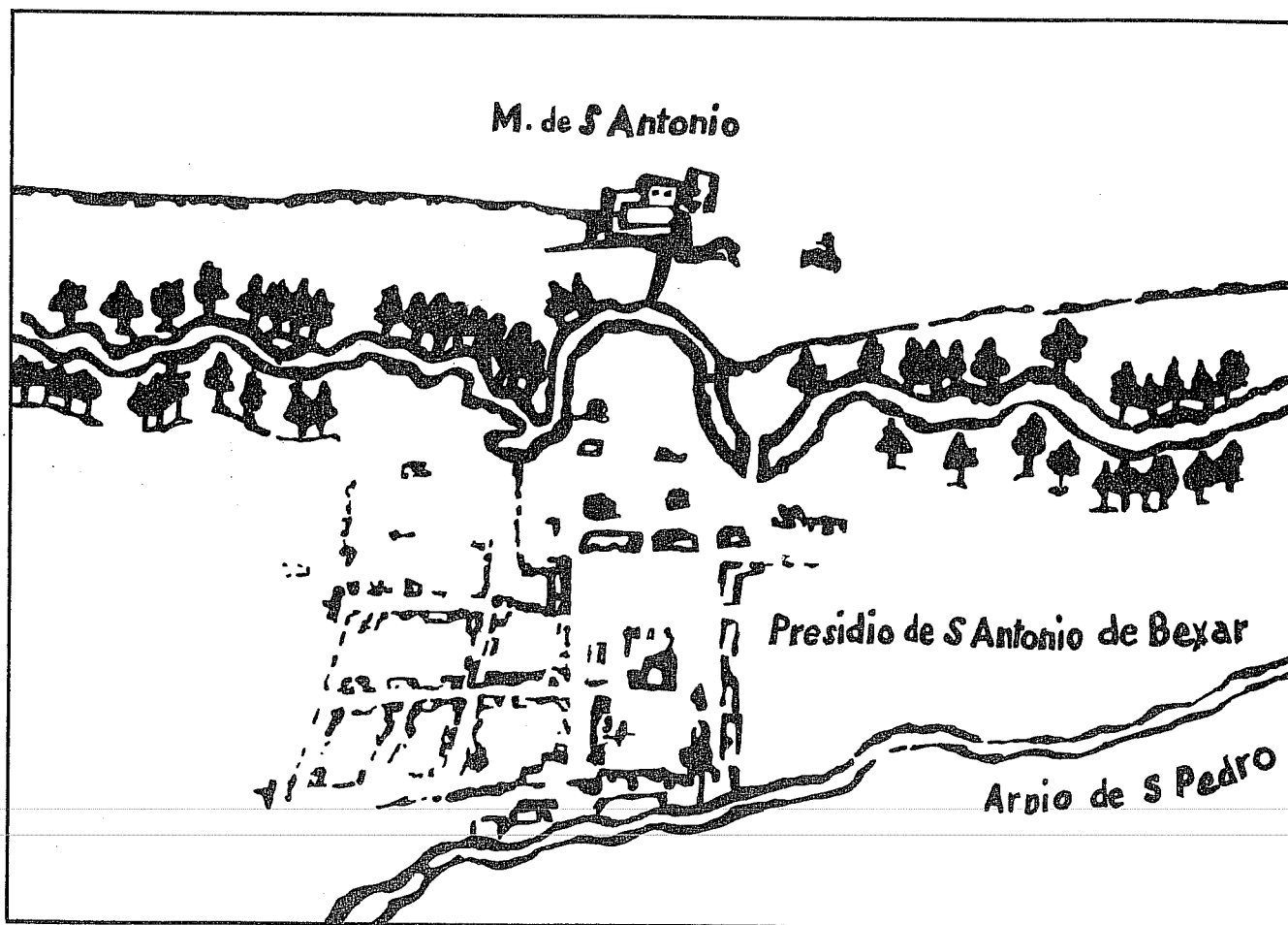


THE  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF  
THE SPANISH GOVERNOR'S PALACE PARK

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT NO. 31

UTSA - Center for  
Archaeological Research

1977

The map on the cover is a drawing based on a map entitled "San Antonio de Bexar, mapa del presidio 1764" by Capt. Luis Antonio Menchaca. A copy of the original map is in the Daughters of the Republic Library at the Alamo. Careful examination reveals indications of a structure on the lot next to the "Governor's Palace" during the middle 18th century.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Numerous people helped to bring this project to a successful conclusion. Dr. Thomas R. Hester, Director of the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research, served as Principal Investigator. I am grateful to Director Ronald Darner and his staff at the Parks and Recreation Department, and to employees of the Public Works Department for help in expediting the project. The staff at the Governor's Palace were particularly patient and helpful. Historic Preservation Officer Pat Osborne provided background information for the Historical research, as did Katherine McDowell and Dora Guerra of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, Carmen Perry of the John Peace Library at The University of Texas at San Antonio, Alice Johnson of the San Antonio Conservation Society Library, Billie Persons of the Ellen Quillan Memorial Library at the Witte Museum and Marie Berry of the San Antonio Public Library. My thanks to State Archeologist Curtis Tunnell for providing the San Fernando manuscript, and to Roger Daniels for his analysis of the skeletal remains. Architect Glenn Cook provided copies of the working drawings for the park. Monsignor Balthasar Janacek gave helpful information on burial customs and procedures.

The enthusiastic archaeological crew consisted of Nancy O'Malley, David Swinehart and Shirley Van der Veer, with volunteer help by Lynn Highley, Wayne Jesser, W. R. Van der Veer and Dixie Wilson.

## INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 1976, test excavations were carried out by the Center for Archaeological Research of The University of Texas at San Antonio at the site of a small park to be built immediately north of the Spanish Governor's Palace on Military Plaza in downtown San Antonio. Because of its proximity to one of the original structures built by the Spanish in the early 18th century, testing was deemed necessary to determine if remains of other early structures would be disturbed by the park construction.

The testing program was administered by Dr. Thomas R. Hester. Field operations from April 26 through May 2 were directed by Anne A. Fox, Research Associate of the Center, with the help of several technical staff assistants. Standard archaeological testing procedures were used throughout the project, all soil removed from critical 18th century contexts being screened through 1/4-inch mesh. Structural remains and artifacts were fully recorded. All materials recovered were processed through the laboratory at the Center for Archaeological Research. Both before and after the excavations, considerable documentary research was necessary to establish the history of this particular site and its relation to that of the rest of 18th century San Antonio de Bexar. Results of this research are included in this report.

When the archaeological team had concluded that park construction would not appreciably damage any significant subsurface historical structures, the contractor proceeded with the work as scheduled.

### PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN THE AREA

Unfortunately, very little archaeological work has been done in downtown San Antonio, which means that there is a paucity of information available on subsurface artifactual and structural evidence. Restoration architect Harvey P. Smith, Sr., evidently dug as deep as three to four feet to uncover what he considered to be the earliest walls of the Governor's Palace (Martin 1931:190) when that structure was rebuilt. However, no record was made of the dimensions or appearance of these footings, and little was known at that time about the uses of artifactual evidence to confirm or deny architectural findings.

In 1975 an archaeological crew from the Office of the State Archeologist conducted test excavations in the floor of San Fernando Cathedral across the Plaza (see Figure 1) in advance of a renovation project there. The report of the results of this testing has kindly been made available to the author by Curtis Tunnell, State Archeologist (Fox, Clark and Scurlock 1977), and reference to these investigations will be made in the following pages.

Archaeological work was done by the Center for Archaeological Research during the summer of 1975 in the park in front of the Alamo, or Mission San Antonio de Valero (Fox, Bass and Hester 1976). Although quite a distance from Military Plaza, this excavation also provided a background of information on subsurface features which may be encountered in downtown San Antonio,

and on the types of artifacts in use in San Antonio during various time periods.

## HISTORY

The lot in question in this archaeological investigation is situated on the southwest corner of the intersection of Commerce Street (once Presidio Street) and Camaron (once Amargura), on the northwest corner of Military Plaza. A careful examination of the maps in Figures 1 and 2 will show why the history of this one small portion of downtown San Antonio is inextricably linked to the earliest history of the city.

Although the site of the original settlement of 1718 was near San Pedro Springs, within two years Mission San Antonio de Valero had moved south and across to the east side of the river (Habig 1968:42). The Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo in 1721 ordered the construction of an adobe *presidio* on the west side opposite the mission, between the river and San Pedro Creek (Buckley 1911:55). Originally conceived as a complex fortification with four towers and three concentric rows of structures around the central square (map in Archivo General de Indias at Sevilla), it was probably never completed beyond two towers, a surrounding wall and some wooden structures, due partly to a bad rainy season which melted adobes and hampered construction (Buckley 1911:55). Accounts vary as to the extent of this construction (see also Forrestal 1934:65) probably depending on for whom they were intended. However, it seems reasonable to infer that the *comandancia* and/or presidial captain's residence would have been one of the earliest substantial buildings constructed. Evidently there was such a building by 1733 when José de Urrutia became captain (Chabot 1929:30). In 1738 the *cuervo de guardia* on the north side of the plaza was described as being adjacent to the residence of the governor (*ibid.*). The governor at that time had probably preempted the *casa del capitán* for himself in true military fashion.

The original keystone over the main entrance to the restored "Governor's Palace" contains the inscription "Se acabó 1749" (finished in 1749), which could refer to one particular room, or the entire building. It seems possible that this merely indicates the final stage of what may have been a series of constructions and reconstructions.

The buildings around Military Plaza at that time were flat-roofed adobe or stone structures similar to the present Governor's Palace restoration. By 1767, according to the Urrutia map (Figure 1), the buildings on the west side continued across present Commerce Street and turned the corner going east, including the area in question. They were one long row of connected structures used as residences for the soldiers and their families. Governor Navarete in 1762 referred to the house of the captain, with his office, as "built of stone or rubble and mortar, and a very strong edifice" (Ramsdell 1959:122).

Apparently the structures on the west side of the plaza were in private hands by 1780, for the present Governor's Palace was inherited by José, son of Capt. Luis Antonio Menchaca, sometime after 1783 (Menchaca will, 1803). However, before he died, Capt. Menchaca had sold the corner to Maria Luisa Guerrero, widow of José Miguel Hernandez. Señora Guerrero continued to live in her *chamacuero* on the corner lot until she died in 1819. Her son-in-law immediately sold the corner to Ignacio Pérez (Chabot 1929:37,39) who had previously bought the Governor's Palace property from the Menchacas in 1804, according to a deed in the Spanish Archives at the Bexar County Court House (Spanish Archives, 1804). When Pérez died in 1852, his will listed the structures of the west side property in order, north to south, beginning with "the house which is called 'Of my Aunt Maria Luisa'" (Chabot 1929:42).

From the mid-1800s on, the general area declined in importance in the city, and the buildings were used for the usual purposes of an older city neighborhood--bars, offices and small shops. The construction of a new courthouse and jail on the ruins of the old *cuartel* (barracks) of the *presidio* (Figures 2 and 3a) in 1850 (Chabot 1931:107) and the popularity of the Mexican market with its chili stands (Ramsdell 1959:117-118) apparently did not upgrade the neighborhood. An interesting painting by Charles Adelbert Herff in 1861 (Figure 4) shows a small adobe or stone structure on the corner lot, facing onto the plaza. The low-pitched roof sports a large green bull, and painted across the facade is the name "*Cantina del Torro Berde*" (*sic*).

