



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND MINOR
TESTING AT THE SITE OF MARTI'S,
310 WEST COMMERCE, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

By

Harry J. Shafer



Report No. 74
Abasolo Archaeological Consultants
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Abstract

Archaeological monitoring and limited testing was carried out at 310 West Commerce, the future location of Marti's and the former location of Apache Café in downtown San Antonio. The location, being next to the Governor's Palace, was sensitive archaeologically in several ways. It lies near the heart of the early commercial and military activities in San Antonio. Second, a stone wall of historic significance framed the Marti's property on the east which also bordered the Governors Palace property. This stone wall was to be preserved at the request of the Historic Preservation office. Third, previous excavations on the Governors Palace property by UTSA showed a dense deposit of 18th and early 19th century trash. Shovel testing was conducted along the stone wall that defined the original south wall base and to examine the north wall base. Monitoring was carried out during the removal of at least two feet of fill in preparation for foundation construction of the new building and during core drilling activities. A cache consisting of 18th century coins (silver dollars, half dollars, quarters, and one gold coin) was encountered at the east end of the property during the foundation preparation. This cache and other artifacts are described.

Introduction

Abasolo Archaeological Consultants of San Antonio, Texas entered into a contractual agreement with Jack Suneson of Marti's to conduct archaeological monitoring and minor test investigations at the future location of Marti's at in the 300 block of West Commerce Street, San Antonio (Fig. 1). The main issue was a standing cut-limestone wall that framed the east side of the lot. The City of San Antonio (COSA) Historic Preservation Officer Ann McClone requested that the wall be preserved and that the construction at the site be monitored.

The construction site, which is the previous location of the Los Apaches restaurant, is located adjacent to the Spanish Governors' Palace on the west side of Military Plaza. The buildings are joined at the southeast corner, but the building that contained the restaurant was constructed after 1878 as shown on archival maps of downtown San Antonio. The location is also only about 100 feet from the corner of the Spanish Presidio. The obvious concern regarding construction at the site was the stone wall and that intact archaeological deposits may occur beneath the floor of the old restaurant. Monitoring the removal of the floor and excavation of an 8-foot elevator pit is proposed at the request of the COSA archaeologist Kay Hindes.

The cut stone wall (Fig. 2) had the appearance of considerable antiquity but it was unknown if it was associated with the Spanish Governor's Palace. The association was doubtful, however, because it was not shown on any early 19th century maps, but possibly on later 19th century maps and therefore it was regarded as historic by the COSA Historic Preservation Officer. In order to obtain more information about the wall we felt it necessary to conduct some subsurface investigations to better examine the wall and its base.

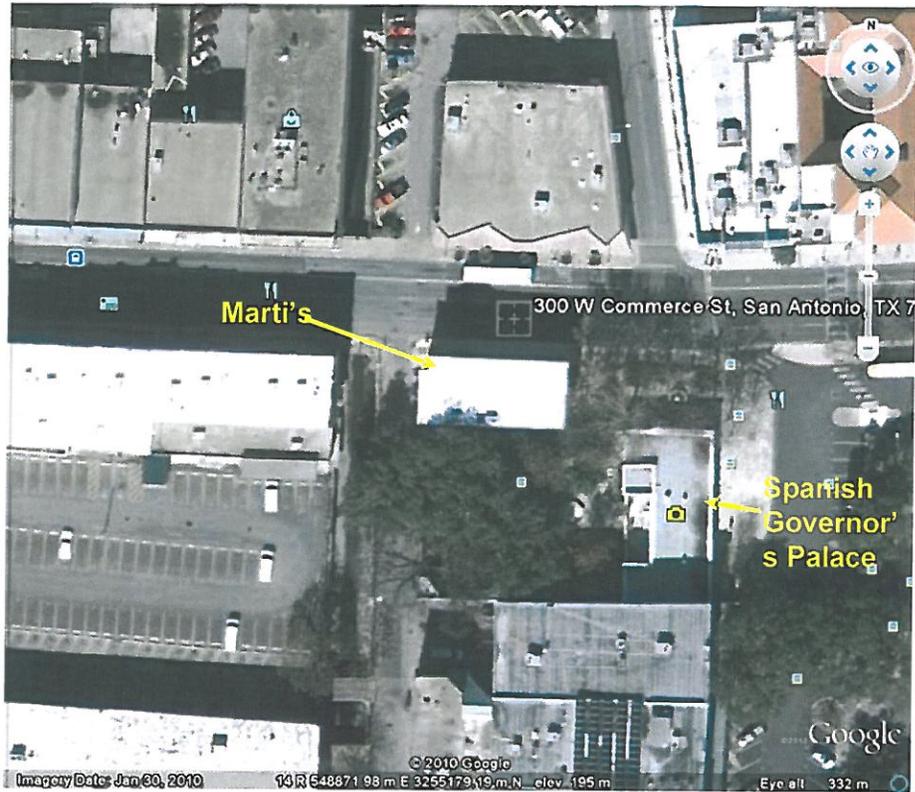


Figure 1. Google Earth view showing the location of the newly constructed Marti's building and its proximity to the Spanish Governor's Palace.

The proposal called for a non-collecting policy. Previous archaeological work on the eastside of the wall adjacent to the Governor's Palace by UT-San Antonio had recovered artifacts dating from the 18th through the 20th century (Fox 1977). If diagnostic artifacts were encountered they would be digitally photographed for documentation and returned to the property owner. Upon completion of field work, a written report will be prepared and four copies will be delivered to the client. Features and other finds were to be documented in the report. The report will be accompanied by the plan of the site with the site(s) and features precisely located.



Figure 2. Historic stone wall that was to be preserved and incorporated into the new Marti's building.

Archaeological Background

Prehistoric Archaeology

There are nearly 1,800 recorded archaeological sites in the greater San Antonio area, and prehistoric sites account for many of that number. Remnants of 11,500 years of human occupation can be found along the San Antonio River, San Pedro and Salado creeks, and adjacent terraces based on archaeological research in the general region (see Houk et al. 1999). The earliest human presence was in the **PaleoIndian** period, 11,500-

8,800 years ago. Indicators of such occupation are spear points and other stone tools of distinctive styles and date, such as Clovis, Folsom, Golondrina, and Angostura.

