

Wilson Boarding House, 41 CH 239

*History*

In 1882 Lizzie Wilson bought Lots 7 and 8 in Block 10 and built a two-story structure which faced onto both Davis and Main Streets. A two-story porch ran across both facades (Figs. 36 and 37). The U.S. Post Office operated out of a room on the first floor for a number of years, and the rest of the building was a boarding house run by Mrs. Wilson. In 1898, she ran the following advertisement (*Wallisville Age* 1898):

Wilson House, Wallisville, Texas

Terms \$1.00 day      Special rates to regular boarders

Accommodations First Class

The 1915 hurricane swept away the first floor of the boarding house. Evidently the second story somehow survived, as this remaining section was repaired and continued in use. The structure was finally torn down about 1965.

*Archaeological Investigations*

Lots 7 and 8 are completely overgrown with trees and underbrush. A thorough surface survey failed to find any above-ground structural evidence remaining. However, an area to the north end of Lot 8 showed evidence of a trash disposal area in an animal burrow's backdirt. A 1-m<sup>2</sup> test pit was laid out to one side of this disturbance in order to obtain a sample of the artifacts and to determine the depth of the deposit. This test was located 100 feet north from the center of Main Street and 98 feet west from the center of Davis Street. It was excavated in 10-cm levels until the deposit ceased at 30 cm (1/4 of the 20 to 30 cm level was completed). Upon analysis it was noted that there was no appreciable time distinction between artifacts from the top and bottom levels, and cross-mending of the ceramics confirmed this. Therefore the complete deposit will be treated as one unit for purposes of this report.

The test pit contained an interesting and varied assortment of artifacts typical of the time of Mrs. Wilson's occupation, from 1882 until about the time of the 1915 storm (see Appendix II for a detailed catalog). Evidently this particular area was not used for dumping after 1915, since few of the artifacts date past that time. Personal articles included numerous tiny objects, such as hooks, buttons, and snaps for fastening clothing, small brass buckles and hinges, shoe lace eyes, and part of a fancy cuff link. The presence of children is indicated by parts of several porcelain doll heads and bodies and a broken doll's tea set, as well as clay marbles and parts of a slate and slate pencil. Building material consisted of brick and window glass fragments and over 500 nails and spikes. The nails were about evenly divided between cut and wire nails, indicative of this time period when cut nails were being gradually superseded by wire nails (Nelson 1968). Although lamp chimney fragments are present, there are also pieces of the earliest electrical equipment, indicating a change taking place there. The

