of pedestrian trails and paths developed for visitor use.
- Objective 5: Limit visitor access to unprotected archeological resources and remnant structures.
- Objective 6: Undertake site inventories to identify insects, reptiles, mammals, and plants that pose a potential threat to the visitor. Develop programs and facilities that will help protect visitors from the site's inherent hazardous elements.
- Objective 7: Ensure continued control of livestock through maintenance of existing fencing. Maintain visitor areas free of livestock.
- Objective 8: Document and remove dump site refuse.

A Discussion of Vegetation Management Issues

Because plants and their ecology are by nature dynamic and complex, vegetation management is one of the most difficult aspects of administering historic sites. Vegetation management strategies must accommodate and/or enhance the protection and interpretation of cultural and historic resources, as well as visitor access and safety. Vegetation management strategies must also take into account native site ecology, since "natural systems eliminate or minimize disturbances, resulting in much more stable environments and, of great importance to park managers, in the long run they require lower levels of investment in labor and materials than horticultural (i.e. disturbance) systems."³ Vegetation management strategies can vary widely in their associated maintenance needs and therefore have significant cost implications. Finally, vegetation management also has important aesthetic considerations and can affect the visitor's

³Edward Toth, "An Ecosystem Approach to Woodland Management: The Case of Prospect Park," in *National Association for Olmsted Parks Workbook Series*, Volume 2, 1991, 2.

impression of the site; the maintenance and management of vegetation can be undertaken in such a way as to enhance or screen views, and to illicit emotional responses, such as mystery, awe, surprise, or beauty.

Although our knowledge of the vegetation history of the Rancho de las Cabras site is limited, current conditions are thought to bear little resemblance to conditions in existence during the Spanish colonial period. The existing mesquite thickets that dominate the western upland plateau have arisen since the late nineteenth century, replacing the open prairie dotted with mesquite trees that likely existed prior to and during the eighteenth century. Overgrazing and other agricultural activities undertaken in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are thought to have contributed to the ecology of the existing vegetative community in evidence throughout the region. Selective clearing of mesquite to enhance views, protect resources, and provide a variety of animal habitat, is recommended at a minimum by this study. Also recommended for consideration are alternative vegetation management strategies, such as controlled burning, the re-establishment of grazing populations, including goats, and/or the establishment of warm season grass fields, for upland areas. These strategies would variously allow for the control of mesquite populations, and possibly the reinstatement of the historic upland prairie community. Selection by the park of a specific vegetation management strategy will take into consideration further investigation into the vegetation present on the site during the Spanish colonial and prehistoric periods, funding, issues of sustainability, consultation with other site managers currently attempting similar strategies, and the potential to enter into management agreements with adjacent landowners to coordinate land cover practices.

Invasive Alien Plants

Currently, the Rancho de las Cabras site does not appear to be suffering the ill effects of invasive or disruptive non-native plant species. However, as noted in "Pulling Together, A National Strategy for Invasive Plant Management," a document supported by NPS, "(Invasive alien) plants severely threaten biodiversity, habitat quality, and ecosystem functions—the very basis of our natural heritage. Invasive plants are growing out of control in our parks, preserves, and refuges, and in our rangelands, forests, agricultural fields, and urban green spaces."⁴ Because of the nature of this pervasive problem, the park should be vigilant in monitoring for and eradicating non-native plants with the potential to interfere with native ecologies and a healthy, balanced ecosystem. The park's "Integrated Pest Management Plan" already identifies four of the vegetative pests that currently plague site managers, and the criteria for eradicating known populations. As more research into Spanish colonial period life at Rancho de las Cabras is undertaken, a conflict may arise if there are found to be species present that hold historic

⁴Federal Interagency Committee for Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (eds.) "Pulling Together: A National Strategy for Management of Invasive Plants." 2nd edition. 1998, 1.

significance for the site but which are also invasive aliens. In all cases, the threat that these plants pose is great enough that invasive alien plants should be eradicated and alternatives for interpreting their role in the site's history developed.

Exotic or non-native vegetation species fall into one of two categories: innocuous or disruptive. As discussed in NPS-77: *Natural Resources Management Guideline*, innocuous species are those exotics that do not invade native ecosystems without human-caused disturbance, whose populations do not expand, or who generally do not displace native species to any significant extent. Maintenance and management activities should not be focused on these exotic species, but should concentrate on the disruptive species that significantly alter natural processes. The affects of disruptive species, hereinafter referred to as invasive alien plants, include alteration of successional patterns, reduction of native species populations, hybridization with native species, or deterioration of historic resources through rampant growth. Invasive alien plants are also defined as:

Plants that are not a part of the indigenous (native) vegetation, but that have been introduced into a region ... For the most part, introduced, or alien plant species form an important part of our environment, contributing immensely to agriculture, horticulture, landscaping, and soil stabilization. But among the thousands of plant species introduced to our area, some have displayed unexpected aggressive growth tendencies....Invasive alien plants typically exhibit the following characteristics:

- rapid growth and maturity;
- prolific seed production;
- highly successful seed dispersal, germination, and colonization;
- rampant spread;
- ability to out-compete native species;
- high cost to remove or control....

Invasive aliens thrive on disturbed sites. Native plant communities fragmented by human disturbances are most vulnerable to invasion, but even intact ecosystems can be invaded by the most aggressive alien species. Invasive alien plants leave behind the natural controls (e.g. insects) that keep them in check in their native habitats. Biodiversity is further threatened when alien plants harbor invasive pathogens, fungi, or other organisms that decimate native species such as the American chestnut⁵.

“Pulling Together, A National Strategy for Invasive Plant Management” recommends three goals for managing invasive plants: “Prevention, Control, and Restoration,”⁶ that are similarly recommended herein and explained in more detail below.

⁵Virginia Native Plant Society bulletin “Warning! Invasive Alien Plants,” n.d., 1 p.

⁶Ibid., 2.

Prevention

The primary control mechanism for disruptive or invasive alien species is to prevent their establishment in an area because they are generally easier to eradicate when they first appear. The monitoring programs that are recommended in this CLR are aimed at early detection and removal of disruptive species. It should be noted, however, that one of the primary vehicles for invasive alien plant establishment is site disturbance, including such activities as construction or grading, and the alteration of natural vegetation patterns. Because construction activities are likely to occur at Rancho de las Cabras in order to establish visitor access improvements and interpretive programs, the development of a monitoring program for disruptive species is highly recommended.

Control

Research of available literature is invaluable in developing control methods and strategies, including cultural, mechanical, biological, and pesticide control methods.⁷

Control and/or eradication of invasive alien species should be undertaken if they:

- threaten to alter natural ecosystems;
- seriously restrict, prey on, or compete with native populations;
- present a hazard to human health or safety;
- cause a major scenic or aesthetic intrusion;
- disrupt the integrity of an historic site;
- damage archeological resources; and/or
- extensively modify geophysical processes.⁸

NPS-77 suggests that prior to any site disruption, a list of predicted invader species be developed so that personnel involved in monitoring can be on the lookout for these species and take measures to prevent their invasion. Each predicted species may require a unique monitoring and control strategy. Long-term or even permanent management commitments and consistent follow-up are essential to successful invasive alien plant control programs. Persistent seed banks and long-lived seeds often require control efforts over many years to eradicate invasive alien plants. Initial control of invasive alien species, particularly woody species, will accelerate recruitment of the seed bank. Missed treatment cycles can actually result in population levels greater than pre-control levels. Herbicides are frequently needed in invasive alien plant programs because of the ineffectiveness or unavailability of biological control agents and the inapplicability of mechanical and cultural control methods in natural systems. Biological control agents, such as beneficial insects, are available for only a few invasive alien

⁷Much of this information is adapted and paraphrased from NPS-77: *Natural Resources Management Guideline*. (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991), 297-298.

⁸Ibid., 289.

plant species, and the research required to locate and test potential biological control agents is usually beyond the individual capabilities of sites. Without the application of herbicides, most woody invasive alien plant species re-sprout from the cut stump, root crown, or roots when cut or disturbed.

Restoration

As natural weedy invaders, invasive alien species usually colonize sites from which dense stands of invasive alien plants have been removed. Native plants may need to be planted or encouraged in those areas from which invasive alien species have been removed.

Hazard Trees

Hazard trees are those trees that pose a risk of damage to historic resources and other site property, and/or injury to visitors, through the potential for all or portions of a tree to fall or fail. Although any tree or portion of a tree may present some degree of risk or hazard to visitors, employees, or property, at any time, hazard trees are those that, as noted in NPS-77, are determined to possess a significant flaw or structural defect that greatly increases the potential for failure. Conditions that contribute to the designation of a tree as hazardous include decay, cavities, dead limbs or overhangs, splits and shakes, weak crotches, heavy horizontal limbs, basal or crown rot, root decay, termite and carpenter ant infestations, wind and vehicle damage, construction damage, leaning or heaving, soil slippage, or general decline due to insect infestations or disease, soil compaction, root damage, or filling.⁹ Of particular concern are those trees that are located within falling distance of visitor use areas or historic resources. They require regular inspection by qualified professionals. The form and frequency of inspection should be determined as part of a maintenance or vegetation management plan. The mitigation of hazard trees includes the determination of the extent of material to be removed. At times, removal of the entire tree is warranted for safety reasons; other times, it is warranted based on an evaluation of the aesthetic and mechanical functionality of the remaining healthy fabric. As noted in NPS-77:

Any tree denoted as hazardous should be promptly cared-for, using the best arboricultural techniques, to eliminate the hazardous status of the tree. If it cannot be made safe, or if the effort to make it safe would be too costly in terms of manpower or dollars, then the tree may be removed. Depending on the location of the tree and its integrity, the park may consider leaving the

⁹Ibid., 349-356.

main trunk of the tree for wildlife habitat in areas where wildlife is considered an important element and where ample den or food trees do not exist. This means that a dead tree need not necessarily remain a hazard tree and that it is possible to convert a hazardous tree into a positive environmental element. When immediate removal of a hazard tree is not possible, the affected area should be cordoned off and/or warning notices should be posted for public view.¹⁰

The individual mesquite trees and large shrubs that are growing on and adjacent to the *rancho* compound archeological resources are living entities that will succumb to windthrow, age, disease, or insect infestation. Their demise has the potential to damage the stone ruins and soil structure by falling on or across them, or by dislodging historic fabric through root upheaval. Falling trees and shrubs also present a danger to the visitor and to any features constructed at the site to provide interpretation or as a visitor amenity. Therefore, this CLR recommends that all of the trees growing on and around the *rancho* compound ruins be removed. The park's "Integrated Pest Management Plan" otherwise covers the criteria for removing hazard trees.

Noxious Plants

Noxious plants are those that are potentially irritating or toxic to visitors and site personnel. The park has in place an "Integrated Pest Management Plan" that addresses many of the issues associated with noxious plants. The plan should be updated with a list of noxious plants that are known or anticipated to exist at Rancho de las Cabras, and their locations should be documented and monitored. Information should be provided to the visitor that identifies noxious plant species and their associated potential hazards. The park should remove or manage noxious plants in areas of high activity, and encourage affected visitors to seek medical attention from a physician or health care facility.

Control of Plant Pathogens and Insect Infestations

Site maintenance personnel will likely be familiar with the types of plant pathogens and insects that may have an adverse affect on the site's existing vegetation, and with mechanisms for their control and/or eradication, based on the park's "Integrated Pest Management Plan." In addition, resource management personnel should be mindful of the fact that plant pathogens and insect infestations can be transmitted to local native plant populations through the introduction of new plantings. All new plant materials intended for installation on site need to be inspected for diseases, pests, and parasites.

Wildlife Habitats

The health of plant communities is oftentimes dependent on wildlife activities that help to pollinate plants, disperse their seeds, and promote healthy regeneration of growth by foraging leaves and branches. Vegetation management plans should take into consideration the habitats

¹⁰ Ibid., 352.

of local wildlife. Many times the goals of vegetation and wildlife management are the same and promotion of wildlife populations requires only that managers remain mindful of the related issues. At Rancho de las Cabras, rooting and burrowing animals and insects and poisonous snakes could pose a threat to the resources, site interpretation features, or the visitor. In this case actions should be taken to deter wildlife from gaining access to areas of visitor use and/or sensitive resources. The methods for addressing these issues are described in detail in the park's "Integrated Pest Management Plan."

A Discussion of Archeological Issues

Rancho de las Cabras is a Texas State Archeological Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places based to a great extent on its archeological resources. While documentary research and investigation has the potential to yield important additional information about the site during the Spanish colonial period, archeological investigations may constitute the most significant resource for understanding certain aspects of the site's landscape history. Additional archeological investigations are likely to influence the treatment, management, and interpretation of the site. This CLR recommends that all findings associated with further archeological investigation be incorporated into future revisions of this document, and be evaluated for their interpretive potential. In addition, it recommends that all known and potential archeological resources be treated as highly sensitive to disturbance, and be preserved in place unless investigated to address a specific question or provide important interpretive information.

PRESERVATION APPROACH

Treatment Alternatives

The Department of the Interior currently recognizes four appropriate treatment alternatives for historic landscapes: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These are defined and discussed in both *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects* and *NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (Release Number 4, 1994). NPS-28 provides the following definitions of the four treatment alternatives for cultural landscapes:

Preservation maintains the existing integrity and character of a cultural landscape by arresting or retarding deterioration caused by natural forces and normal use. It includes both maintenance and stabilization. Maintenance is a systematic activity mitigating wear and deterioration of a cultural landscape by protecting its conditions. In light of the dynamic qualities of a landscape, maintenance is essential for the long-term preservation of individual features and integrity of the entire landscape. Stabilization involves re-establishing the stability of an unsafe, damaged, or deteriorated cultural landscape while maintaining its existing character.

Rehabilitation improves the utility or function of a cultural landscape, through repair or alteration, to make possible an efficient compatible use while preserving those portions or features that are important in defining its significance.

Restoration accurately depicts the form, features, and character of a cultural landscape as it appeared at a specific period or as intended by its original constructed design. It may involve the reconstruction of missing historic features, and selective removal of later features, some having cultural value in themselves.

Reconstruction entails depicting the form, features, and details of a non-surviving cultural landscape, or any part thereof, as it appeared at a specific period or as intended by its original constructed design. Reconstruction of an entire landscape is always a last-resort measure for addressing a management objective and will be undertaken only after policy review in the regional and Washington offices.

Recommended Treatment Approach

Historic landscapes are rarely static environments. The treatment recommendations and guidelines outlined in this chapter are intended to improve the park's ability to meet current and future functional, maintenance, and management needs at Rancho de las Cabras. Based on the fact that rehabilitation is defined as "the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions, while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values,"¹¹ **rehabilitation** is the primary overall recommended approach to resource management at Rancho de las Cabras.

Rehabilitation will allow for the establishment of a rich and fulfilling visitor experience, and the implementation of necessary functional site improvements. Rehabilitation will also allow the park to pursue resource management initiatives that are intended to promote sustainability. And, because future archeological investigations are likely to yield important new information regarding the landscape during the prehistoric and Spanish colonial periods, which may in turn spur new ideas for interpretive features and programs, rehabilitation will allow the park enough flexibility to incorporate new findings into park management and interpretation. This study also recognizes a secondary treatment approach—**preservation**—for the site's sensitive archeological and natural resources.

In order that rehabilitation efforts remain sensitive to the qualities and resources that render the site significant, new design within the historic landscape must be based on a thorough understanding of the integrity of the site so as not to detract from it. Analysis of the potential impacts that change may have on the Rancho de las Cabras landscape should be undertaken

¹¹National Park Service, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Heritage Preservation Services, Historic Landscape Initiatives, 1996).

prior to the implementation of any rehabilitation projects. Because so little is known about the history of the site, implementation of new improvements that render the site accessible for interpretation should be undertaken in the least intrusive manner with the least landscape change.

Treatment Areas

Figure 32. Conceptual Treatment Plan

Within the overall framework of rehabilitation, evaluation of the Rancho de las Cabras cultural landscape suggests various resource-driven approaches to management that take into consideration the site's layers of landscape history, as well as its scenic and natural systems values. Five treatment areas have been identified for the site which allow for these resource-driven approach variations. For each area, the primary treatment goals suggested as part of this CLR are listed. The subsequent sections of this chapter—Preservation and Design Guidelines, and Preservation and Design Recommendations and Alternatives—are intended to support these goals.

Relationship to General Management Planning

In addition to the delineation of treatment areas and their associated general treatment goals, Figure 32. Conceptual Treatment Plan also depicts the Proposed Plan developed in the May 1998 DRAFT "General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment" for the site. OCULUS has integrated, both in the narrative and plan recommendations, the essential conceptual-level graphic and narrative elements of NPS's Proposed Plan. The result of OCULUS's integrative approach is the development of recommendations by Treatment Area that fall within the framework of the DRAFT General Management Plan Amendment's historic and development management zones and that are consistent with and responsive to the proposed concepts for new facilities, access, preservation, and interpretation.

Treatment Area 1: *Rancho* Compound

This area includes the structural remains and archeological resources associated with the *rancho* compound and its immediate environs. It has a high degree of integrity as an archeological site dating from the Spanish colonial period, and may also have the potential to yield important information about the prehistoric period of the site's history.

Goals:

- Preserve and stabilize cultural and archeological resources;
- Interpret the site's history and extant cultural and archeological resources; and
- Interpret on-going archeological investigations.

Treatment Area 2: Quarry

This area includes the extent of the quarry, its side slopes, interior, associated wet areas, and access roads. While it is known that *caliche* was excavated in this location during the twentieth century, further investigation is needed to determine whether the sandstone used to construct the *rancho* compound was also quarried here during the eighteenth century.

Goals

- Preserve the quarry and associated wet areas;
- Stabilize the slopes that pose a risk to visitors and threaten the *rancho* compound; and
- Continue to investigate the history of the quarry. Should more information become known, interpret the quarry through least-intrusive visitor access systems.

Treatment Area 3: Mesquite Uplands

The area includes the western upland plateau surrounding the *rancho* compound, and is bounded by agricultural fields to the north and west, house sites and the Promised Land Dairy to the south, and the arroyos and escarpment above Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River to the east. This area, once open native grass prairie, has been utilized variously over the years as crop fields and grazing lands. It has been left fallow for approximately twenty years. The current vegetative community, dominated by mesquite, appears to differ greatly from the open prairie that existed during the Spanish colonial period.

Goals

- Consider altering the existing upland vegetative community through vegetation management strategies, such as controlled burning, mechanical clearing, or other suitable methods, to reduce mesquite dominance; and
- Allow for minimal development of pedestrian and service circulation systems to provide access to the *rancho* compound and its environs.

Treatment Area 4: Agricultural Lands

This area includes the eastern upland plateau north of the confluence of the San Antonio River and Picoso Creek, the panhandle, and the crop fields located on adjacent private land identified as a potential future entrance into the site. These areas, like the mesquite uplands, were once open native grass prairie. They are currently utilized as crop fields and for grazing livestock.

Goals

- Maintain the open character and agricultural use of the field north of the confluence of the San Antonio River and Picoso Creek until interpretive goals for the area have been identified;
- Transfer the panhandle to a private landowner in order to acquire a potential alternative entrance parcel, as identified in the DRAFT "General Management Plan Amendment." Maintain agricultural use through covenants; and

- Develop visitor access, parking, and visitor contact/interpretation facilities within a newly established woodland of native trees and plantings at the potential alternative entrance parcel.

Treatment Area 5: San Antonio River and Picos Creek Riparian Systems

This area includes the two water courses and their associated floodplains, drainageways, escarpments, and arroyos. The area appears to possess a high degree of integrity in relationship to the Spanish colonial and prehistoric periods of significance.

Goals

- Protect and enhance these sensitive water resources and their associated riparian habitats;
- Prohibit livestock access and grazing; and
- Accommodate site access by canoeists, rafters, and kayakers in the least intrusive manner possible, should the need for access be demonstrated.

PRESERVATION AND DESIGN GUIDELINES

The guidelines outlined below are organized into a series of topics: general, vegetation, land use, natural features and systems, wildlife management, visual quality and viewsheds, visitor access and interpretation, role of preservation specialists, documentation, new design and construction, accessibility, and sustainability. They are intended to complement the Preservation and Design Recommendations and Alternatives section presented later in this chapter. They are also intended to establish a general approach to site preservation and development that may be applied to all current and future planning and design initiatives and new construction and treatments. The recommendations and alternatives that follow focus on the specifics of what treatments might be undertaken to effect the approach outlined within this Preservation and Design Guidelines section.

General

- Undertake all work in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, and NPS-28: *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*. Because of their sensitive nature, particular care should be taken to protect archeological and natural resources that often also constitute cultural resources.
- Retain the character of the historic site by protecting individual elements as well as the overall landscape.

- Ensure the compatibility of proposed elements by appropriately responding to the historic character of the site.
- Base all treatments on historic documentation.
- Establish standards for site furnishings, including benches, trash receptacles, lighting fixtures, drinking fountains, sign systems, and other small-scale features, using the Recommended Design Guidelines established for the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails system as the basis for design.
- Minimize new construction at the site. Construct limited new facilities as necessary to increase the functionality of the site, enhance the visitor experience, or achieve interpretive goals. Base the design of new facilities on the guidelines outlined below.
- Consider carefully when adding new features the potential impact of the development on archeological resources, patterns of spatial organization and the cultural landscape, and the historic character of the site as a whole.

Vegetation

- Retain, where appropriate, existing vegetative cover, allow successional areas to mature, and establish buffers along the site's open boundaries to screen existing or future development. Buffers should consist of native species, and varied plant composition should be promoted. Buffers should be a minimum of 100 feet in width wherever possible.
- Undertake vegetation management strategies based on NPS principles of sustainability, as described in the 1993 *Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design*, and park management objectives.
- Remove, when necessary, existing trees using a method that minimizes any possible impacts on known and potential archeological resources. Undertake tree removal monitored by an archeologist.
- Protect water resources from siltation and runoff by establishing or maintaining a minimum 100 foot vegetative buffer zone along the edges of all drainageways and intermittent stream corridors, and on erodible soils with slopes greater than 15% that abut water courses and drainageways.