The American Indian population greatly expanded in the following **Archaic** period (8,800-1,500 years ago), and their sites are often found on terraces overlooking local streams. Sites are typified by large numbers of flint (chert) flakes resulting from tool making, dart points (used on spears thrown with the spear thrower, or *atlatl*), and fragments of limestone rock for cooking and for earth-oven techniques that often result in major accumulations of fire-cracked rock fragments. Archaic Period sites are often indicated by burned limestone rock fragments, large accumulations of burned rock (burned rock middens), diagnostic spear points and tools used in wood-working or other tasks, and the flake debris resulting from tool-making.

The **Late Prehistoric** period (A.D. 500-1700) is most clearly indicated by the occurrence of tiny arrow points, indicating the introduction of the bow and arrow into the area around A.D. 800. Later in this period, around A.D. 1250-1700, there was a regional emphasis on bison-hunting, and the material culture from this era is notable for the presence of pottery and other distinctive artifacts.

American Indian populations were greatly modified with the establishment of the Spanish Colonial missions early in the 18th century, and the arrival of Lipan Apache raiding parties by the 1720s. Those who went into the San Antonio missions, where they were joined by groups from south Texas and northeast Mexico, continued their distinctive bone-tempered pottery, along with stone-tool making, throughout the Spanish Colonial period. These American Indians still used the San Antonio River for hunting and fishing, for plant food gathering, and for short-term occupations. It is likely that established Late Prehistoric campsites along this part of the river would have been reoccupied at different times after Historic contact. Given the location near San Pedro Creek there well could be prehistoric American Indian remains, likely dating to any time in the long cultural sequence in the project area. Test excavations adjacent to the Spanish Governor's Palace recovered traces of prehistoric occupation (Fox 1977).

Historical Background

The best known archaeological remains near downtown San Antonio are related to the Spanish Colonial and early Anglo periods of occupation. Four 18th century Spanish missions that are now part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and the former mission of San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) are along the San Antonio River. The missions, and features linked to the missions (such as acequias, gristmills and dams), have received a great deal of archaeological attention. In particular, the acequia complex has been researched extensively, both archival and archaeological, over the years as part of the planning process for city projects (e.g., Frkuska 1979, Cox 1986; Figueroa and Mauldin 2005; Fox and Cox 1990; Fox et al., 1989; Nickels and Cox 1996; and the synthesis by Cox 2005).

The site location for Marti's is at a very historic location in downtown San Antonio. It was the scene of many historical activities, and a prime location for early commercial businesses during the 18th and 19th century being immediately adjacent to the Spanish Governor's Palace, the Military Plaza, and San ~~Fernando~~^{Pedro} Creek. Much of this history was buried beneath the patio adjacent to the Governor's Palace, and at the east end of the Marti's property (Fox 1977), and across Commerce Street (Figueroa and Maulding 2005). A brief summary of the historic place is presented below.

Spanish Colonial presence in San Antonio began with expeditions to the area in 1691 and 1709. San Antonio de Béxar Presidio and the first of five mission was established 1718. Villa de San Fernando de Bexar was established in 1731 and in 1749 the Military Plaza and the Governor's Palace were constructed. It is the latter building, the Governor's Palace that is relevant to this study due to the proximity of the Marti's property.

Later San Antonio grew around the Villa de San Fernando and San Fernando cathedral, and the Main Plaza and the Military Plaza became the hub of commercial and social activities (*Handbook of Texas On-Line*). As the two grew between the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek, commercial buildings serving the community were established around the plazas. Following the Texas Revolution and later the Mexican

war, Spanish presence in San Antonio was replaced by the new Texan Anglo colonists migrating from the south and from Germany in the 1840 and 1870s (Clark 1984).

History of 310 West Commerce

The history of the Marti's location at 310 West Commerce, shown in the Sanborn maps as lots 706-712, includes not only the Spanish Colonial period but also the ~~Anglo~~ period from 1836-1880 (Figueroa and Mauldin 2005). It was adjacent to the hub of early San Antonio, and was the location of several businesses. Joseph Urrutia's 1767 map (Fig. 3) shows the location of the property relative to the Presidio, later to become the Military Plaza. Ann Fox (1977; 1997) investigations provide a thorough background of the Spanish Governor's Palace and the corner lot north of Marti's lot, and Figueroa and Mauldin (2005) presents a good historic review of the property across Commerce Street where remnants of the Spanish Presidio were identified. Fox's historical review covers much of the Spanish Colonial history of the block. She describes a jacal-like *chamacuero* structure that was Maria Luisa Guerrero residence on the corner lot during the Spanish Colonial occupation.

Commercial buildings were constructed along Presidio Street (later to become Commerce Street) next to the Spanish Governor's Palace sometime in the mid 19th century. A building used as a cantina was constructed on the corner at the previous site of the Guerrero residence as indicated by Charles Herff's 1861 painting (Fig. 4a). This view, painted from memory, also shows other commercial buildings behind the cantina along Presidio Street (later Commerce Street). Augustus Koch's depiction of the Military Plaza in 1873 does not show the cantina building but rather what appears to be a residence located on the lot (Fig. 5).

The situation had changed by 1885. The Sanborn map for that year (Fig. 6) shows a commercial building on the lot that housed the Smith wagon shop shown as a hardware/blacksmith shop adjacent to a barber shop and laundry. The late 19th-early

20th century trash observed in the test pits and monitoring contained numerous horse shoes, metal strips and wagon parts likely associated with the hardware/blacksmith shop.