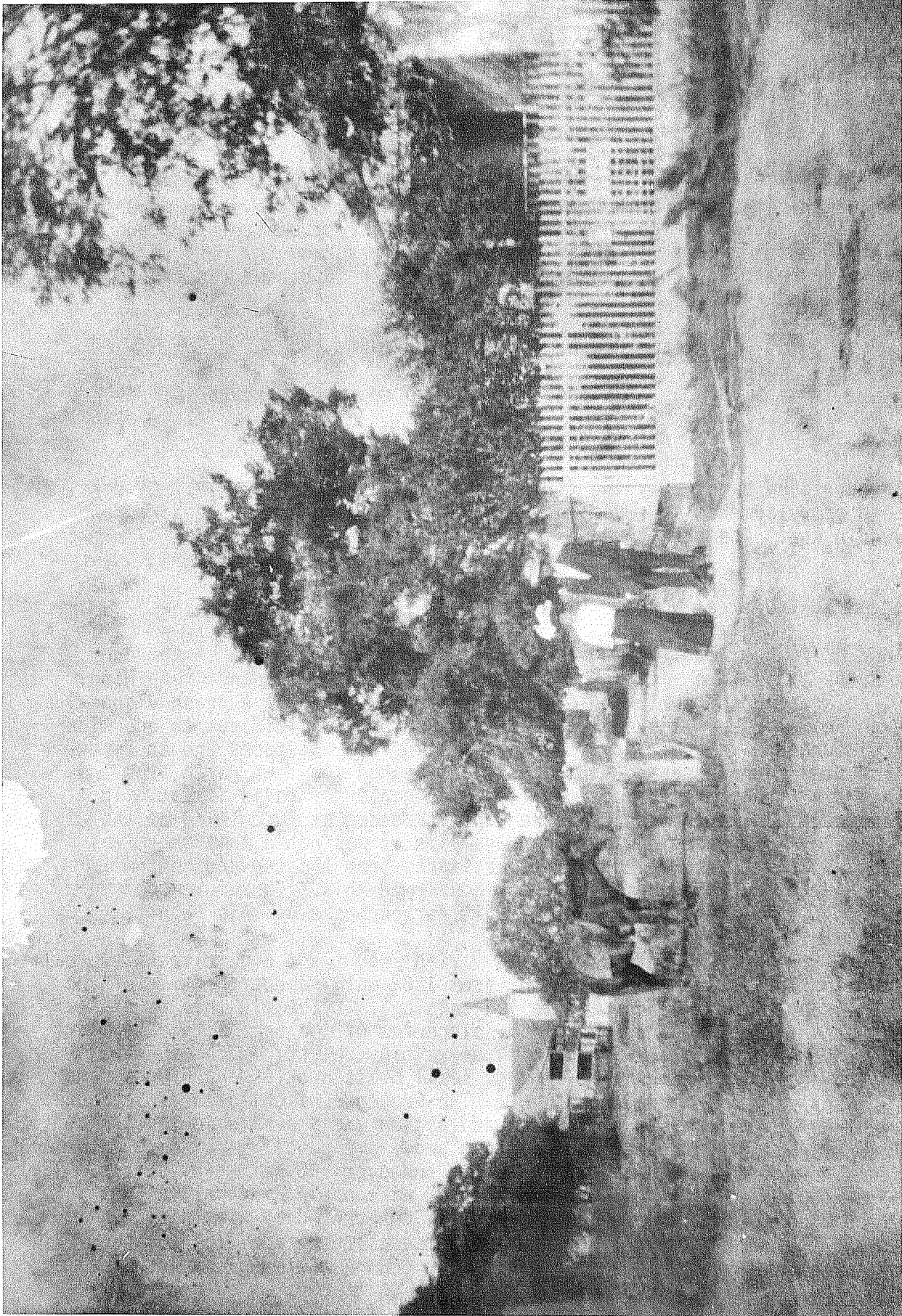


Figure 36. *Main Street, Looking East.* Dunman House is on the right, Wilson Boarding House and Church on the left.