- Avoid endangering known or potential archeological resources by limiting activities that may disturb the land until necessary archeological and cultural landscape analyses and investigations have been completed. If it is not known whether archeological resources are within an area planned for land disturbing activity, such activity should be preceded by archeological evaluations and investigations.
- Remove invasive alien species identified during monitoring activities using ecologically-sound removal techniques. Ecologically-sound removal techniques are those that will not cause damage to other resources, or whose impact on other resources has been assessed to determine whether the treatment provides benefits that outweigh that impact. Removal of invasive alien species in the vicinity of historic and archeological resources should be undertaken in such a way as to minimize ground disturbance and threats to existing vegetation to remain. Removal should be undertaken only after existing resources and landscape features and systems to remain have been protected. Biodegradable, systemic herbicides (i.e. glyphosate) that break down into harmless components upon contact with the soil when properly applied, may constitute an ecologically-sound removal technique. Ecologically-sound techniques also include repairing damage to resources and mitigating the impact of removal, such as the potential for soil erosion on steep slopes and elsewhere, and legally disposing of removed invasive alien plant material in a landfill.
- Avoid threats to existing natural areas by selecting plants for new plantings that are not invasive, diseased, or infected with any plant pathogen.
- Undertake installation of new plant material as necessary in areas of known or potential sensitive historic or archeological resources using acceptable and least-damaging planting techniques accompanied by archeological monitoring, if required. Recommended techniques include: the minimization of ground disturbance through the installation of small plant materials and saplings wherever possible; the installation of plants by hand; the selection of planting locations that are not in conflict with desirable plants to remain; and the protection of existing plant material and resources to remain.

Land Use

- Protect significant aspects of the historic and natural landscape by preserving existing landforms, wetlands, stream corridors, natural drainage patterns, and hydrology to the greatest extent possible.
- Protect known and potential archeological resources by avoiding land-use activities, whether historic or contemporary, that may threaten or impair them.
- Minimize immediate and long-term damage to cultural resources by monitoring and regulating use of the landscape.

Natural Features and Systems

- Protect the role of all existing riparian environments and drainageways in flood control, sediment and erosion control, water supply, nutrient retention and removal, and pollution control by retaining and maintaining their ecologies.
- Protect water resources from siltation and runoff by establishing or maintaining a minimum 100 foot vegetative buffer zone along the edges of all drainageways and intermittent stream corridors, and on erodible soils with slopes greater than 15% that abut water courses and drainageways.
- Protect native vegetative communities by monitoring for invasive alien plant species. Remove invasive alien species identified during monitoring activities using ecologically-sound removal techniques.

Wildlife Management

- Because of the inter-related nature of plant and animal communities, and the need to protect, enhance, and preserve healthy plant communities, certain wildlife enhancement projects may be compatible with the management goals for these sites. Habitats could be provided for a variety of bird and animal species. Protect and enhance existing wildlife habitat by:
 - planting native grasses and forbs when establishing newly cleared or open areas;
 - avoiding the use of exotic species; and
 - protecting key habitat areas to promote a diverse vegetative composition.
- Protect the *rancho* compound resources by regularly inspecting for burrows or other animal activities that have the potential to damage historic resources or site interpretive features.

Visual Quality and Viewsheds

- Protect adjacent resources, including the potential entrance route, and the setting of the site by monitoring and participating in regional and local planning activities.
- Protect site resources by developing and maintaining working relationships with adjacent property owners. Work with local citizens to develop a program to monitor for unauthorized access and destruction of resources.
- Educate adjacent property owners regarding resources located on their lands. Work with these owners to develop programs for the protection of resources and the site's setting.

- Maintain the site's setting by establishing visual buffers along property lines abutting developed lands, lands that are likely to be developed, or areas, that, if cleared to rehabilitate historic viewsheds, afford views of developed areas. Maintain existing views into adjacent open areas that are compatible with the historic scene or are views surviving from historic periods. Monitoring of adjacent planning and development activities, coupled with working relationships with adjacent landowners will yield information that may require the establishment of additional buffers.
- Minimize the impact of development on lands adjacent to and near the site by working with property owners during the planning process to establish the least intrusive siting and character of improvements and structures.

Visitor Access and Interpretation

- Protect site resources by limiting, monitoring, and controlling unauthorized access to the site.
- Protect areas of the site that are vulnerable to damage from human access or use by limiting, monitoring, and controlling access.
- Protect existing topographic features of the site by incorporating, whenever possible, existing circulation systems into routes designed to provide access. Avoid whenever possible the alteration of topography to provide accessible paths to resources. In situations where no accessible path is feasible using existing topography, locate and construct new paths to avoid as much as possible historic topographic features, particularly within the areas of known and potential archeological resources. Consider providing alternative interpretive programs in lieu of topographic alterations.
- Encourage stewardship of site resources by developing interpretive programs that address layers of cultural resources, natural systems, and their interrelationships. It is preferable to develop interpretive plans prior to implementing landscape changes. Landscape changes should be generated by and/or compatible with interpretive plans.
- Minimize the visual and physical impacts of interpretive and visitor access facilities on cultural resources and natural systems by developing the least-intrusive interpretive and visitor access physical improvements possible.

Role of Preservation Specialists

- Undertake all treatment projects and management efforts under the direction of experienced specialists, including landscape architects, historical landscape architects, historical architects, archeologists, and qualified technicians.

Documentation

- Document, through drawings, photographs, and notes, all landscape changes and treatments. Maintain records of treatments and preserve documentation according to professional archival standards.

New Design and Construction

- Avoid adding new features in the vicinity of the *rancho* ruins or altering existing features in such a way as to adversely affect the landscape's character as a remnant of a Spanish colonial era *rancho*, or the historic resources located on the site. Introduce features to facilitate access and interpretation in such a way as to minimize adverse impacts on the character and resources of the landscape. New construction should be limited to landscape alterations and additions necessary to provide for visitor access, interpretation, and management. These are envisioned to include visitor contact facilities, interpretive trails and paths, limited service vehicle access, support operations, and limited interpretive, informational, identity, and regulatory sign systems. The new or altered facilities should be as non-intrusive as possible while allowing for utility, accessibility, and safety.
- Limit the use of destructive techniques, such as archeological excavation, to providing sufficient information for research, interpretation, and management goals.
- Evaluate all proposed new uses in consultation with an historical landscape architect, archeologist, and other appropriate professionals.
- Undertake sufficient study and recording of landscape features requiring modification, repair, or replacement before work is performed to protect research and interpretive values.
- Retain and maintain historic materials, features, finishes, construction techniques, and spatial relationships.
- Avoid landscape changes that create a false sense of historical development, including the addition of conjectural, "typical," or representative features. If representative historical features are constructed, provide interpretive materials that clearly identify the features as such.
- Retain and maintain changes to the Spanish colonial landscape that have acquired historic significance in their own right.
- Repair, rather than replace, deteriorated historic features. Repair of deteriorated features should be based on archeological, documentary, or physical evidence. Replacement of historic features, if necessary, should be based on archeological, documentary, or

physical evidence; the new feature should match the old in design, color, texture, and, wherever possible, materials. Replaced features should be compatible with but distinguishable from original historic fabric.

- Avoid the use of chemical or physical treatments that cause damage to cultural resources and natural systems.
- Protect and preserve archeological resources in place. If such resources must be disturbed, undertake mitigation measures such as recovery, curation, and documentation.
- Design and site new additions or alterations to the landscape in such a way that they do not to destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the cultural landscape. Design all new additions and alterations to be a product of their time, and to be compatible with the historic resources in materials, size, scale and proportion, and massing. Differentiate new work from existing historic resources.
- Design and site new additions and alterations to the landscape in such a way that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the landscape would be unimpaired.

Accessibility

- Approach overall planning, design, and interpretation with accessibility made a primary design factor. All features associated with accessibility should conform to the standards cited in the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).
- As a part of the planning and design process, recognize the potential diversity of visitors including persons who may be emotionally-, physically-, and mentally-challenged; do not speak English or Spanish; are arriving from foreign countries and remote urban and rural locations; or are very young or elderly.
- Design and construct all facilities to be barrier free when practical.
- Integrate accessibility components fully into the design of new facilities and site improvements to allow for the use and access of all visitors.
- Design operational and administrative facilities to be accessible.

Sustainability

- Institute cultural and natural resource treatment and maintenance methods that are environmentally and culturally sensitive and sustainable over the long term.

- Minimize areas of vegetative disturbance, earth grading and compaction, and water channel alteration.
- Avoid causing environmental degradation when preserving, providing access to, and interpreting natural and cultural resources.
- Mitigate hazards from access to precipitous topography, dangerous animals and plants, and dangerous water areas.
- Undertake site design that incorporates holistic, ecologically-based strategies aimed at contributing to the repair and restoration of natural systems.
- Promote biodiversity.
- Avoid disturbing areas of sensitive habitat.
- Use mitigating devices, such as retaining walls, closed drainage systems, and large areas of cut and fill, sparingly. Implement the least-intrusive activities and those involving stabilization first, and proceed subsequently to the most invasive as necessary. Limit major new interventions to areas that have previously been severely disturbed.
- Incorporate the cultural heritage of the region into the architectural style, landscape design, and construction materials of new developments, and design new features to harmonize with their setting. Incorporate local customs into programs and operations.
- Use muted colors to blend new facilities with the natural context.
- Emphasize landform-based solutions over hardscape solutions.
- Site new developments to take advantage of solar heating.
- Consider the direction of prevailing summer breezes and winter winds to help with cooling and ventilation in summer, and to shelter new facilities from harsh winter winds.
- Consider the site's ecology, including topography, soil types, vegetation, wildlife habitats, and ground water, in order to integrate the building with its ecosystem.
- Utilize water treatment technologies that are biological, non-mechanical, and do not involve soil leaching or land disposal that causes soil disturbance.
- Use vegetation to screen undesirable views.

- Utilize the principles of organic gardening in planting and maintaining vegetation: soil preparation; composting; and integrated pest management. Avoid planting materials that require irrigation. If necessary, irrigation should utilize a drip system with water collected on site.
- Use locally indigenous materials that are renewable, environmentally sensitive, and reflect the regional vocabulary.
- Take into consideration life-cycle costing to assess the long-term wearing capacity and maintenance costs of landscape materials. Consider materials that are non-toxic, durable, long-lived, and low maintenance.
- Consider locally-produced products to construct design features.
- Explore the availability of recycled materials, and consider re-usable materials.
- Avoid petroleum-based materials whenever possible.
- Use only stable, non-hazardous materials that do not emit toxins through off-gassing or soil leaching.
- Consider monitoring the effects of developing and operating facilities on surrounding resources to ensure that the limits of acceptable change are not exceeded.
- Consider including information in interpretive materials about the relationship of cultural resources to the environment and sustainability.

PRESERVATION AND DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

Following are suggested preservation and design alternatives that are based on an understanding of the landscape and its cultural and natural resources; review of NPS planning documents for Rancho de las Cabras, in particular the May 1998 DRAFT General Management Plan Amendment; and the preservation and design guidelines developed for this project. Other factors that have influenced the preparation of these alternatives include an understanding of the funding available for new construction, the park's maintenance and stewardship capabilities, and the potential approaches to interpretation that have been developed to date for the site.

The most critical component of the treatment plan for Rancho de las Cabras is the establishment of a compelling visitor experience within a framework of cultural resource and natural systems protection. The preservation and design alternatives described below are introduced by a concept for the visitor experience that suggests interpretive opportunities at the site and serves as a foundation for the treatment plan. The interpretive opportunities section is followed by a

preliminary potential site program developed by OCULUS in order to properly address treatment through an understanding of the range of activities, elements, and uses that may be appropriate for Rancho de las Cabras.

The suggested recommendations that follow, though not determined by specific cost data, do recognize potential funding limitations for new construction, preservation treatment, and sustained maintenance. Each and every treatment recommendation has an associated cost and requires a specific level of stewardship over time. Though construction and management budgets were not integrated into the cultural landscape analysis, planning, and design process, the CLR team recognizes that funding constraints will have an impact on all future proposed treatments. Equally important are the near and long-term maintenance capabilities at this remote site.

Interpretive Opportunities and Planning Issues

The following pages summarize the interpretive opportunities and planning issues identified through the preparation of this CLR. The information provided below is not intended to delineate to a specific level the interpretation of Rancho de las Cabras but rather to suggest conceptual-level ideas that may be considered for integration into the interpretive planning process.

Interpretive Opportunities

Some of the interpretive opportunities associated with Rancho de las Cabras that have emerged through the preparation of this CLR are outlined below. They are organized in accordance with the resources with which they are associated.

***Rancho* Compound**

The ruins of the Spanish colonial period *rancho* compound offer one of the most significant opportunities for interpretation on the site. In their current condition, the remaining above-ground portions of the original structure are obfuscated by the sand/soil berms protecting them as well as dense scrub cover. A challenge for interpretive planners will be how to illustrate the character and form of the original *rancho* while ensuring protection of the ruins.

Landform, Terrain, and Viewpoints

Another landscape resource that survives from the Spanish colonial period is the site's existing landform and terrain. The *rancho* is situated on a high point that affords views of the surrounding landscape. The area around the ruins offers many other locations with panoramic views of the rural countryside. These sweeping views could be used to support interpretation of the vast scale of the Spanish colonial period *rancho* as it extended westward from the compound, and the fact that the site selected for constructing the *rancho* compound most likely offered protection, prospect, and proximity. For example, inhabitants most likely would have been able to view the ranchlands where cattle grazed as well as anyone approaching the compound, and were within reach of a reliable water source.

Areas proximate to the *rancho* compound also offer views of the San Antonio River valley. Its tributaries can be seen etched within the abutting upland plateaus. For example, Picos Creek and the San Antonio River can be observed from the narrow outcropping of bedrock that runs northeast of the quarry.

Quarry

While the source of the compound's stone walls is not currently known, the quarry offers an opportunity to view bedrock that appears to be very similar in composition to the stones used in the construction of the *rancho* compound. Further investigation of this feature is likely to yield other interpretive opportunities.

San Antonio River and Picos Creek Riparian Systems

These two systems, particularly the San Antonio River, offer the opportunity to interpret the role of water at the *rancho*. The existing vegetative communities are a resource that is thought to closely resemble riparian woodlands that may have existed during the prehistoric and Spanish colonial periods. In addition, the San Antonio River is a direct link to Mission Espada and, in the absence of other visible landmarks, serves as an orientation device for persons trying to understand the physical relationship between Mission Espada and the *rancho* compound.

Related Lands

Depending on how abutting lands are managed and maintained in the future, they could possibly be identified in interpretive programs to illustrate how agricultural uses have evolved since the Spanish colonial period. Views across these lands could also support interpretation of the scale of the original mission *rancho*.

Interpretive Planning Issues

Obviously, the goal for any interpretive program developed for Rancho de las Cabras is that it be clear, focused, easy to understand, and compelling. However, a number of avenues for further investigation into the site's history remain, and, as new information comes to light, it will need to be considered for integration into the interpretive program. This may require an evolutionary and dynamic approach to the site's interpretation. Various interpretive planning issues associated with this special consideration are addressed below for their potential impacts on design and treatment alternatives.

The *Rancho* Compound

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of developing an interpretive program for Rancho de las Cabras' resources will be rendering visible the form and spatial organization of the Spanish colonial era compound and its environs. The current condition of the ruins, and threats to their integrity, such as

- burial and partial burial within sand;
- vegetative growth with invasive root systems;
- sensitivity and fragility of remaining stone structures;
- likely unauthorized visitor access;
- need for continued archeological test units; and
- destructive nature of all treatments except complete burial

pose some difficult issues for interpretive planners. It may be likely that interpretation of the compound ruins will require concurrent interpretation of their significance and historical associations; additional investigation and discovery through archeology and research; and preservation measures. Each of these themes are interrelated and at times may be dependent on one another.

A more complete understanding of daily life at the *rancho* during the Spanish colonial period will likely require additional historical research and archeological investigation. The search for answers leads to archeology which, in turn, leads to preservation. This suggests a treatment process for all or portions of the ruins and environs that includes stabilization and protection; marking the form of the compound as an interim interpretive measure; undertaking additional archeological investigations; stabilizing and making visible surviving structural elements if feasible; and providing interpretive exhibits that illustrate what we know about the essential structural and spatial character of the compound and its environs during the Spanish colonial period. Methods for illustrating the original form of the compound might include the construction of a three-dimensional model and/or diorama that would depict the overall working *rancho* landscape and the *rancho* compound and environs at its zenith, and/or a graphic illustration of this information from a bird's eye perspective. Regardless of the level of articulation of the ruins for interpretive purposes, visitors will most likely find it difficult to comprehend the structure of the compound without additional interpretive aides. A model could interpret the architectural character of the structure, alleviating the need to reconstruct missing portions, and would also provide sight-impaired person and others with a tactile means for understanding the character-defining features of the compound during its occupation and use during the latter part of the eighteenth century. In this case, it is preferable to develop interpretive programs that mitigate the need to undertake changes to resources that may result in further degradation to and loss of historic fabric.

The *Rancho* Landscape

The 99.2 acres of land currently administered by NPS is but a small fraction of the area that comprised the *rancho* during the Spanish colonial period. It is important for visitors to gain an understanding of the scale and magnitude of the area once utilized to graze the herds associated with Mission Espada. Clearly it is not feasible to manage the site in a manner that restores the spatial organization that defined the character of the entire *rancho* landscape in the mid-

eighteenth century. However, it would be possible to create an overlook on the site offering views across the tops of existing plant communities that would provide a greater understanding of landscape scale and historic relationships.

Archeological Investigations

Another possible interpretive activity for the site might include allowing visitors to monitor and watch on-going archeological investigations, possibly as part of a field school environment, with project archeologists guiding and informing visitors. The opportunity to observe field school participants is intriguing to many visitors because of the “discovery” aspect of archeological test units.

Personal Services Interpretation

Visitors to historic sites repeatedly mention their positive interaction with and exposure to story-tellers, such as interpretive rangers, volunteer guides, or costumed interpreters. Presentations by qualified and personable guides bring a site to life and allow the visitor to learn more through the interaction of other visitors with guides. Consideration should be paid to maintaining, or enhancing, the current level of these services at Rancho de las Cabras.

Preliminary Potential Site Program

The preliminary potential site program that follows lists the types of elements and uses that could occur as part of the development of Rancho de las Cabras as an historical site. The specific concepts and recommendations associated with each of the listed programmatic elements are detailed later in this chapter.

The development of programmatic data generally facilitates the determination of specific treatment alternatives. The information included below represents OCULUS’s preliminary identification of the range of elements and uses that may be appropriate for, and compatible with, resource protection, interpretation, and near-term management capabilities at Rancho de las Cabras. The site program outlined below also reflects OCULUS’s understanding of the long-range management goals of the property as presented in various planning documents. Additional programmatic elements and ideas will most likely emerge as knowledge of, and a management strategy for, the site develops.

Circulation—Vehicular

- Primary visitor entrance and gate;
- Entrance drive;
- Visitor drop-off at visitor contact/interpretation facility;
- Primary parking area, including accessible parking spaces, and spaces for cars, buses, and recreational vehicles;
- Service/emergency entrance location/access route to the visitor contact/interpretation facility and the *rancho* compound area; and
- Information, wayfinding, and regulatory sign systems.

Circulation—Bicycle

- Bicycle storage and staging area; and
- Information, wayfinding, and regulatory sign systems.

Circulation—Pedestrian

- Pedestrian path between primary parking area, visitor contact/interpretation station, and trailhead(s);
- Interpretive trail systems. Trails to accommodate guided and self-guided tours. Related features may include footbridges, culverts, seating, and waysides and other exhibits; and
- Information, wayfinding, and regulatory sign systems.

Interpretive Facilities and Programs

- Interpretive trails;
- Staging area for large groups and school groups;
- Interpretive waysides and exhibits;
- Interpretive aides (brochures, tapes);
- Ranger talks; and
- Visitor contact/interpretation facility.

Operational/ Administrative/ Visitor Facilities

- Ranger/volunteer office;
- Storage space;
- Support facilities, including janitorial closet and small utility area;
- Restrooms;
- Drinking fountain;
- Public telephone;
- Sheltered exhibit space; and
- Sheltered sitting areas.

Passive Recreation

- Use of trail networks (walking, nature walks, birding); and
- Site access and use by canoeists, rafters, and kayakers traveling between the parking area and the San Antonio River.

Land Use

- Natural systems conservation zones with limited access;
- Preservation zones with limited access;
- Interpretive zones;
- Buffer zones (natural resource protection, visitor safety, viewshed protection); and
- Temporary archeological investigations.

Treatment Plan Recommendations

Figure 33. Landscape Treatment Recommendations

The following suggested treatment recommendations relate to specific landscape resources and systems and should be used in conjunction with the design guidelines described earlier in this chapter. These treatment recommendations have been developed for consideration by park managers when preparing future implementation plans.

General

- Protect, retain, and maintain all contributing features of the Rancho de las Cabras landscape.
- Repair all features identified as being in poor or fair/poor condition.
- Consider equally both natural and cultural features of the site in treatment and land-use decisions.

Landform

- Retain and maintain the extant landform of the larger landscape.
- Retain and maintain critical topographic features such as high points.
- Control erosion at the arroyos through vegetative means.
- Stabilize the steep slopes of the quarry through importation of fill. Stabilize new fill areas through vegetative means.
- Control access to areas of unstable, unconsolidated soil.
- Direct visitors to remain on paths and trails.

Surface Water

- Control unauthorized grazing and access to wet areas, Picoso Creek, and the San Antonio River.
- Work with up-stream landowners, water management agencies, and others to control pollution of surface waters.

Existing Vegetation and Plant Communities

- Retain and maintain vegetation on steep slopes, escarpments, and floodplains.
- Remove all trees and woody vegetation from *rancho* compound structures and the surrounding area, and sand and soil fill.