Presumably this building was soon to be torn down, as a bird's-eye view of San Antonio in 1873 shows the corner vacant (Koch 1873). Another similar view by the same artist in 1886 shows several small, one-story buildings on the corner lot facing north onto Commerce Street (Koch 1886 and Figure 5b). Evidently the razing of the courthouse built on the old *presidio* walls and the construction of a new city hall in the center of the plaza in 1890 did not influence the corner in question, as later photographs show a succession of bars, used clothing stores and vacant buildings (Figure 3b).

An upturn in the neighborhood was evident in 1928 when the City purchased the ruins of the old "Governor's Palace" and set about its restoration. The corner property was not a part of this effort; but sometime after the restoration a modern building on a concrete slab was constructed against the north wall of the Palace (King 1975), and a succession of other similar buildings was constructed (in a continuous row) west of the corner where the small individual ones had stood in the 1886 Koch drawing (Sanborn Map Company). These were finally torn down in 1975 (King 1975) to make way for the proposed park.

### Observations

In general, the task of the historical researcher for an archaeological project is to trace the history of the piece of ground in question and the types of construction which were built upon it. The first and most important problem on this project was to determine which of the many eye-witness descriptions on record actually referred to this particular area. Although the



name "Spanish Governor's Palace" has been attached to the building on the west side of Military Plaza for many generations, actually there were several structures in San Antonio which merited this title at various points in time. Therefore, it was necessary to determine which building was described by considering the time period involved.

The reconstructed Governor's Palace was originally built as the *comandancia* and *casa del capitán* of the *presidio* and primarily used for that purpose. Perhaps when it happened to be the most desirable structure in town, it was commandeered by a governor in residence in San Antonio. By 1770 when Governor Ripperdá arrived to make his headquarters in San Antonio, he moved into the *casas reales* across Main Plaza from the church (Morfi 1935:92; Figure 1), which then became the official Governor's Palace. Therefore, any later descriptions of events using the term probably refer to this structure, or possibly even to the Veramendi Palace to the north, which also seems to have been confused with the Governor's Palace in later times. For the above reasons, all descriptions referring to the Governor's Palace after 1770 have been disregarded unless they can definitely be tied to Military Plaza.

The second research problem was to determine at what time the fate of the corner lot in question was separated from that of the Governor's Palace itself. It now appears that the Spanish stone and/or adobe structure which was a continuation of the *casa del capitán* to the north was probably in ruins and either removed or incorporated when Maria Luisa built her *chamacuero*. Extensive research on this 19th century term has failed to turn up any definite meaning, except for Chabot's casual mention of "the chamacuero built of good lumber, which Bartolo Seguin acquired from Juan Navarro in 1780" (Chabot 1929:38). Schuetz (1968:194) describes a *chamacuero* as "not much different than a *jacal* except that the rubble-filled framework was covered with hides instead of plaster," possibly taking a cue from the term *cuero* meaning skin or leather. It should be pointed out that the first part of the word could as readily refer to *chamizal* (a thatched hut) and imply a thatched roof. Whatever the translation, it seems likely that from this time there was some sort of structure on the corner lot. It was called a "house" in the Pérez will.

#### EXCAVATIONS

When the archaeological testing was begun, the surface was littered with broken brick, concrete chunks and other debris from the removal of the concrete slab and from other earlier buildings over whose debris the slab had been constructed. The highest point was next to the north wall of the Governor's Palace on the east side, with the surface sloping gradually to the west and to the north (Figure 6).

Test excavations consisted of four test pits and three carefully excavated areas. A permanent datum was located at the intersection of the north wall of the Governor's Palace with the surface of the sidewalk, and all elevations were measured from that point, either directly or with an alidade.

### Test 1

A preliminary shovel test was done near the northeast corner of the site to determine how much disturbance had been created by the removal of the slab. The slab, the floor of the previous building on the site, had been removed by heavy equipment immediately prior to the start of testing. The soil at this point appeared to be disturbed to a depth of approximately 30 cm.

### Test 2

A small section near the wall of the Governor's Palace was cleaned off and examined for information on the construction of the slab and any previous floors directly beneath it.

### Test 3 (Figure 7b)

The northwest corner of the Governor's Palace as presently reconstructed was uncovered to examine its construction and whether an 18th century wall had extended north from this point. The existence of such a wall seemed unlikely, since it would make the resulting building too wide to correspond to the early maps. Such a wall was found extending north, but its construction was probably in the 19th century since it was too thin for a Spanish footing and was surrounded by late 19th and early 20th century debris and artifacts (see below). Scattered among these were occasional fragments of majolica, and burnished and lead glazed wares typical of the original Spanish deposits, indicating considerable mixing during construction.

### Test 4

This was a trench perpendicular to the western edge of the property, excavated both to expose the construction of the neighboring wall for the architect's information, and to see if any evidence existed as to whether Amargura Street had ever run behind this row of buildings, as indicated by Corner (see Figure 2). It was soon apparent that there was a deep deposit of fill, consisting of gravel and late 19th and early 20th century artifacts over this portion of the site, corresponding to that in Test 3.

### Area A

A unit was laid out across the probable location of the front wall of the *presidio* building as it extended north from the present Governor's Palace. The unit measured 1 x 2 m and was located 1 m north of the Governor's Palace wall (Figure 6). At this point, the ground surface was 25 cm below the site datum.

At 45 cm (Figures 8a and 9a) a number of chunks of concrete and reinforcing steel bars began to appear in line with the Governor's Palace wall, the remains of the grade beam supporting the most recent building. At 47 cm a white

caliche floor was found on the east side of the wall. A few centimeters deeper, a corresponding yellow caliche deposit appeared on the east side of the wall. Soil above this level was greatly disturbed and contained fragments of various building materials, glass bottles, nails and other iron objects, and mid-19th century ceramics. Just beneath this floor was a thin stratum of heavily burned material.

At 58 cm another white caliche floor was encountered. Between the floors on the west side of the wall line were found chert flakes, unidentifiable scraps of animal bone, sherds of Mexican-made majolica, and lead-glazed and unglazed earthenwares, plus bone tempered sherds of local manufacture. A fine-screened soil sample from contact with this floor yielded numerous small chunks of lime, charcoal, flint chips and tiny animal bone fragments. On the east side of the wall the soil was sterile. At ca. 50 cm there was a level of yellow caliche which appeared to correspond to the floor on the inside of the structure. It was also becoming apparent that some of the wall which crossed the area was limestone, set slightly askew as if it had been disturbed when the concrete grade beam was poured (Figures 8b and 9b).

In and below the second caliche floor to a depth of 70 cm were found more Mexican and locally made sherds and numerous chert flakes. Also found were bones of catfish, goat and domestic pig. Particularly important was the presence of several sherds of Puebla Polychrome majolica, a type apparently not made after 1725, and seldom found in San Antonio sites. On the east side of the wall at this level were occasional chert flakes and a fragment of iron.

The level excavated from 60 to 70 cm yielded occasional flint flakes on both sides of the wall, and revealed the fact that the wall stones ceased at this level. The concrete grade beam was set in a 2-cm bed of sand, and the limestone sat upon dark brown, sterile soil at the same level. From 70 to 90 cm the soil was dark brown, homogeneous and sterile; and excavation ceased at this point (see profile in Figure 10).

An additional unit 1 m x 2 m was excavated directly to the west of Area A to confirm the stratigraphy and to obtain a larger artifact sample for analysis. Removal of the concrete slab had eliminated any evidence of Floor I in this unit. Directly upon Floor II at 52 to 58 cm were a large number of Mexican made earthenware sherds, fragments of an ornamental metal buckle and numerous animal bones which have been identified as chicken, opossum, and cow or bison. Due to lack of time, excavation was not carried any deeper.

### Observations

The two caliche floors appear to have been directly associated with the front wall of the *presidio* building. The fact that few 18th century artifacts were found above or on Floor I suggests at least an early 19th

century date for its use. This could also have been merely a ground surface at that time, if the structure which was the residence of Maria Luisa Guerrero was at some other location on the lot. Excavation for the later concrete grade beam could account for the break in Floor I at this point. However, from the location and size of the cantina in Herff's painting, it appears that this was a part of the original *presidio* building, perhaps much reconstructed, and that Señora Guerrero's house was probably built upon what was left of the old walls, and then later became the cantina. Floor II can, with some confidence, be dated to the mid-18th century, not only because of the artifacts found upon it which compare with those found in numerous other 18th century San Antonio sites, but also because of the Puebla Polychrome majolica found beneath it. If, as is now believed, this type of earthenware was not made after 1725, it is likely that Floor II dates to the construction of this portion of the *presidio*, possibly as late as the 1740's or 1750's. The fact that Puebla Polychrome has been found beneath both this structure and the San Fernando church across the plaza, constructed in 1738 (Fox, Clark and Scurlock 1977) suggests that people were living on this plaza from the time the adobe *presidio* was built in 1721, whether or not Military Plaza was the actual site of the first *presidio*. If, indeed, these few remaining stones and floor are remnants of the *casa del capitán* and *comandancia*, there was little or no subsurface structure to the walls. This could explain the need for frequent reconstruction. The burned stratum just beneath Floor I suggests that a fire in the building may have been the reason for reconstruction. There is a distinct possibility that the building on the corner lot was not built until after the *comandancia* since the only documentary evidence we have of its existence is the Urrutia map of 1767.

### Burial

Noticeable in the surface of calice Floor II and the south wall of Pit A was a disturbance which appeared to begin just above the level of Floor I. After excavations in Pit A were finished, a small area to the south was cleared and carefully excavated to reveal a small infant burial (Figure 12). The first coffin nail was encountered at 74 cm and the bottom of the grave was at 90 cm below datum. Enough traces of wood and coffin nails were found in place to suggest the coffin's shape and size. A number of brass pins were found with the skeleton, implying that it had been wrapped in a shroud. Small fragments of blue-painted plaster were present in the grave fill. The burial was removed because subsequent drain construction for the park would directly disturb the interment.

The following skeletal analysis was done by physical anthropologist Roger Daniels of the Northeast School District, San Antonio.

The skeleton is almost complete. The cranial bones are considerably fragmented (evidently post-mortem) but most of the bones of the post-cranial skeleton are intact and well preserved.

The age at death is the only information about the skeleton that can be stated with any degree of confidence. The development of the deciduous dentition indicates an age somewhere between birth and six months of age (Schour and Massler 1941). This age range is confirmed by measurements of the long bones, all of which are close (within one standard deviation) and slightly above Johnson's (1962) figures for infants newborn to six months of age. Determination of other characteristics, such as sex, on subadult bones, especially dried ones, is usually not considered reliable (Bass 1971) and was not attempted.

### Burial Observations

Apparently the burial pit was dug through Floor I, which should date it sometime in the mid-19th century. Since it seems unlikely that such an interment would be made in the floor of a house, or in the Cantina del Torro Berde, the event possibly took place after the structures were razed and the lot was vacant. Numerous tiny fragments of blue-painted plaster were found only above Floor I in the excavation of Area A. We do know that there was a terrible cholera epidemic in San Antonio in 1866. James (1938: 46) reported there were 293 deaths. It is conceivable that a small coffin could have been quietly buried during such a time of grief and confusion without attracting much notice.

Another possibility is suggested in a report by Governor Antonio Martínez in 1819:

...asking that the troops be relieved of paying the building fees (a form of taxes) because of the scarcity of money, because the cemetery was constructed by the citizens and troops together, and also because there are many burial prices and the relatives of the deceased are forced into violation since the building tax does not cover the charges" (Taylor 1957:396).

It may be that families of early 19th century soldiers who were unable to pay burial fees were not above arranging impromptu burials. This would not have presented any problems of conscience, particularly if the baby were stillborn and unbaptized, since such a burial would not have been allowed in a consecrated cemetery in any event (Monsignor Balthasar Janacek, personal communication).