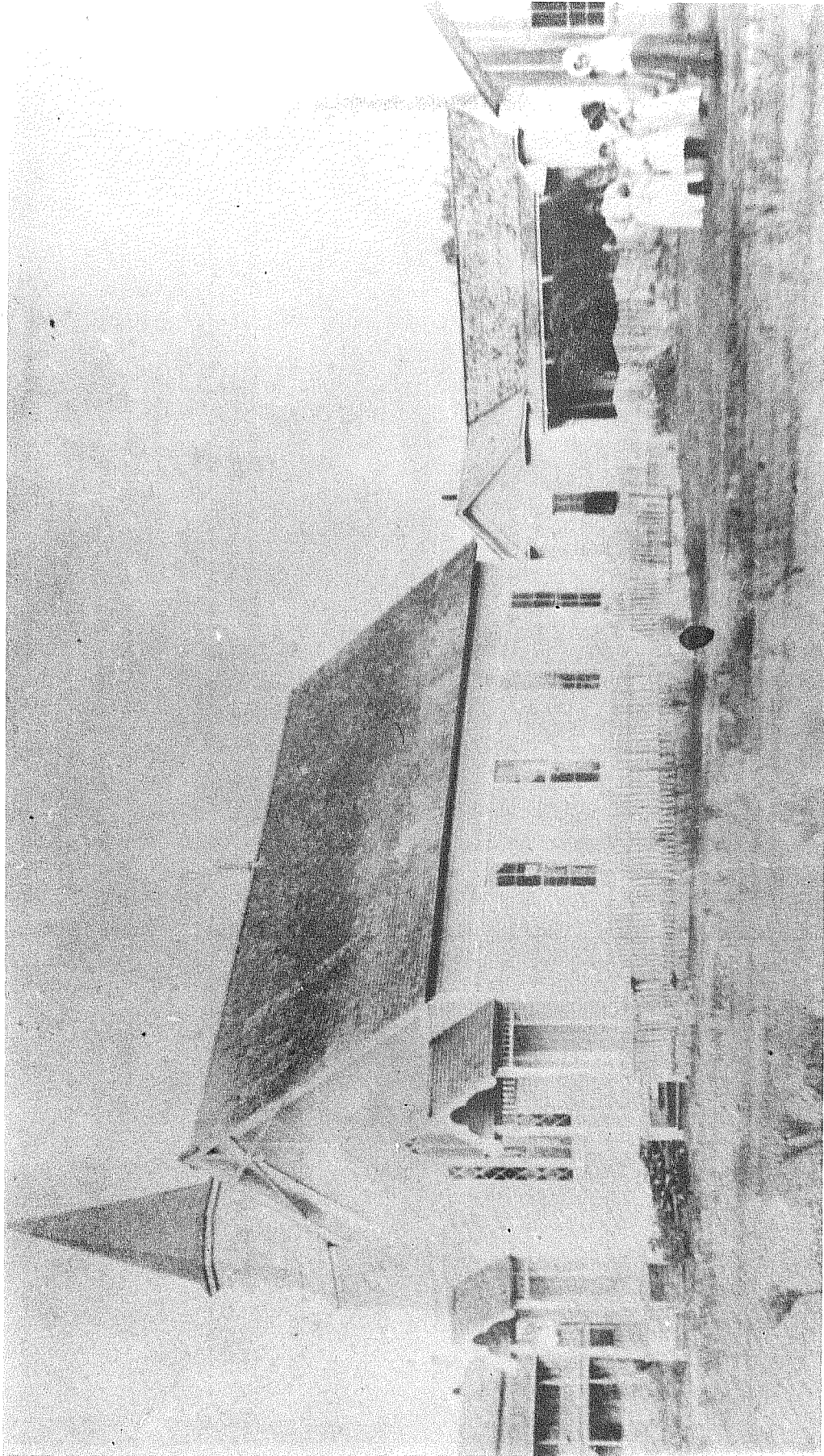


Figure 37. *View of Church and Patsonage. School house is on the right and Wilson Boarding House on the left.*





ceramics were predominantly the plain white ironstone china which was fashionable in the late 19th century, with a small proportion of decalcomania-decorated wares which were increasing in popularity around the turn of the century. The maker's marks present indicate that at least a portion of the ironstone was imported from England. This is not surprising since foreign imports were pouring into the port of Galveston during this time period (Hayes 1974:763). Selected artifacts recovered are illustrated in Figs. 38 and 39.

Glass containers were well represented in the sample, which included medicine bottles, food containers, and canning jars. Both hand-finished and machine-finished necks are present (Fig. 40).

#### *Vertebrate Remains* (Table 14)

A total of 420 bones was recovered from a 1-m<sup>2</sup> test pit at this late 19th century boarding house site (41 CH 239). Almost half (48%) of that amount had been burned, and many had been cut with a saw blade of some sort. Twenty-one percent of the recovered osteological material was identified at least to vertebrate class, and every vertebrate class except *Amphibia* was represented.

Small mammals in this sample are represented by jackrabbit (mandible fragment) and fox squirrel (a burned humerus). Some zoogeographers place Chambers County beyond the current range of jackrabbit, but Olsen (1964) and Burt (1952) show the county within the easternmost range. Fox squirrel is indigenous to the area as well.

Pigs and cattle are expected domesticates in a historic site. At least two pigs are indicated by both mature and immature bones. None of the identifiable pig elements had been burned, and they all come from level 1. *Bos taurus*, on the other hand, is suggested by only large rib fragments with saw marks and two vertebral epiphyseal fragments. These elements are very fragmentary and are among the least useful as diagnostic elements; therefore, the archaeologist may want to add these five elements to the large mammal category. Nineteen of 23 elements in this last category have saw cuts on them and are so nondescript that the body parts are indeterminable. Eleven of the 23 have been burned.

The presence of deer is indicated by one burned right ulna fragment and an unburned second phalanx from levels 1 and 3, respectively. No butchering marks are visible on either element.

Twenty-two percent of the identifiable material are birds. A very small burned cranial element and six long bone fragments are too broken to determine species, but the remaining bird bones can be identified as belonging to two sub-families of waterfowl: *Anatinae*, or surface-feeding ducks, and *Anserinae*, geese.

At least three individuals of the *Anatinae* type are indicated. Two right scapulae compare well with the medium-sized mottled duck (*Anas fulvigula*), which is a year-round resident along the Texas coast (Peterson 1960). A third scapula is smaller than those from the mottled duck and compares well with the teals, either green-winged (*A. carolinensis*), blue-winged (*A. discors*), or cinnamon (*A. cyanoptera*), all of which spend winter along the coast (Peterson 1960).