Archeological Sites, Ruins, and Earthen Features

- Retain and maintain the earthen dam structure located in the southeast corner of the site.
- Preserve the integrity of the soil and landcover at known and potential archeological sites.
- Establish new native grass vegetative cover on earthen structures.
- Document and collect the stones scattered around the site of the compound and transport them to a remote and secure location on the site where they can be stockpiled.

- Document and remove the existing sand and soil berm currently covering the ruins.
- Document and preserve the *rancho* compound ruins (see following section, “Rancho Compound Treatment”).
- Consider delineating non-extant features of the historic landscape as a means of enhancing visitor understanding of the organization, scale, and extent of the site during the Spanish colonial period of significance.

Circulation

- Preserve road traces leading into the quarry.
- Repair graded traces along the old internal boundary line and fence to mitigate erosion.
- Maintain perimeter grass-tread single-lane vehicle tracks for management purposes.

Viewsheds

- Install screening vegetation along the southern boundary of the site to block views into adjacent developed areas and dump sites.
- Preserve and enhance near and distant views from the *rancho* compound.

Small-Scale Features and Systems

- Document and demolish existing internal fencing systems for risk management purposes.
- Document and remove all existing modern signs.

Land Use

- Preserve all water-related systems as conservation zones with limited or controlled access. Include within these zones sensitive slopes and the riparian vegetation associated with the creek and river systems.
- Retain agricultural land use of the site, when feasible, within the parameters of NPS policies. Appropriate agricultural uses might include grazing, crop fields, and hay fields.

Rancho Compound Treatment

Management of the remaining structural elements and features of the *rancho* compound should be viewed as a dynamic system of temporary and permanent treatments, investigations, and interpretation rendered visible and made available to visitors. Treatment should involve a sequential process of measures, including preservation (protection and stabilization), archeological investigation, and rehabilitation, applied to individual portions and elements of the compound based on funding, research, and resource impact assessments.

The following is a suggested sequence of phased treatments for the *rancho* compound area which are subsequently described in more detail below:

- Phase 1A: Documentation/Preservation/Archeology/Access
- Phase 1B: Temporary Installation of Interpretive Features
- Phase 2: Uncovering of Ruins/Repair and Stabilization of Walls
- Phase 3: Installation of Additional Interpretive Exhibits and Access Improvements

Phase 1A: Documentation/Preservation/Archeology/Access

1. Document, through photography and measured drawing, the ruins and adjacent piled and scattered stones.
2. Clear the trees and other woody vegetation from the earthen structures and soil and sand berms.
3. Establish a native grass border around the perimeter of the ruins.
4. Stabilize the soil and sand berms with annual and permanent native grass cover that does not require mowing or string trimming. Maintain grass cover in a manner that is in contrast with the native grass border around the perimeter of the ruins.
5. Remove trees and other woody vegetation at the top of the slope at the quarry.
6. Install fencing that is compatible with local usage along the top of the slope at the quarry.
7. Uncover portions of the ruins and undertake additional archeological excavations where required to learn more about the *rancho*, *rancho* life, and the condition of the walls.
8. Inspect revealed wall sections for the feasibility of stabilization. This work should be undertaken by a conservator experienced with stone wall conservation in comparable conditions.
9. Re-bury all wall sections, documenting those that can be feasibly stabilized.
10. Construct a path leading to the interior of the compound to provide access for visitors. Control access to the ruins, and install desired interpretive exhibits in a manner that minimizes the potential impacts to surviving resources.
11. Construct a path around the perimeter of the compound. Provide interpretation along the exterior perimeter path.
12. Determine treatment for the 1930s-era commemorative stone marker.

Phase 1B: Temporary Installation of Interpretive Features

1. Provide interpretive exhibits that illustrate the three-dimensional qualities and character of the *rancho* compound as it is thought to have existed during the Spanish colonial period.

Phase 2: Uncovering of Ruins/Repair and Stabilization of Walls

1. Uncover and document all wall sections. Stabilize and repair walls. Walls sections that can not be stabilized and repaired should be re-buried.

2. Preservation work should be made accessible and interpreted to visitors. Offer interim interpretive materials and services until the full complement of interpretive media and services are developed and installed.

Phase 3: Installation of Additional Interpretive Exhibits and Access Improvements

1. Construct a permanent interpretive trail after the soil and sand berms have been removed and archeological investigations have been completed.
2. Install additional temporary and permanent interpretive exhibits that illustrate what is known about the *rancho* compound based on investigations to date.

Design Guidelines and Recommendations for New Facilities and Features

The following suggested design guidelines and recommendations are intended to support the treatment plan and suggested alternative recommendations for new development and construction described throughout this chapter and illustrated in Figures 32 and 33. Appendix C includes Recommended Design Guidelines for site details based on the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines that address new construction of site furnishings and other landscape elements as well as any standards that have been established for these features for San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

Site Planning

In developing a site plan for Rancho de las Cabras, NPS should consider the following recommendations:

- Respond to existing landform when determining the locations and relationships of site features by attempting to have them lie lightly on the land.
- Minimize soil disturbance and mass grading.
- Ensure that site development respects existing drainage patterns.
- Consider rendering roads, parking areas, and paths curvilinear in form and alignment.
- Consider landform and opportunities to create views and vistas in support of interpretive goals in the alignment of circulation systems.
- Consider the preservation of existing desirable vegetation and plant communities in the siting of new buildings and other new developments.
- Balance the establishment of way-finding systems and associated landscape design with the screening of new development from the primary interpretive areas.

Primary Building Materials

Within the context of the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines, consider integrating locally-available stone and regional masonry patterns into new buildings and site features. If feasible, similarly consider using locally-available wood members. Otherwise, it is preferable that wood imported from outside the region approximate the character of local materials. Consider local building traditions in the design of structural massing, scale, roof form and materials, and detailing.

Buildings and Structures

Also within the context of the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines, design structures to reflect a genuine understanding of local building traditions, but strive to engender new structures with integrity; new structures should not be poorly-articulated versions or copies of a particular style, whether locally-derived or imported. Consider integrating outdoor spaces such as *ramadas* into the design of new buildings to provide shelter from rain and the sun.

Roads and Parking

Consider integrating all-weather surfaces without curbing into the design of the entrance drive and parking areas, except in locations where visitors congregate, such as at drop-off areas and buildings. Consider surface materials that minimize heat gain and are not overly reflective. Work to avoid endwalls at culverts.

Paths and Walks

Within the context of the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines, primary walks and paths providing access to parking, the contact station, and the *rancho* compound should be constructed of buff-colored concrete with irregular edges and a sand finish. Otherwise, consider constructing paths in and around the *rancho* compound of organically-stabilized crushed aggregate screenings. Consider constructing paths and trails beyond the compound of crushed aggregate screenings that may or may not be organically stabilized. Sections of the trail that are sloped at greater than 4 percent should generally be stabilized. Primary paths and walks should meet UFAS/ADAAG standards for accessibility. Other paths, such as the potential route to the San Antonio River for canoeists and riverside hikers, may or may not meet these standards, based on determinations made by NPS during the planning and design process for site improvements.

Walls

Generally, it is recommended that freestanding and retaining walls be avoided if possible. If walls are necessary, consider constructing them of materials that are compatible with proposed new buildings and structures.

Fences and Gates

Consider matching the predominate local fencing type when designing new fences along property lines. Do not use barbed wire. Work to coordinate fencing with abutting land owners. It is recommended that fencing in the vicinity of the compound should be avoided and that plant materials instead be used to control access. It is also recommended that fencing along the public road frontage at the primary entrance be avoided, unless controlled access is a priority. Continue to gate the entrance, however.

Lighting

Lighting design should comply with the regional NPS Night Sky Initiative. The installation of lighting features should be limited to parking areas and the visitor contact/interpretation facility. Avoid installing tall posts with fixtures. Instead, install low bollard-type fixtures to illuminate necessary walks and parking areas. All light sources should be shielded. Avoid light trespassing on abutting properties.

Sign Systems

Use the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines to develop sign systems for the site.

Site Furnishings

Similarly, use the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines to develop site furnishings for the site.

Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits should conform with NPS standards for carriers and sign panel materials.

Plantings

The site has many interesting and beautiful plant communities and individual plants. It is recommended that every effort be made to incorporate and integrate existing plantings into the design of new features and systems. Consider using new plantings to reinforce site design, provide shade, screen undesirable views, complement the character and the arrangement of site features, and enhance existing plant communities. Consider avoiding geometric patterns, and specifying too wide a variety of different plant species. Look to the structure and pattern of existing plant communities as design generators. Specify endemic plant species that are nursery-grown in the region if at all possible. Do not install invasive alien plants. Avoid high maintenance plantings that require mowing, irrigation, and are not hardy in Wilson County.

Stormwater Management

It is recommended that site designers avoid constructing impervious surfaces and channelizing runoff whenever possible. Also, runoff should be retained on site and allowed to infiltrate the soil. Consider constructing vegetated infiltration basins and swales to mitigate increased runoff at the roads, parking areas, and building complex, and capturing runoff to supply water for plantings at the building complex and other areas if feasible.



6 APPENDICES



A GLOSSARY

APPENDIX A GLOSSARY OF SPANISH TERMS

<i>acequia</i>	irrigation ditch
<i>borrado</i>	smeared with ink
<i>burro</i>	donkey
<i>caballo</i>	horse
<i>cabresto</i>	horsehair rope used to tether livestock
<i>caliche</i>	chalk-like limestone
<i>camino real</i>	roadway with its origins in game paths and native pathways later used by the Spaniards for military purposes, settlement, and trade
<i>carrizo</i>	cane, or reed
<i>comales</i>	griddles
<i>coscojos</i>	decorative items affixed to Spanish saddles intended to dangle and/or jingle
<i>encomienda</i>	a system that granted large landowners legal title to a group of Indians from which they could extract tribute labor
<i>entrada</i>	expedition
<i>gazapo</i>	young rabbit
<i>Goliad</i> ware	hand-built ceramic vessels fired over an open campfire, made locally in the San Antonio River valley, and a possible outgrowth of prehistoric ceramic construction practices
<i>jacal</i>	type of construction consisting of upright logs chinked and clad with adobe clay

<i>meso, mestizo</i>	half-breed
<i>metate</i>	flat stone used for grinding corn
<i>olla</i>	pot or kettle
<i>orejano</i>	unbranded (cattle)
<i>presidio</i>	frontier fort
<i>ramada</i>	rustic open porch
<i>ranchería</i>	temporary encampment, literally group of huts
<i>rancho</i>	ranch
<i>sitio</i>	one square league or a square 2.6 miles on a side
<i>tixera</i>	frontier style of fencing using branches or poles, from literally "scissors"
<i>vaquero</i>	cattle herder or cowboy
<i>vara</i>	unit of measure, approximately one yard



B ORAL HISTORY INFORMATION

APPENDIX B ORAL HISTORY INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The oral history component of the Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report presented special problems. First and foremost was the fact that the property had been abandoned for decades, precluding interviews with people who had had long-term direct contact with it. Instead, project personnel determined that an appropriate alternative strategy would be to interview those closest to the site—including the last private owners of the land surrounding it and some of the oldest surviving members of the rural neighborhood in which the ruins are located—on the assumption that they would be the most knowledgeable about the site's more recent history.

An initial list of possible interview candidates was assembled using two main sources: the recommendations of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park personnel and Maria Watson Pfeiffer, the historian responsible for preparing the modern site history component of this document. The names they provided were supplemented by querying interview candidates and other individuals familiar with the area about who else in the community might be worth talking to. The complete list of interview candidates compiled in preparation for developing the oral history component of this project is included below.

As the reader will note, there are a number of topics that reappear throughout the interviews included in this appendix:

1. Local knowledge of the site was very limited until recently. Even with the publicity that has accompanied the acquisition of the site by the National Park Service as part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, few are clear about the relationship between this site and the missions located to the north. Most of the interview subjects refer to the site as "Mission de las Cabras." Their responses to interview questions posed about whether the site was discussed within the local schools were uniformly negative.
2. Several sources remember the compound structure as being more complete in their youth, although their descriptions of the extent of the ruins during previous decades vary considerably. Some maintain that complete doorways, including lintels, were still standing during their childhoods, or that remnants of roofs remained in place over portions of the structure.

3. The story about local people using the ruins as an easy place from which to remove stone for various purposes is uniformly repeated. The names of those involved in the removal vary. They range from the WPA to Judge Stevenson, an earlier owner of the property, to nameless “road bosses” and county commissioners. The final destination of the stones removed from the site also varies depending on the source, but it is obvious that they were used for a variety of both civic and private projects. Most of the interview subjects recall that people later returned stones to the site in an effort to “clear their conscience.”
4. Rumors of treasure buried on the property also appear to be widespread. In particular, many mentioned a “golden bell” and other unspecified valuables. These rumors have obviously led to considerable treasure hunting in the neighborhood of the ruins. One story that was recounted many times is that of individuals excavating a 40-foot hole near the ruins, in the hopes of finding treasure. Another refers to the belief that a tunnel exists, connecting the ruins to the river below. The tunnel was purportedly to be used by whoever occupied the compound as a means of escape or as a way of reaching water if under siege. Although many mentioned looking for evidence of this tunnel, none was ever found.

About the Interviews

Each interview took between 45 minutes and an hour and a half. They were conducted in the subjects’ homes, around a kitchen or dining room table. The subjects were given a chance to talk about other events and experiences in their lives, both as a means of getting them comfortable with the interview format, and as a way of putting any statements they made about the site in some sort of a context.

The interviews were recorded and later transcribed. The interviews were conducted in English, except for that with Modesto Flores, which flowed from Spanish into English as it was comfortable to do so. Any pertinent Spanish phrases that have been preserved in the text have also been translated.

The reader should be aware that what is presented here in each case is the written form of a conversation. Although every effort has been made to remain true to the rhythms and patterns of each subject’s speech and what appeared to be the meaning of their utterances, the interviewer and transcriber have had to keep in mind that the text is ultimately going to be read, not listened to.

Our conversational speech contains hundreds of pauses, useless words, interjections, non sequiturs, etc., that would be maddening if preserved in written form. As many of those as possible have been eliminated during the transcription and editing process. For the sake of continuity, the transcriber has also relocated sections of the conversations in order to keep references to one subject together, or to improve the flow of the written transcript.

Some Comments on the Interview Subjects

Theo Boening: The second-oldest among the interview subjects, Mr. Boening had frequent contact with the site as a boy and provides a great deal of information about rural life in the area during the earlier part of the century.

Mrs. Edna Boening Guenther: While she did not have a great deal of first-hand information about the ruins, her interview provides an interesting look at how much women's roles have changed over the last 50 years. As she relates, Mrs. Guenther was a girl and had a lot to do around the house, and therefore much less freedom than the boys to wander about the neighborhood. At the same time, she was able to provide an original newspaper clipping of the article about Rancho de las Cabras prepared by Adina de Zavala in 1934.

Jack Bruce: He is related to the Southern—previous owners of the property that includes the ruins—and is very interested in the site. His actual connection to it is peripheral, however.

Modesto Flores: One of the younger interview subjects, Mr. Flores is also one of the most educated. Unfortunately, it was sometimes difficult to tell whether the story he was telling was derived from his own experience or was distilled from things he had read or heard about.

Mr. & Mrs. Southern (Winston and JoAnn): The couple provided what is probably the most valuable interview presented below based on the fact that they were the last owners of the property before it was acquired by the State of Texas and, later, the National Park Service.

Warren Zook: The oldest interview subject, Mr. Zook has lived in close proximity to the property for many years and has had plenty of opportunity to visit and observe it.

Complete List of Possible Interview Candidates

The list that follows is not alphabetized. The sequence of names represents, generally, the order in which they came to the interviewer. Each name is followed by address and telephone number information, as available, and the interviewer's annotations regarding the potential advantages and disadvantages of selecting the individual to be interviewed. A double asterisk (**) denotes the interview candidates that were ultimately selected for interviews.

1. Judge Martha Schnabel
830/393-7302

Suggested by NPS, Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Questionable as a source since she is not from the Floresville area (lives in LaVernia, originally from San Antonio). However, she is very interested in and supportive of the site.

****2. Jack Bruce**

830/393-2651

Mailing: Route 5, Box 257, Floresville 78114

Street: 1806 B Street, Floresville 78114

Directions: Come in on US 181 to Church's Fried Chicken. Third house on the left.

Suggested by NPS, Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Lived near Rancho de las Cabras. Long-time resident. Uncle of Mrs. Winston Southern.

****3. Winston Southern (wife JoAnn, née George)**

830/216-2572

Street: 1902 Chukar Street, Floresville 78114

Directions: Off Highway 97 on left just past intersection with Highway 181 loop before leaving town limits. First house on right.

Suggested by NPS, Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Former owners of property.

****4. Modesto Flores**

830/484-2555

Street: Box 334, Poth, TX 78147

Directions: House is on corner of Highway 181 and Live Oak Street. Red fire hydrant in front.

Suggested by NPS, Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Played there as a boy. Father's property adjoined George property and ruins. Mentioned by Jack Bruce.

5. Donald Hoelscher (and his father?)

210/635-7006

Suggested by NPS, Maria Watson Pfeiffer

In his 60s. His wife, Rose, is a board member of Texas Through Time. Father still living. (According to one source, he was one of the people who returned stones to the site.)

6. Luanna Newman
830/393-2166

Suggested by Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Judge Schnabel had her call Maria Watson Pfeiffer. She heads the Texas Through Time organization in Wilson County.

7. Gene Meckel

Lives in Poth. Has studied the ranching history of the area.

- **8. Theo Boening
830/393-2358.

Street: Route 4, Box 33, Floresville, TX 78114

Directions: Lives down the road from the Guenthers (Highway 97). Take second road on left after Promised Land Dairy (F/M 1344). House is on left side, about 1-1/2 miles from Highway 97.

In his 80s. Uncle of Gene Meckel. Farms near Rancho de las Cabras. Remembers playing there as a boy. Cousin of Mrs. Edna Boening Guenther. His name also mentioned by the Southern and Modesto Flores.

9. Pat Frank

Name suggested by Edna Boening Guenther. He is a few years older than Theo Boening, and lives across from him.

- **10. Warren Zook
830/393-2177

Street: 1506 South 3rd Street, Floresville, TX, 78114

Suggested by the Southern and, Modesto Flores.

Age 94. Neighbor of the property. Supposedly in his late 80s.

- **11. Edna Boening Guenther (husband Walter)
830/393-2311

Street: Route 3, Box 198B, Floresville, TX 78114

Directions: Past Promised Land Restaurant on Highway 97 about 1/4 mile on same side of road

Suggested by JoAnn Southern

Age 79. Family lived near the George/Southern property. Still lives close by.

12. Edgar Fishbeck

Suggested by Mrs. Edna Boening Guenther. He's older than she is (79).

13. Robert Thornhoff

Karnes County historian.

14. Maurene Liles

Historian

15. Elaine Kolodziej

830/216-4519; fax 830/393-3219

Street: 1012 C Street; P.O. Box 115, Floresville, 78114

Suggested by Park Service, Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Publisher, Wilson County News. Possible source for other names.

16. Gabe Gonzalez
210/671-2901(work—Lackland AFB)

Suggested by Anne Fox

Age 43. Father, b. 1913, died 10 years ago at 75. Born near Hondo/La Costa. Told stories about camping in the ruins. His family used to be *piscadores* (migrant farm laborers) and would travel from Hondo to various other places following the crops—cotton, watermelons, etc.—when he was between six and ten years old. They would carry their belongings, supplies, water in a wagon pulled by a horse. Whenever they came through Floresville, whoever was the owner of the property at the time allowed them to camp at the ruins.

INTERVIEWS

Theo Boening

Age: 88 1/2

Route 4, Box 33
Floresville, TX 78114
830/393-2358

June 10, 1998

When were you born, Mr. Boening?

December 17, 1909.

Were you born here in Floresville?

Yes, Right here on the same place. My grandpa owned this place, but the old house was just a short distance away. After my mother died, my Daddy gave it to my sister and I, so about 1940 we moved here, my wife and I. My wife died about five years ago.

Is the old family house still standing?

No. See, my mother died in 1917, so my Daddy appointed himself as administrator, and, when I became 21 and my older sister was well over 21, he wanted to clear the estate out because he had been married for the second time, and she had children. He wanted to get the estate straightened out, so he gave us about 35 acres each, my sister and I. My grandpa had about 150 acres here, plus another 75, so 225 acres; but my Daddy had a brother who was involved in that property, so they divided it up.

My sister and I also divided up what we inherited from my dad, and she got the old house that was built in 1904. She had married a man that had come over here from Germany, and they lived in San Antonio. He was a cabinetmaker and had a job at a plane mill—[points around him] he made all the kitchen cabinets here for us.

My Daddy died in 1965. He got to be 91 and a half. By then, he had some 275 acres. When he died, he had no will or nothing, and my stepmother didn't want to sell, but my stepbrother talked her into it, because he said if she waited longer, there would be more heirs and more trouble.

I had two older sisters. My oldest sister was 13 years older than I, and my youngest one was 9 years older. I had a stillborn brother in between. So, when they decided they wanted to sell the whole place to get things cleared up, they asked me if I would take land instead of cash. I said yes, because my place didn't touch the road, so I had to pay I guess about two thousand dollars into the pot to get things straightened out. So that's how I got some more land.

So you ended up with how many acres here?

I had 225 acres. But when I took over, there were people that were living in the old homestead; there was renters living up there. They begged me that they wanted to stay, and wanted to buy some land where the old homestead was. I didn't much care to sell that land right in front of me, but I was chicken-hearted and I told them I'd sell them some land down at the other corner, so they bought seven acres, and I was left with almost 218.

So, from your mother, there were four children?

Yes, two sisters and the brother who died. I also had two stepbrothers, my stepmother's children. When my mother died in 1917, my Daddy was so despondent—I was just a little kid at the time—that he moved to Floresville and done blacksmith work. At that time they had to work with wagon wheels, and so on. So, he worked there for about two years, then he got married to this woman, who was, in reality, my niece! [Laughs.] That was a mixed-up deal! But he wasn't blood kin to her, and they didn't have no children.

