

MISSION CONCEPTION



ARCHEOLOGICAL COMPLETION REPORT SERIES, NUMBER 5

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: TEXAS HISTORICAL SURVEY

MISSION CONCEPTION

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Archeological Completion Report Series, Number 5
Division of Grants
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.
1975

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the Fall of 1971 and the Spring of 1972, extensive archeological excavations were carried out on the grounds of Mission Concepcion (Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña) in San Antonio, Texas. Photographs of the work and accompanying text are contained in the section of the report succeeding this one. The following are among the accomplishments on this project up to the present date:

1. A detailed topographic map of the site including surface contours, existing architectural structures and other above ground features has been prepared. In addition, a detailed, architectural drawing of the church and adjacent structures has been made.
2. Deep tests along the foundation of the west elevation of the church; these tests indicated that the lower portion of the foundations are dry and the moisture which is damaging the facade is originating primarily from surface water applied to plants along the base of the wall.
3. Tests along other portions of the church foundation indicated that it is consistently well-laid, sound and essentially dry.
4. Excavation of portions of the ruins near the current entrance to the site produced information on wall foundations, multiple adobe floors, and showed clearly the damage done to archeological remains by the many decorative and exotic plants which have been put into the site in recent years.

5. Excavations west of the current Mission Road, which goes through the quadrangle in front of the church, produced clear evidence of the west compound wall. This will enable the city to relocate Mission Road with its utility lines and chain link fences to the west of the mission compound, so that the entire mission area can be preserved.

6. Excavations in the stone quarry near the southwestern corner of the compound has produced our first data concerning the source of most of the stone used in Mission Concepcion.

7. A great number of color and black-and-white photographs have been taken of all phases of the archeological investigation. A thorough photographic record has been made of the mission's structures and particularly of the deteriorating original murals preserved in some of the mission buildings.

8. A large number of ceramic, bone and stone artifacts made and used by the mission Indians were recovered from the archeological excavations. In addition, a good sample of late Spanish Colonial and early 19th Century Anglo artifacts was also recovered in certain areas. Virtually all the artifacts have been cleaned and cataloged and analysis is now in progress.

After the laboratory analysis of the recovered artifacts is completed, a final report discussing in depth the nature and results of the archeological investigation will be published. A copy of this publication will be forwarded.

1. West elevation of church prior to Fall, 1971, excavations. Note: Deterioration of lower portion of wall.



2. Test pits along foundation of west elevation of church, Fall, 1971.



3. Exposed foundation on wall of west elevation of church, Fall, 1971.



4. Plaster floors and adobe brick walls excavated in ruin adjacent to present day office, Fall, 1971.



5. West compound-quarry area prior to Fall, 1971.



6. West compound area prior to Fall, 1971, excavations. Portions of west compound wall are located to right and just behind field laborer in photograph.



7. Section No. 1 of excavated west compound wall,
Fall, 1971.



8. Section No. 2 of excavated west compound wall,
Fall, 1971.



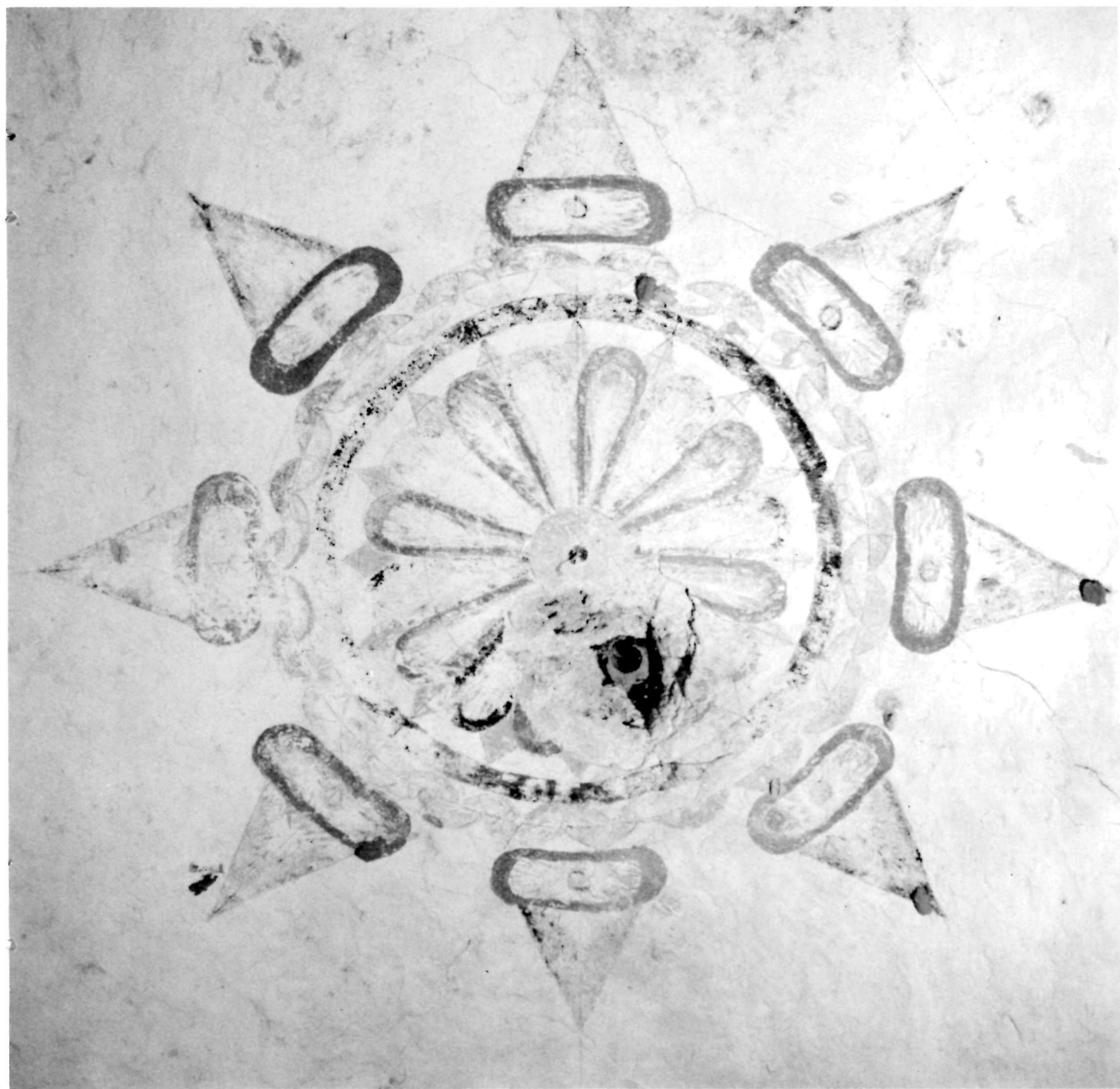
9. Quarry area (depression behind field laborer)
prior to Spring, 1972 excavation.



10. Quarried travertine limestone, Spring, 1972,
excavation.



11. 18th Century painting on ceiling of room on ground floor, northwest corner of church.



12. Examples of 18th and 19th Century majolica.