The design of the coffin determined from placement of the nails is typical of the middle 19th century (see Schuetz 1974:30, and a painting by Gentilz in 1849 entitled "Entierro de un ángel" in Kendall and Perry 1974:83). The presence of a carefully constructed coffin and a shroud indicates thought and loving care rather than a hasty, furtive interment.

### Area B

Pit B was laid out across the speculated back wall of the *presidio* building, in line with the back wall of the second room in the Governor's Palace. It measured 1 m x 2 m and was located in line with Pit A at 1 m from the Governor's Palace wall. Depths were measured from the surface at the southwest corner, 49 cm below the site datum.

The first 20 cm contained a mixture of 18th century Mexican and local wares and 19th century glass, metal and ceramics, plus an accumulation of building materials from previous structures on the site. Animal bones included numerous unidentifiable fragments, plus chicken, cow, goat and rat bones.

The next 50 cm yielded numerous artifacts dating from ca. 1860 to the 1880s, including whole glass bottles, ironstone dishes and other mid- to late-19th century wares, both square cut and wire nails and fragments of various types of building materials. Also found were bones of cow, duck, chicken, turkey, dog or coyote, goat, fish and rat. These materials appeared to continue to an undetermined depth, and excavation was stopped.

Immediately to the east of Pit B, a 1 m x 1 m pit was opened to investigate a stone wall which had shown up at the east end of B, its top at approximately 38 cm below the southwest corner of the square.

From the ground surface to the level of the top of the wall, this pit yielded 19th century earthenwares, crockery and glass fragments. These were concentrated above the layer of caliche which capped the squares (Figure 10), and below this point the pit contained apparently undisturbed Spanish Colonial deposits in a dark grey brown soil to a depth of 160 cm below the surface. The wall evidently was a retaining wall built against the soil on the east side, then filled with the trash on the west side at a later date. The provenience chart and profile (Table I and Figure 10) contain further details on stratification and individual artifact locations.

### Observations

The fact that a back wall for the *presidio* building was not found in Area B may mean that the structure was not two rooms wide at this point, or that evidence of its existence was removed by later construction on the site. The construction of a basement, which was subsequently filled with 1860s to 1880s trash, may have eliminated the back wall. Apparently this excavation remained open for quite a period after the building over it was torn down. The 1873 Koch drawing must have been made during that time (see above). It is interesting to note several varieties of rat bones present in the artifact inventories from Area B (Figure 17). According to a local citizen, after the Civil War everyone threw trash and garbage into the back yard and this, plus the grain from numerous livery stables, "harbored thousands of rats and millions of flies" (James 1938:45).

The materials in the deep excavation in the eastward extension of Area B appear to represent the earliest settlement on the site, possibly before the construction of the presidial building across this area. The presence of two distinctly early types of majolica, Puebla Polychrome, which was not made after 1725 (Snow 1965:32), and San Augustine Blue-on-White, which was made after 1730 (Goggin 1968:189), tends to confirm this supposition.

The depth of the accumulation can be attributed to the numerous floods which have afflicted the city over the years, washing in and depositing alluvium on the site time and again (see James 1938:45, Ramsdell 1959:48, Hatcher 1935:331, Taylor 1957:535). In the middle 18th century, there was only one other structure between the row of *presidio* buildings and San Pedro Creek, and nothing to impede the floodwaters (Figure 5a).

#### *Area C*

A pit 1 m x 2 m was laid out across the probable location of the front wall of the *presidio* building, 62 m from the north wall of the Governor's Palace. At this point the ground surface was 39 cm below the site datum. Excavations to 50 cm revealed no trace of the original colonial floors or ground surfaces still remaining. Fragments of the grade beam from the concrete slab were still in place (Figure 11). Artifacts recovered were primarily from the early 19th century.

## IDENTIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FAUNAL REMAINS\*

(Number of Identified Individuals)

Bone included in the following analysis was obtained by screening deposits through 1/4-inch mesh in Areas A and C and the eastern half and first level of the western half of Area B. From the nineteenth century deposits in Area B and the test pits, a random sample was taken. Faunal identification was done by Billy Davidson of the Center for Archaeological Research.

<u>Species</u>	<u>18th Century Deposits</u>	<u>19th Century Deposits</u>
Unidentified fish	6	1
<i>Lepisosteus</i> sp. (gar)	3	
<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i> (yellow catfish)	2	
<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i> (blue catfish)	1	
<i>Micropterus</i> sp. (black bass)	1	
Unidentified turtle	1	
<i>Trionix</i> sp. (softshell turtle)	1	
Unidentified small bird	1	
Bovid (cow or bison)	12	7
<i>Capra</i> sp. (domestic goat)	9	5
<i>Sus scrofa</i> (domestic pig)	1	
<i>Gallus gallus</i> (chicken)	7	7
<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i> (opossum)	1	
<i>Anas</i> sp. (duck)		2
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> (wild turkey)		3
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> (white-tail deer)		1
<i>Canis</i> sp. (dog or coyote)		1
<i>Sigmodon dispidus</i> (cotton rat)		1
<i>Rattus</i> sp. (roof rat)		2
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> (Norway rat)		4
Unidentifiable fragments	826	238
Bovid-size fragments	142	65
"Round steak" bones		13
Saw-cut bones	1	10

\*Identified by Billy Davidson, Center for Archaeological Research



### Observations on Faunal Recovery

Although the actual sample was limited, some interesting patterns are apparent. As noted above, the high incidence of rats in the late 19th century levels, which are generally considered disease carriers (Davis 1960:204-205), coincides with the historic record of infestation and epidemic reported in the 1860s.

Choices of animals in the diet, except for the predictable continuity of cow, goat and chicken which came with the first settlers, are interesting to note. The 18th century diet reflects quite markedly the physical restrictions imposed by the constant threat of Apache depredations, which forced citizens to rely on food close at hand during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Thus we see evidence of an emphasis on fish and turtles from the streams which ran through the town, an opossum which would have been nearby, and no evidence of hunting afield for deer or turkey.

In contrast, 19th century deposits hint at a change in emphasis away from the streams, and the freedom to hunt away from the town. The following descriptions of game available around San Antonio in the late 19th century are in Vinton James' *Frontier and Pioneer Recollections* (1938:47):

On December 10th, 1873, there was a sale on Military Plaza of sixty-three wagons of produce and wild game, buffalo meat, wild turkeys and deer.

On December 18th, 1876, A. Sarton, a jeweler, Dorsh, a saloon man, and Henry Elmendorf, a hardware merchant, returned from a hunt on the Hondo with 22 deer, one bear, and hundreds of wild turkeys.

On January 1st, 1876, wild turkeys sold on the steets of San Antonio for 15 and 20 cents a piece.

Of course, this also is a reflection of the difference in eating habits of a primarily Anglo population, which is apparent as well in the ceramics and other artifacts recovered from these levels.

### ARTIFACTS

Since the main purpose of the test excavations was to determine the presence or absence of early Spanish structures on the site, artifact descriptions have been limited to those found in identifiable Spanish contexts. This includes all of Areas A and C and the section of Area B to the east of the 19th century retaining wall. Artifacts recovered from strictly 19th century contexts and disturbed areas are listed under the appropriate excavation unit in Appendix 2. A detailed study of these materials would add appreciably to our knowledge of 19th century San Antonio, but that is unfortunately beyond the scope of this report. Provenience for all artifacts and animal bones from Spanish deposits will be found in Table I.

Black lace designs with blue-on-white, cup and plate. Puebla Polychrome, last half of 17th century (Goggin 1968:180) to ca. 1725 (Snow 1965:32) (4) Figure 15 b and c.

Sgraffito designs on red paste. Guanajuato (Lister and Lister 1975:42) Figure 15d.

*Olive Jar*

Reddish tan paste with thin green glaze on inside of vessel. Probably Goggin's (1964:270) Middle Style, 1580 to 1780 (8) Figure 14h.

*Lead Glazed Utility Wares*

Yellow and olive green glaze, red to dark grey paste, bowls and ollas. Sandy Paste Utility Wares (Fox 1974:56) (41) Figure 14l.

Decorated Orange Ware (Fox 1974:57-58) Figure 14i.

Yellow, hand-modeled bowl and olla (Fox 1974:57) (8).

Red-brown glaze on red paste. Guadalajara ware (Schuetz 1969:51) (12) Figure 14 a and k.

Beige paste with yellow glaze, impressed design (1) Figure 14j.

*Unglazed Utility Wares*

Buff paste, wheel made bowls and ollas, some with red painted designs (see Fox, Bass and Hester 1976:67) (109).

Bone tempered, hand-modeled bowls and ollas, one with incised design. Goliad Ware (see Fox, Bass and Hester 1976:67) (146) Figure 14 a, b, c.

*Burnished Wares*

Burnished designs on matte surface, red paste. Red Burnished (Gilmore 1974:63) (8) Figure 14f.

Burnished tan paste with red, black and yellow designs. Tonalá Polychrome (Fairbanks 1973:170) (10) Figure 14 e and g.

Glass

Window or mirror (18)  
 Brown container (4)  
 Blue container (1)  
 Dark green container (4)  
 Aqua container (22 plus 1 whole bottle)  
 Clear container (8)  
 Lamp chimneys, 1 mm thick or less (3)

Varicolored marble, 2 cm diameter (1)  
 Button, brown, 4 holes, 1 cm diameter (1)  
 Bead, 4 mm diameter, turquoise, translucent, donut-shaped, simple construction, tumbled (1).

#### Metal

Square cut nails (8)  
 Wire nails (26)  
 Unidentifiable nails (5)  
 Heavy spike 7 cm long (1)  
 Bar, round stock, 1.25 cm diameter x 14 cm (1)  
 Bar, square stock 1 cm square x 6 cm (1)  
 Chain links (3) Figure 16c  
 Lead fragments (2)  
 Rivet (1)  
 Ornamental buckle (1) Figure 16d  
 Brass straight pin (1, 5 more with burial) Figure 16a  
 Brass disc with embossed design (1)  
 Brass stripping (1) Figure 16b  
 Chunks of unidentifiable metal (10)

#### Building Materials

Hand-formed brick and/or tile, ca. 3 cm thick, orange-pink. Common on 18th and 19th century Spanish sites (Fox, Bass and Hester 1976:77).  
 Yellow brick (2)  
 Plaster and/or mortar, some painted pastel green or blue (samples).  
 Concrete (samples).  
 Terrazzo tile (sample).  
 Composition tile of several colors (samples).  
 Burned limestone (sample).

#### Altered Stone

Chert flakes and fragments (93, including 1 unifacial tool and 4 utilized flakes) Figure 16 f and g.  
 Quartzite flakes (4, including 1 utilized flake) Figure 16e.

#### Bone

Fragments of animal bone (1,125). For species see Table I.

## Shell

Freshwater mussel fragments (42); apparently from nearby San Antonio River.

### Comments

In both the San Fernando (Fox, Clark and Scurlock 1977) and Alamo Plaza (Fox, Bass and Hester 1976) excavations, numerous fragments of chert resulting from the production of chipped stone artifacts were found throughout the deposits. The same situation prevailed at this site. It is becoming apparent that some flint working activity must have continued among local residents throughout the Spanish colonial period. This may reflect the need for cutting and scraping tools during severe shortages of metal such as occurred in San Antonio during the early 1800's. Governor Antonio Martínez repeatedly begged his superiors to send iron in order that the cannon and small arms of the troops might be made workable (Hatcher 1935:69, 141, 142, 146, 237), and implied that all available iron in the settlement had been melted down to make such repairs. The settlers may have been acquainted with the technology of flint working either from their contacts with the local Indians or from prior experience elsewhere. Certainly the production of gun flints was practiced on the frontier when imported flints were scarce (see Greer 1967:113 and Figure 24, and Schuetz 1969:73 and Plate 30). Perhaps current studies on work recently completed in other areas of the city plus future work in the downtown area will add to our information in this regard. Meanwhile it should be borne in mind that the presence of chert flaking debris may not necessarily indicate Indian occupation in the San Antonio area.