I stayed home until I got married. Then, my wife's sister married one of my stepbrothers, so he became my brother-in-law. He died here about a month ago. Most of the family is gone now on my wife's side, and I'm the last one left on mine.

I see plantings here and farming activity. Who takes care of it?

Oh, I have it leased out to a dairy fellow down the road a little bit, but this year it's been so dry! He rents about 50 acres in pasture from me where he keeps his dry cows, but they're already trying to get into the barn by milking time, you know! They stand up there and look, and they know exactly where they want to be.

You said your grandfather farmed in this area. Was this your father's father?

Yes.

Was he born here?

My Grandpa? No, he emigrated here from Germany, and my sister's husband, my brother-in-law, came here in 1923. During World War I, I had two brothers-in-law fighting each other! [Laughs.] My oldest sister's husband was a fellow from here; he had to go in one of the first calls and they sent him over to France. I don't know how long the war lasted then, about a year or so. And it ended up that the one over yonder was in the German army! [Laughs.] This one over here didn't get shrapnel, or injured at all; the one from Germany, a piece of shrapnel hit him in the elbow, but he could use his arm.

So, in effect, you've lived your entire life in this area?

Yeah.

And how about your wife? Was she from here, too?

Yes, she was from here, too; just across the road. See, at that time there was no way to move about a lot. Neighbors kept marrying neighbors. San Antonio then was half a day of driving away!

You couldn't go courting very far!

No, nobody ever thought of it.

And your cousin Edna, where does she fit in. Was she on your father's side or your mother's?

She was on my father's side. My mother's family name was Mueller. She came from over in Ross Prairie, Fayetteville, but they moved up here in 1904. This land around here was pretty much unused then, and there were some real estate fellas from Houston and Gruene, who went down there and got them to buy up here, because everybody wanted more land. Her family only had about 60 acres or so, and they were eager to buy more, so they bought at about \$12 an acre, I guess.

So that was right at the beginning of the century?

Yes. We were just young kids then, and we would go fishing down at the river. The river was not polluted at that time; it was just as clear as a crystal. There was no television or radio or nothing when we were kids, so you had to make your own entertainment. We'd go fishing on a Saturday afternoon, spend the night down there, had lunch.

How far are you from the river here?

Oh, not far. [Points out the window.] You can see the Promised Land Dairy over there, and the river is just beyond. Maybe a mile, mile-and-a-half.

Would you go across the fields?

Oh, yes. We wouldn't follow no road. We knew the direction. We would always walk right by the old mission. When they had the first tour for visitors up there, I went along. There were some people who live in Floresville now, and they asked me how old those trees were, the mesquite trees! I told them, when I was a kid, there were no trees over there. You could stand at the mission and you could look way on the other side. It was all clear; there were no trees. There were a few oak trees, but the mesquite trees started later.

Are you talking now about around the ruins or as you go down towards the river?

Even down towards the river there was nothing. Even around the mission. Have you been up there? Well, then those rocks [walls] were three or four feet higher. History was something forgotten. That was never mentioned again.

Who owned that property at that time?

Well, it started off...the first ones who owned that property, I believe, were my wife's uncle, Otto Albert. My wife was an Albert; her Daddy was Henry Albert. But in those days, they didn't use [artificial] fertilizers, and I don't know whether Otto Albert tried it year or two, and then he traded some of that land for some down here, which is better.

Then, there was a county judge, Stevenson. I can't remember now what his first name was, but he was county judge for quite a while. He was a stalwart citizen, always well dressed, and, when he went down the street, everybody'd shake hands or say hello. He took some of those rocks to build a smokehouse, where they smoke sausage. That mission didn't mean nothing to him!

Then there were the commissioners, although at the time, they didn't call them commissioners. They were called "road bosses." And each little community had a road boss. I remember, our neighbors who lived here first when we were kids, one of their boys, about twenty-one or twenty five, he was the road boss for this road along here. The road used to be just about 30 feet wide, and muddy! When it would rain, look out!!

Anyway, the road bosses built a little ol' bridge down here on that little ol' road that goes past here, and they used a bunch of them rocks for the abutment on the side of the bridge. Those little bridges had to be built high up above, and then they still would get swept away. We had one along this old road, on the other side of that house there, and it rained so one Sunday that that evening the bridge was on the side of the road.

So, it seems from what you tell me that it was sort of like a free-for-all. That anyone who wanted rocks could just go up there and take them?

Yes, at that time they didn't think nothing of the history of that mission. They thought that was just a God-forsaken place. It wasn't until Victor George got the place and later turned it over to Southern that it stopped.

This smokehouse that Judge Stevenson built out of rocks from the ruins, was it built right on his property?

Yes, right on his property. That place [that George bought] was, I think about 90 acres, but that was sold off a larger property. He had the land practically all the way down to the Zook place, where the (Promised Land) dairy is now, and that was seven hundred and some odd acres, so it touched the river.

Was that Warren Zook's place?

No, Warren still has his part, and the other part Promised Land bought. Now, there was one boy in that family who kept his part; the others sold out to various people.

These road bosses that you were talking about, were they city employees, or were they county employees?

Neither. They were just volunteers. I don't know how the county would nominate them or select them. I suspect that they just came up to someone and asked: "Would you be it?" And they'd say: "O.K., I'll take care of it!"

And what exactly was their job? Road maintenance?

Their job was kind of to keep the roads shut! [Laughs.] When it would rain, there would be such deep ruts here, that...half tracks, they called it. With wagons traveling, every time it rained, those narrow-wheeled wagons would cut the track and inch or so deeper. The next one that come along, would cut some more...

So pretty soon you were a foot down from the surface of the road?

Sure! The axles would be dragging. Then they'd slip off into the ditch and somebody had to come and pull them out of there.

So you're talking about a time before tractors?

Yeah. [And later on when cars came,] they had to go up there with a mule team and pull the cars out or back on the road. They would just sit there and spin and couldn't get back on.

Eventually, there was a fellow by the name of Schiffers. He had been in South America working with the oil companies, and he had married a girl out of the DeWees family, although her name was Kerr. We knew him very well, and one day he come by, and he asked if we didn't want to go along with him to Austin to talk to the area's representative—I don't remember his name—and try to get the road paved from here down to DeWees. Actually, we weren't even thinking of paving; all we wanted was an all-weather gravel road, but when we talked to that feller, he said: "Well, let's go it one better: let's pave it while we're at it!" So, boy, we were all for that.

But then, they decided to just pave part of it down to the corner near here. That went about a year or two, maybe three, then they decided to add on all the way to the DeWees ranch house.

That's when my Daddy gave the land [for the road] to the Highway Department, but the department wouldn't take a gift. Instead, they bought the necessary ten feet or so they added to the road so they could pave it.

That must have been no later than 1940, because the road was not paved yet during the war, and electricity come in 1945. Before that time we didn't have no electricity.

I'm still not clear on something. You say that when your road was dirt and it rained, each wagon would dig a track which progressively got deeper as more and more wagons traveled it.

Them Model Ts, they were the first cars, you know, and they had thin tires. There's two hills nearby here, where they had to struggle to climb, and they only had two gears: low, or high, and a reverse. When you had only a few little old hills, you were O.K., but on a bigger hill, you had to stay in low gear as far as you could go, and sometimes that little old band in there that held it would burn up, and then they were stuck.

Sometimes you would go on the road when it was just about dried off, but, look out!, because that mud would stick on the wheels, and they got wider and wider, and finally you couldn't move. Then you had to get out, catch a hold of that mud, break it off in big chunks, and let it lie on the road! Well, that would stay there and get dry, and someone else had to cope with it later.

But, after the rain, when things dried up, these road bosses had to come and fix the damage so the road could be used again. How did they do that?

For this road, the county gave them this little ol' grader with wheels on top. Now, sometimes there would be a time when the county would come with a great big ol' Caterpillar tractor and a grader behind that took two men to operate: one to drive the tractor, and the other to operate the grader. They would make a couple of rounds maybe a day, and they would just go real slow. That was a great big Caterpillar, with a roof over it...a real old timer.

But finally the road got paved, and that was not necessary anymore. That Highway 97, that was built in 1940, I believe, and then right after that our road was paved. Everybody was so anxious to get this road paved, so they could get through this black dirt here.

So you tell me that, when you were a boy, you would go down to the river by the ruins and stay overnight. Did you stay on the river bank, or up at the ruins?

On the river bank, pretty close to the water. We would go fishing. We had what at that time they used to call "throw lines:" they had a little weight on the end, and you would tie them to a stick. They'd have about two or three hooks on them, which you would bait, and then throw in the water. During the night, you'd crawl along the river bank and check them. Never did catch much; it was just the idea of spending time and doing something different.

When we went past our smokehouse, we'd grab a sausage or two to take along. At that time, they also sold molasses by the gallon, and those molasses buckets had a lid that fit tight—you had to pry it off—and we'd put in there a dozen eggs, and some sausages, and a piece of a loaf of bread—they didn't buy bread in those days; mother used to always have bread on hand—and maybe somebody would take a frying pan along, and we would build a fire, let it burn down into the coals, set the frying pan on there, and have supper. Outside eating and drinking coffee from a can. We didn't have any cookstoves.

I'll tell you how much different it was then: There was a dance hall up here where the houses stand pretty close to the road on the left hand side when you come by there; where the bunch of junkers, tools, and stuff stand. That used to be a dance hall. That used to be my Daddy's property, and I don't know how he had made an agreement with the people to have that dance hall there. They had dances there on Saturday nights, maybe once a month. There were dance halls in just about every community, and they would schedule their events one after the other.

We were just kids then, maybe ten or twelve, and we would deliver water up there to the dance hall in an old wood barrel—whisky barrels they called them. We had that barrel set on a slide, hooked a mule in front of it, and brought it to the dance. It had a nail on the side, and we would hang a cup on it, and everybody would drink from that cup...and nobody died!! [Laughs.] There was a different idea of what was sanitary.

And during Prohibition, there was a fellow who made whisky on the other side of the road up there, and every time they had a dance, he would take advantage of that. He would load up his old Model T and drive up to the pasture nearby, and every once in a while people would slip out of the dance and go pay him a visit.

So it was a business opportunity?

Yeah!

Tell me what you remember of what the area of the ruins looked like when you were a boy.

When we were going by the mission, that room that's on the corner there—that was, I believe, the church—and I believe part of the roof was there yet. And in one corner there, there was some kind of an altar. I don't know how much of it was left, but there was laying in front of it already at that time.

Were the walls pretty high?

Oh, yeah. They were abnormally high for that time and age. I mean, not too terribly high, but I believe that part was a little higher than the rest of it. There were rooms—you could tell they were rooms—on the west side of it mainly. On the east side, there may have been one room or so yet to the corner of the mission. From there on, it was the yard.

They always talked about there being a well in the middle of it, but I don't remember ever seeing it. Everybody also talked about they had a tunnel to the river that they dug down so they couldn't be cut off from the water, so while we were kids, when we went swimming down in the river, we'd always be looking for that tunnel. We'd dive down and look around, but—no, it's not here! But maybe it caved in. Might've been, I don't know.

Now, on the northwest corner, there was a fellow by the name of Pagel—I think that's how his name was spelled, P-a-g-e l—he lived on that other road that makes a bend...This road, this dirt road wasn't there yet; that come later. Boy, they had a big celebration!

Are you talking about the road into the ruins?

No, that one was there already, but there was no bridge across the river, there was just a low-water crossing down there, and we always went to Floresville the other way. We went straight over where the highway is now—that highway wasn't there—but that road went that-a-way. They called it the Pleasanton Road because it meanders over towards Pleasanton. [Suddenly remembers.] Campbellton Road! We'd go past the Evergreen Cemetery. It was a little narrow road. The state never did take it over.

Going back to the ruins up there. You said before that there were hardly any trees up there. What was the vegetation like?

Just grass and weeds. Now, they must have battled there sometime, the Indians, because some people have found some arrows. And I found one here also, back by my field, but I never did look for those things. My stepbrother did look for them, and he had a little ol' box full of them that he had found over there where he lived. He's sold his place and moved to Floresville.

Anyway, this fellow Pagel had a colored fellow working for him, and I don't know who told him there was supposed to be treasure there, but they went down there and dug a hole that I believe was 40 feet deep. Oh, it was way down there! And, when we would go fishing, we would always stop by there and look what was laying down in there and maybe add some more. And, if there was a rock laying by there, we would throw it in to see how long it would take before it hit the bottom. [Laughs.]

You mean they just dug it to see what they could find?

Yeah, they thought that there was gold there, but I don't believe they found nothing. They gave it up. The colored fellow would go down to the bottom, and the other fellow would be on top, just winding the bucket up and down.

What did people around here say about those ruins? How were they explained?

Well, people didn't care, and they didn't care whether they hauled it all off. At least, people that lived around here. Same way the people that got some rock for that smokehouse, they never had an idea that anyone would consider that place of historical value. When we were kids, it was a pretty fair place. Now it's all growed up with trees and brush. I guess they don't hurt nothing, but...it looks God-forsaken now. At that time, it didn't look quite that bad.

And the people who owned it didn't farm the area, or keep cattle, or anything like that?

No. We never did see any of that. When we were there the wall was at least three feet high all around. You could tell where the gate was: there was an opening where there were no rocks. But there certainly were no mesquite trees, or perhaps just a little brush around the edge. You could stand there and see a long ways off. That's why they said they built the mission there, so they could see the Indians coming.

And in your school nobody mentioned the mission?

No, nobody hardly mentioned it. They weren't interested in the place. Well, sometimes someone might say: "Well, we went fishing down by the mission..." but that's all. At that time also possum hunting was kind of a pastime, at night, you know, and they might say: "Well, we went down by the mission last night; that's where we went hunting."

So other than that, it was just there.

Yes, and it's a sad story that they hauled all that rock off. What they ought to do now is to put it back, or have somebody to trade some of what they built into the bridge down there, and trade that for concrete. That way they'd get a bunch of rocks back!

Yes, but you can't tell where those rocks came from once they've been taken from the wall!

No. Guess not. It's just a shame that they tore so much of it down.

You went to school in Floresville?

No. I just went to school in town two terms, I believe. When my Daddy moved to town, I was just a little kid, but when he married again, we moved back out here.

Was there a school out this way?

Yes, they called it the Green School. But in the 1930s they rebuilt it and renamed it. See, green can be a color, but in those days, if you were "green," that meant you didn't know nothing, so they decided to rename the school, and they called it the Camp Ranch School, because that's what the community is called.

So how many years did you go to school?

Eight, and I graduated out of Green School! Oh, but that last year was just terrible. I had to take algebra, and I didn't think it meant anything. Now I get no use out of it. But, a lot of them didn't go that far. They quit already maybe in the fifth or sixth grade, because they had to help at home. Shucks, when we got out of school in the evening, we had to hurry home because we had to chop cotton, or pick cotton. There was always something to do.

And then we had to do the chores! I had to milk the cows—we always had plenty of milk at hand; never did buy no milk, and it was the same with potatoes, and corn and stuff; all you would buy was maybe some sugar. Even molasses was homemade some. There was an old fellow down the road who made molasses, and boy, that was good stuff! But that's the difference between then and now.

The womenfolk were always busy. My sister had the job of building a fire in the cookstove first thing in the morning. Then my mother would get up and they would both fix breakfast. We boys would be sleeping upstairs—it was a two-story house—until my Daddy would call up: "Well, boys, it's time to get up!!" And we never did fool around! We knew what that meant. He never did call a second time.

It was a different living than now. Now you go to town and buy meat. At that time, they had a "butcher club." There were twenty four members, and that membership was divided into halves. They'd butcher a calf late on a Friday evening, when the flies were down, then next morning they would divide the meat among the members. For twenty-four Saturdays you would get meat, and sometimes you'd get a big piece, if the man butchered a big steer.

And who provided the calf? Was it the person who did the butchering?

Yes, it was provided by the person whose turn it was to do the butchering. And there were no refrigerators; just them old ice chests where you had to bring ice home, and those were few and far between. We did have an icebox where you put ice in the top compartment and closed the lid, and for a day or two you could keep things cool.

But then my Daddy made a water cooler: he took four sticks, and put shelves between them—I don't remember how many; three, I believe—then on top, he made a trough out of tin about three or four inches all the way around. It was up off the floor about a foot and then he would fill that trough on top full of water and they used strips of old bed sheets that were wore out and kind of porous so the air would get through, and let the sheets wick out the water from the trough on top. They wouldn't put the cooler in a draft, because then the water would never soak down to the bottom if there was too much draft, but you had to have some air circulating around it. It was just right for butter and that kind of stuff; kept it just cool, so it would never melt.

And I remember the days when they had the dipping vats. They were trying to get tick fever eradicated, and they built a dipping vat up there by the house, so every so many weeks—or I don't quite remember how often between times—you had to take the cattle there and have them dipped.

You drove your cattle there?

Yeah, you drove them up there through the road. All the menfolk would help each other, because you had to push them through, you know. But they would go under [the water] and come up on the other side. There was a fella came out with the dip, and he would test the water so it wouldn't be too strong, so it wouldn't burn the cattle.

END OF INTERVIEW

Edna Boening Guenther

Age: 79

Route 3 – Box 198B
Floresville, TX 78114
830/393-2311

April 28, 1998

[Note: Her husband Walter is present throughout the interview.]

When were you born, Mrs. Guenther?

I was born April 4, 1919.

Were you born here in Floresville?

About a mile, I guess, from this house.

Tell me something about your parents. What were their names?

My dad was Charlie Boening, and my mother was Ella Pfeil.

Where were they born?

I'm not sure. Grandma and Grandpa Boening came over here from Germany, but my father was born here.

How about on your mother's side?

I think they were born here. I know she was. And, if I'm not mistaken, I think he was, too.

And the immediate family—aunts, uncles, and such—did they live around here or in other parts of Texas?

Most of them lived around here or around Jourdanton; had their children there. Some were in Pleasanton, and I still have an aunt living somewhere close to Waco.

What kind of work did your father do?

He was a mechanic; worked on cars.

The place where you grew up: was it just a house, or did he have a shop there as well?

He had his shop there.

How long did your parents live? How old were they when they died?

Well, Mama was 81, and my Daddy was 61, almost 62.

How big a family did you have?

I had a sister and a brother, both older than me.

And your siblings are still alive?

No, they're both dead.

So you've lived your entire life here in Floresville?

Yes. I was born in that old house up there; we got married there, and we moved this house here. It was just two rooms when we started, but we added the bedroom, bathroom, storeroom, and the kitchen.

You two have been married how long?

November 1st, we'll be married 60 years. Hard labor! [Both laugh.]

Yes, it's amazing what the human body can tolerate, isn't it?

[Laughter.] Yes, we went through the Depression, but we made it.

Walter, are you also from this area?

Well, I was born and raised in Poth.

Oh, that's a long distance away!! [All laugh.] And what brought you to Floresville?

I guess she brought me here!

**It must have been worth the trip, if you stayed around that long! [All laugh.]
How old were you when you got married?**

I was nineteen.

Did you work after you got married, or did you dedicate yourself to being a housewife.

I worked at home. We run a filling station. So I worked inside and outside.

You and your husband ran the filling station? It wasn't your father?

No, the two of us. My father was a mechanic. And my brother and him did that kind of work.

How much land did your father have?

Seventy-five acres. He had 150, but he sold half of his place to the neighbors. He farmed when he first got married in, I think, 1912, but he loved to work on Model T Fords, and he was good at it, so he opened a shop. Fixed flats, ground valves, adjusted the coils, and so on.

Where was his property in relation to the Georges? Were they adjoining, or were there other properties between them?

There were other properties between.

What did your father do with his land once he opened the shop?

They had a few cows.

But just for the family's own use?

Yes.

[Mr. Guenther: I farmed it for a while...peanuts, then I went to work in San Antonio. I was doing carpenter work, sheet rocking, and stuff like.]

Yes, after we quit the filling station. Then he worked on some of those high rises when they didn't have any windows, and no elevator, so he had to climb fifteen stories. That was cold work! I stayed home and babysat: took care of our three grandsons.

Now, your parent's house was how far away from the ruins at Las Cabras?

Both: About a mile and a half. No more than two miles.

And to get there, would you just cut across fields, or follow a road?

We'd go on the dirt road that goes by JoAnn's (Southern) place, and then across.

Did you have occasion when you were young to go up there, or was it something you did on a regular basis?

No, not on a regular basis. Before I got married, kids didn't have cars much, and parents wouldn't let them have the cars, if there was one, so they came on horseback, and we all went horseback riding, just laughing and talking around these country roads. And we went up there a few times, just rode over there and looked around.

I didn't have the time to run around. Our neighbors had two boys and a girl that never married, and they came over on horseback on Sunday, and that's when we went there.

So it wasn't a place where the young people would "hang out," as they say. It was just a place you visited when you had occasion to. Do you remember anything specific about the ruins? How they looked?

Well, they looked just like on this page.

[She produces a yellowed page from a San Antonio paper with an article by Adina de Zavala entitled "Mission de las Cabras, Goat Mission, Crumbled Ruin Near Floresville." Name of the newspaper, date, and page number are gone, but the date appears to be early 1932. The contents of the article are from a report presented by Mrs. Everett Graves to the Texas Historical and Landmark Association on April 14, 1932, and Mr. and Mrs. Graves supplied the four photos that accompany the article. The article also contains a description of the ruins in 1902 from a survey Mr. Graves conducted of the site.]

This is an old page I saved. That's the way it looked then. We didn't bother nothing, we just went there.

Do you know what newspaper this came from?

I think it's from the *Chronicle-Journal*.

Why did you save this article?

I don't know. I save everything, I guess! [All laugh.] I think that page's as old as I am!

Well, maybe not 79 years old, but certainly close to that. So, do you remember the place changing much over the course of your life? Is that something you were aware of?

No. The way it looks in those photos is the only way that I remember it. There was no roof on it and I wondered how they kept dry. Then, one time we went after that, and somebody had made a big hole in the ground to the side of it.