Figure 38. *Personal Objects from Wilson Boarding House.\**

- a. shell button
- b. bone button
- c. cuff link, opaque pink glass set
- d. hand-cut celluloid object, possible guitar pick
- e. bisque doll head, probably French, 1880-1890  
(Fox 1973:Plate 68)
- f. white bisque doll head, painted hair and eyes,  
probably German, post-Civil War times (St. George  
1948:39-40)
- g. fired clay marble
- h. fired clay marble
- i. early electric light bulb base
- j. clock gear
- k. clothing fasteners
- l. clothing fasteners
- m. tab from clothing fastener, "TRUEFIT"
- n. early electric plug
- o. small hinge from jewelry box or similar object
- p. elaborate brass buckle, once had glass sets
- q. pocket book frame

\* All specimens shown actual size



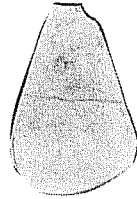
**a**



**b**



**c**



**d**



**e**



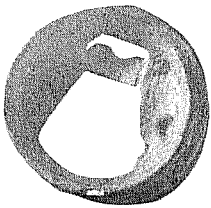
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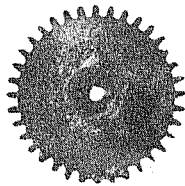
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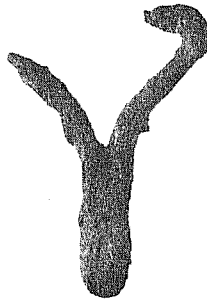
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**i**



**j**



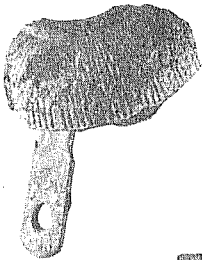
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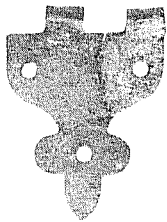
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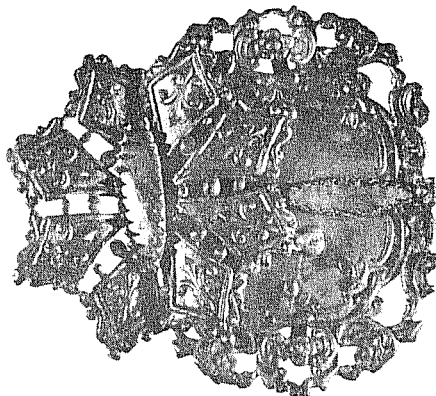
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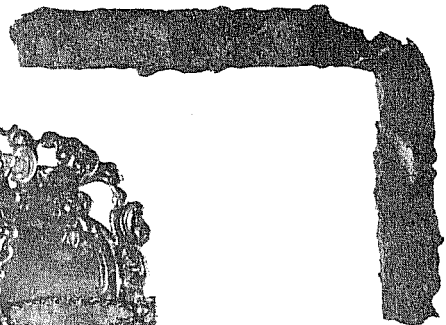
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Figure 39. *Ceramics from Wilson Boarding House.\**

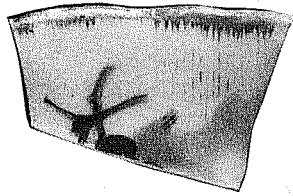
- a. blue shell-edged pearlware plate, before Civil War
- b. red, brown and green decal-decorated oriental porcelain with golded rim, saucer
- c. red overglaze-decorated Japanese porcelain cup, turn of the century (Ray 1974:150)
- d. gold printed design on white earthenware plate
- e. yellow, green and pink decal-decorated porcelain cup
- f. red decal on iridescent glaze over repoussé design on porcelain cup
- g. "ROYAL IRONSTONE CHINA/JOHNSON BROS./ ENGLAND" plate, ca. 1883-1913 (Godden 1964:355)
- h. "IRONSTONE CHINA/J & G MEAKIN/HANLEY/ ENGLAND" plate, ca. 1890 and after (*ibid.*:427)
- i. pink, blue and green decal on porcelain cup

\* All specimens shown actual size

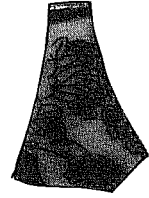




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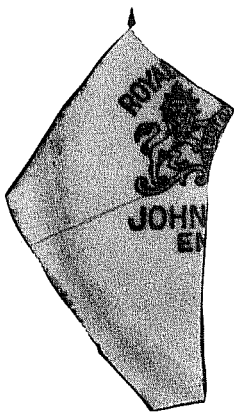
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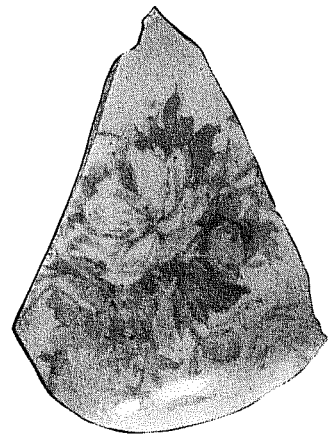
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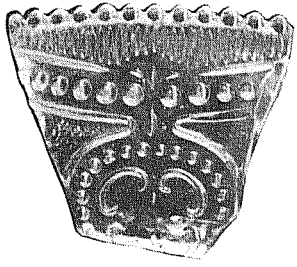