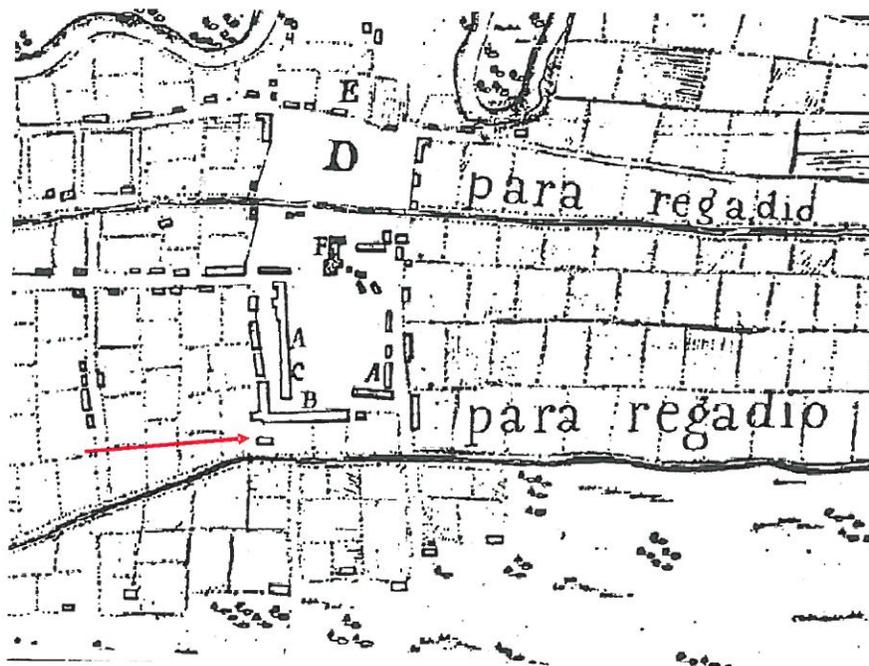


Figure 3. A section of Joseph Urrutia's 1767 map of the Presidio of San Antonio and the surrounding village. A, Casa del Presidio; B, Casa del Capital; C, -Cuerpo de Guardia; D, Plaza de la Villa, E. Casas Reales (from Fox, Figure 3, 1997). Arrow denotes location of the project area.

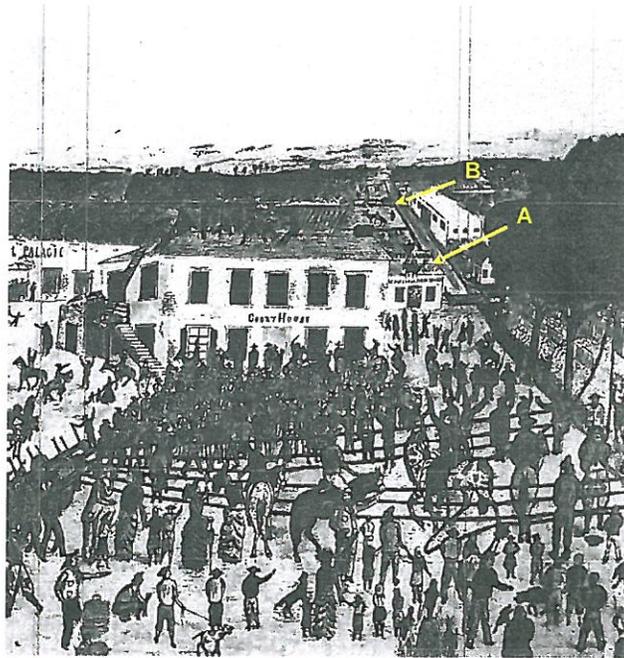


Figure 4. Charles Herff's 1861 painting done from memory of a hanging shows a cantina at the corner of the Military Plaza behind the court house. Another building appears behind it to the west, and the property immediately east of San Pedro Creek appears to have been a horse pen with an adjacent garden (from Fox 1977: Figure 4).

The property was deeded to Jacob Linn (former Bexar County Commissioner in 1862) and sold in 1882, the year that he died. Evidence during the course of the monitoring in the form of oily soil would seem to indicate that prior to 1926 there may have been a car repair place on the west end of the lot although no records have been found to confirm that theory. Los Apaches Café was established on the property in 1926 and closed for business in 2007. Los Apaches Restaurant was the last occupant of the property prior to the purchase by Marti's in 2007.

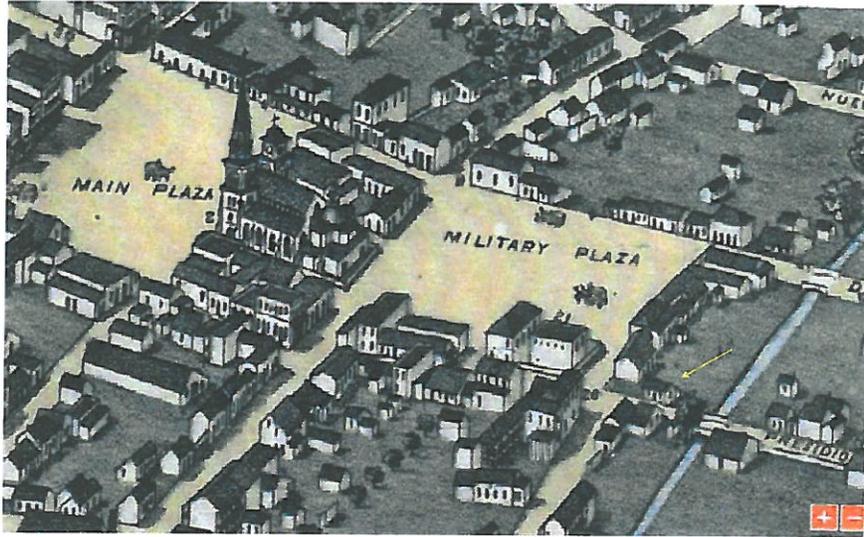


Figure 5. Augustus Koch's depiction of the Military Plaza as it appeared in 1873. Arrow denotes a residence located adjacent to the Spanish Governor's Palace along what was then Presidio Street. San Pedro Creek is shown to the right of the house.