[Pointing to the map in the de Zavala article.] Would this hole have been in the courtyard, or what is labeled "patio" here, or would it have been outside the walls?

It was outside the walls.

Did anyone ever offer an explanation for the digging?

I never did talk to anybody. We just rode there and saw somebody had dug a big hole. There was nothing in it.

[Mr. Guenther interjects: A tunnel to the river?]

There was supposed to be a tunnel where they could get water (from the river), but we never did see anything.

Did people pay any attention to those ruins when you were growing up?

Not that I know of. They never did talk about any of this, about the people, or anything. It was just an old mission, and, when I was growing up, it was just there.

When there are ruins like that around, there's always talk about treasure and such. Do you remember hearing any such stories about Las Cabras?

Well, there's supposed to have been a golden bell over there, but I never did hear any suggestion about where it was, or about someone finding it.

Did you ever hear of anyone digging around the ruins for treasure?

No, I never did get to go back over there. Maybe once or twice with those horses...we rode around, but other than that I never did go over. My Daddy used to say: "Stay home and work!"

The roads that cut through these properties today, were they already in existence when you were growing up, or have they been put in since then by the highway department or by the county?

Well, this highway (Highway 97), when we moved our house over here, they were working on this highway, 'cause my Daddy bought this land to move his filling station and garage over here, 'cause that's where the traffic would be. We had been living on that dirt road over there, you know.

But the dirt road that goes to the Georges' property?

That was already there.

Did you ever hear of people carting stone away from the ruins or dismantling walls?

Not really, not that I could swear to it. There are many stories about things, but I've heard that there was something built in Floresville, and they had to bring it back. There were two big posts made out of those rocks as you come into Floresville. I don't know who put them there. I guess the city does stuff like that. And then they were told they couldn't do that, so they brought all the rocks back.

It seems strange to me that there was no mention of those ruins in the schools. Here you have a site that dates back to the eighteenth century, and no one mentions it? Didn't you have Texas history?

Well, I didn't go to school too long. I quit in the sixth grade. But, no, I never did hear about that old mission. I love to read, and I made good grades in geography, but I don't remember them saying anything about that old mission. Mostly the Alamo and those other missions in San Antonio got mentioned, but not this one.

END OF INTERVIEW

Jack Bruce

Age: 73

1806 B Street
Floresville, TX 78114
830/393-2651

March 26, 1998

Tell me what your relationship is to Mrs. Winston Southern.

She's my niece by marriage; by birth, she's my second cousin!

So, the connection to that Rancho de las Cabras property is on her family's side, not on your family's side?

Right, right. Her mother was my second cousin by blood, but she's my niece by marriage: her father and my wife were brother and sister.

I'll have to work on that before I figure it out!

[Laughs.] O.K.

Tell me something about yourself. You're how old?

Seventy-three.

Were you born here in Floresville?

No, in Fairview, west of here, about 15 miles west. My great-grandfather came there after the Civil War.

So what is your connection to Floresville?

Well, this was the county seat.

But, did part of the family live here and part in Fairview?

No, we just moved here in '64. We lived in Fairview until then, but we had three daughters, they were in school and in the band, and I was wearing the car out running back and forth from the ranch to the town, so I built me a house here, and I'd just go out there once a day, take my lunch, and they'd stay here and go to the band.

So you still have property out there?

Oh, yes. I still go out there every day.

What kind of property?

I farmed, but now I have mostly cattle. I'm getting too old for the farming. I have a tractor and stuff, but I don't run it.

How much land do you have?

Two hundred and forty-five acres. Which is not all that much, but enough to keep me out of trouble.

I've been involved in all these "old things:" we have a Paleo-Indian camp out there on our place, and I've been involved with the University of Texas people all these years. They've been out there two or three times to look at the area. I have four or five cigar boxes full of Indian artifacts: diggers, and scrapers, and you name it. All kinds of stuff.

This is just an avocation with you?

Yeah, just a hobby.

Did you go to school in Fairview?

Nine years, and then I graduated high school here in Floresville in '41.

And what did you do after you graduated?

I farmed for a couple of years, and then I put in a hitch in the navy in World War II.

And then?

Came back to farming.

So you've been doing that ever since World War II?

Yes.

How big a family do you have?

Just the three daughters.

And is your wife still living?

Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, she was here until just before you arrived. She didn't want to be here!

So she'll let you be the speaker?

[Laughs.] Actually, the relation to the property is on her family's side. My wife's father, when he was a little boy, lived out there. I don't know if you've heard about the Camps? The Camp's Ranch? Well, that property was part of it for years, and this old man cowboied out there. He said he remembers going to Las Cabras when it still had a roof over it. I didn't think about it much at the time, but he also told me about the well in the center of the compound, and things like that, that they haven't found yet. But he said it was there.

And then the land went to whom after him?

I really don't know. It eventually came down to Stevenson, who was a county judge and involved in politics, but I really don't know the details. But my wife's father didn't think that it was right that they were carrying off these rocks, so, when his son bought the property, he stopped them from doing it anymore. That was around 1940 or something like that.

I've heard this story before. The way you heard it, was it that they were tearing down walls to get this stone, or were they just using stone that was already lying about?

No, they were tearing the walls down. Some of it was used here in town for a retaining wall by the school, and other different people came and took some. When they found out that the National Park Service was taking over the site, they gathered them up at night and toted them up there again.

Who was doing this? Were they just private individuals?

The county commissioners were behind it. You know, if a road washed out, they'd go get a load of rocks and put them in. And, I guess, the school, and anybody else who had use for it. But that old man, my wife's father, thought it was sacrilegious, he thought that was a sacred place.

What was his name?

Louis George.

You said he bought the place or his son?

No, his son, Victor George, and his wife Viola.

But you say the old man was the one who was upset that people were plundering the site for materials?

Yeah, 'cause these people all came from Alsace-Lorraine [Note: the border provinces between France and Germany, long disputed between the two and ultimately ceded to France after W.W.I.], and they were real staunch Catholics. He knew the site was associated with the church, and, as soon as they got possession of the property, he stopped them, cut it off right there. I wish it could've been done earlier; it would've been nice, 'cause that's our heritage.

When you were growing up around here, was that site mentioned at all, was Rancho de las Cabras in anyone's mind?

Well, yeah. When I was ten, twelve years old, we used to go over there and visit, 'cause they was our kinfolks. We went up there lots of times when I was just a little kid. But they called it "the mission" then, "Goat Mission."

There used to be a road there that went down to the river, and we would take it to go fishing, or whatever.

So your actual connections to the site from a long time ago were simply as a visitor, when you went to visit your cousins?

Yeah.

And these were always short visits? You never stayed there for weeks at a time, did you?

No, just for the day: Christmas, Easter, or something like that.

What explanation was given at that time for the site?

For it being there? I don't think anybody really knew. If they did, I never heard it. We knew that it had to do with colonizing or civilizing the Indians, or whatever...

But there was nothing more specific than that? Was it mentioned in the schools, for example, when you were talking about American history or Texas history?

[Laughs.] That's too long ago! Maybe when they were talking about Texas history, but I really couldn't say.

You know, supposedly when we get to be our age, we remember the best things that happened a long time ago, rather than those that happened yesterday!

[Laughs.] Yes, that's right, but I don't recall it ever being mentioned in school at all, although a lot of the kids would go out there, slip out there at night to camp and go in the river. We always heard this story about a Spanish ghost lady...I have it here somewhere. And supposedly you could hear her squalling over there by the river.

You mean La Llorona?

Yes, La Llorona, that's it! I made a speech about that one time! About these people who got her children, and she's looking for them. But, I think that was a story for controlling the kids from going to the river.

And you heard this story among the Anglos?

Well, I have a Mexican son-in-law, and his family talks about it. But I was raised with Mexican people in Fairview. We raised peanuts, and we had five or six families who worked for us, and we all ate our tortillas together. We heard all those old tales.

Usually when you have ruins like that in a place, there's always stories about treasure of some kind or another. Did you ever hear any such stories about this site?

[Laughs.] Oh man! Have you been up there? Did you see that big pit between there and the river? O.K., Victor, who was JoAnn's (Southern) father, he sold some of that, but every day they was out there digging, he was out there looking for that well that was supposed to go down to the river, for escape and to get water. There was also supposed to be a golden bell there somewhere, but I think that was just a figment of someone's imagination. Those people didn't have any money, I don't believe. Everything they raised they took to San Antonio to Mission Espada.

Yes, it certainly would be an unlikely place for a golden bell to be!

But anyway, every day, her father was out there looking to see if they came up with something.

You're referring to that gravel or *caliche* pit that she was telling me about, aren't you?

Yeah. But, how they'd dig all the way down there to the river I don't know.

Yes, that would've been quite a feat.

I could see their having a well [at the site]; my father-in-law said they had a well. They'd have to have one for water, but they could've dug one 80 feet deep or whatever. I could see that.

Do you actually know people who have dug for treasure out there?

Yeah. They'd come with metal detectors. I don't know how deep a hole they'd dig, but they were looking for metal. All they found was some beer cans!

Nothing of any consequence?

Maybe some arrowheads, but that's all.

In some of the archeological reports that the people from UTSA have done at the site, there is mention of a quarry at the site. This is not what we're talking about, is it?

No, this is later. When the University of Texas started coming out in about 1980, it just so happened that I was in town, and I ran into the lady that was in charge, Anne Fox, and I took her in my truck to the site. I had a '76, '78 Ford, and I took her out there myself. And over the years, several of the men came out to my place, or I'd take them some peanuts, and we got to be good friends. And that's how my interest started.

We were trying to get something done out there, and nothing moved. The county judge wasn't really all that interested, so I was good friends with Senator [Judith] Zaffirini [from Laredo], and when she was nominated, I helped her get elected. So I mentioned this to her in about '85, '86, somewhere in there, but I'd just about give up on it. Then, Judge [Martha] Schnabel, she got elected in '91, I believe. She called me into her office—which surprised me, because I'm a Democrat—and she was telling me what she wanted. She wanted me to lead a group to work on doing something about Las Cabras.

I was standing right there in front of her desk, and I told her: "Judge, I want to tell you right now, so there'll be no question about it later on: I didn't vote for you last time, and I'm not going to vote for you next time, but I'm going to get this done for you!" And I got it done. You wouldn't believe the red tape we had to go through! I wouldn't want to go through that again!

How did Senator Zaffirini get interested in this, if she's from Laredo?

Through my connection. Because I told her about it. I went to Washington two or three times on account of this, and finally got it done. The site was finally transferred to the state.

END OF INTERVIEW

Modesto Flores

Age: 69

[Corner of Hwy. 181 and Live Oak]
Box 334
Poth, TX 78147
830/484-2555

April 28, 1998

What is your birthdate, Mr. Flores?

20 July 1929.

And you were born where?

Here in Poth. During the Depression, my father was a section foreman for the Aransas Pass and Texas Railroad...or was it "Texas Railroad and Aransas Pass?" That was the line that went to San Antonio from Corpus Christi. When I was about three years old, we moved to the Picos Creek, which is a creek that empties in the San Antonio River by Mission de las Cabras. Our southern fence was the northern boundary of the ruins, and *el camposanto de los indios* or the indigenous cemetery. We grew up there until I went to the service in 1950.

While people were working in the fields in '38, '39, and '40 for 50 cents a day, we were catching rattlesnakes at 75 cents per snake. [Laughs.] Well, the Good Lord protects foolish virgins and stupid people! On the weekends, and whenever we had time, we used to go around that area and collect rattlesnakes to sell at the railroad head or the depot in Floresville on Saturday. The individual who would pick them up was a woman who would "milk" them and get the venom out to make serum. We'd get our 75 cents per on the weekend and party, and weekdays we'd go to school.

About how old were you when this was going on?

About 9, I was helping my older brother, and then by myself. Even during the war we did that.

Where would this woman come from?

San Antonio, I guess. Out-of-town, anyway. The snakes went to the zoos and were used to make anti-snakebite serum.

Did they take the snakes live?

Yes. They're real easy to catch. You'd take a broom handle, bore a hole at one end, and take some cotton fishing line—in those days there was no nylon, but the cotton line, the wetter it got, the better it was—and you'd make a double knot, so it wouldn't slip. You'd pass it over the snake's head, and pull to catch it, and then you'd put them in a flour sack. Nowadays, they have this aluminum contraption with a loop, but in those days we used our own creativity. "Necessity is the mother of invention."

How did you get started on this snake business?

Well, we had heard from the elders that if you could catch a snake, you could sell it.

The elders...What do you mean by that?

The older people, guys in their 80s, 90s. They used to be out chopping wood, and they would catch snakes and keep 'em in the five-pound wooden boxes cheese used to come in. They'd bore some holes on the side and cover them with screen, so the snakes could breathe and you could look at them. We used to hold the box up and say: "Boy, that's a big one! It's got eight buttons, or ten buttons, or twelve!" And, of course, the snake would be just shaking its rattle.

The buyers would buy all kinds of snakes: grass snakes, common bullwhip or king snakes, and so, but they were cheaper. But those eat rodents and whatever. The rattlesnakes, if you stepped near them, or disturbed them, especially when they were sunning, they would strike at you.

The way to paralyze a snake was to have a bullwhip, give a sharp crack by them, and then you could slide your loop over them and "Come to Papa!"

So the sound of the whip immobilized them?

The sharp crack next to them would distract them or paralyze them, but you had to be fast with the loop. Then you would reach over about two inches, press their head downward in about a 45 degree angle, and you had a snake in your hand.

One of my uncles used to catch snakes by the tail with his hand, and break their neck by whipping them...until one of them wouldn't have any part of that, and he quit doing it.

You said your father was a foreman with the railroad. Why did you move to Floresville?

Because they moved the railroad section to Floresville.

So he moved with his job?

Yes.

And the land that your family had near the ruins, was your family farming at all?

My dad found out that the position was going to phase out. He looked around Floresville for land, and he got 60 or 65 acres on the Picoso Creek, and built a house there. In fact, he bought a garage from the section house here, and he moved it to his property by mule team for \$10: to Route 4, past the river, and past Picoso Creek. And it took them three days to move it by mule.

The guy who made the house was from here, by the name of Maniac (just like "maniac"), a Czechoslovakian, and he used to go across here, past the mission, over the Paso de las Mujeres, which is limestone. There's less than a foot of water there usually, because cattle used to go across to the neighbor's pasture. That's also, I later found out, where the ore wagon from La Bahia would cross the river. The next stop was towards Laredo. That was part of the Camino Real.

There was another crossing called "La Conquista," which was down here by Interstate 541, but that was shut down later because of an outbreak of hepatitis and a murder. I remember that people used to drive their cars right into the river to wash them.

Part of the wall at the mission is made of a reddish limestone, and in Floresville, at the elementary school, on one side of the block, there's a wall about four feet high of the same reddish stone. All that stone is from the mission up there. That happened before World War II. It was an unprotected ruin, so, if you wanted to get stone, you'd just go up there and get it.

Who exactly was removing the stone?

The public at large. The county. Then a county judge who lived by there, he made his house out of that stone. I remember in 1936, '37, '39, the wall was getting smaller and smaller. We used to walk on top of that wall; sun ourselves on it. It had a window in it, that I later found out was a gunport, on the corner in the outer wall.

Was this part dismantled also, or is it still there under the fill?

I don't know. Could be there, but could also be gone. The daughter of Victor George, JoAnn, used to chase a lot of people out of there because they were desecrating what had been a mission.

Inside the mission, the walls were clean, but there were a lot of *pitas* growing, what they call Spanish daggers. We used to use them to tie bundles of hay. You'd cut them green, wet them and let them stay in the water until you were ready to use them to tie the fodder together. When it dried, it sort of choked that bundle; it shrank.

How much land did your father have?

He bought 60 or 65 acres, and then he leased 50 more acres, which put him right on the mission. This was for three or four years, when it rained, and we had big crops of corn. Years later, the land was used for watermelons; but this was when Victor George had it. The judge who had built his house of those rocks, was selling the land in parcels: 50 acres here, another 50 over there.

So your father was intending to farm after he left the railroad?

He worked until '47, then he raised cattle, what you now call "lot feeding." You buy hay and feed them to 400-500 lbs., then you sell them.

Did you go to school in Floresville?

Yes.

How far did you go?

They only had eleven grades, and I went until I got expelled in February of '48.

Why did you get expelled? And when did it happen?

It happened in the eleventh grade, my senior year. Well, in those years, they were—if you'll pardon the expression—S.O.B.s if you spoke Spanish, and I told the Superintendent, Floyd Schewitz, "*tu madre..*" And that S.O.B. knew that much Spanish!

In those days, the ones who were supposed to be the counselors in high school, would get the Hispanics and steer them all into trade school. I was a rebel, and I believed that I should be able to make up my own mind. A lot of the guys were like sheep, doing what they were being told: carpentry, and so on, but I wanted to be on the outside and travel. I wanted to see what was beyond the county. I found out one thing when I left the county: I did not know I had an accent until I left the damned county!!

Then, I was here and there, up in Montana in construction, when I got my "Greetings!" from Harry S. Truman, I thought over the benefits the military offered, so I decided to make a career of it. Later I transferred services to the air force in '53, but I stayed in and retired in '70.

I started working and worked in San Antonio for nineteen and a half years. I got along with the CEO, who was a general from New England, I think, so I retired at nineteen and a half years of service with twenty years credit. By then, I had to be to Bee County College and Palo Alto Community College, and finished a degree at the University of the Incarnate Word, or Incarnate Word College, as it was called then.

In between, I also worked with EMS for twenty years, but after 20 years it started getting too rough: HIV, dope guys, guys that had concealed weapons, so I transferred to Mental Health, which is a daytime job and safe—at least they're tranquilized already when they step into the clinic.

At any time in your schooling, was anything ever said about those ruins at Rancho de las Cabras?

No, nothing.

Was your father from this area?

He was from Mexico, from San Luis Potosí. His name was also Modesto Flores.

My mother, she's 95 now, on her mother's side came from the Garcías and the Gonzales, who came from close to where the Seguin property was. All that was ranching, and they had *vaqueros*. My mother says her father came from what is now Calaveras, which was then a way-station, where they would feed the horses little bundles of hay or corn, water them, rest a bit, then go through Saspanco to San Antonio, and back the same way.

At the old livery stable in Calaveras, you could still see a few frameboards hanging. They would park the buggies in there, and put the horses in the corral. One of the oak trees is still standing, and the original house was made of handmade brick and mortar. They were not regular-sized bricks. They were big ones...like homemade ones.

When we went to the mission (Las Cabras), my grandfather would take water in a big water horn...big sucker, about that big (indicates size, using thumb and index finger of both hands), with a plug at the end, and, on the side of it, had his name branded... "Toribio Gonzales," and it had a date. That horn went back to the 18-somethings. It had been his father's, or his father's father's. My mother had it at the farm, but she had it outside, where the sun would hit it, and I tried to salvage it, but it was all splintered and bleached in the sun. But, anyway, that's how they used to carry water. And gunpowder also, but the ones for gunpowder were smaller.

Of the Lópezes, one of them...poor guy, he's old, and he'll be talking to you and fall asleep, he is, you know, demento...but he used to tell stories about how they went in the wagons, and where the crossing was, and where the cemetery was on this side of the river, and it got sub-soiled, sub-plowed and everything, and the state never had any provisions to preserve it. But the *camposanto de los indígenos* [burial place of the natives] was on a hill, and, every time it rained, we'd just cross the fence and go gathering arrowheads. [Note: Seems possible that he is referring to the "Indian camp" mentioned by others, for example Warren Zook.]

This was the fence onto the George's property?

Yes, where the Mission de las Cabras was. If you imagine the south fence at the site, there's a little hill where there was an oak tree. It was north of the site. Apparently, the guys who worked at the mission were buried there when they died.

I gave a couple of those arrowheads to the Park Service. There were a lot of artifacts in that cemetery. And about another 130 meters away, there was another cemetery. My older brother says it was the *camposanto de los españoles* [burial place of the Spaniards]. It was under the oak tree, very clean. I remember that it was like a picnic area that was nice and flat, kept clean. It was a beautiful place. Now Mother Nature and the thickets took over.

You hear old stories how they had a tunnel from inside the compound down to the river, where they would take cattle to water, and, when they had Indian raids, they could go down to the river. When you face the river, you have a sharp drop on the cliffs. My brother used to tend cattle there for about three years, and he said that he would run into people there who were hiding from the law.

Across the river there were sheer drops...I'd say about as high as a five-story building. Cattle down by the river would go through this...I don't know what to call it in English, but in Spanish we called it *cuelga mecates*...which used to hang down off the trees. It looked like rosebushes with bigger thorns, and it would rip you to shreds, chaps and all.

On the Picoso, we made corrals for the cattle there, and then we'd drive them home. The oak trees there were, oh, 30, 40 feet high, and this stuff would grow on the trees. You'd cut the vine off the top, let it drop, and make yourself a corral there, have four or five posts, make a gate, and you could keep your cows and horses in there, like a holding pen. We'd go swimming in the river, and the horses would be eating there. All right under the oak trees, where the river and the Picoso would come together.

How many children in your family?

We were twelve. My mother has two Service Flags from the government; there were two of us in World War II, four of us in the Korean War, and four again during the Vietnam War. Between my brothers and me, we put in over a hundred years in the U.S. military in all sorts of campaigns.

Were you all boys?

There were seven boys. And my brother, who was older than me, the one who used to tend cattle by the river, he got caught in all three wars!! He was in World War II, then he went back in the navy, and was in the Korean War and in the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, he was in the Gulf of Tonkin. He was on the New Jersey, and they fired just one salvo, which was a very expensive one. Later, they put him on the U.S.S. Keppler; he was in gunnery.

He was the one who found French coins on our side of the fence while plowing. I asked them about that recently, and he said that mother also had a gold coin; I guess it was more like a doubloon. The French coins he had for many years, but I don't know what happened to them.

How did he know they were French?

Because they had the French flag and writing in French. It was confirmed that they were French. The plow just hit them, about three or four, just opened it up and they started shining up. And one of them was Spanish gold. I always tried to talk him out of at least one of them, but he just called me *baboso* [little punk]! [Laughs.]