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Figure 40. *Glass from Wilson Boarding House.\**

- a. pressed glass container, post-1845  
(Lorrain 1968:39)
- b. pressed glass container, post-1845  
(*ibid.*)
- c. pressed glass container, post-1845,  
Peacock Feather design (Lorrain 1968:  
Figure 3b)
- d. glass stopper
- e. light purple neck of food jar,  
hand-tooled lip, ca. 1880  
(Kendrick 1967:22)
- f. aqua medicine bottle, "DR. S. PITCHER'S/  
CASTORIA," hand-tooled lip
- g. clear flavoring or medicine bottle,  
hand-tooled lip
- h. "CHEESEBROUGH MFG. CO./VASELINE,"  
machine-made lip, after 1903  
(*ibid.*:43)

\* All specimens shown actual size



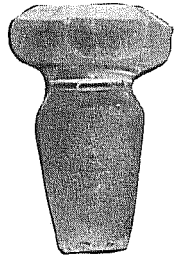
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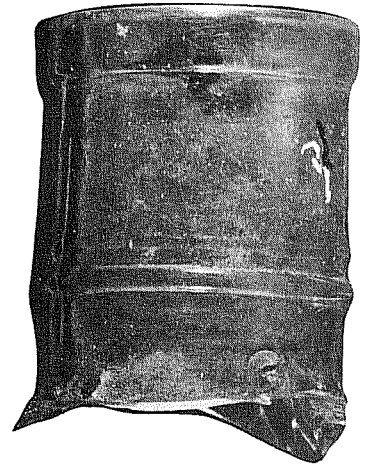
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TABLE 14. IDENTIFIED VERTEBRATES FROM 41 CH 239

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. of Elements	MNI	% of Total ID
Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	1	1	1%
Fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	1	1	1%
Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	7	2	8%
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	2	1	2%
cf. Bovid	<i>Bos taurus</i>	5	1	6%
Large mammal		23		26%
Total Mammal		39		45%
Duck sp.	<i>Anas</i> sp.	7	3	8%
cf. Goose	Anserinae	5	1	6%
Large bird		1		1%
Medium bird		6		5%
Total Bird		19		22%
Turtle sp.		3		3%
Total Reptile		3		3%



TABLE 14. (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. of Elements	MNI	% of Total ID
Gar sp.	<i>Lepisosteus</i> sp.	1	1	1%
Catfish sp.	<i>Ictaluridae</i>	3		3%
Drum sp.	<i>Sciaenidae</i>	7	3	8%
Fish sp.		15		17%
Total Fish		<u>26</u>		<u>30%</u>

Total Bone Recovered	<u>420</u>	(Total Burned <u>200</u> or <u>48%</u> )
Total ID Bone	<u>87</u>	(Burned ID <u>22</u> )
% ID	<u>21%</u>	(% ID Burned <u>25%</u> )

The five geese elements are too small for Canada goose; therefore, the smaller brant geese could be considered appropriate, especially the snow goose (*Chen hyperborea*) or blue goose (*Chen caerulescens*). Both are known to winter in marshes, ponds, bays, and coastal prairies of southeast Texas (Peterson 1960).

Only three fragments of turtle shell were recovered, and all were found in level 1. One fragment is burned, but the other two are bleached, suggesting some amount of surface exposure. One of the weathered shell fragments is quite large (5.5 mm thick, 35 mm long), but it has no diagnostic characteristics.

Fish were recovered from each level and constitute 30% of the identifiable bone. Only one broken gar scale was recovered. Catfish elements were limited to level 1, and the large dorsal spine fragment indicates at least one large individual from either the blue catfish or flathead catfish. Size cannot be determined from the remaining two catfish cranial elements. Three individual drum are indicated from three otoliths of different sizes, all from level 1. The remaining unspecific fish elements are vertebrae or spines from medium-sized individuals.