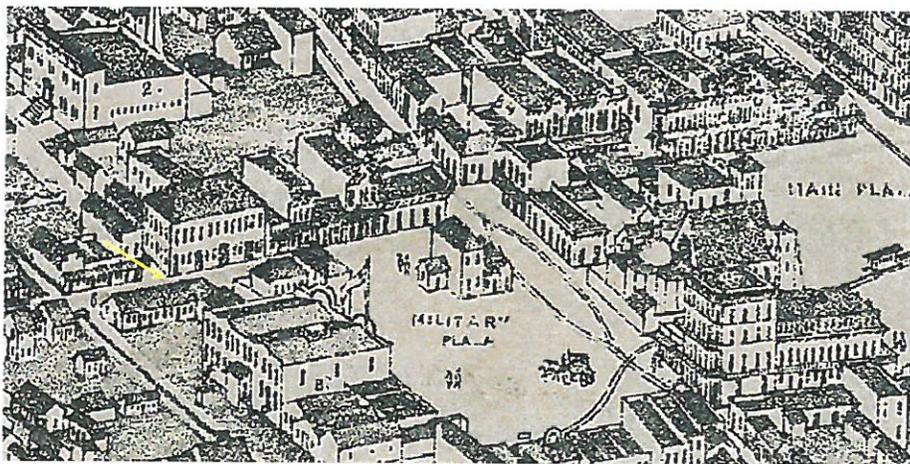


Figure 6. Augustus Koch's 1886 depiction of the Military Plaza shows a commercial building at the site. This building housed a barber shop, laundry, and Smith's wagon shop.

Scope of Work

The field work at Marti's property took place in three phases, shovel testing and two phases of monitoring. The shovel testing took place on June 18, 2007. The field crew consisted of the author, Holly Meier, Joe Bevin, and the author. The goals of the shovel testing were as follows:

1. To excavate a pit on the southeast corner to see if the historic standing wall continued westward. The foundation workers had encountered "large rocks" about 30 feet from the corner and we wanted to test to see if that wall foundation was a continuation of the standing east wall.
2. To inspect the foundation of the standing east wall to see how it was anchored.
3. To dig another test along the standing wall about mid-way from the corner to the street to see if the large cut stones were continuous.
4. To monitor the removal of about two feet of fill across the eastern half of the building to prepare for the new foundation.
5. Monitor the geo-tech core drilling in preparation for the new foundation.
6. To monitor the excavation of the elevator pit. This objective was not fulfilled. Construction work at Marti's was delayed and the elevator shaft excavation was done without my awareness.

Systematic artifact sampling was not part of the research design due, in part, to the short window of opportunity within which to conduct the work. So no screening or systematic sampling was done. A small opportunistic collection of artifacts diagnostic of late 19th and early 20th century time period were collected in an effort to obtain stylistic dates. The surprise discovery of a coin cache did result in a brief attention to more careful recovery. The items recover are briefly described in the section under Artifacts.

Work Performed

Mr. Jack Suneson called on July 7, 2007 to inform me that foundation work was about to begin and the removal of concrete slab remnant of old flooring would begin at 8:00 pm that evening. I went to the site and the large John Deere backhoe machine was already

removing the concrete slab. The operator used the bucket to break up the slab and scooped beneath it to remove the material. It was immediately placed in a mobile dumpster on Commerce Street. I observed the operation for about an hour, inspected the deposits underneath the slab and determined that it was the compacted oily surface such as that which might have been associated with an old car repair place. No record of a repair show has been found, however.

The monitoring was done because COAS archaeologist Kay Hinds was concerned that intact Colonial deposits may exist beneath the slab. Ms. Hinds came by about 8:30 pm and we observed the operation for a short period of time. She concluded that nothing of significance was being disturbed and suggested that I not stay the night. I left the site about 9:15 pm.

Mr. Suneson called me again on July 12 to inform me that the core drilling truck would be on the site at 7:00 am on July 13. I went to the site and observed the core drilling took place at the western portion of the lot to a depth of 10 feet. The following information was obtained from the core drilling:

0-2 feet—Black oily-greasy soil

2-4 feet—clay-loam with some caliche and charcoal

4-6 feet—brown clay loam with some charcoal

6-8 feet—brown clay channel fill with traces of charcoal at the top

No monitoring was done below 8 feet as the equipment broke down at that point.

This core data was significant in that it indicated what might be expected in the elevator shaft excavation. I did not see anything that would indicate intact historic or prehistoric deposits. Indeed, the matrix with traces of charcoal appeared mixed and perhaps was introduced fill of some kind as it did not appear to be intact geological deposits. San Pedro Creek floodplain deposits were encountered between 6-8 feet. This deposit is quite different from that seen in the eastern end of the lot in the area of Test Pits 1 and 1. It is possible that a buried surface lies underneath the oily fill, but I could not determine this

from the core. No core drilling was done on the eastern end of the property near the standing stone wall.

Mr. Suneson also showed me where the workers had hit some “big rocks” that they thought might be part of the back (south) wall of the historic wall framing the site on the east. Unfortunately I was not on the site when these rocks were encountered so cannot confirm their opinions. I did see a few artifacts (cow rib, pork chop bone, turkey bones, white stoneware, window glass, and bottle glass), but nothing that would date to the Spanish Colonial period in the disturbed fill in the southeast portion of the site. The “big rocks” were probably part of the old wall base along the south wall of the lot that was discovered in Test Pit No. 1.

Test Pit No. 1

Objectives No. 1 and 2 were accomplished on July 18, 2007. Test Pit No. 1 was excavated at the southeast corner of the lot to a depth of 4.3 feet (Figs. 7 and 8). Exposure of the corner revealed that the south wall was built later than the east wall as shown by the manner in which it was abutted. Also, the base of the south wall is concrete and not cut limestone as is the case with the east wall (Figs. 9 and 10). Of interest was a block in the south wall with a noticeable fresco (Fig. 11). This and other fresco remnants seen in the east wall (Fig. 12) indicated that the east wall and the lower courses of the south wall were constructed of recycled stone. The source of the stone is unknown, but this was not unusual for that time period (Late 18th, early 19th centuries) to recycle stone from earlier stone Spanish Colonial and early Anglo stone structures.

The fill next to the south wall down to the bottom of the trench was mixed and contained artifacts dating mostly in the 20th century. Several late 19th-early 20th century artifacts (a hand-thrown jug) were noted and collected from this operation. A shovel test was excavated about 30 feet west of the corner to see if the concrete wall base continued in that direction (Fig. 7). The top of the concrete wall base was encountered about ca. 40 cm below the surface and continued downward from that point.

Kay Hinds and Ann McClone provided some consultation regarding the possible history of the standing wall and what conservation measures to take. They wanted the block with the fresco that we exposed in the back wall taken out and preserved.