### CONCLUSIONS

The prime objective of the testing was to determine if any historically important structural remains would be damaged or eliminated by the park construction, which would include numerous underground trenches and concrete footings. Evidence of the earliest Spanish colonial structures on the site apparently consist of a few remnants of the front wall and two related caliche floors on the highest point in the southeast corner, as revealed in Area A. The surface, and in most places the subsurface, have been so thoroughly disturbed by later construction during the 19th and 20th centuries that all other traces have been eliminated.

APPENDIX 1  
INVENTORY OF TEST PITS

Test #3  
Random Sample

Ceramics

- 4 majolica
- 3 lead glazed
- 1 burnished (Tonalá)
- 1 white earthenware, blue-painted
- 1 white earthenware, mocha
- 18 white "ironstone," "Johnson Bros.," Staffordshire ca. 1883 to present, "Cartwright/Semi-Granite," Ohio ca. 1904
- 5 white porcelain hotel china, "KT&K/China" Ohio ca. 1870s
- 7 crockery
- 2 heavy, unglazed ceramic fragments
- 1 porcelain electric fixture marked "BRYANT-JUNIOR/2A 125V PAT D JUNE 9, 1903"
- 1 fragment porcelain insulator
- 1 glass button, opaque white
- 1 shell button

Glass

- 34 clear, including drinking glass base, heavy molded hexagonal base, 2 stoppers, lamp chimney fragments, 1 milk bottle "Dairy-land/Pasteurized," in business ca. 1931-1954.
- 13 aqua, including 1 Coca-Cola bottle (1923 date)
- 9 olive green
- 6 brown
- 1 clear glass with red painted design
- 1 opaque pale green
- 3 opaque white
- 1 cut glass bowl
- 1 marble
- 40 window or mirror

Metal

- 26 wire nails
- 6 square cut nails
- 1 horseshoe
- 1 fragment wire
- 1 can leather dressing or polish
- 1 hemispherical bell
- 1 metal strapping fragment
- 1 iron ring
- 1 iron washer
- 1 heavy bolt with nut
- 1 bottle cap
- 1 piece harness hardware
- 1 chunk heavy iron object

- 3 fragments cast iron pipe
- 1 fragment lead

#### Miscellaneous

- building materials
- 1 bag plaster with pale blue paint
- 1 fragment red asphalt tile
- 1 fragment terrazzo
- 3 fragments clay tile
- 1 fragment cement grout
- 1 fragment marble slab
- 1 fragment yellow brick, painted yellow over red
- 1 fragment tan brick
- 1 fragment hand-made brick/tile 2.5 cm thick
- 1 U.S. nickel, 1920
- 1 fragment slate pencil
- 2 fragments battery carbons
- 1 fragment leather
- 1 fragment roofing asphalt
- 1 fragment coal
- 3 fragments chert

#### Animal Bone

- 21 unidentifiable fragments
- 3 "round steak" bones
- 7 bovid size
  - unidentified fish--small vertebra fragment--over 10 lbs.
  - chicken--scapula, radius, 2 tibias, femur, humerus--2 adults
  - turkey--2 humeri--2 adults
  - roof rat--3 pelvis fragments, femur, jaw--1 adult, 1 juvenile
  - goat--vertebra, metatarsal--adult
  - bos/bovid--2 ribs, carpal--adult

*Test #4*  
*Random Sample*

#### Ceramics

- 1 white earthenware, spattered
- 2 white "ironstone" marked "Johnson Bros.," Staffordshire 1883 to present (Godden 1971:73)
- 1 white earthenware, dark blue glaze both sides

#### Glass

- 1 brown container
- 1 yellow pressed glass salt shaker
- 2 clear containers
- 1 nearly whole bottle, clear, 19th century whiskey shape
- 1 opaque white container
- 5 fragments window or mirror glass

APPENDIX 2  
 INVENTORY OF LATE 19TH CENTURY DEPOSITS  
 AREA B, WEST OF RETAINING WALL  
 0 - 90 cm

Ceramics

- 5 plain white majolica
- 3 blue on white majolica
- 1 Huejotzingo Blue on white majolica
- 1 Aranama Polychrome majolica
- 1 San Augustine Blue on white majolica
- 1 white glaze, possibly faience
- 5 lead glazed
- 1 black burnished
- 6 unglazed utility ware
- 5 bone tempered local ware
- 2 white, undecorated
- 7 hand-painted and/or sponged
- 4 mocha and/or banded ware
- 1 transfer
- 5 luster
- 3 porcelain, 2 hand-painted
- 7 yellow paste utility ware
- 11 Texas-made crockery
- 1 gin jug
- 122 white "ironstone china"
- "Royal Stone China/Baker & Co." W. Baker & Co., Fentan, Staffordshire. 1839-1893 (Godden 1964:51)
- "Ford Bros." The Ford City Co., Ford City, Pa. Late 19th century (Kovel and Kovel 1971:175)
- "Ironstone/China/E & C Chall.....". E & C. Challenor, Fentan, Staffordshire 1862-1891 (Godden 1964:137).
- "Wood & Son/England" Wood & Sons, Burslem, Staffordshire 1865-1907 (Godden 1971:100)
- "Royal Warranted Best Ironstone/---CK & Co./England." Henry Alcock & Co., Cobridge, Staffordshire ca. 1861-1910 (Godden 1971:52)

Glass

- 166 clear containers, plus 4 whole bottles
- 68 aqua containers, plus 7 whole bottles
- 49 olive green containers
- 43 brown containers, plus 1 restorable bottle
- 15 opaque white containers
- 1 opaque green container
- 18 lamp chimneys
- 3 contemporary soda bottles
- 279 window or mirror glass
- 3 white glass buttons
- 1 white glass dangle with broken metal shank
- 1 glass marble

Metal

45 square cut nails	1 U.S. penny, 1948
100 wire nails	1 U.S. nickel, 1889
22 unidentified nails	1 U.S. quarter, 1866
1 screw	2 machine parts
1 tack	1 3-tined fork
8 tin cans and fragments	1 screw cap
4 iron rods	2 crown caps
6 iron bars	1 brass ornamental boss
15 wire fragments	1 brass button molded over cardboard
2 bolts	1 brass object with stone set
1 bracket	1 heavy semi-circular object (scale weight fragment?)
1 chain link	1 4-hole button
1 washer	1 brass ferrule
1 large staple	1 rolled lead strap
19 cast iron pipe fragments	1 fragment copper
1 horseshoe	60 unidentified rusted chunks
1 iron ring, 3" diameter	

Building Materials

20 concrete
7 terrazzo
18+ composition flooring tile fragments
4 plaster
29 red clay tile
13 hand-made brick/tile
11 red/orange brick
4 yellow brick

Miscellaneous

1 shell button	1 heating element of mica and copper
1 plastic screw top	7 chert flakes
4 battery carbons	1 chert biface fragment
1 bag leather shoe scraps	1 mussel shell fragment
8 coal fragments	
1 cinder	
1 bag wood fragments	

Animal Bone

121 unidentifiable fragments
39 from bovid-sized animal
10 with saw marks
8 "round steak" bones

*Anas sp.* - at least 2 adults  
*Gallus gallus* - at least 2 adults  
*Meleagris gallopavo* - 1 adult  
*Canis sp.* - juvenile dog or coyote

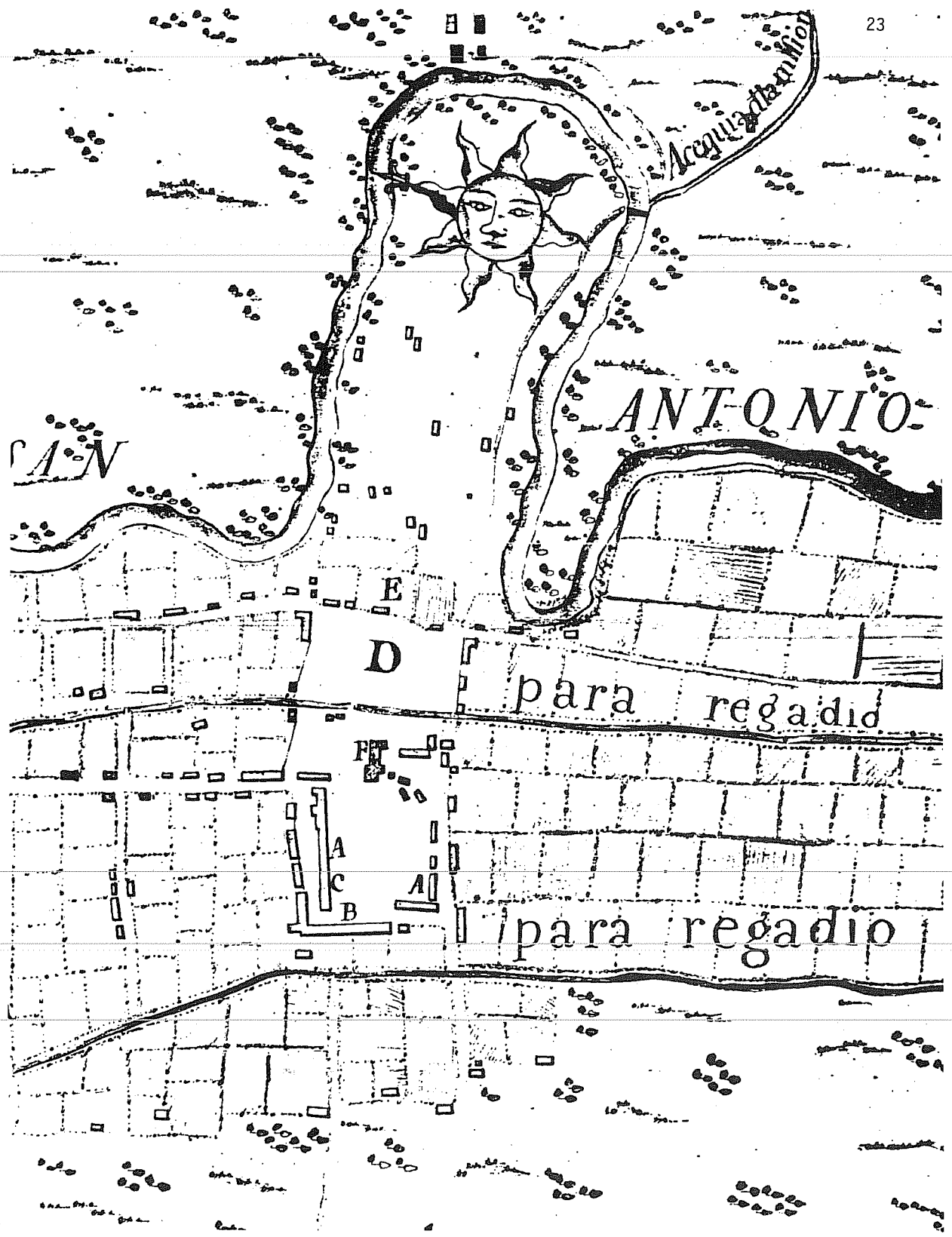


*Sigmodon hispidus* - sub-adult  
*Rattus norvegicus* - 3 adults, 1 juvenile  
*Capra sp.* - 1 adult, 1 juvenile  
Bovid - 2 adults

Figure 1. *Villa and Presidio of San Antonio in 1767*, by Joseph de Urrutia.