He always used to say that the people dug up a hole, or a well, right at that mission that was about 40 feet or more down. They were looking for treasure...

Do you mean outsiders coming in?

Yes. The story goes that there was a golden bell that was inside the chapel of the mission, and, to keep it from marauding Indians, or when they were being overrun, they buried it. Well, it could be true, or it could be a myth, but I think there must be partial truth to that because every place had the sign of the cross or a chapel, and the people who had those were either well-to-do, or were Spanish Dons. All over this area, there are properties that were originally "Spanish grants," and the land titles around here all go back to the original deeds that the Spanish made.

Was going up to the ruins sort of an everyday occurrence for you and your brothers?

Yes, 'cause we used to hunt up there, what you called swamp rabbits and squirrels. And we used to have *sogas*, trout lines, in the river. The water was so pristine that you could see the fish and the catfish, big turtles, and so on. It was a different era: there was no pollution or anything.

Now, you can hardly get the cows to drink the water at times when it's lime-green. We'd go down to the river, go swimming, eat what we hunted or fished from the river, and we'd stay up all night. We'd go Friday night, stay all of Saturday, and come back home Sunday. And we'd bring what was left of our catch home. It's a by-gone era.

Did you ever see anyone up there digging around the ruins?

No, but I did see them removing the stone. I heard about the digging from Don Felipe Rodriguez. They called him *Dientes Pegados* [Teeth-Stuck-Together], because he talked without opening his teeth. He said that people would go and actually camp there while they'd dig, get frustrated, and go back to San Antonio or where they came from.

He had lived in that area all his life, and his father and grandfather before him. He had a map in Spanish. It was like one of those rough brown bags, but when we kidded him about that and told him that the thing was written with charcoal, he'd get mad. I remember he had a tin hat [helmet] and part of a lance, the spear of one, and he said they were supposed to be family heirlooms. We tried to talk him out of the tin hat, but he wouldn't part with it! [Laughs.]

He had bags made out of skin, like saddlebags, but they were to carry precious things in them, very pliable. He had old stuff—a piece that wasn't armor, but was more like a breastplate, which was part of an armor, and a sword. It wasn't like the American horse soldiers used; it was finer. He would say his *antepasados* [forebears] came with the Conquistadores.

END OF INTERVIEW

Winston and JoAnn Southern

Ages: 63/59

1902 Chukar Street
Floresville, TX 78114
830/216-2572

March 26, 1998

Note: WS=Winston Southern; JA=JoAnn Southern

Let me ask first about your background, Mr. Southern. When were you born?

WS: January 16, 1935.

And where were you born?

WS: I think it was at the Floresville Hospital, right here in town. I've been here all my life, just about.

Did you live in town, or out in the country?

WS: Well, my family moved around the country. In fact, my Dad worked in Taft, and down around the coast. Then, when my Dad went in the service, we lived in San Antone, at the Kelly Homes, or rather at the Kelly Trailer Park. Then, he got out of the service, and we moved to Cuero. After that, Mom and Dad separated, and I lived out here in the country with my grandmother and my Mom.

JA: I think you were about ten at the time.

WS: Yes, about ten or twelve.

Was your father career military?

WS: No, he was just doing a tour of duty. He was in the Army/Air Force.

And when he got out, what did he do?

WS: He drove a truck for some food chain in Cuero, delivering groceries. I don't remember the name of the company. It was many years ago.

So, you finished high school, and then what did you do?

WS: I went to work in the oil fields, and worked in the oil fields for a couple of years.

Where was that?

WS: Around here, local. Then, I went to work for American Lithium Chemicals.

JA: Well, in between we got married. He worked a while after he got out of school, and then in '56 we got married. Then we moved to San Antonio for a while until American Lithium Chemicals closed down, and he went to work for City Public Service in San Antonio.

WS: I was also in the service for a couple of years and returned to my job at American Lithium Chemicals when I got out.

Mrs. Southern, what was your maiden name?

JA: George. JoAnn George.

When did you come back to Floresville?

JA: In '64.

WS: Yes, our daughter started school, the first grade, and we put her in the school down here, and so we ended up living down here for a couple of years and then bought a house over here.

JA: We actually lived out at the farm for a while, about a year or so, until we bought a house in town, then Winston retired in '92. Before he retired, in '90, he started a cattle operation out at the farm, so he was trying to work and run that also.

So, when did you buy that property?

JA: That property belonged to my father and mother. Then I inherited half of it, and Winston and I bought out the other half of the estate in '69, I believe it was.

WS: Somewhere along there.

Did you ever live out there on that property?

JA: I was raised out there.

So you've seen that parcel of land and those ruins all your life?

JA: Yeah. It was basically the walls that are standing, the ones that they dug out, found the outlines of, at the last excavations. They always had the monument out there from when my Dad bought the property back in the '40s. I must've been about five when my Dad bought the place. What I remember of the ruins was that south end. I would say that the walls were about five foot high. Of course, as a kid, I thought they were a lot bigger.

WS: They're still four, five feet tall.

JA: There really hasn't been that much decay of those walls in the years that we've had it.

WS: But, when was it that the state was hauling rock out of there, tearing walls down?

JA: They were doing that before we bought the place.

They were doing what?

JA: The state was coming in there, tearing the structure down, and hauling the rocks away to build bridges and roads, and stuff. Those rocks were scattered over the city and the town here for years, you know.

There was an old PCA camp where the school is now...

PCA? What does that mean?

JA: Was it PCA, or what was it? It was some kind of a program that the government put in...

WS: I think it was WPA.

JA: Yes, that was it. And they built a little short wall...just from remembering, I'd say it was somewhere like two feet high. Just kind of a border around that area, and it was built out of those rocks.

But, when we moved there, I remember my Mom say they came with this big truck and said that they were going to get more rock. She told them she didn't know anything about that, that they would have to talk to her husband. And when they talked to my Dad, and told them what they were doing, he told them, "No, you're not going to take any more!" And after that, [the ruin] was pretty well left alone. So I'd say that the major deterioration was up to that point.

And that pasture was such a thick, brushy pasture...

You mean the area around the ruin?

JA: Yes...back when we had it, that it was not really that good for cattle grazing, even. The cattle hardly ever were down in there that much, because it was so thick, so the livestock didn't tear it down. It was pretty much secured.

After they started getting interested in the mission again, you know, like after the state took it...I guess it was in '77...the state got interested and condemned the property and took it under public domain. At that point, they also got interested in the rocks and stuff that had been removed, and people started returning a lot of those rocks. There were two big pillars that had been built just as you went into Floresville, up from the intersection out here where [Hwy.] 97 and 181 Business Loop cross... I guess their conscience started bothering them, or something, so they started returning the rocks, and that's how some of the stuff found its way back there.

Let me make sure that I understand you correctly. Correct me if I'm wrong. You're saying that the dismantling of walls and so on took place before your family moved out there?

JA: Yes.

But, who owned that property then?

JA: I think it was a Judge Stevens. However, we bought the land, my Dad bought the land, from Howard Lynn. But that property had been owned by other people before, and for how long I don't know...because the Lynns did not live out there that I can remember. So I don't know who had been out there that had actually given them permission to do what they were doing.

That was my next question: If your dad had bought the property, what made the state employees think that they could continue to just come in and cart material away?

JA: I guess it was just the workers. They had done that before, so I guess they just assumed they could go on doing it. I've always heard them referred to as "state" employees, but I don't know whether they were as much state employees as people from the county.

Maybe the city?

JA: Well, the city wouldn't have had the authority over that area out there. It would make more sense if it was the county, because the judge usually presides over the Commissioners' Court, and, of course, the [county] commissioners are the ones that keep up the roads, and do the different things.

So that's where that kind of project would originate?

JA: I would assume so. I really don't know, but I've heard these stories as a child. Whether they're totally true or not, I don't know. I do know that they didn't get to haul more rocks out of there after Daddy bought it. I don't really know whether Daddy even knew there were ruins back there when we bought the place. Maybe he did, but what he was primarily interested in was in having a place on the San Antonio River. Back in those days, that was the thing.

WS: Well, if he walked to the river when he bought the place, he would have had to walk right past the ruins to get to the river, so...

JA: I suppose so, but as a kid, I don't remember any conversations or any mention of mission ruins being there.

Again, let me confirm what I hear you say, and that is that after your father bought the property, there would have been little additional destruction to the ruins caused by cattle moving through them, because the area was not used that much.

JA: It was not used that much, however, after we [meaning her and her husband] bought the land from him, we still didn't do anything with that part. We did clear the brush around [the ruin] and plant coastal Bermuda grass for cattle grazing.

WS: We had the land cleared all around the mission, cleared all the brush out, and planted coastal Bermuda. In fact, I shaped the river banks also, and planted on the river banks and everywhere.

So you planted grass all the way down to the river?

WS: Yes.

JA: And I don't remember what year it was that the state—was that the state, or the county, that brought that *caliche* out of there?

WS: I don't know for sure. But, they dug a pit between the mission and the river to haul *caliche* out of there.

This was done during your lifetime?

JA: Yes. This was done probably in the '50s. I know that they had to do tests to find this road base, or whatever the stuff is called, and my Dad told them: "If you can find some so that you don't have to destroy or come anywhere close to those old ruins, then I'll sell you some."

Where they finally located it was between the mission and the river, and it turned out to be almost solid rock, so they had to bring a rock crusher in. I'll never forget that, because Dad went down there every day to watch what they were doing, because he wanted to make sure that if they dug up something, [he'd know about it]. We had always heard this old legend, I guess, about a tunnel between the mission and the river, so that if they were confined to the mission, then they would have a route...

You mean like if they were under siege, they could escape?

JA: Yes, they would have a route. So, we were always interested in whether there was actually this tunnel or not, where they could go down the river and escape, or get their water, or whatever. I understand that there was a well in the courtyard at the ruin, but I don't remember ever seeing anything that outlined or gave signs of a well. Anyway, the story was about the tunnel, so, when they started digging, Dad wanted to see if they would run into something that would disclose that tunnel, but it never happened. We never saw anything.

One thing this brings to mind is that in the archeological reports about the site, they mention finding traces of a quarry, and surmise that the stone for the buildings at the ruins came from that quarry. But, I gather that you're not talking about that. You're talking about a different place, where the highway department dug for the *caliche*, aren't you?

WS: Yeah.

JA: I don't know. I don't know about this site you're talking about. Is it within the walls?

No, I don't think it is within the walls. I think it is in the outside perimeter, but I don't know where it is exactly.

JA: The pit I'm talking about left a huge hole where they dug that material out, and, of course, there were other mounds where waste, or what they didn't want, was piled up. But I don't know about an older quarry.

When you were growing up, what sort of explanation of those ruins did you hear?

JA: I never heard anything really, except that the name of it was "Mission de las Cabras," and that it was a "goat mission." But, as far as a lot of background about it, there really wasn't that much. I don't think that we really knew much about the past of the mission until they started trying to acquire it.

I've heard about María Calvillo, and I know that our property was part of the "M. Calvillo grant," but I didn't know what association there was between her and the mission. But as far as a lot of information about the mission, I never got it, and I don't believe that Dad knew that much about it either.

So, when you were going to school here, there wasn't much mention of the ruins and what their significance was, or what their relationship was to the missions of San Antonio, as part of your education?

JA: No, there was really not a lot, and, in fact, I would venture to say that there were a lot of people in Floresville and Wilson County that didn't know there were ruins out there until they started getting publicized more. Some of the older people that lived out there—were actually born and raised there—they have told stories about going down to the ruins as kids and knowing that they were there, but I don't think they knew much about the missions.

Who are these people you're referring to?

JA: I think the only one that you may be able to reach is Edna Boening. She was Edna Boening, but she's now Edna Boening Guenther. She lives past the Promised Land Restaurant.

And how old a person is she?

JA: I guess she is in her mid-70s. But she was born and raised out there, and never did get too far from home. They were friends of my parents, and, as kids, I remember them talking about it.

OK, let me ask some indelicate questions. How old are you folks? I know you're 63, Mr. Southern, but how about you, Mrs. Southern?

JA: I'm 59, born in '39, February the 7th, if you want to send me a birthday card! [All laugh.]

And you've lived all your life here? You're not like your husband?

JA: I lived here until I married him, and then we moved to San Antonio, and we lived there until '64. But, before and after, I've lived here all my life.

And you went to the Floresville schools, and so forth?

JA: Yes.

How big a family was your family?

JA: I had one brother, and he was killed in a car accident at age twenty-five.

So you bought the property from your parents, or from your father?

JA: My brother died in '60 or '61. My Dad died in '63, and, after he died, Winston took care of Mother's cattle and so on for her on the place. That's when we decided that we were going to have to move back down here, because we were living in San Antonio, and he was having to drive back and forth to try and take care of the farm for her.

In the meantime, when my Dad had become sick, they had had to move up to San Antonio, close to us. In '64 we decided we'd move back, in order to keep Winston from having to be on the road all the time. My Mother didn't have any way to do what needed to be done out there, so she decided she would sell her half of the estate to us, so we bought her out. At that time we had 200 acres.

When there are sites like the one at Las Cabras, there are usually tales circulating of treasure and so on. [Both Mr. and Mrs. Southern laugh heartily.] Oh, so you've heard them here also? What were the stories?

JA: The story that I heard all my life was that, I guess it was the Canary Islanders, that they had a gold bell, and that this gold bell was hidden somewhere. All my life as a child, people would sneak in there and dig all around. You would come across holes where people had been digging, where they thought they'd be able to find something. But, usually it was not in the compound of the mission; it was more along the edges, outside the walls. But that was a story I heard all my life.

One old timer out there believed wholeheartedly that there was a wagonload of gold alongside this bell, that was hidden, or buried, or whatever, out there. I remember as a kid he once scared me real bad, because I heard him tell my Mom and Dad that he'd bet it was right under our house! He always seemed kind of an eccentric, and...

You weren't quite sure just what he might or might not do? [All laugh.]

JA: Yes!

Who was this person?

JA: Well, I hate to say if you publish any of this!

Let's just say that it will remain with the record of the missions!

JA: His name was Max Wenzel.

And he was a neighbor?

JA: Yes. Well, he didn't live close to us, but about a mile or two beyond, just past Ricky out there.

Was this business of finding holes that treasure hunters had dug a regular occurrence?

JA: No. Dad would just happen on it...and even Winston did, after we bought the property! We had problems.

WS: People would walk across. They'd come in off the road, which used to come right to the river bridge, that first one just after you get across it. You can just walk to the mission from there, and they'd come in, park, and walk across there and dig. My daughter caught some people in the act. I never actually caught anybody, (but I found where they were digging).

Were these strangers, or was it someone she recognized?

WS: I guess they were strangers.

JA: Well, some of them weren't strangers. They were people from around here, but mostly people who were looking for treasure. There was one fellow who got one of those metal detectors the moment they were available; that was his goal.

WS: Me and the wife were out there one time, and this guy and his wife were walking across that big old ravine or washout to get to the mission. We just sat at the top of the hill watching them. That guy was a window cleaner in San Antone, you know, cleaning on those tall buildings. But I never did see him any more after that.

JA: You know, the odd thing is that I lived out there all my life, and I think that my Dad always looked on the place as somewhere kind of sacred that needed to be left alone. He never did any digging. But then the place started to become interesting, and we got offers from various places. At one point, the Catholic Church seemed interested, but my dad didn't want to sell. Then the county wanted it, or the historical association. Interest would flare up and then die down again.

We were approached many times with requests that we should donate it to this or that group, but we weren't rich people, so we couldn't just afford to give any of what we had away. My Dad was brought up with the idea that in order to get anywhere, you had to obtain land in your life, so he would not contemplate giving some of his away.

When you talk about the "historical association," do you mean a local group?

JA: Yes.

So what eventually happened with the property? It went from your hands to whom?

Both: To the state of Texas, Parks and Wildlife Department. They made an offer to us to buy it, and we thought that we had the right to say "no" to it, and we did. So then they filed against us, they filed condemnation, and they got 55 acres, but they held it for about 15 or 20 years when nothing was done, not even a sign or anything was put up.

Finally, the historical association here, and the county, started to get more interested in it, so they worked toward getting the state to deed it over to the National Park Service, because in the information that they had uncovered about it [the ruin], it turned out that this was the mission that raised the livestock that actually fed the missions in San Antonio, and all along the river. So it basically tied in with the park in San Antonio, and I guess that is the goal now.

The condemnation procedure took place when you two were already owners of the land, or before?

Both: Yes, when we were owners.

Tell me how that works. Do they make an offer and tell you that, if you don't accept it, they're going to condemn the property?

JA: Well, we didn't know about it! When they visited with us and asked if it would be O.K. for them to go out there and stake off an area, and told us of their ideas of what to do or what they might like to do if they could acquire it. What we understood was that they would make us an offer, and, if we wanted to sell that was O.K., and if we didn't, that was O.K. That was what the man told me.

Then, when they presented us with the offer, we wrote them a letter and told them "no," because at the time we had quite a few cattle, and that section of the property was a big piece of our use, since we had cleared the land and had planted the coastal Bermuda for grazing, which was very beneficial to us.

They offered us something like \$34,000, and we looked at it thinking of how it would affect us to lose 50-something acres, and, thinking that we could say “yes” or “no,” we thanked them for their offer, and said we weren’t interested in selling.

But, I guess they wanted it badly enough that they filed condemnation against us. We didn’t know a whole lot about that sort of thing, but you know how we learn! [Laughs.] You learn a lot, if you live long enough! So, we checked into it to see if they could really do that. We got a lawyer, who told us it was an old law, that it was still in the books, and that it still would work! However, he told us that we could tell the state what we thought the land was worth, and that maybe that would be accepted or maybe not.

They did their normal proceedings, and ended up acquiring it.

Did the final price match the initial offer? Ballpark figure?

JA: They had to give us at least that much, and then the other thing we were entitled to was damages.

So it was the price of the property plus commensurate damages?

JA: Yes.

WS: They offered \$600 an acre for it, and we ended up getting about \$900, including the damages.

When did this all happen?

JA: I think the condemnation was settled in the first part of ’77. I’d have to dig out the Writ of Possession to find out exactly.

WS: But they condemned it and held it for ten years before they ever did anything about it!

You mean to tell me that before you settled on it, they held it for ten years?!

WS: Yeah, about 10 years.

JA: They condemned it, and I don’t remember exactly how long it took, but we were just kind of in limbo. We really didn’t know what to do, whether we could use it or could not use it, or whatever. Finally, when we decided to get a lawyer, what we pressured them was into doing something. We felt that if they wanted it, then they should get it, and we could get it over with. We had talked about building a home out there, that was our goal, but we didn’t know what to do.

It was really not that you want to stifle a project of that nature, but it angered me that they should start things in motion, and then let it sit for 15 years almost, with the situation unresolved, without a person even venturing onto the place. What was the big rush? What was the big deal?

We got the money, but...

It sounds to me like some bureaucrat got a bee in his bonnet and started out on something that was not thought through.

JA: Yes, that's exactly what happened! It was like "who were we to say no." There were also local politicians who were interested in seeing something happen with it. But, this is just my side of the story!

Of course it is! It's the only side that you can describe with any accuracy; the one you yourself experienced!

JA: As I said, it was not that we wanted to stifle progress, but, on the other hand, there's a right way and a wrong way to do things.

Then we were told that they would fence the right-of-ways, but we have just finished—at our own expense—fencing them ourselves. We went through a terrible drought, and we had land that we couldn't use because it was partially the right of way to the park and partially ours. Even though nothing was said about us running the cattle, we don't live out there, and when you have the public coming in and out, you don't know whether people are going to be aware of the fact that if you open a gate, you should close it behind you. and we couldn't take a chance on our cattle being let out to roam the country.

All we've ever asked of the state or of the National Park Service was: Are you going to fence it? It's supposed to be done, but it has not been done. We were always told that "yes, as soon as there was funding!" So Winston had to build the fence. He had to build the fence temporarily on the right of way to just get us by, but in the last month, he's had to finish the rest of it, because we need to use the property.

I guess governments, whether state or federal, can move with the speed of a glacier, and you can stand there and grow old waiting for things to happen, when you're caught in a situation like yours, you end up doing what's necessary yourself.

Both: Yes! Exactly! They don't care.

JA: The government's way seems to be for you to hurry up, but for them to wait.

How much land do you still have out there?

JA: We've got something like 145 acres. I think it's 145.35, and they got the back portion. The part that I really hated was that we lost all our river bottom. We didn't have a lot, because the river came in more or less at the southeast corner of the place, and that was basically all the river frontage there was, but it just so happened that that is where the mission is in relation to the river.

The same waiting game has happened with an offer to make a trade for the right of way. We hear about it, or get a phone call, and then a year goes by and nothing happens, so we finally have to fence that right of way ourselves. I just hope they're satisfied with that.

I can tell you that we've tried very hard to work with them in any way that we can. We're not wanting to cause any problems or anything like that. They got the mission, it is theirs now, and we're interested in what happens out there because of the fact that we're in such close proximity to the place. We made the request for the fence, but I don't think that's nothing new...

WS: Well, the fence is already built now!! When the state was going to turn the property over to the Park Service, a surveyor came from Seguin, and Jack Bruce introduced me to him. As long as he was surveying, I asked him to leave me a stake marking where the fence line should be, but he never did, so I finally just went out there and eyeballed it as straight as I could!

You can be sure that if you make a mistake, they will certainly let you know about it! [All laugh.] So you're still running and feeding cattle out there?

WS: Yes.

About many head?

WS: Oh, forty, forty-five calves.

Did you ever hear of anyone ever finding anything of any significance out there?

JA: I've never heard of it. When UT came and dug out there, I know they found some small pieces, but as far as anything major of significance, I've never seen or heard of anything. But, I suppose that, if anyone did find anything, we'd probably be the last ones to know!

END OF INTERVIEW

Warren Zook

Age: 94

1506 South 3rd
Floresville, TX 78114
830/393-2177

June 10, 1998

What is your date of birth, Mr. Zook?