Test Pit No. 2

Objective No. 3 was partly accomplished; we were able to determine that the base of the east wall here (about midway along the wall) was the same as observed at the corner. Test pit No. 2 was placed along the east wall to see if the cut-limestone block foundation continued which it did (Figs. 7 and 13). Also, in excavating this test pit, numerous artifacts were seen and three soda water bottles, a beer bottle, and other bottles and fragments along with several pieces of stone ware were collected for dating.

Of particular interest here is the fact that the deposits were stratified. At about 1.3 feet an ash layer was noted across the pit; artifacts beneath this ash layer were prolific and dated to the late 19th century (Fig. 13); the spoon and bottles were collected from this deposit. The importance of this observation is that the fill against the east wall is essentially undisturbed while that against the south wall is disturbed and contains 20th century trash. That would further confirm that observation that the south wall was constructed later.

Heavy rains forced us to cease field work while excavating Test Pit No. 2. Working conditions became impossible due to both the rain and very wet conditions. Both units were backfilled in the rain. Digital images were taken in lieu of written field notes which could not be done due to the rains. These rains began a wet spell that continued for several weeks, and prevented further investigations during the short window of opportunity. Unfortunately Test Pit No. 2 was terminated due to the rain; had we been able to complete the work we may well have found the nearby coin cache described below.

Shovel Test

A shovel test was excavated about 30 feet west from the corner along the back wall to see if that wall remnant continued (Fig. 7); the test showed that it did as the top was encountered about 1.5 feet beneath the current fill.

Proposed Wall Construction Sequence

The sequence of wall construction is relevant to deciphering the sordid history of construction that took place at the location. The question is: when was the east wall constructed? The suggested sequence below is based on the observations made during the test excavations and monitoring. The earliest architectural feature is the cut stone wall base to the east wall. When this construction took place is unknown, but probably before 1885. Is this the wall of the structure shown in the 1885 Sanborn map or a wall associated with the earlier cantina? Or was it laid at the time the wall itself was built? That wall base was later used to construct the current wall composed of recycled cut stone blocks obtained from demolished buildings perhaps dating to the Spanish Colonial Period as some of the blocks contain remnants of frescos. When the standing east wall was constructed is unknown. The next construction series involved constructing a concrete foundation to the south wall which also was constructed of recycled blocks some contain fresco remnants. The concrete shows the striations from the frame, and I chipped a piece off with a pick to be absolutely sure it was concrete. In other words, the east wall and the south wall that was later demolished save for a couple of courses of cut stone were constructed at the same time although the south wall remnant does abut to the east wall. The last construction event was the brick wall that borders the Spanish Governor's courtyard behind the demolished south wall. This brick wall (since removed) was apparently constructed about 1919-1926. This brick wall enclosed part of the old cut stone foundation along the south wall.

Artifacts observed and collected during the course of the test pit excavations date before 1926; no Spanish Colonial period artifacts were observed although their absence could very well be due to the fact that we did not excavate through the cultural deposits nor screened the fill.

The east wall will be saved and incorporated into the new construction based on an agreement between the COSA Historical Preservation and Jack Suneson. The fresco block used in the south wall was also to be pulled and saved.

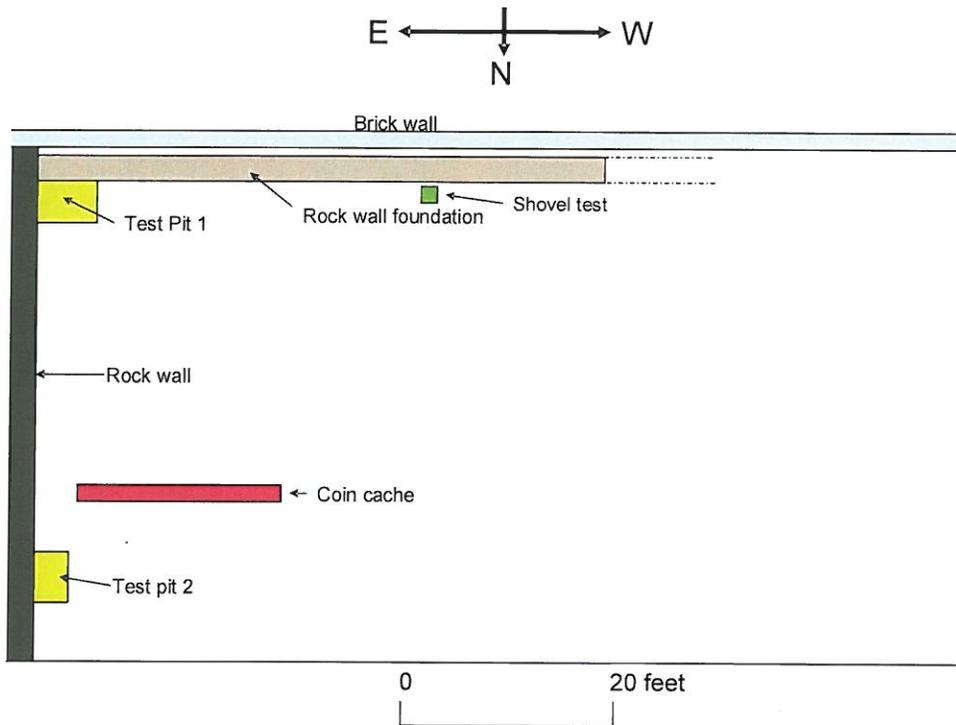


Figure 7. Site plan showing the locations of the test pits, rock wall foundation, brick wall, and the cut stone rock wall (black).



Figure 8. Excavation of Test Pit No. 1 in progress; Holly Meier and Joe Bevins shown working in the test pit.