- A. *Casa del Presidio*
- B. *Casa del Capitan*
- C. *Cuerpo de Guardia*
- D. *Plaza de la Villa*
- E. *Casas Reales*
- F. *Iglesia*

Copied from a photographic enlargement in the library of the San Antonio Conservation Society. The original is in the British Museum in London.



SAN

ANTONIO

Acqueducta Antonia

D

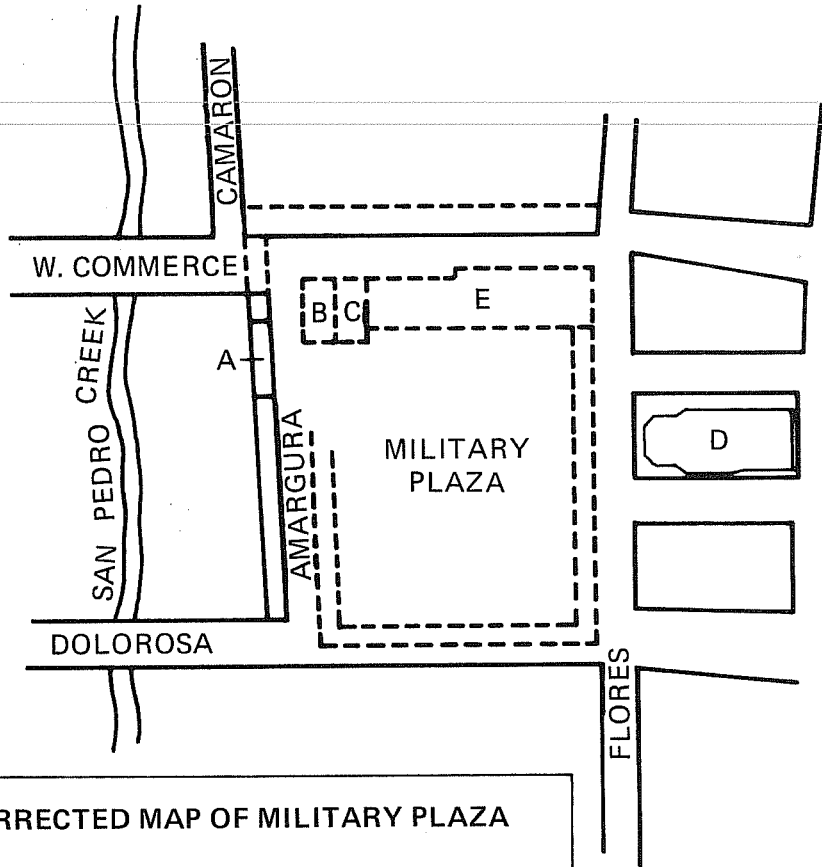
para regadio

A  
C  
B

A

para regadio

Figure 2. *Corrected Map of Military Plaza.* A number of maps of this area done in the late 19th century and later perpetuate an error which first appears to occur in an undated map in the City Engineer's Office (Index No. 1800, File No. 6, Section No. 8). This map shows Camaron Street continuing directly south through the intersection with Commerce and running behind the Governor's Palace. Corner (1890:np) included an identical map in his book, and later authors have unwittingly used the same source. It is the opinion of the author, based upon a number of early sources and maps, that the following map is more nearly correct.

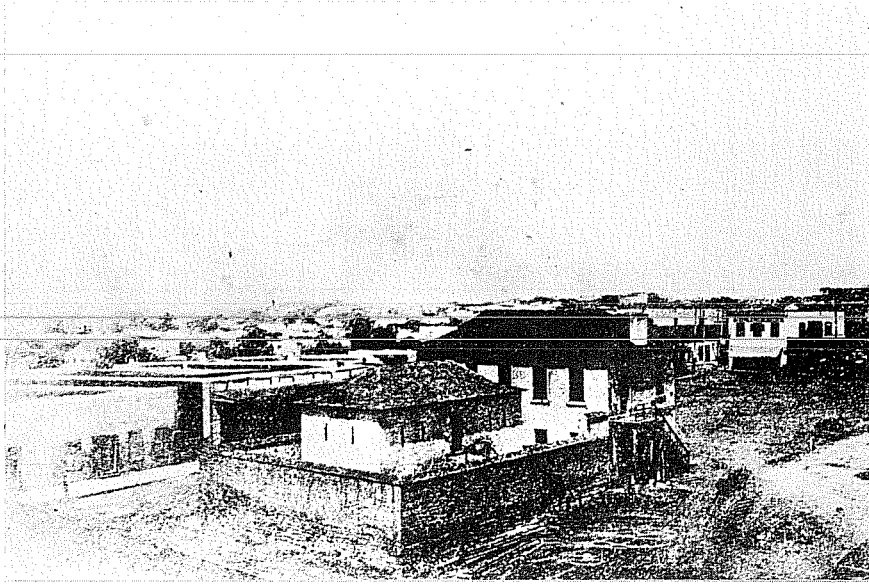


**CORRECTED MAP OF MILITARY PLAZA**

- Ⓐ Casa del capitan  
(present "Governor's Palace")
- Ⓑ 1850 Jail
- Ⓒ 1850 City Hall
- Ⓓ San Fernando Church
- Ⓔ Cuartel

--- Approximate wall lines of 18th century structures

Figure 3. *Nineteenth Century Views of Military Plaza.*  
a, view looking northeast from the west side of the Plaza at the old Courthouse and Jail, built in 1850 on the ruins of the original *cuartel* and torn down when the present City Hall was built in 1890; b, view of the Governor's Palace in 1927, just before its restoration. (Photographs courtesy of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.)



a



b

Figure 4. *The Hanging of Bob Augustine in 1861*, done from memory by Charles Adelbert Herff 1876-1877. Note the *Cantina del Toro Berde* to the right and behind the Court House. Notice also the appropriately named *El Palacio* bar to the left rear, and farther to the left the *Fandango* of Madam Candelaria, a well-known local gathering place in the mid-19th century. The camels were passing through on the way to Camp Verde, a part of the U.S. Army's experimental Camel Corps which was abandoned soon after this date.



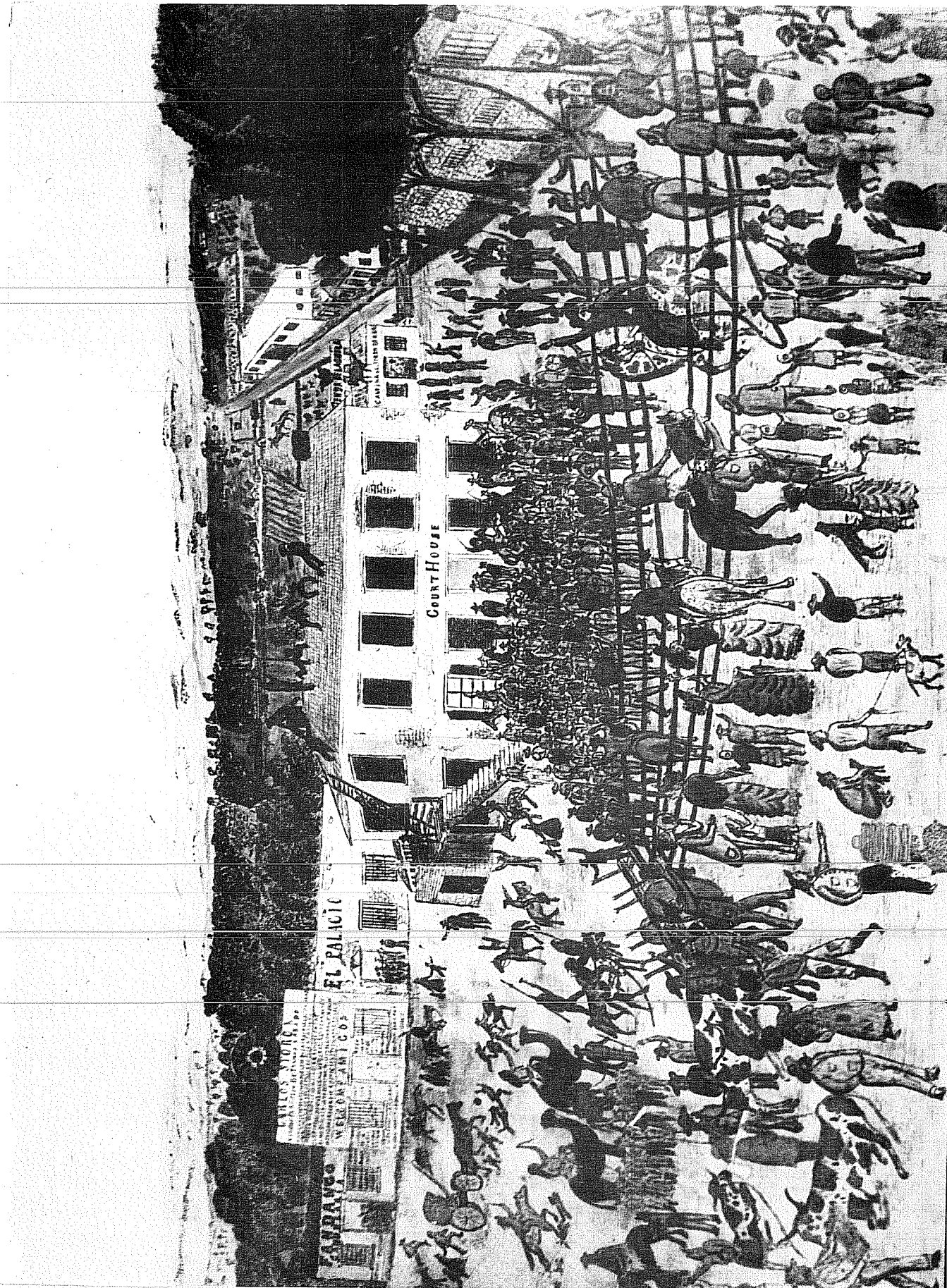


Figure 5. *Nineteenth Century Views of Governor's Palace Area.* a, view looking north on San Pedro Creek in the vicinity of the Governor's Palace. The bridge at the center of the picture is on Commerce Street. Every slight rise in this creek flooded the land on either side. Major floods were known to join San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River into one large stream for brief periods, causing considerable damage in the town (Taylor 1957:535; James 1938:45); b, view looking south on Camaron Street toward the Governor's Palace in the 1880's, showing the variety of structures and roof lines present.