### *Observations and Conclusions*

If this one test pit is any indication, there is a great deal of artifactual material in the ground in the vicinity of Mrs. Wilson's establishment. It is interesting to compare the material from this site with the contents of a cistern recently excavated by the Center for Archaeological Research in a residential neighborhood of downtown San Antonio (Katz 1978:41-72). The cistern was filled with trash between about 1899 and 1905 (*ibid.*:47). The similarities between the collections are rather surprising, considering the distance between the two sites and their differences in setting and background:

<u>Similar</u>	<u>Absent From Wilson</u>
ceramic types	horse equipment
glass containers	horseshoes
pressed glass	celluloid collars and collar buttons
lamp chimneys	Mexican ceramics
buttons and cuff links	embossed local drugstore bottles
hooks and snaps	
dolls and dishes	
slates and marbles	
cut and wire nails	
brick	

It appears that the selection of objects in use in Texas households around the turn of the century differed very little from one town to the next, probably due to the fact that everything was being brought into the state through the same ports using the same suppliers. Aside from slight differences in styles of dressing or personal tastes, there is little indication in a collection of where it originated. Mrs. Wilson obviously did not keep a horse on her town lot, and would perhaps have hired "a rig" to make any necessary trips, or may have had land on the edge of town for stabling a horse. The similarity of the

artifacts at a commercial establishment to that of a residence can in this case be explained by the fact that the Wilson family not only lived on the site but probably fed their clients family-style meals as well. Embossed druggists' bottles and celluloid collars were probably products of city life not considered necessary in Wallisville, and the absence of Mexican pottery is understandable.

The possibilities for detailed comparative studies using the deposits in the Wilson backyard provide an idea of the sort of information which can be obtained from the town as a whole.

## Block 11

### *History*

The only part of Block 11 which has not been removed for construction of the levee is Lots 11 and 12. The school house was built in 1860 on Lot 11. It was originally a board and batten structure; it was remodeled in 1913, and new siding was applied. When the church next door was destroyed by a storm in 1923, it was used as a church as well. It was also the office of the newspaper, the *Wallisville Age*, and for a time in the 1920s was used as a post office (John Middleton, personal communication). When the school building was removed from the lot, it was sold to the Oak Island Baptist Church and was used there until 1979, when it was moved back to Wallisville. John Middleton has purchased and refurbished the building for use as an historical information center and meeting hall.

Lot 12 was deeded to the Methodist Church in 1885, and a wooden church was built in 1895 (*Liberty Vindicator* 1895, September 20). A parsonage was built directly behind the church (Fig. 37). A storm demolished the church in 1923, and the lot remained vacant after that time.

### *Archaeological Investigation*

The remaining area was surveyed briefly to determine if remains of the foundations of the school and church could still be seen. Due to modern trash-dumping in the area, the lot would have to be cleared in order to be sure of the location of the school building. No surface indications remain of the foundations of the church building.

### *Observations and Conclusions*

Lot 12 showed no sign of the existence of the church. However, it appears not to have been disturbed since the church was removed, and archaeological investigation could probably establish its layout and that of surrounding pathways and structures. The lot on which the school was built still has the concrete sidewalk up to where the door was located, and the exact location of the building could probably be determined.

## Block 15

### *History*

Lot 1 was the site of the Ed Dunman home (Fig. 36), probably built about the turn of the century. Several small homes faced Main Street on the north side of Block 15. On Lots 7 and 8 was a roller-skating rink built in 1906, a popular place with the young people of the area. There was a player piano in the center surrounded by a dance floor, with the skating area around the outside. Also in the same block were a barber shop and a cobbler's shop. This entire block was destroyed in the 1915 storm (John Middleton, personal communication).

### *Archaeological Investigation and Observations*

The southern half of the block was found to be too densely overgrown to survey. The northern half was examined wherever it was possible to beat a way into the clearer spots and examine the ground. No early structural remains were found. On Lot 1 indications of recent disturbance were found, along with recent trash and evidence of a plumbing system, probably the remains of a recent establishment.

## Block 16

### *History*

This block was utilized primarily by the Wallisville Mercantile Company (owned by C. R. Cummings), which was the commissary for Cummings' lumber mill across the river. The store was run by Beauregard La Four, who lived in a house north of the store. The commissary had a wharf on the river where mail and freight boats would unload (Nina La Four Mayes, personal communication). There was a row of small houses north of the commissary (L. B. La Four, personal communication).

### *Archaeological Investigation and Observations*

This entire area is densely overgrown with ground cover, and it was impossible to survey. Enough photographs of this area still exist to allow a tentative reconstruction of the commissary on paper, but there is no way of knowing at present if any evidence remains in the ground.

