

Mission San Juan De Capistrano, Habitation B
Berg's Mill-Graf Road
Berg's Mill Community
San Antonio
Bexar County
Texas

HABS No. TX-321 D

HABS

TEX

15-SANT.V,

3E-

[formerly
HABS TEX
15- SANT.V,
3D-]

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MISSION SAN JUAN DE CAPISTRANO,
HABITATION B

HABS
TEX
15-SANTO,
BE-
HABS No. TX-321 D

Location: - Berg's Mill-Graf Road, Berg's Mill
Community, San Antonio, Bexar
County, Texas

Present Owner: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Present Use: Public Museum.

Significance: Although reconstructed, Habitation B, or Indian quarters,
is a typical component of a Spanish mission complex built
during the period of Texas frontier.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1760s.
2. Original and subsequent owners: See History section of Mission San Juan De Capistrano, HABS No. TX-321.
3. Original plans and construction: The original "pueblo" or Indian quarters were temporary shelters of brush and mud erected along the east and west walls of the Mission Plaza. In 1789, it was said that the quarters were rebuilt and were houses of stone laid in mud mortar. During the mid 1850s the quarters fell into gradual disuse and ruin. In 1968 it was reconstructed.

B. Historical Context: See Mission San Juan De Capistrano, TX-321.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The original appearance of this structure is not known as it has been in ruins during modern times. Essentially it is a rectangular structure with no outstanding architectural features. It is one of the typical habitations of the Mission.
2. Condition of fabric: The walls are sound and the overall condition is good due to recent reconstruction work.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The house is 22' x 34'.
2. Foundation: The original foundations were the lower masonry wall courses carried to the depth of about two feet below grade

to stable soil. During the present reconstruction, reinforced concrete has been used to strengthen the foundations and a concrete slab floor has been poured.

3. Walls: The walls of the house are rubble stone set in cement mortar.
4. Structural system, framing: Load bearing walls.
5. Porch: A reconstructed porch is being erected. Supports are rough-fashioned 4" x 4" cedar posts set on individual limestone block foundations.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two doorways led into the single interior room. Both have splayed jambs opening toward the interior. The original doors are not extant.
 - b. Windows: There is one window opening in the front (east) facade. The original windows are not extant.
7. Roof: The present reconstructed roof is wood framed with corrugated metal sheathing and thatch covering.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: This house is essentially one rectangular room forming a part of the Mission compound walls. A smaller narrow room adjoined along the rear having the same length and connecting by a doorway.
2. Flooring: The present floor is a poured reinforced concrete slab. The original floor was hard-packed earth.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The rubble walls were originally plastered, and portions of the plaster are still to be found. The ceilings are reconstructed of sheetrock.
4. Doors: The original doors are no longer extant.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: This house forms a part of the west wall of the Mission compound.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
Director, Bexar County
Architecture Survey
1969

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The San Antonio project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in the summer of 1968, and was made possible with funds from HABS and two sponsors, the Bexar County Historical Survey Committee and the San Antonio Conservation Society. Under the direction of James Massey, chief of HABS, the project was carried out by Wesley I. Shank (Iowa State University) project supervisor, and by student assistant architects, Charles W. Barrow (University of Texas); Les Beilinson (University of Miami); William H. Edwards (University of Illinois); and Larry D. Hermesen (Iowa State University) at the HABS field office in the former Ursuline Academy buildings, San Antonio. John C. Garner, Jr., director of Bexar County Architecture Survey, did the outside work on the written documentaries. Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D.C. office, edited the written data in 1983, for preparation of transmittal to the Library of Congress. Dewey G. Mears of Austin, Texas took the documentary photographs of the San Antonio structures.

The 1983 photograph showing Habitation A and B is part of the 1983 San Antonio Missions project, which was sponsored by the Southwest Regional Office, National Park Service. John Lowe of the HABS/HAER Office, Washington, D.C., took the photograph.

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John Lowe, photographer Summer, 1983

TX-321 D-1 GENERAL VIEW, SHOWING HABITATION B (left) and HABITATION A (right),
IN RECONSTRUCTED STATE (compare old 1930s photos of the
Indian quarters). LOOKING NORTHEAST.