a



b

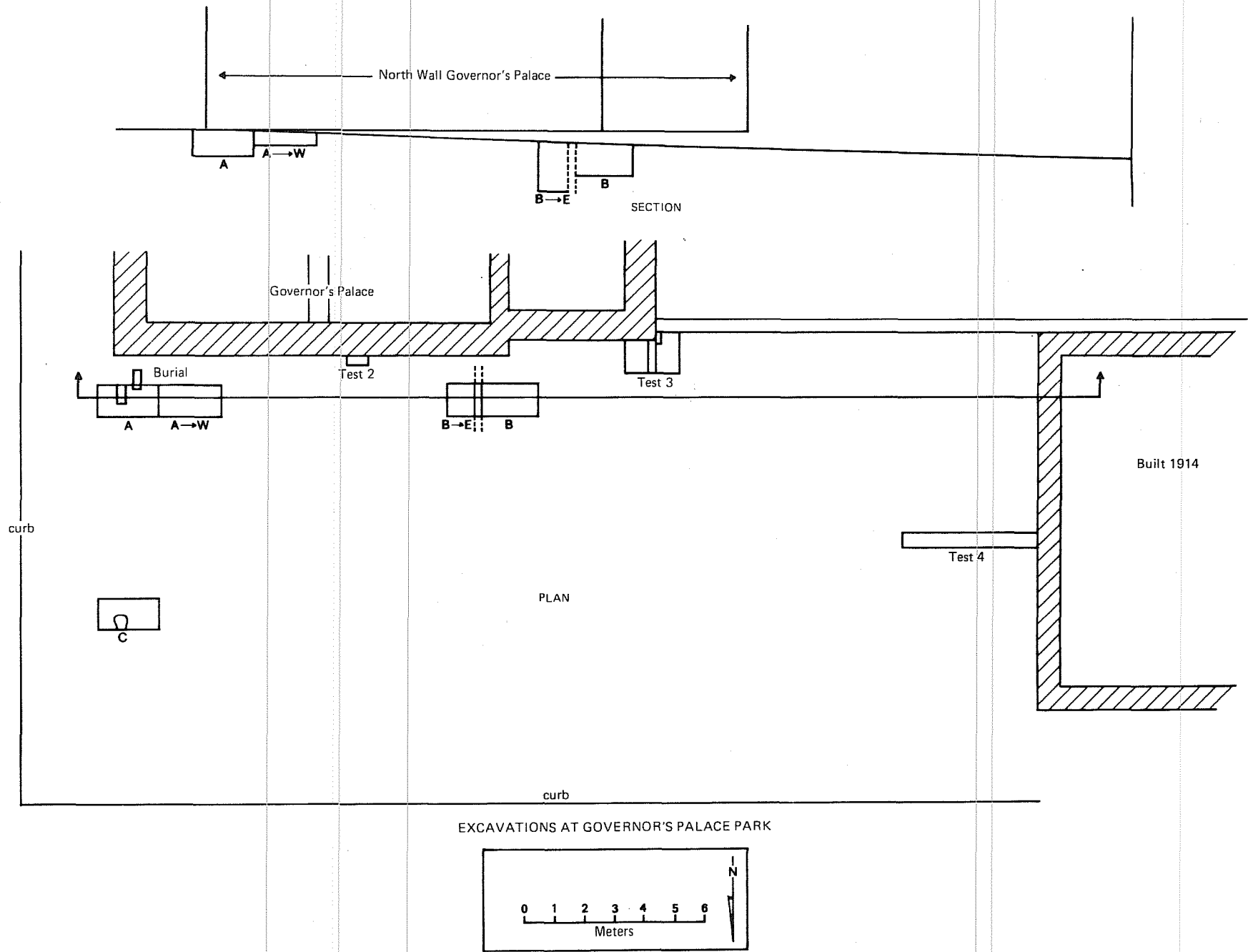


Figure 6. Plan and Section of Excavations at Governor's Palace Park.

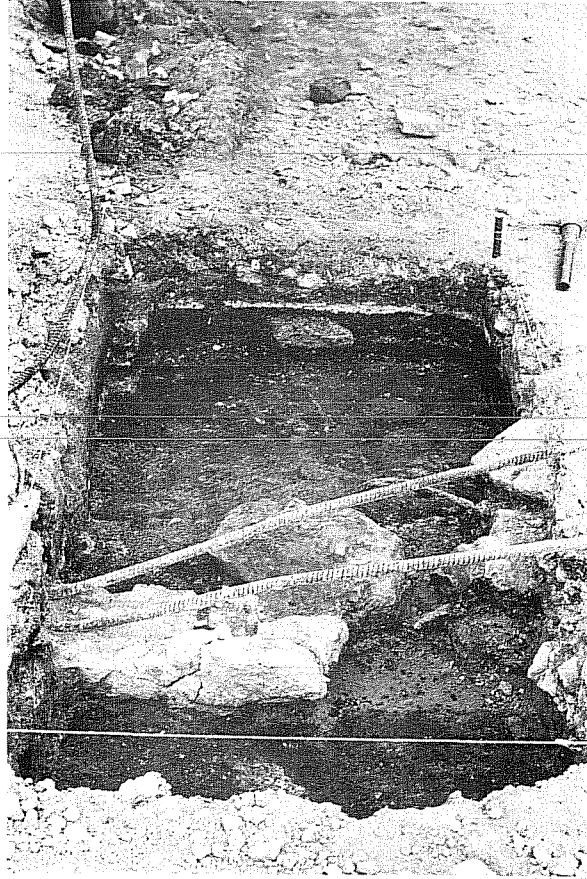


a

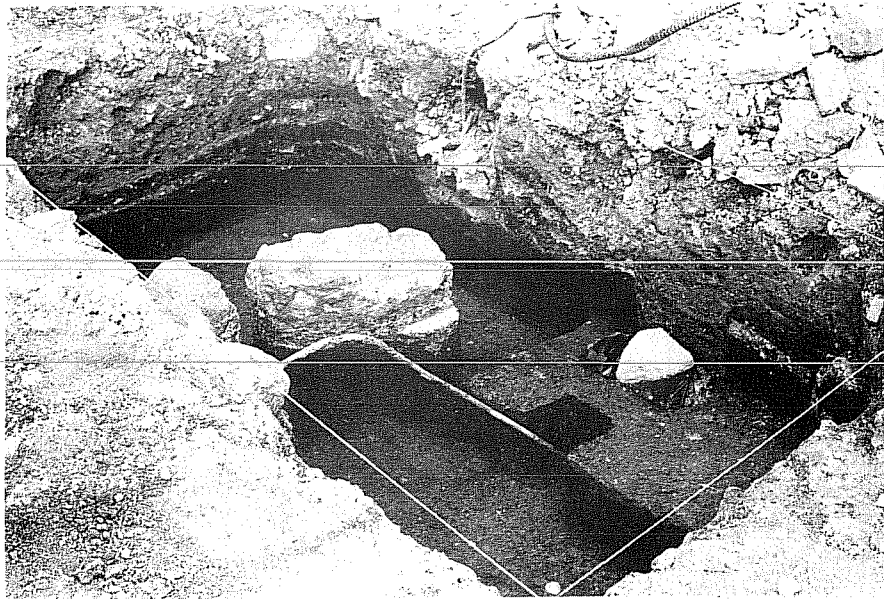


b

Figure 7. *Photographs of Excavations.* a, view of park area during archaeological testing, looking southwest; b, Test Number 3, showing the relationship between the Governor's Palace foundation wall in the left rear, the later stone foundation wall and the concrete beam and pier from a 20th century structure.



a



b

Figure 8. *Photographs of Excavation A. a, looking southeast at 45 cm; b, looking west at 60 cm.*

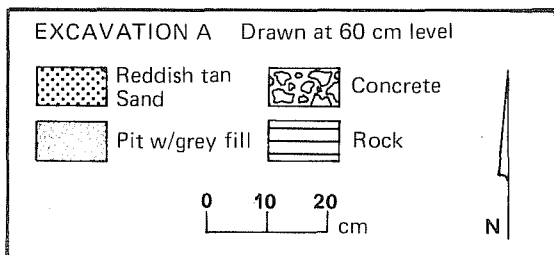
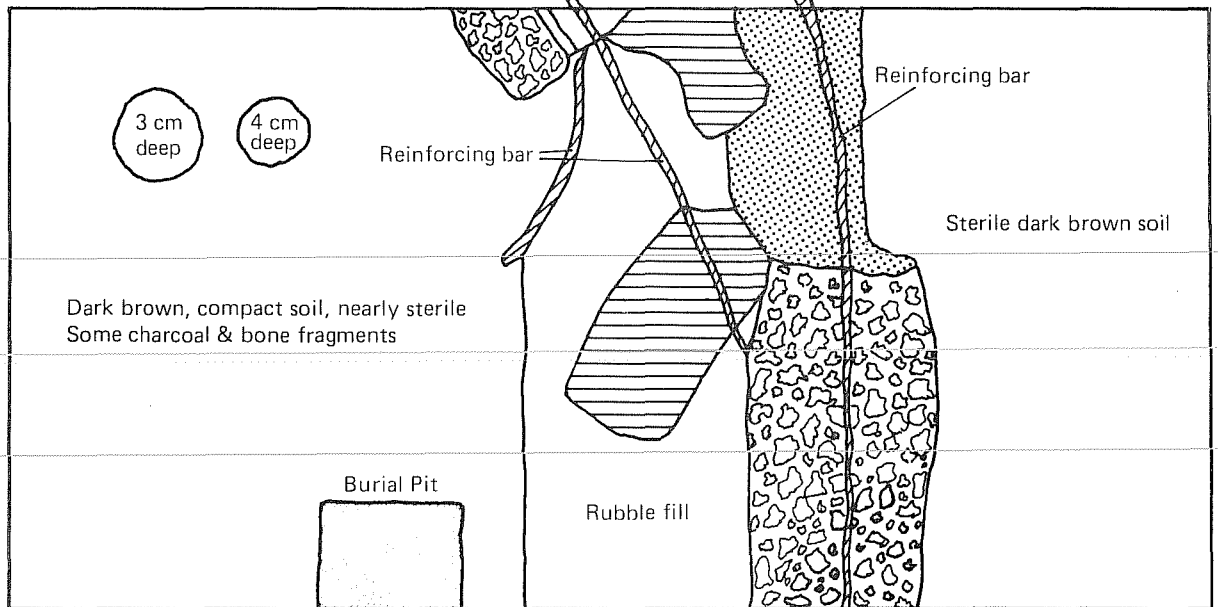
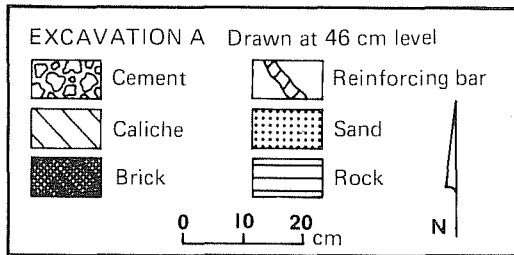
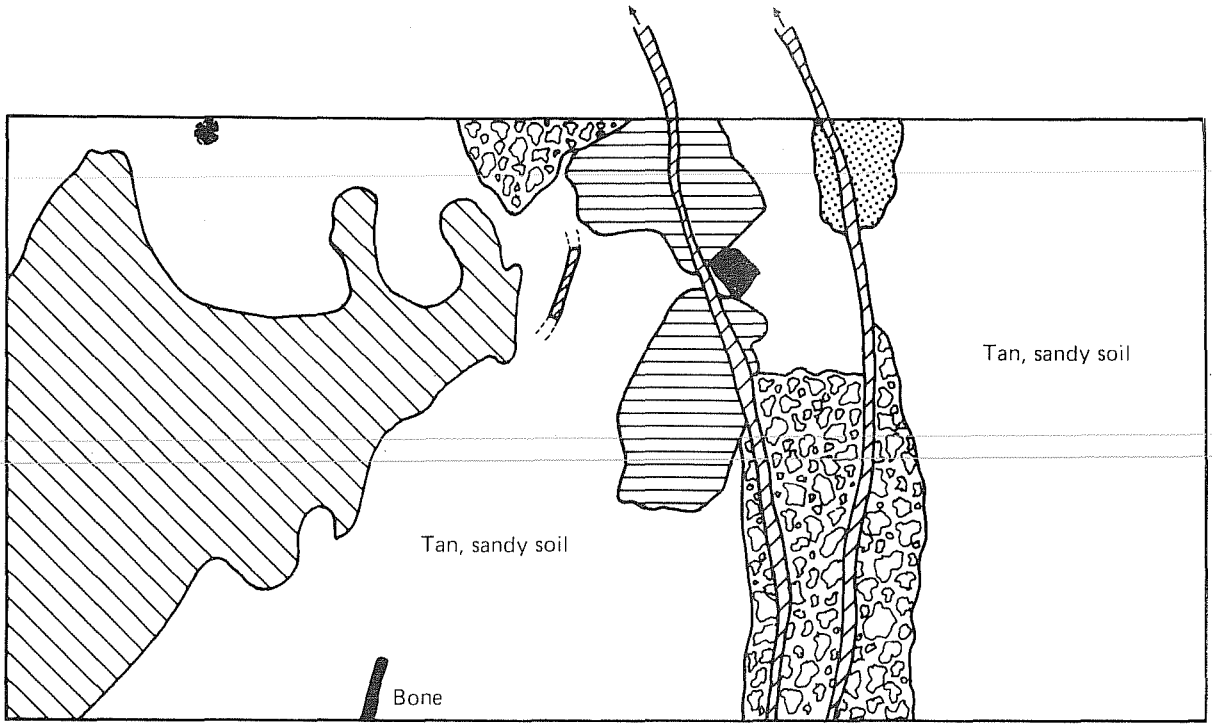


Figure 9. Plans of Excavation A.