February 9th, 1904.

And where were you born? Here in Floresville?

No, I was born in Hidalgo, Texas. My dad was a missionary to Mexico, and he had a mission over in Reynosa. He was a preacher, and he preached in Spanish, in German, and in English!

Oh, a triple threat!

[Laughs.] He was about the only educated man on the Rio Grande.

And he was with what church?

Well, I kind of believe he was a Mennonite back then. They came over around the time of William Penn, and settled in Pennsylvania, but they moved west to Kansas, and settled in Abilene, Kansas, and those were his folks, his ancestors...I don't know how far back. He decided to become a missionary, so, when he married, he and my mother went to Mexico, to be missionaries to Mexico. They learned the Spanish language, and all that, but they kept the German language, because their ancestors were from Switzerland. So, I guess German was the predominant language among them.

But, when his children started coming along, he decided he wanted them to be United States citizens, so he got a place on this side of the Rio Grande in Hidalgo, and I know I was born there, but the [county] courthouse was stolen from Hidalgo and moved to Edinburg, and, in the process, the record of my birth was kind of messed up. Years later, during the war, I had to go

into government installations because I was working as a truck driver, and I had to have a pass to do that. I tried to get a permanent pass, but, because my records were missing, I was never able to, so I always had to have a marine guard with me when I was making deliveries! I finally got my older brother and Mrs. L. B. Weissman here from Floresville to verify that I was born on this side of the Rio Grande. My sister had the family Bible, which had all the births listed in it, but I was never able to get my hands on that Bible.

How far does the family go back to Switzerland? Was your father born in this country?

Yes, he was born here. I don't know how far back. My older brother was writing a family history, but he never did finish it. He knew a lot of that old stuff, but I didn't; I was too busy trying to make a living!

How many children in your family?

There were ten children; five boys and five girls. I was the sixth child. The oldest was a girl, then came five boys, and I was the youngest of the boys.

So, how did you end up in the Floresville area?

Well, the first school this side of the Rio Grande in those days was the Floresville school. The railroad didn't go down to the lower Rio Grande Valley; it went down to Laredo. When it came time for the oldest boy to go to school, my father put him in a *burro* cart, took him all the way to Laredo, put a tag on him, and shipped him back to Kansas to go to school.

To this day, I don't know how we came back here. We came in covered wagons, but I don't know where we got the horses. My dad was a very good friend of the cavalry general [in the area], and I know that he later had a cavalry saddle...but we came up here in wagons. We settled at the city limits of Floresville, back where the cemetery is. My dad wanted to be a rancher and raise cattle, so in 1907 he bought a ranch. I was three years old at the time, so most of my younger days were spent in working cattle.

And where was this ranch located?

It was just off [what is now Hwy.] 97, on the other side of the river. We had a lot of river bottom.

Is this near where Promised Land Dairy is now?

Yes. Promised Land Dairy itself is on what was part of our old property, our ranch. The Koehlers had the place in front of Promised Land, and I had the south end of it. My dad also had another place, the old John Bridgett place, about 18 miles from our ranch, just this side of Sutherland Springs.

We used to drive cattle from one ranch to the other, and we drove them to San Antonio, too, to the market! We shipped one load by train, but that's the only one I remember being shipped by train. We used to just drive them to San Antonio.

Did you drive them on the road?

There wasn't no highway; there were no cars! [Laughs.] We went on the east side of the river until they built a road and started to paving it. That became too much trouble, with the first automobiles that came to Floresville, so we started to drive them up the west side of the river. And we did that until...well, until I graduated from high school.

In my days of working cattle, I knew old George Saunders, the old trail driver. He and Coatman would come out to meet us and help drive the cattle. They were the ones who founded the Union Stockyards in San Antonio. They would meet us and help drive the cattle through town. We crossed two streetcar tracks, and those streetcar drivers knew how to ring the bells on the streetcars and run them cattle halfway back to Floresville! [Laughs.]

But George Saunders and Coatman became pretty good friends of mine. I wanted to go to Kansas and work the wheat harvest—I had relatives up there—but I didn't have much money, so George Saunders said: "Heck, how 'bout going up on the cattle train?" Well, the cattle train went to St. Louis, but he says: "Well, you just jump off that baby in Kansas and catch a passenger train. Do you need any money?"

Well, I didn't need any money, 'cause I had a few dollars, but I had to stay overnight in Kansas City, because I didn't meet the trains, and my last fifty cents was gone, and I had been without a bath or anything for a few days riding that cattle train. When I knocked on my grandmother's door there in Abilene, Kansas, she just opened the door and said: "Go take a bath!" I can always remember that!

I graduated from high school in 1924, when I was 19 years old, and I remember the old superintendent asked me: "Are you going to go to college?" And I said: "What? No way!" He said: "Well, you can't pass the English anyway!" [Laughs.] So, I didn't bother him about going to college!

Guess he didn't mean to give you any encouragement! So, when did your father give up being a missionary in Mexico?

When he got to Floresville. Here, he manipulated people into getting a church built, and he preached here in Floresville. He established the Mexican Methodist Church in Floresville. Right before he died, they built a new church right where we used to live when we first came here.

Dad got a place there, an old brick building, two-and-a-half stories, which had been owned by some old doctor. The building was full of old guns, and my Dad, being a preacher, took all those old guns out and burned them! It broke my heart, because I like guns. [Laughs.]

We had a place in town, and we lived in town for a while, but my mother died, and we moved back out to the farm right after she died. She died young...about 55. So we moved out to the ranch, and we went to school from out there in an old surrey with two horses. I forget how many of us were in that buggy.

And you did this every day...hitch up your surrey and drive it to school?

Yes.

How many years of schooling did you have?

I went to the eleventh grade, so it took about twelve years for me! I went to one grade twice...I was too busy driving cattle to do my schoolwork.

And, when you finished school, what did you do?

I got a job driving a Red Ball bus out of San Antonio. I got a chauffeur's license.

Red Ball? Was that a bus line?

Yes, they eventually sold out to Greyhound, and I could've driven for Greyhound, but I decided there was more money in driving a truck, so, when they sold, I went to Kansas to work on the wheat harvest, and later on I came back and worked 32 years for W. S. Dickey. When I retired, they gave me a shotgun and \$144 a month for the rest of my life! But I've been retired for almost 35 years, so that has become a considerable amount!

So who was taking care of the ranch while you were working?

My Dad tried to sell it right after Mama died, and we had a buyer for it. He was from Gonzales, Texas. When he came up to look at the property, I rode a mule, so I could get off and open and close gates for him, and let the buyer ride my saddle horse—I always had good saddle horses. So I took him around the place, and he was ready to buy it. But then, as he was driving back to Gonzales to make arrangements with the bank, a train ran over him and killed him on the way home, so he didn't get the place! My dad then had the ranch subdivided, and I helped survey it: the part that the dairy has, and the part Koehler has, and the part I had. But he didn't give it to me; I had to take over the indebtedness on it with the Federal Land Bank, which had not been paid for, but I made it.

Did you ever actually farm the property?

Well, I worked it for a while. Then I got married, and, when our first child was born, I had no money to pay the doctor, so he took all my double row implements for what I owed him. I had a hard time paying for it, but I paid off the Federal Land Bank.

Where was your land in relation to the ruins up there?

Our place joined the land that the mission ruins were on. There was just one fence between the places. Our cattle would get over there sometimes, and it was nothing to go over the fence. And when the Boy Scouts would come out from Floresville to visit me, we'd ride on saddle horses and go up to the old mission, and we would play up there, we would have little battles up there with corn cobs and what not.

But it was pretty well intact in those days...

Oh, yeah? What do you mean by "intact?"

Well, part of the roof was on it when we came to Floresville, and the old doors ...well, there were no doors when I first saw it, but they had them old oak...well, what do you call that piece over the door?

You mean the lintel?

Yeah, it was pretty well intact, and there was a wall around it, and there was a tower on that wall...a lookout tower. But they tore that old mission down to get material to build a bridge, and then people started hauling it off, and they got stone from that wall and used it for porches, or one fellow build a little dam down in the creek, but it washed away! [Laughs.] So that's the way the old mission went. Now they're talking about building it back!

Who owned that property then?

[Thinks a bit.] Tony's [Toney's?] The people that owned that old mission property was Tony's.

How do you spell that?

I'm really not certain, but they owned that old mission place. We used to go through there, because it was a shortcut. We had a ford on the river, where there was a gravel bottom, we had no bridge, and, later, my dad was instrumental in getting what they call the Zook Crossing, and they built the road that was, for a while, the Pleasanton Road, but they moved it over a little bit and built a highway. But the original road went to Fairview to go over to Pleasanton.

But all our friends used to come up to the old mission, and the Boy Scouts would come and spend the night.

When you say that people were going up there and taking stone out, was that with the knowledge of the owners?

The owners were just as much to blame as anybody else. I think Charlie Stevenson, the judge, he took a lot of that stone himself! He bought that property, and took a lot of that stone and built things with it. I hated to see them tear that down.

What about the vegetation up there? What did it look like?

It was all mesquite around the old mission.

But, big trees, small trees, or what?

Not much different from what they are now, what's left of them. The mesquites never did get too big.

Was the land up there used for any purpose?

Yes, it was used for cattle. That's about all people did then, until they started raising cotton. I think my Dad lost a lot of money trying to raise that. He had a lot of Mexicans from Mexico, who would come to visit him, and they would stay a while. They would try to farm cotton, but they didn't know how, so that fixed it up! You have to know how to farm it!

When you were growing up, how did the people explain those ruins up there?

Well, when I got my deed on that property, after I got it paid for, the abstract gives a history of the place, and mentions the Calvillos, but I don't know much about them. It seems to me that the old lady Calvillos wasted away and spent a lot of money foolishly.

But was there any explanation as to why someone would build up there, what the buildings were?

We didn't know much about it, but history will tell you that there was an Indian camp on that property that we owned, and the Indians worked then for the Spaniards. They used to raise goats up there at the mission, and that's why its called Mission de las Cabras.

There were crossings all up and down the river.

Who owns the property now?

Well, my son owns my part of it.

Were your brothers ever involved in the property out there?

No. My oldest brother went to school in Tennessee to be a minister, but I don't know if he ever got to be a minister or not, but he said he talked in a few churches. He was more of a singer; used to always have a quartet.

The next to the oldest boy was the church organist for my Dad, so he went to school and became a musician. He was teaching piano in Bandera. When World War I broke out, everyone was being very patriotic and ran to join the army. He went in the army, and when he came back, he couldn't play the piano anymore, and he never did play it again.

Was he shell-shocked, or what?

He was gassed, and he just never went back to music, although he had been teaching piano when he went in the army. My oldest brother became a lieutenant, and then traveled around for the government after the war, became a big shot.

When there are old buildings or ruins like that, there are often stories about treasure associated with them. Did you ever hear such stories in connection with these ones?

Oh, yes. I'll tell you about the "treasures:" There's supposed to be a golden church bell somewhere, and a tunnel to the river, if it ever existed. But I guess they had some way to get water...I think they had an old well there, but they filled it up with trash, or someone dug that well looking for the golden church bell that was there, I don't know.

But, I used to run horses across that hill up yonder, and one day I run across a place, and that ground was hollow. So I rode back to the ranch house and I got a grubbing hoe, and I went up there and I did a little "treasure hunting." It was an old barbecue pit full of goat bones and ashes!! That was my gold!

Do you think it was a modern barbecue pit, or was it old? Was it recent?

No, the people who lived there lived on goat meat, and they had barbecue pits around there, and I just happened to run across one of them, and I thought I'd found something. But, if there was ever any money buried there, some of the Calvillos got it!

I've also heard of people, not even from the neighborhood, digging around up there looking for treasure. You don't know of any treasure found up there, do you?

There was never any treasure found there. There had been an old Indian camp over to our place, about a mile across and below. And the whole place was surrounded with these *pitás*, these dagger plants [Spanish dagger], because the Indian used that to sew their wigwams and what not. They ate mussels, river mussels, and the river had changed its course before we bought the place, and I guess I was the only person—me and the surveyor that subdivided that ranch—we were about the only people who knew that the river had changed its course. And, when I bought that place, I bought it for 50 acres less than I got!! And I guess I was the only person who had ever surveyed that. I suppose they know it by now; they tried to get everything else I had!! [Laughs.]

When you say *pitás*, what are you talking about? What were they used for?

Daggers...

You mean like yuccas, Spanish daggers?

Yes, Spanish daggers is what we called them. But there were lots of them around that place. The Indians practically lived on those river mussels, and, boy, they shucked those mussels so that the ground was totally covered, nothing but mussels. That camp had been there the whole time, before the river moved.

About how far did the river move?

Well, enough so that I gained 50 acres! [Laughs.]

So your property line was based on the course of the river?

Yes, and that old surveyor was surprised when he got his results. And the deed survey was made by us when Papa subdivided the place.

No one has come to claim those 50 acres yet?

[Laughs.] No, and I guess I wouldn't argue with them.

What does your son do out there? Does he run cattle, or what?

Well, it's kind of an involved story. See, I didn't have much money, and he learned to play the saxophone in the high school band, and he had to have a good saxophone to go to some college, because it was a music school. And I drove him up there in my old pickup, and they heard him

play and they wanted him for the college band—they taught band there—so one of the professors told me he ought to have a York saxophone, which I hardly had the money to buy, and he would help that boy make the school up there. And I never did have to pay any tuition or anything, but the professor took care of him, and he got to be the band soloist, and eventually got to be a band director.

He was like me, he was a driver, and he had been with me driving trucks and stuff, so he helped to drive the school band to Mexico City. He became the school's bus driver and the band soloist! So, when he graduated from college, why, he was pretty popular. He had to go register for the draft, but he had a job promised teaching band at some high school when he graduated, and he asked for a deferment so he could take the job. But they told him he would just have to go to the army.

He had played with the 4th Army Band when he was in college—Do you know the 4th Army Band? Do you know anybody up there?—and they told him he'd have to join for three years. They were going to let him play first chair saxophone, but, when he got there, they told him: "You're not ready yet!," and they sent him to basic training, and it like'd to kill him! When he came back, they told him: "You're still not ready!" So they sent him to the Naval Band School in Washington, and he got a diploma from there; he played first chair for them boys, and when he came back, he finally got to play first chair for the 4th Army Band.

Then, he went to teaching band. He'd work in one school, work his band so they'd win the sweepstakes, and then he'd move on. Then he went to McAllen, where he taught band and had a job playing with the dance band at the country club. And they also won the sweepstakes. Those kids were kind of hard to handle, so the school board thought the band director knew something, and they made him principal of the McAllen High School. I went to see him down there, and he had his diploma from the Naval Band School in Washington hanging up there in his office, so the army did help him, even if they tried to kill him!! [Laughs.]

How old is he?

He's 62.

Is he retired or what?

Yes, he's retired. I gave him that land there, so he could retire. I'll bet he hates me now!!
[Laughs.]

END OF INTERVIEW



C RECOMMENDED
DESIGN GUIDELINES

C RECOMMENDED DESIGN GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

This appendix compiles the currently available design guideline information associated with National Park Service (NPS) development of the Rancho de las Cabras property as an historic site, open and interpreted to the public. It is a work in progress that has been developed by OCULUS as part of the Rancho de las Cabras Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) with the understanding that it will, in the future, become a stand-alone document, completed by San Antonio Missions National Historical Park personnel.

The appendix is comprised of three parts: 1) a reiteration of the design guidelines for new facilities and features described in Chapter Five of the CLR; 2) an overview of the constructed and manufactured elements and products currently envisioned for implementation on the property based on the CLR's proposed preliminary site program; and 3) individual site design details for each of the elements and products approved by the park to date. The site details illustrated at the end of this appendix have been compiled from materials prepared for the Historic San Antonio Missions Trails system and developments undertaken at other sites within San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. These details identify manufactured items, products, and the character of constructed elements that are considered appropriate for the site within the framework of the Rancho de las Cabras May 1998 DRAFT General Management Plan Amendment, the CLR, and existing San Antonio Missions National Historical Park landscape features. The details are intended to be flexible enough to adapt to site conditions, to address issues of sustainability, and to potentially accommodate new construction methods and/or materials that may be adopted by NPS in the future. They shall not be utilized for construction purposes, but instead shall serve as the basis for future construction documentation prepared for the site.

DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR NEW FACILITIES AND FEATURES

Primary Building Materials

Within the context of the Historic Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines, consider integrating locally-available stone and regional masonry patterns into new buildings and site features. If feasible, similarly consider using locally-available wood members. Otherwise, it is preferable that wood imported from outside the region approximate the character of local materials. Consider local building traditions in the design of structural massing, scale, roof form and materials, and detailing.

Buildings and Structures

Also within the context of the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines, design structures to reflect a genuine understanding of local building traditions, but strive to engender new structures with integrity; new structures should not be poorly-articulated versions or copies of a particular style, whether locally-derived or imported. Consider integrating outdoor spaces into the design of new buildings, such as *ramadas* that provide shelter from rain and the sun.

Roads and Parking

Consider integrating all-weather surfaces without curbing into the design of the entrance drive and parking areas, except in locations where visitors congregate, such as at drop-off areas and buildings. Consider surface materials that minimize heat gain and are not overly reflective. Work to avoid endwalls at culverts.

Paths and Walks

Within the context of the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines, primary walks and paths providing access to parking, the contact station, and the *rancho* compound should be constructed of buff-colored concrete with irregular edges and a sand finish. Otherwise, consider constructing paths in and around the *rancho* compound of organically-stabilized crushed aggregate screenings, and paths and trails beyond the compound of crushed aggregate screenings that may or may not be organically stabilized. Sections of the trail that are sloped at greater than 4 percent should generally be stabilized. The primary paths and walks should meet UFAS/ADAAG standards for accessibility. Other paths, such as the potential route to the San Antonio River for canoeists and riverside hikers, may meet these standards, based on determinations made by NPS during the planning and design process for site improvements.

Walls

Generally, it is recommended that freestanding and retaining walls be avoided if possible. If walls are necessary, consider constructing them of materials that are compatible with proposed new buildings and structures.

Fences and Gates

Consider matching the predominate local fencing type when designing new fences along property lines. Do not use barbed wire. Work to coordinate fencing with abutting land owners. It is recommended that fencing in the vicinity of the compound should be avoided, and that plant materials be used to control access rather than fencing. It is also recommended that fencing along the public road frontage at the primary park unit entrance be avoided, unless controlled access is a priority. Continue to gate the entrance, however.

Lighting

Lighting design should comply with the NPS Night Sky Initiative. The installation of lighting features should be limited to parking areas and the visitor contact/interpretation facility. Avoid installing tall posts with fixtures. Instead, install low bollard-type fixtures to illuminate necessary walks and parking areas. All light sources should be shielded. Avoid light trespassing on abutting properties.

Sign Systems

Use the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines to develop sign systems for the site.

Site Furnishings

Similarly, use the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Recommended Design Guidelines to develop site furnishings for the site.

Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits should conform with NPS standards for carriers and sign panel materials.

Plantings

The site has many interesting and beautiful plant communities and individual plants. It is recommended that every effort be made to incorporate and integrate existing plantings into the design of new features and systems. Consider using new plantings to reinforce site design, provide shade, screen undesirable views, complement the character and the arrangement of site features, and enhance existing plant communities. Consider avoiding geometric patterns, and specifying too wide a variety of different plant species. Look to the structure and pattern of existing plant communities as design generators. Specify endemic plant species that are nursery-grown in the region if at all possible. Do not install invasive alien plants. Avoid high maintenance plantings that require mowing, irrigation, and are not hardy in Wilson County.

Stormwater Management

It is recommended that site designers avoid constructing impervious surfaces and channelizing runoff whenever possible. Also, runoff should be retained on site and allow to infiltrate the soil. Consider constructing vegetated infiltration basins and swales to mitigate increased runoff at the roads, parking areas, and building complex and capturing runoff to supply water to plantings at the building complex and other areas if feasible.

Manufactured Products

The design standards illustrated below in some cases reference manufactured products. These products are included to indicate the performance standards intended for the design features. In all cases, implementation of the features represented in the standards should assume the use of the named product or an approved equivalent.

SITE FEATURES

This section includes the overall list of site features for which design details have or will be developed for the Rancho de las Cabras property. They are listed as either constructed or manufactured elements. The details which have already been developed for Rancho de las Cabras follow this section in the order in which they appear below.