## Conclusions on Wallisville

In assessing the historical, archaeological, and anthropological potentials of a site which encompasses an entire town, many questions should be considered. Perhaps the most important of these concern the significance and the integrity of the site. Was the town truly typical of its day and time and could it, therefore, give a true picture of a given period? How badly disturbed are the deposits



from the time period of most interest? Indeed, is there any evidence remaining which has not been swept away by flooding or by later looting or cleaning-up operations? What sorts of information would be gained from studying the town?

Despite the fact that a large section of the town has been removed, it appears that a great deal of information remains in the ground about the history of Wallisville and of the individuals who lived there. The period in which this particular town was at its peak of importance (ca. 1890 to 1906) is one which has had relatively little attention from Texas historians, most of whom have concentrated on the more exciting days of the revolution and the founding of the state. It appears from studying the history of the area that this town grew in a logical way in response to a particular need and special regional pressures. Among these were the need for lumber to build the rapidly growing towns of Galveston and Houston and the need for a market town and county seat for a developing region. The majority of the transportation was by water, and the entire focus of the area was upon the Trinity River valley. The economy of Wallisville, therefore, was based upon the lumber and ship-building industries, as well as upon agriculture and stock-raising and the distribution of their products to towns on the coast.

Since there was a major disaster which effectively stopped the growth and development of the town, there is a conveniently limited time period within which to work. The later residents of the town site tended to continue to use the older structures rather than building new ones. There is remarkably little concrete in town, for instance, and no major disturbance of sites by later types of construction.

The portion of Wallisville that remains apparently contains sites representative of all the various activities which were carried out in town, including mills, stores, hotels, and government buildings. There is, as well, a full gamut of residential types, from the shanties of the mill workers to the finer Victorian residences of the social leaders of the community. Comparative studies should thus be possible of the habits, personal tastes, and life styles of the residents, as reflected in their personal belongings and living arrangements. Critical problems such as the effects of the importation of large groups of mill workers into a small, rural community might also be studied.

The sources of information which could be used are many and varied, thanks in large part to the devoted work of local researchers who have compiled tremendous amounts of vital information, such as old newspapers, diaries, personal interviews, and photographs. The support of the local community for historical research is unusually enthusiastic, stemming in part from the fact that a large part of the population are direct descendants of the earliest residents of Wallisville.

What could archaeology contribute to future historical research and possible restoration of the town? Archaeology can, as demonstrated above, take eyewitness accounts and old photographs and literally pin them to the ground, by determining exact locations, sizes, and methods of construction of buildings, landscaping patterns, and locations of unremembered outbuildings. Detailed information can also be recovered on the living habits of the people who used these buildings, their tastes, and their personal belongings. While such details may not seem of

earthshaking importance to the world at large, they are an important facet of restoration, as anyone who has visited Williamsburg, Jamestown, or other restorations can readily understand.

Why should this type of research be important--of what use to our current world? Folklorist Henry Glassie (1975:29) has remarked that from history we learn about the rich and famous, about the pioneer settlers, and perhaps even about the poorest classes, which have been studied by reason of their quaintness. "Our greatest lack . . . lies in the era spanned by the second to fourth generations in any occupation, and among the people of the working class." In studying the growth and change in a small, rural town at the beginning of the 20th century, we can obtain needed insight into the social and cultural changes taking place in the world today.

### Recommendations

The town site of Wallisville should be protected from further destruction both by man and by the elements. Until the recent installation of gates and fences by the Corps of Engineers, the area was being destroyed and vandalized by the public. We urge that the site be placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District, or if possible added to the Orcoquisac Historic District which is located directly across IH 10 to the north.

Plans are currently being studied for creating a historical restoration on the town site. The low elevation of the town (5 to 10 feet above msl) means that the area will be subject to seasonal flooding on a regular basis when the reservoir is constructed. It appears that there are several possible solutions to this problem: (1) to construct a low dike along the river bank on the town site; (2) to plan any subsequent development within the town so as to endure the flooding with a minimum of disturbance; or (3) to eliminate the flooding of the town site by creating a flood water bypass channel for the river. A similar relocation of the river has recently been suggested (Fullen 1979) in order to avoid cutting a channel through the Wallisville site as proposed by the Fort Worth District of the Corps of Engineers in plans for future river navigation improvements (Corps of Engineers 1979b). Dike construction would require intensive archaeological mitigation in the areas to be disturbed. In any case, the proposed reconstruction of the courthouse as a historical center should take into consideration in its design the probability of occasional flooding of the area. We recommend that an engineering study be carried out at the town site to evolve the most environmentally sound solution to this problem. We also urge that the borrow pits within the town be refilled, and that the affected area be restored as much as possible to its original elevation, no matter what the future of the site.