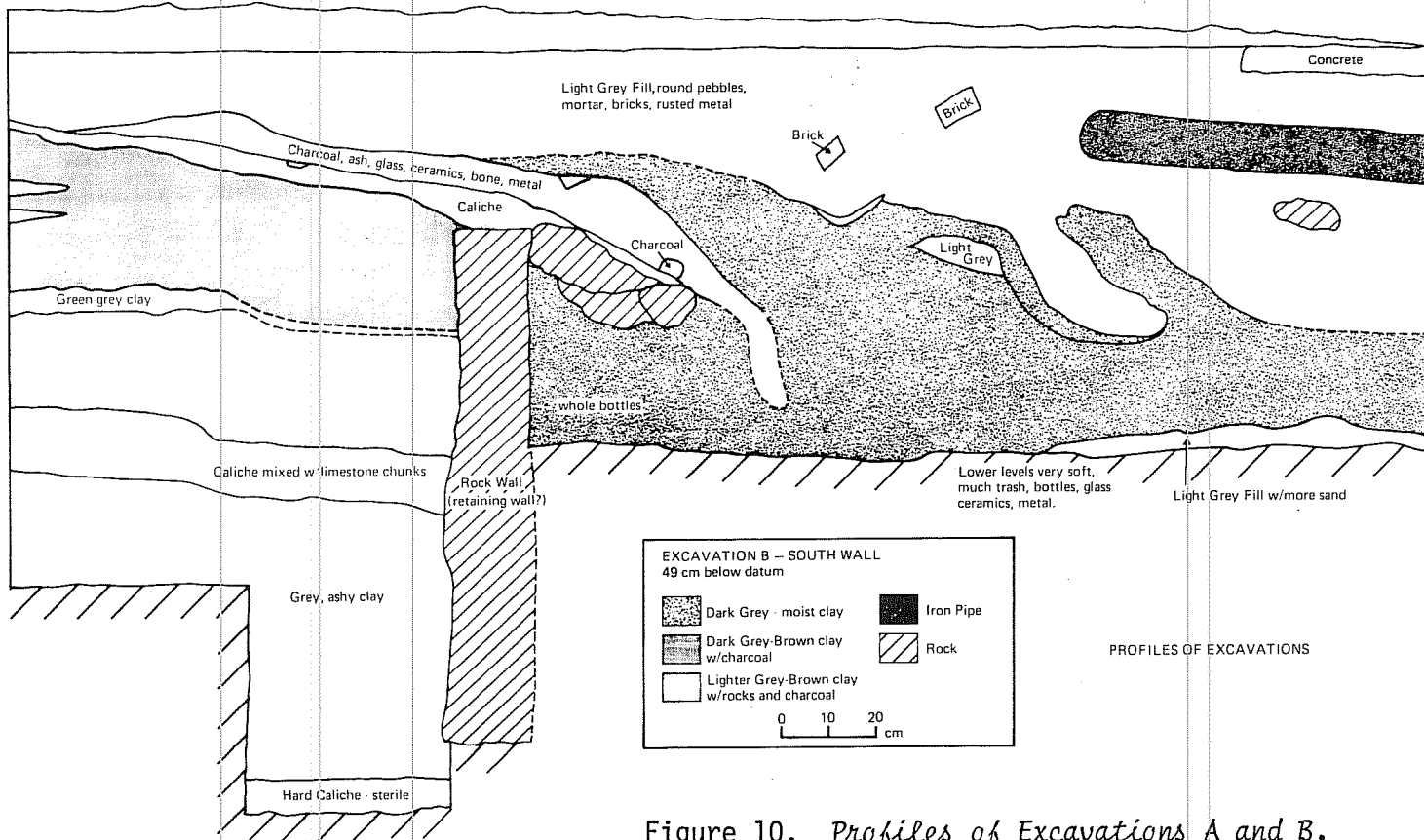
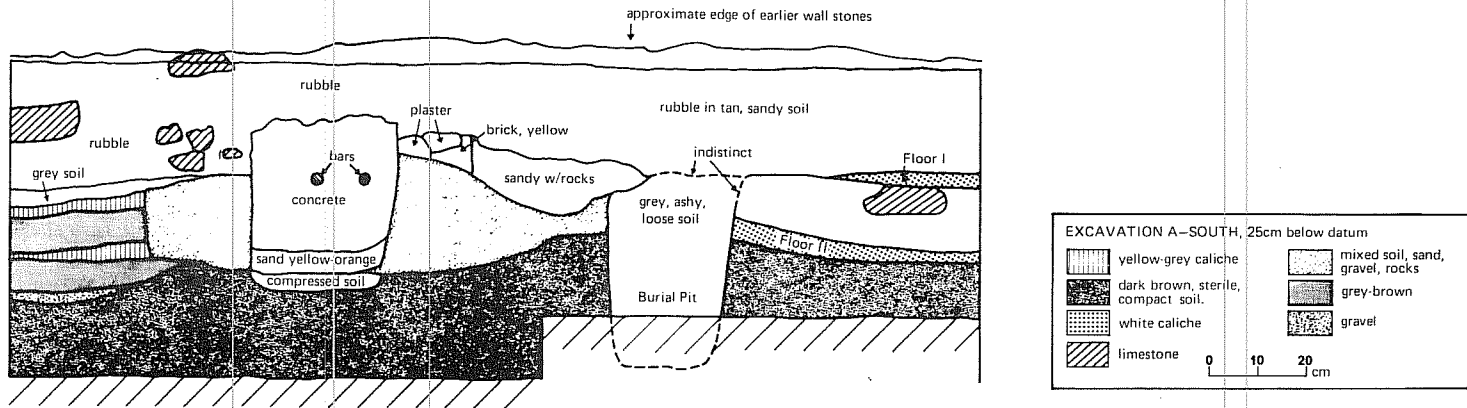
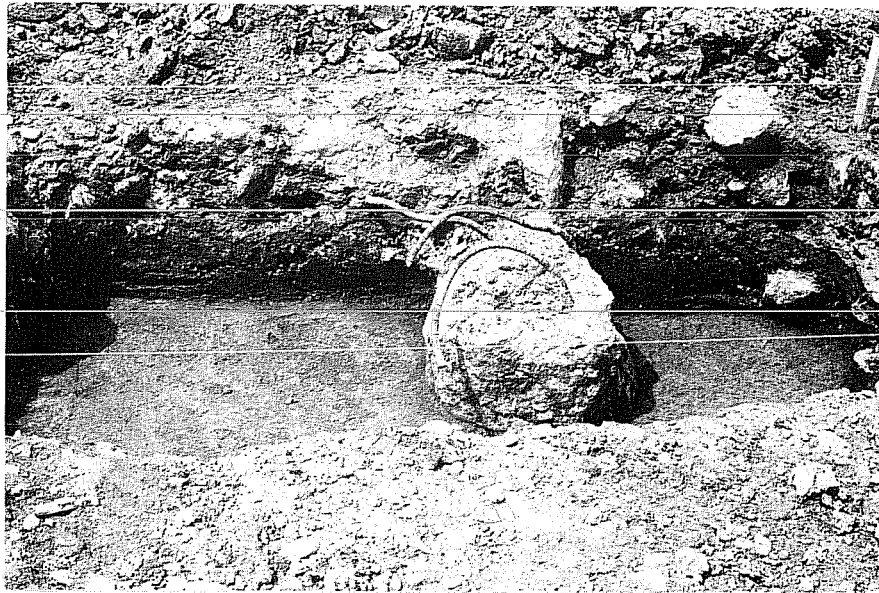


Figure 10. Profiles of Excavations A and B.





a



b

Figure 11. *Views of Excavations B and C.* a, Excavation B from the west, showing stratification in Colonial deposits east of the foundation wall; b, Excavation C from the south showing reinforced concrete footing and absence of Spanish structural remains.

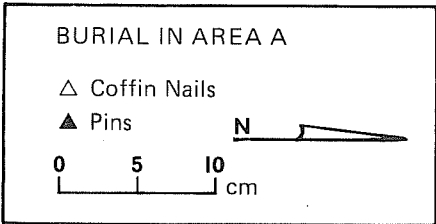
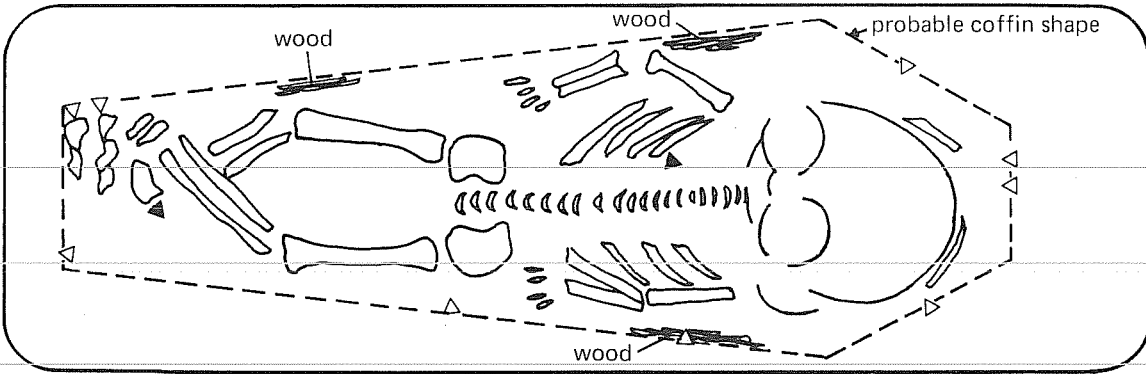
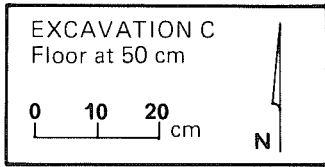
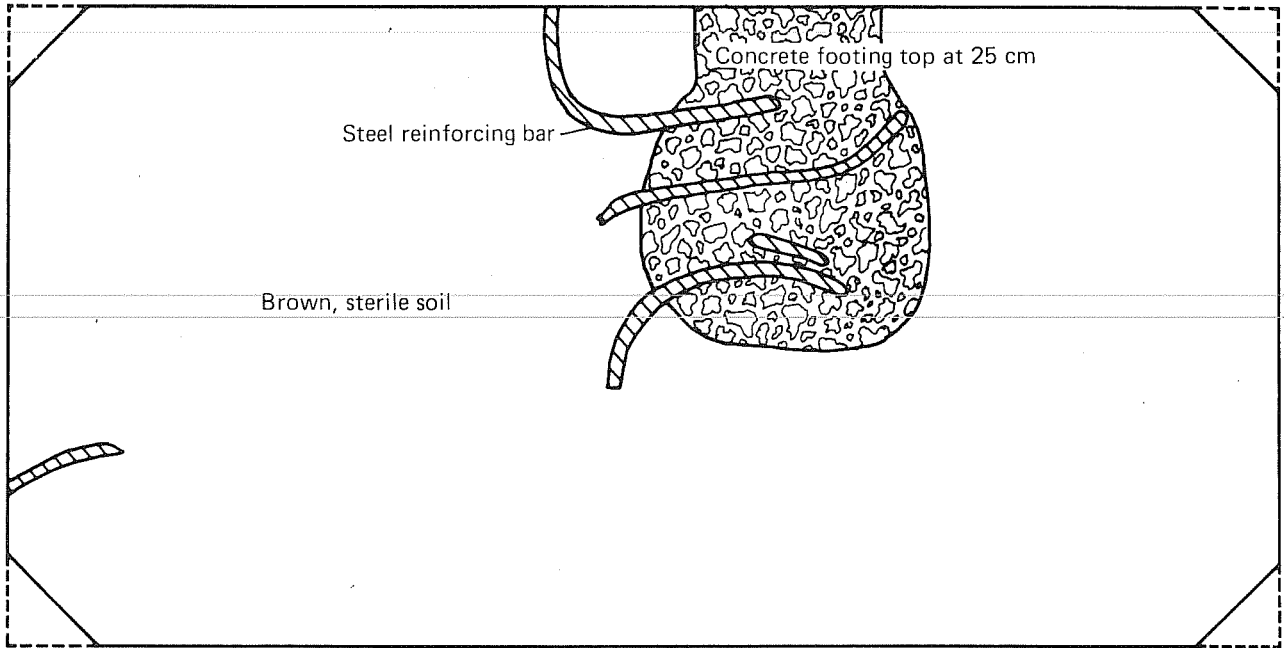
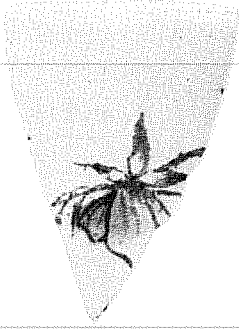