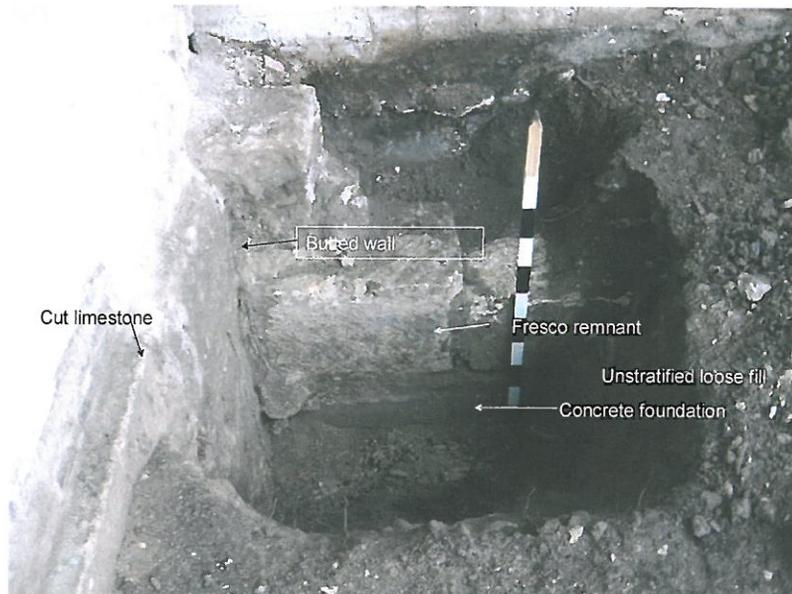


Figure 9. Test Pit 1 showing the butted wall, cut limestone wall (left), fresco remnant, and concrete foundation (scale is one-meter).

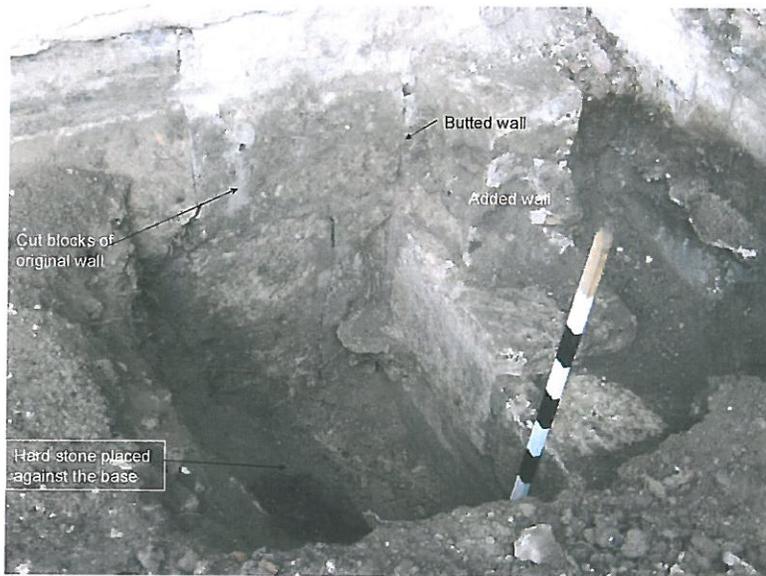


Figure 10. Test Pit No. 1 showing the butted wall, south wall base (added wall), and cut stone blocks in the east wall foundation.



Figure 11. Fresco block in the south wall remnant that was saved.



Figure 12. Early fresco blocks incorporated into the standing stone wall, covered with plaster and a later fresco.

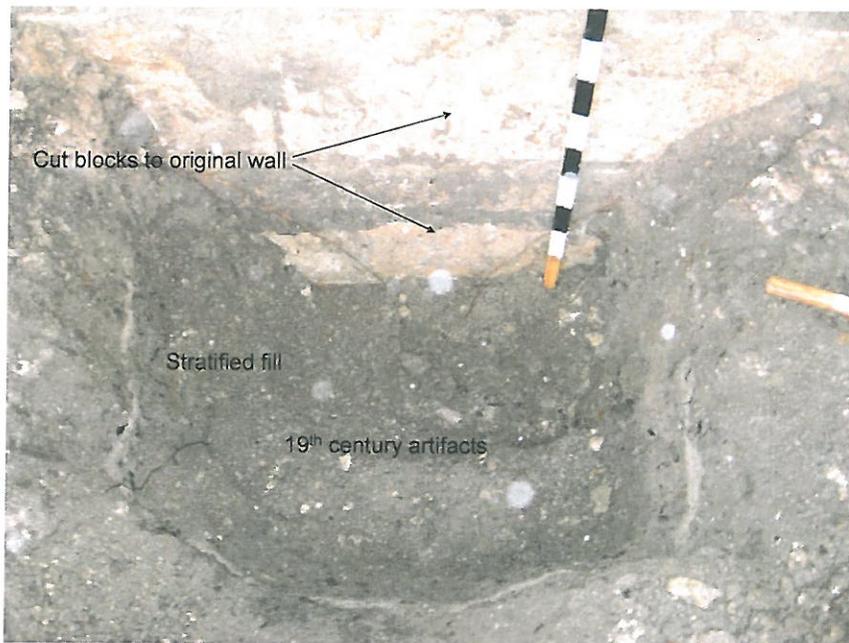


Figure 13. Test Pit No. 2 showing the base of the cut stone east wall and stratified fill.

Artifacts

Marti's Coin Cache

On September 20, 2007 I was called to monitor the removal of about two feet of fill across the east end of the Marti's lot as specified in the scope of work. The work began promptly at 1:00 pm without any particular excitement; some early 20th century artifacts and pieces of iron were showing up on the scraping. Then I saw what appeared to be green snuff can lids in the loose dirt (Fig. 14B); on inspection these turned out to be silver dollars (Fig. 14). I began to trowel around to see if I could find the origin of the coins and discovered a cache 48 inches from the east wall in a linear pattern that extended westward for about seven feet. The coins apparently had been hidden beneath the floor board of a previous structure judging from the linear pattern—as if someone was caching them by removing a board in the floor and placing them on the ground beneath.

The coins, some stacked horizontally while others were loose (Fig.14C), were not in a container of any kind. The cache consisted of silver dollars, half dollars, quarters, and a single gold coin. The work crew left the site at 4:00 pm, leaving me alone with the exposed hoard with curious people passing by on Commerce Street as I continued to excavate. Feeling a bit uneasy, I call Kay Hinds to inform her of the precarious situation. She called the San Antonio Police Department who sent an officer to stand guard while I finished my work. Not wanting to leave such a find exposed overnight, I recovered most of the coins left in the cache. I called Mr. Suneson from the site to inform him of the discovery, and he immediately left his residence in Laredo to drive to San Antonio. I collected all of the exposed coins and took them to my residence where I met Mr. Suneson about 8:00 that evening. I turned the find over to him at that time.