Constructed Elements

<i>Detail Number</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Date Adopted / Revised</i>
Pedestrian Circulation			
PC-1	Paths or walks, paved: unit pavers	TO BE COMPLETED	
PC-2	Paths or walks, paved: concrete with special surface treatment		10/1/98
PC-3	Paths or walks, unpaved	TO BE COMPLETED	
PC-4	Ramps	TO BE COMPLETED	
PC-5	Handrails	TO BE COMPLETED	
PC-6	Fences	TO BE COMPLETED	
PC-7	Walls	TO BE COMPLETED	
Vehicular Circulation			
VC-1	Roads, paved	TO BE COMPLETED	
VC-2	Curbs	TO BE COMPLETED	
VC-3	Guardrails	TO BE COMPLETED	

Manufactured Elements

<i>Detail Number</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Date adopted / Revised</i>
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Sign Systems

SS-1	Wayside	TO BE COMPLETED	
SS-2	Directional sign	TO BE COMPLETED	
SS-3	Entrance sign	TO BE COMPLETED	

Lighting

L-1	Parking area lighting		10/1/98
L-2	Path or walk lighting		10/1/98
L-3	Bollard lighting	TO BE COMPLETED	

Circulation

C-1	Gates	TO BE COMPLETED	
C-2	Bollards	TO BE COMPLETED	
C-3	Wheelstops	TO BE COMPLETED	

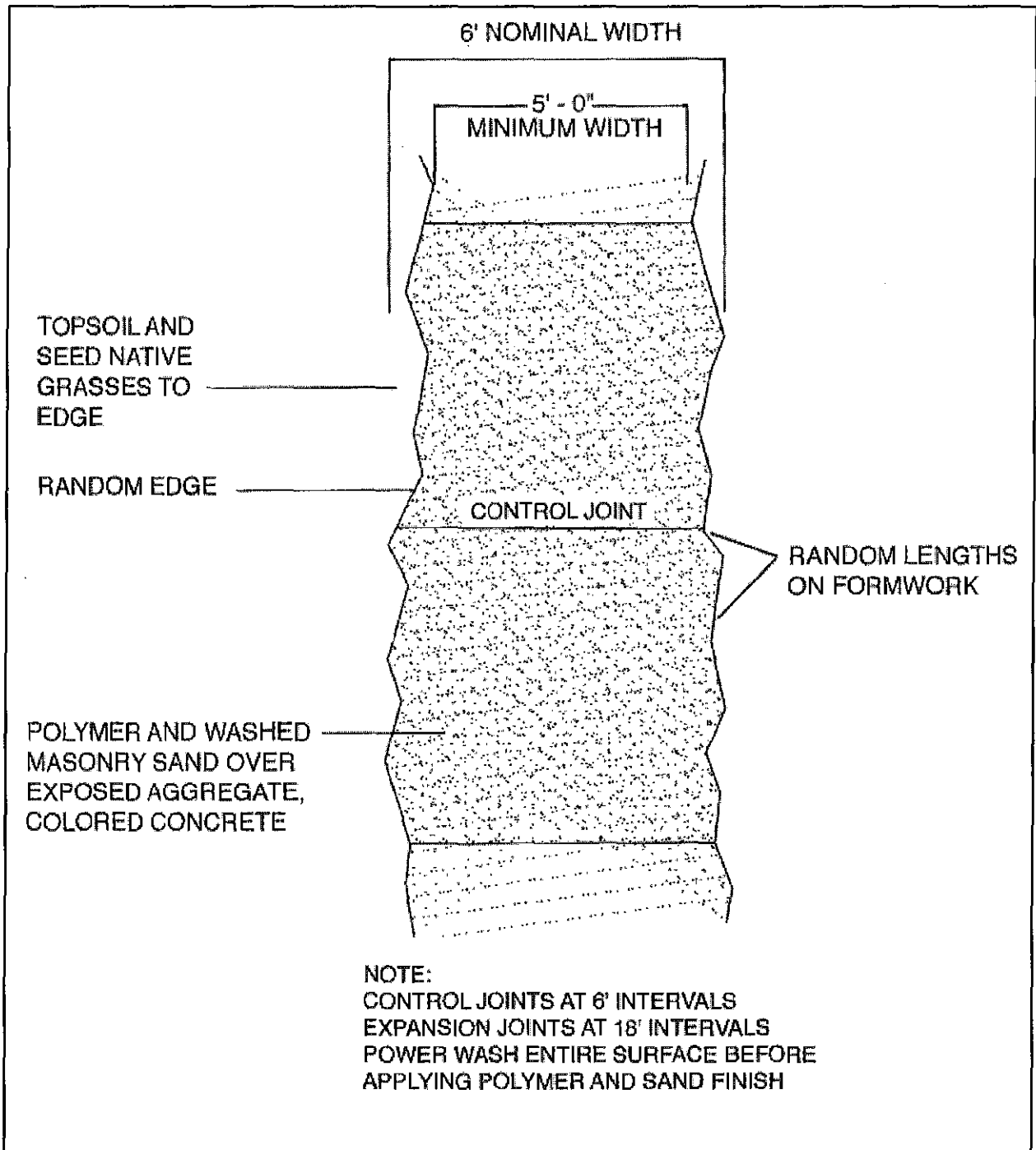
Site Furnishings

SF-1	Benches		10/1/98
SF-2	Trash Receptacles	TO BE COMPLETED	
SF-3	Picnic Tables	TO BE COMPLETED	
SF-4	Drinking Fountains	TO BE COMPLETED	

SITE DETAILS

The following site details appear subsequently on individual sheets:

PC-2	Paths or walks, paved: concrete with special surface treatment
L-1	Parking area lighting
L-2	Path or walk lighting
SF-1	Benches



MATERIALS: exposed aggregate colored concrete; Rainbow Blend washed aggregate or approved equivalent

COLOR: Davis Colors #5447 "Mesa Buff" or approved equivalent

FINISH: polymer & washed masonry sand; Daraweld C by WR Grace & Co. or approved equiv.; coarse plaster sand

SIZE: 6' nominal width

DESIGN STANDARD SOURCE:
National Park Service

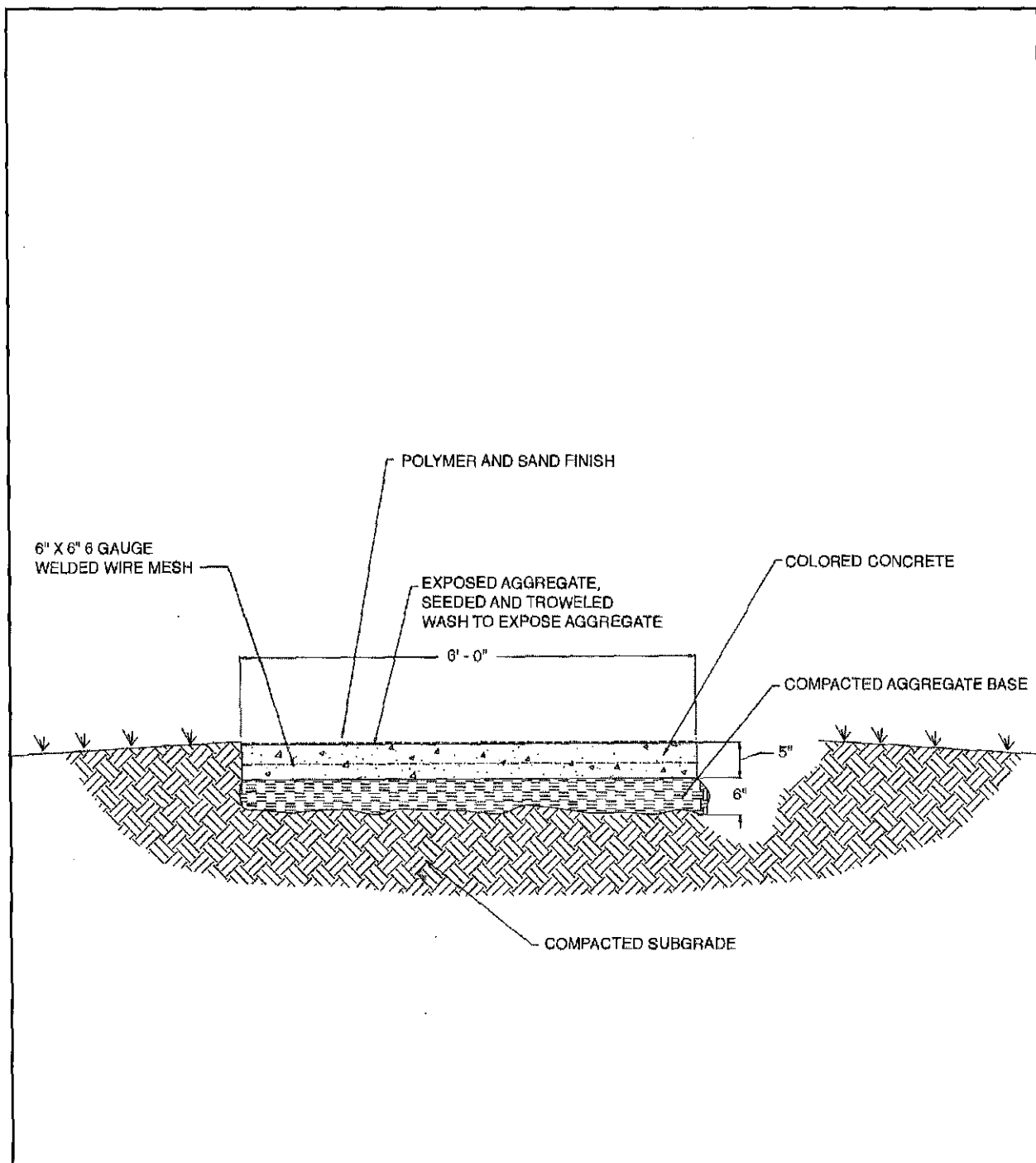
SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

DESIGN STANDARD

CONSTRUCTED ELEMENT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

PATH • PC-2



MATERIALS: exposed aggregate colored concrete; Rainbow Blend washed aggregate or approved equivalent

COLOR: Davis Colors #5447 "Mesa Buff" or approved equivalent

FINISH: polymer & washed masonry sand; Daraweld C by WR Grace & Co. or approved equiv.; coarse plaster sand

SIZE: 6' nominal width

DESIGN STANDARD SOURCE:
National Park Service

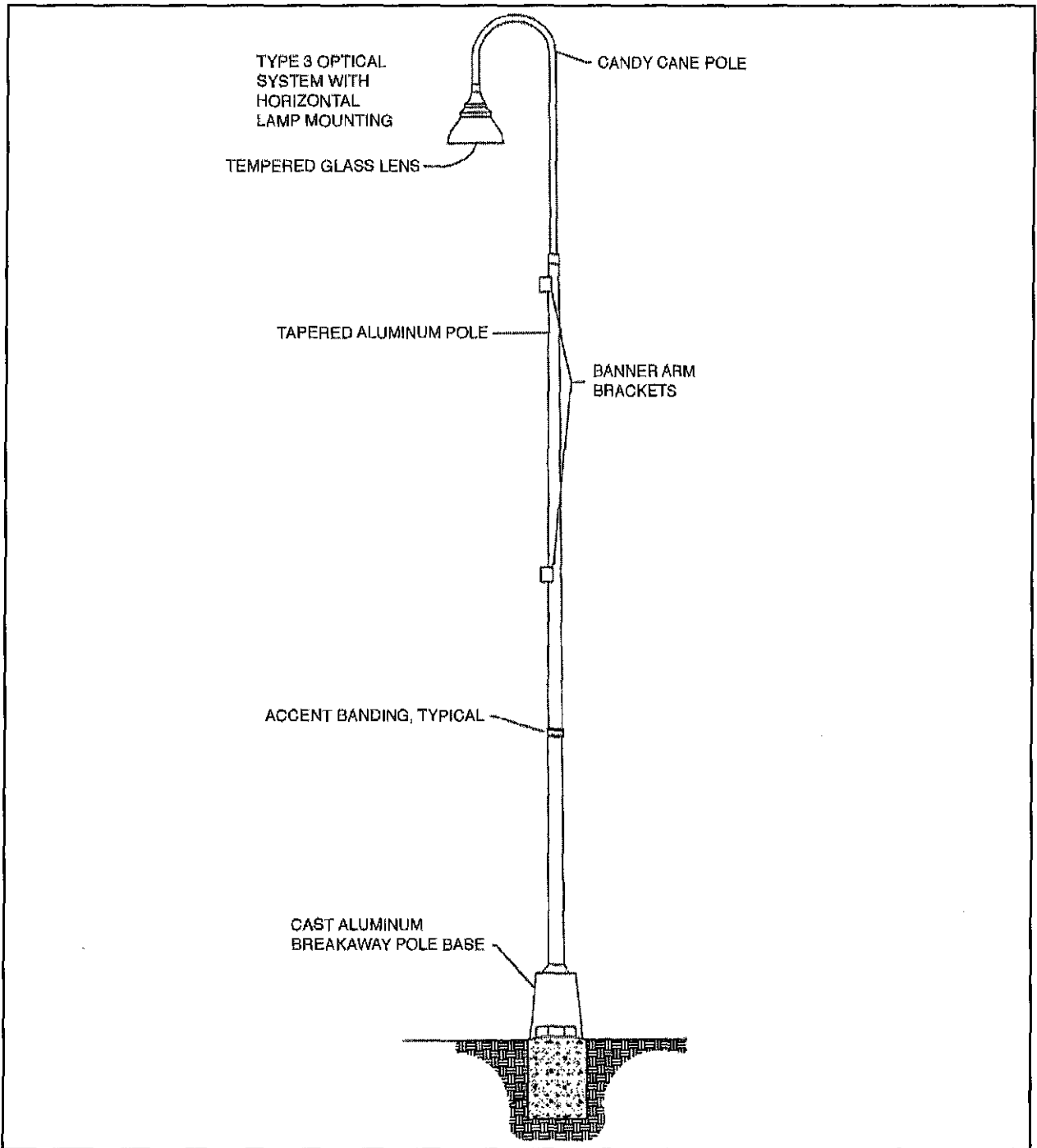
SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

DESIGN STANDARD

CONSTRUCTED ELEMENT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

PATH • PC-2



COLOR: dark green PMS 3302 or approved equivalent

FINISH:

OPTIONS:

SIZE: 6.982m total ht

MANUFACTURER: Sternberg or approved equivalent

PHONE NUMBER:

MODEL #:

NAME: Candy Cane pole, "Mission Trails" fixture or approved equivalent

MATERIALS: aluminum pole, aluminum pole base, tempered glass lens

DESIGN STANDARD SOURCE:

Historic San Antonio

Mission Trails

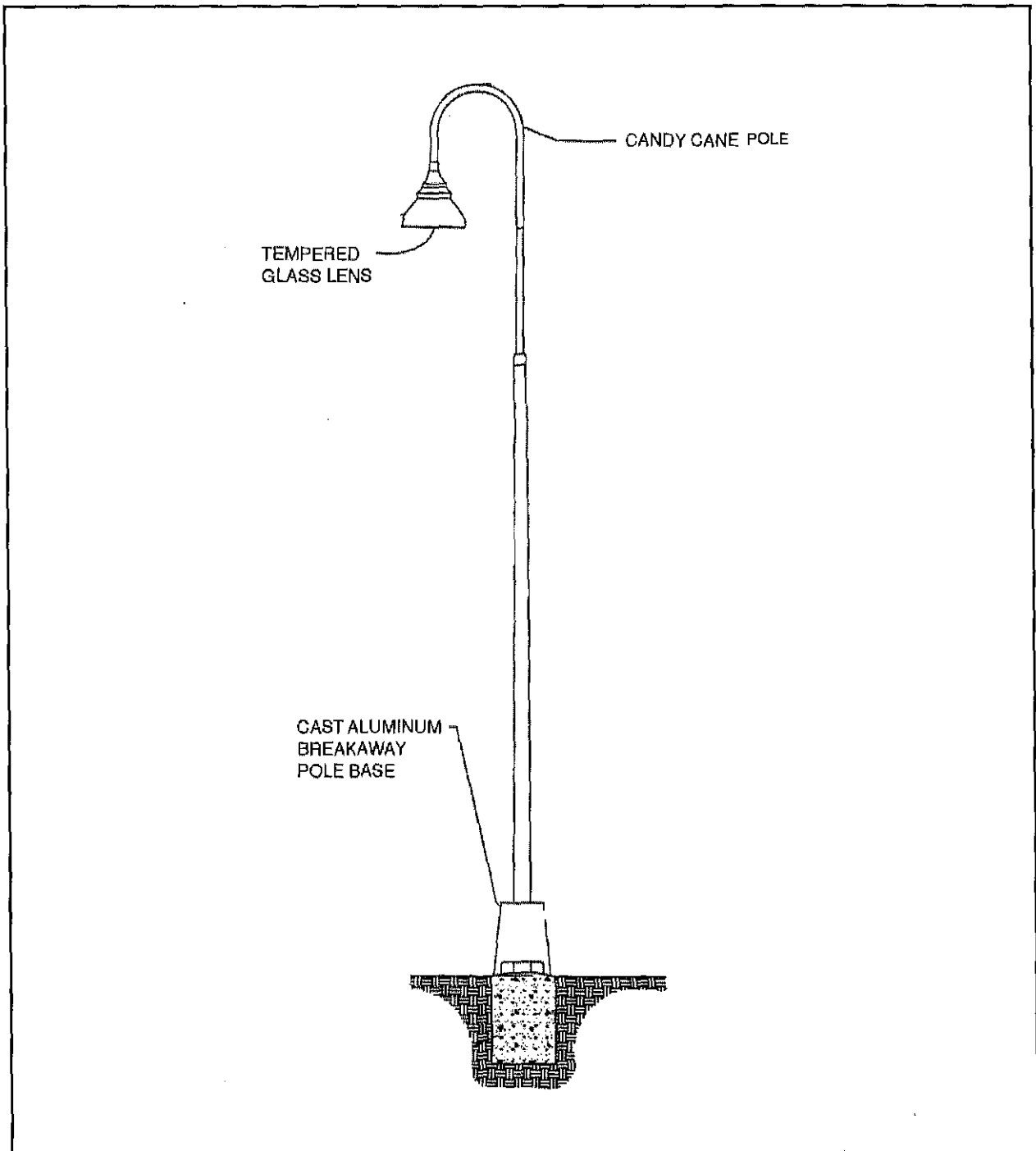
MANUFACTURED ELEMENT

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

DESIGN STANDARD

LIGHTING • L-1



COLOR: dark green PMS 3302 or approved equivalent

FINISH:

OPTIONS:

SIZE: 5.154m total ht.

MANUFACTURER: Sternberg or approved equivalent

PHONE NUMBER:

MODEL #:

NAME: Candy Cane pole, "Mission Trails" fixture or approved equiv.

MATERIALS: aluminum pole, aluminum pole base, tempered glass lens

DESIGN STANDARD SOURCE:

Historic San Antonio

Mission Trails

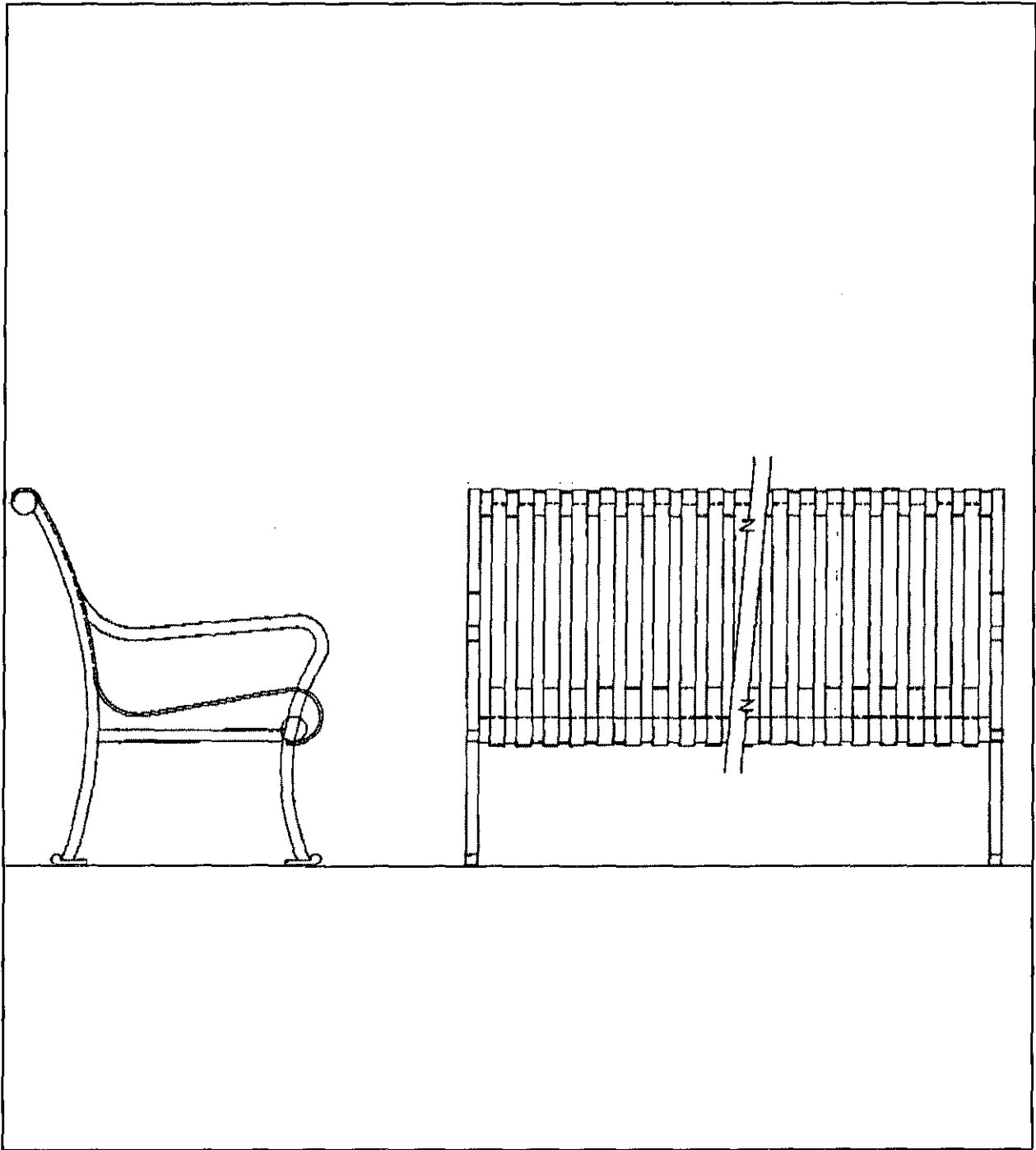
MANUFACTURED ELEMENT

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

DESIGN STANDARD

LIGHTING • L-2



COLOR: dark green

FINISH: polyester powder coated

OPTIONS:

SIZE: length- 6' / 8'

MANUFACTURER: DuMor or approved equivalent

PHONE NUMBER: 1.800.598.4018

MODEL #: 93 or approved equivalent

NAME: Bench with back

MATERIALS: steel bar, steel pipe

DESIGN STANDARD SOURCE:
National Park Service

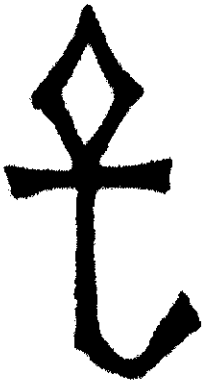
SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

DESIGN STANDARD

MANUFACTURED ELEMENT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

BENCH • SF-1



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7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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