Figure 12. Plans of Excavation C and Burial in Excavation A.

Figure 13. *Artifacts from Governor's Palace Park.*  
Nineteenth Century Ceramics:

- a. Decorated ironstone
- b. Transfer decorated earthenware, blue
- c. Transfer decorated earthenware, green
- d. Mocha ware, shades of brown and cream
- e. Shell edge, blue
- f. Spattered and hand-painted, blue,  
green and rose
- g. Spattered, rose
- h. Hand painted, green, red and black
- i. Sponged luster ware, pink
- j. Brown glazed stoneware



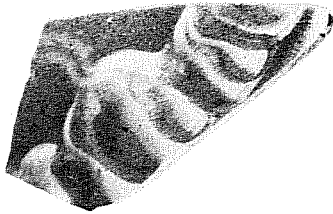
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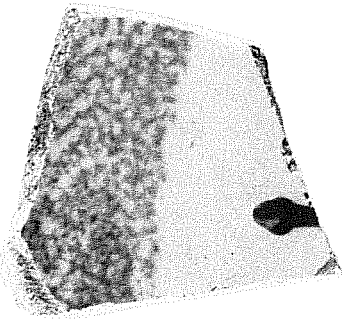
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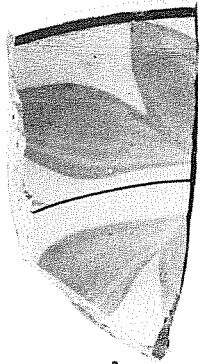
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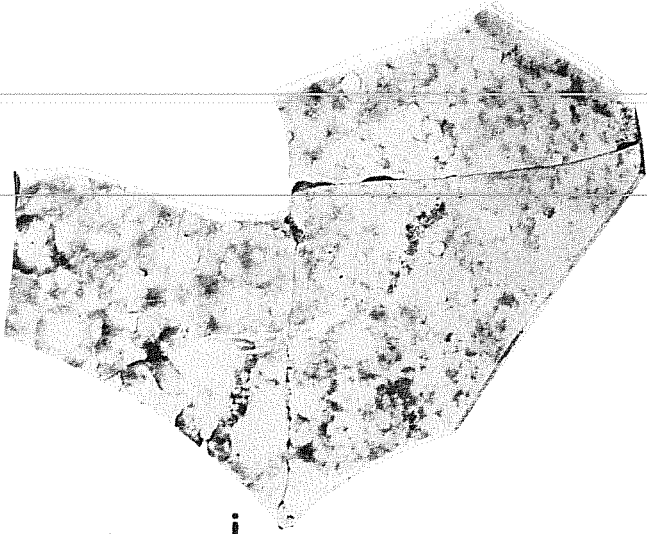
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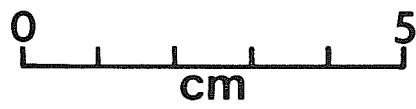


Figure 14. *Artifacts from Governor's Palace Park.*  
Eighteenth Century Earthenwares:

- a. Red-brown glazed ware
- b. Goliad ware
- c. Incised design on Goliad (?) ware
- d. Goliad ware
- e. Tonalá burnished ware
- f. Red burnished ware
- g. Tonalá burnished ware
- h. Olive jar
- i. Decorated orange ware, black painted
- j. Yellow glaze, impressed design
- k. Red-brown glaze on red ware
- l. Sandy paste utility ware

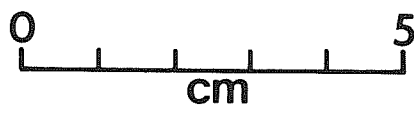
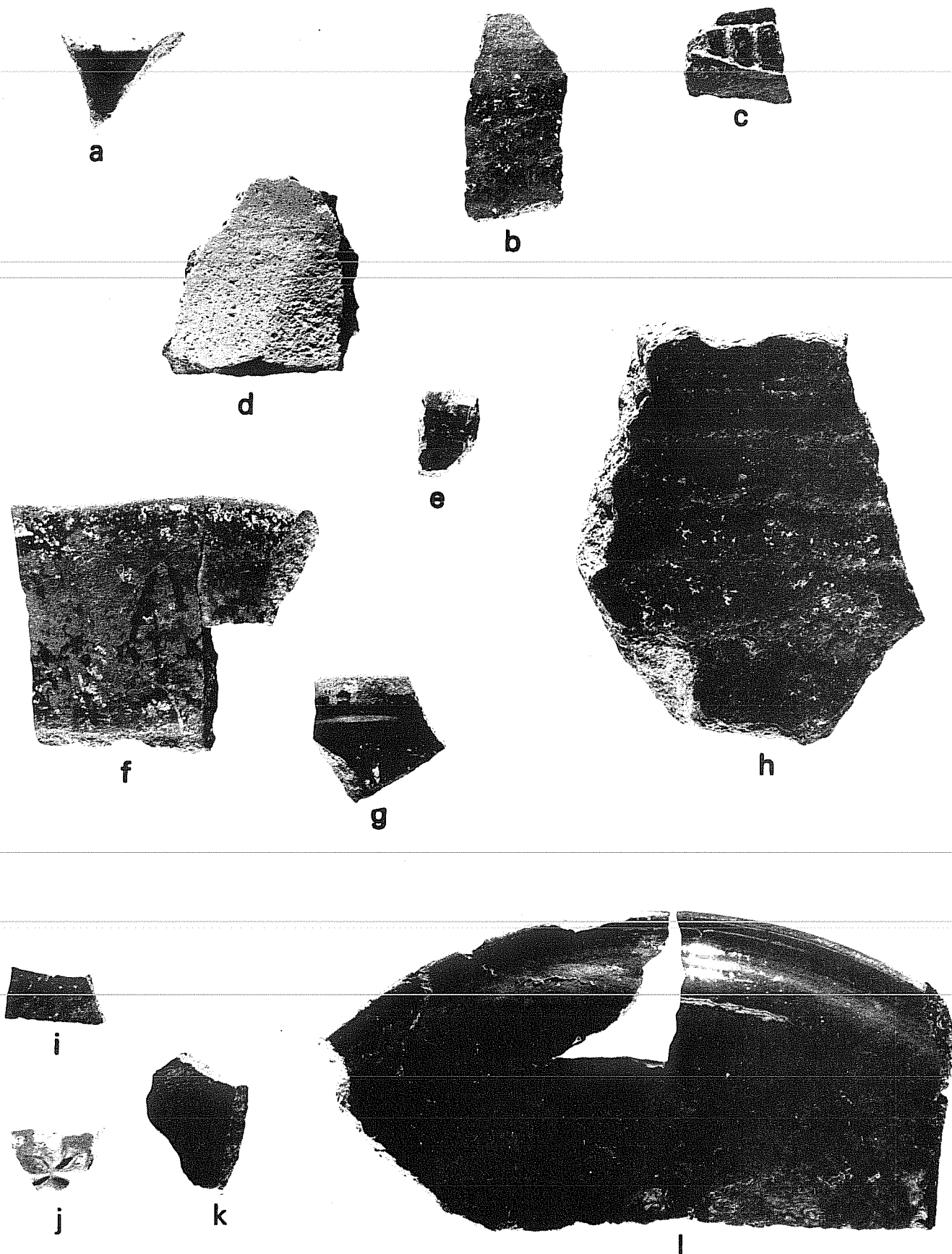
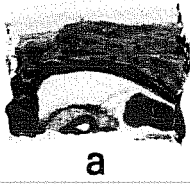


Figure 15. *Artifacts from Governor's Palace Park.*  
Eighteenth Century Majolica:

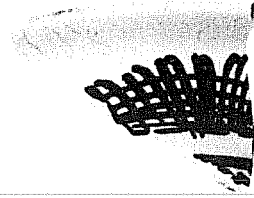
- a. San Augustine Blue on White
- b. Puebla Polychrome
- c. Puebla Polychrome
- d. Guanajuato
- e. Huejotzingo Blue on White
- f. Puebla Blue on White
- g. White, undecorated
- h. Puebla Blue on White



a



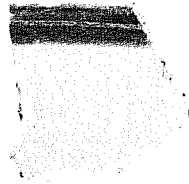
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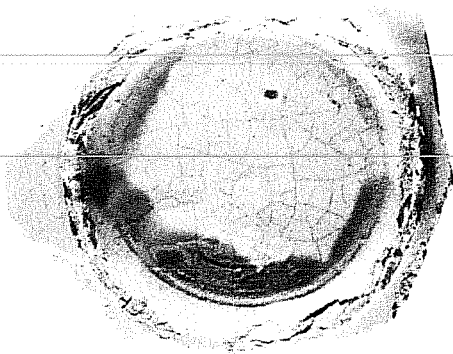
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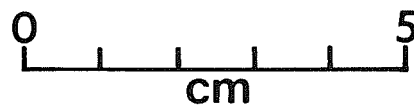
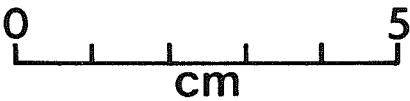




Figure 16. *Artifacts from Governor's Palace Park.*  
Metal and Stone:

- a. Brass straight pin
- b. Thin brass or copper fragment
- c. Chain link fragment
- d. Buckle fragment
- e. Utilized quartzite flake
- f. Utilized chert flake
- g. Utilized chert flake





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