We visited the site again the next morning and Mr. Suneson recovered several more coins; several were found in situ and some were found in the back dirt. A total of 216 coins were recovered, 87 silver dollars, 86 half-dollars, 40 quarters, plus one gold coin. The stamped date on the coins ranged from 1842 to 1882.

Who left the coins? This is an intriguing mystery indeed. The latest date for the coins was 1882, the same year a deed transfer of the property to/from? Was it Mr. Jacob Linn, once a County Commissioner for Bexar County? Was the intent of the coin cache to cheat a fellow business partner or out of distrust of the banks during Post Civil War Reconstruction? This is a mystery that will probably never be solved.



A



B



C



D

Figure 14. Silver coins in situ at the construction site of Marti's, San Antonio. A location of the find relative to the east wall (not plastic bag); B, C, coins exposed in excavation; D, Mr. Jack Suneson holding a sample of the coins from the cache.

Other Artifacts

The deposits encountered in both test pits and in the removal of the fill for foundation preparation exposed many artifacts, metal, glass, and some ceramics that dated to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These artifacts were beneath Los Apaches restaurant which was constructed in 1926. Therefore, we can assume that they all date prior to that time. Most fall within the time frame of 1880s to 1920s.

Glass bottles

Several glass bottles and bottle fragments were collected during the course of the test excavations and monitoring. Most are non-descript except for shape and molding style, but three contained raised lettering that allow for some identification and dating. Two carry embossed labels *Duerler San Antonio Tex* (Fig. 15A)¹. One bottle has an embossed label *The Bee Candy Mfg. Co., San Antonio Tex* (Fig. 15B). In addition, a vintage beer bottle that carries no label was recovered (Fig. 15C). The remaining bottles and bottle fragments are shown in Figure 16; one bottle that probably contained spirits was recovered (Fig. 16 E). All of the bottles shown required corks for closure. Those shown in Figure 15A and B have a lip, but the others in Figures 15C and 16 B-D lack this feature and probably date earlier than the soda bottles. All of these bottles date from the late 19th to the early 20th century.

¹ Gustav A. Duerler, a Confederate Army veteran, former City Councilman, and Fire Chief owned a candy manufacturing and pecan shelling business in San Antonio from the 1880s until the 1930s. It was not unusual for small candy companies to make and bottle their own soda. These bottles can be dated around the beginning of the 20th century, plus or minus 20 years. The same can probably be said for the Bee Candy Mfg. Company as well although no record has been found for who made this bottle or when.



Figure 15. Bottles recovered from Test Unit 2. A. Duerler, San Antonio Tex; B, The Bee Candy Mfg. Co. San Antonio, Tex.; C, plain late 18th-early 19th century beer bottle.

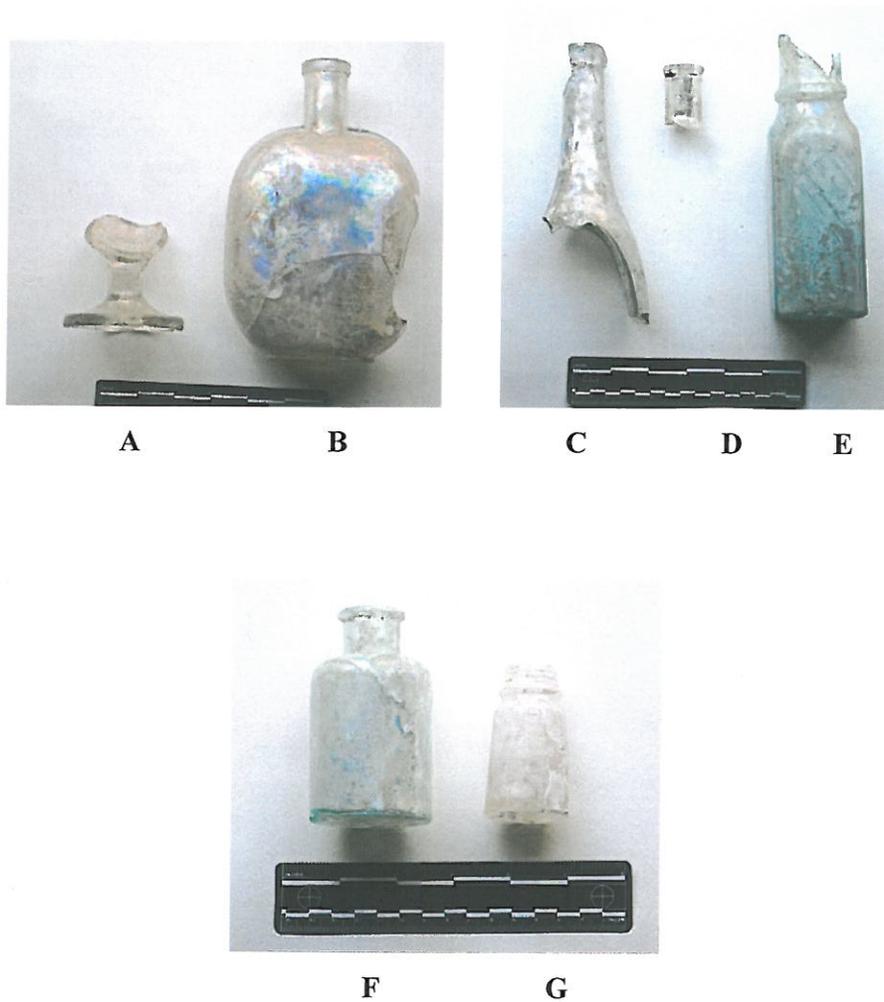


Figure 16. Plain glass containers from test the excavations. A, stemmed glass container; B, liquor or spirits bottle; C, D, drink bottle fragments; E-G, condiment bottles.

Stoneware

The stoneware examples shown in Figure 16 A and B, and Figure 17 A, and B are diagnostic of the late 19th-early 20th century time period. The two artifacts shown in Figure 17A carry the *KT&K China* makers mark. Knowles Taylor and Knowles (aka KT&K) in East Liverpool, Ohio manufactured stoneware pottery from 1854 to 1931².

² (http://www.mygrannysatticantiques.com/html/porcelain_pottery_china_marks_1.htm)

They were known for moderate priced dinner ware as well as commercial white stoneware.

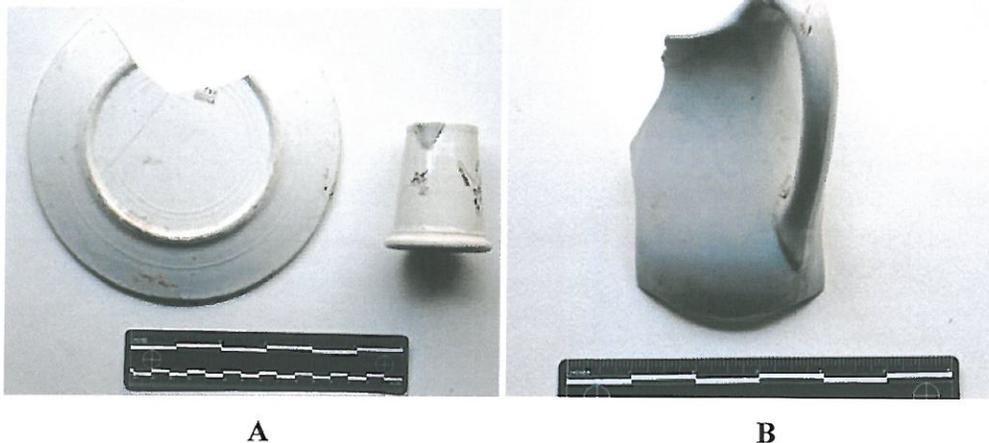


Figure 17. White stoneware from the test excavations. A, saucer and cream pitcher with KT&K China makers' mark. B, plain white stoneware pitcher fragment.

Three other pieces of stoneware, one a Transfer ware that carries a makers mark that includes *Burgess Burslem*, a company in England that made transfer ware from 1864 to 1892 (Fig. 18A); another recovered fragment is from a spongeware vessel that is probably of late 19th century age.

Stoneware jugs

Sherds from hand-thrown glazed stoneware jugs were also in the fill (Fig. 18). These also generally date from the mid 19th and early 20th centuries.

Other artifacts

Two other artifacts were collected during the test excavations. These include a non-descript button and a spoon (Fig. 19 C, D).



Figure 18. Hand-thrown glazed earthenware jug fragments.

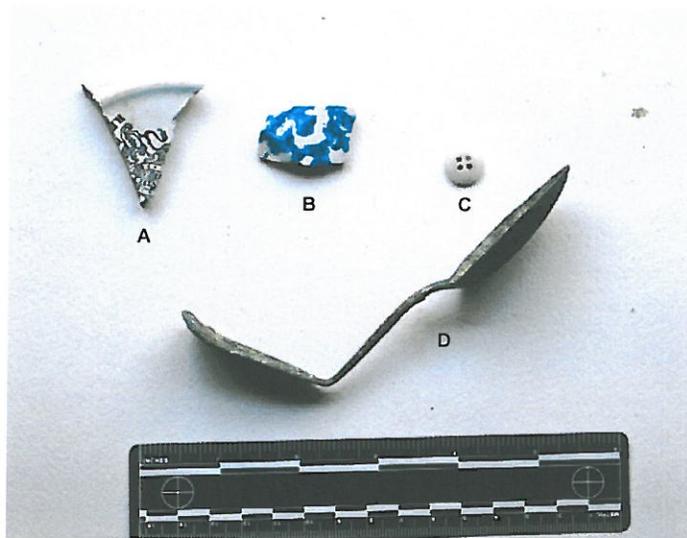


Figure 19. Miscellaneous artifacts. A, Transfer ware; B, spongeware, C, button; D, spoon.

Summary and Conclusions

The location of Marti's is within the most concentrated zone of commercial activity of Old San Antonio, being adjacent to the Spanish Governor's Palace and Military Plaza. The space itself has a sordid history that remains to be fully known. A remnant of the early commercial history is preserved in a standing cut stone wall that forms the east side of the Marti's lot. The wall construction sequence for the eastern portion of the lot was found to be complex. There is evidence to suggest at least four construction episodes are represented. The main research question to be resolved was: When was the east wall constructed? Test excavations and monitoring provided information that may help to answer that question. The earliest architectural feature is the cut stone wall base on which the east wall was constructed. These are much larger limestone blocks that were used in the wall. When this foundation was laid is unknown, but probably before 1885. It may have been in conjunction with the wall construction but this cannot be proven. This may be the base to the wall of the structure shown in the 1885 Sanborn map or may be a wall associated with the 1871 cantina. Regardless, that wall base was later used in the construction of the standing east wall. The east wall is composed of recycled cut stone blocks obtained from demolished buildings perhaps dating to the Spanish Colonial Period, as some of the blocks contain remnants of frescos. When the standing east wall was constructed is also unknown, perhaps it was the one build by 1885 on an earlier cut stone foundation. The next construction series involved constructing a concrete foundation to the south wall also constructed of recycled blocks some contain fresco remnants. This wall abuts to the east wall. It is assumed that the east and south walls were constructed at the same time but on different bases since both were constructed of cut stone blocks, some with frescos. The south wall was later demolished save for a couple of courses of cut stone. The last construction event was the brick wall that borders the Spanish Governor's courtyard behind the demolished south wall. This brick wall (since removed) was apparently constructed about 1919-1926. This brick wall enclosed part of the old cut stone foundation along the south wall.

Fill beneath Los Apaches Restaurant contained trash from previous uses of the land and the surrounding area. Numerous historic artifacts dating prior to 1926 were buried beneath the building. The research design did not call for a systematic effort to obtain an artifact sample. Some were collected, however, in an effort to date the deposits beneath the Los Apaches Café. This effort encountered an unexpected cache of silver and gold coins buried beneath the floor of a previous structure. These coins were placed in a linear pattern that would suggest they were hidden beneath a floor board. A total of 216 coins were recovered, including silver dollars, half dollars, quarters, and a single gold coin. Coin dates range from 1847-1882, and unequivocally date the cache from 1882 or later, a date consistent with other artifacts studied from the site that date from the late 19th to the early 20th century.

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