### Future Work

The courthouse and jail site (41 CH 228) should have further investigation before any restoration is considered or plans drawn. The exact building foundation outlines and details should be carefully uncovered and drawn and the associated pathways mapped in relation to the buildings. Because of the fragility of the

architectural features and the past history of vandalism, this should be done in direct connection with the work of the architect, and the remains should be quickly covered or protected in some manner.

The W. B. Gordon house site (41 CH 241) has probably been too thoroughly disturbed by later construction to yield much archaeological information. The site should be marked and protected.

The T. J. Shelton house site (41 CH 237) would be an excellent study for an archaeological field class. The house foundations, paths, fences, etc., could be located and mapped. The sites of the related barn and outbuildings which appear in photographs could also be located and examined. It would be of architectural interest, also, to follow the house to its new location and document its entire life story.

Block 9 contains at least two structures of importance to the town's history, the La Four/Davis Hotel and the Davis Store. It appears that later concrete slabs have not encroached on the original building locations. Archaeological testing should be done to determine how much evidence remains of both establishments. This would entail extensive brush clearing and should be done when the foliage has died back in the winter. Eyewitness accounts of both hotel and store should be recorded for future reference. If sufficient remains still exist in the ground, archaeological excavations should be undertaken in order to reveal the character and locations of the buildings, to recover evidence of the articles sold in the store, and to determine the sorts of individuals who inhabited the hotel. Information about these subjects is also available from local newspapers of the time.

The Dr. T. W. Shearer house site (41 CH 238) lends itself particularly well to a number of archaeological investigations. The early gin site on Lot 1 should be found and excavated. The small cottage which was standing in 1889 and its subsequent additions and improvements would make another important study. The doctor's office and its immediate surroundings should be investigated, as should the other structures mentioned by Mrs. Shearer in her descriptions. The landscaping plan could be restored using those same descriptions plus archaeological techniques.

The H. R. Wallis house site (41 CH 240) would be an interesting project to research, since the photographs and written descriptions are quite clear and detailed. It should be possible to reconstruct the outlines of the Shearer barn, which later became the Wallis barn, and the well and windmill used by the Shearers to water their stock. Here, again, the house could be followed and documented on its new site.

The Wilson Boarding House site (41 CH 239) appears to have relatively undisturbed deposits surrounding it. A great deal could be learned about life in the Wilson menage through careful excavation and analysis of artifacts. The back yard should contain traces of a number of outbuildings significant to the history of the site, including latrines, storage sheds, and possibly a wash house.

Block 11 contained two important public buildings which might one day be restored, or at least marked in some significant way. Both the church and

the school building sites could be located and significant artifacts recovered through archaeological excavations, to aid in their interpretation.

Block 15 contained small shops and homes, as well as the skating rink. Additional testing should be done when ground cover can be removed. Then, extensive excavations should be planned if the area is to be disturbed in connection with diking or other construction. This block is especially important because it is the only remaining group of smaller homes and commercial buildings still available for study.

The Cummings Store on Block 16 was an important part of the economy of the town. Testing should be done in this area, along with extensive brush and ground cover removal, to determine what evidence remains or if the 1915 flood removed everything of interest from the site.

The area to the east of the developed part of the town once contained the shanties and small houses of the mill workers. This area could be completely cleared and investigated as part of a study in comparative lifeways. Other commercial establishments also were located in this area at various times, including a boat yard and lumber mill.

Full-scale archaeological investigations should precede any plans to reconstruct or restore to their original sites any of these buildings. This would assure that restorations are accurate and would provide information to allow interiors to be accurately furnished for public display. These investigations would consist of large, shallow excavation units which would concentrate on finding the locations of doors, windows, chimneys, pathways, and outbuildings. Since most of the structures stood upon piers, careful work will be necessary to delimit the walls and roof lines of structures in order to accurately reconstruct their original size and orientation.

## WEST OF THE TRINITY RIVER

### Cummings Lumber Mill, 41 CH 243

#### *History*

C. R. Cummings operated saw mills at Anahuac and Liberty in the 1890s. In 1898 he closed them and concentrated his operation at Wallisville, building a large, new plant on the west side of the river opposite the town (Fig. 41). The name was changed to the C. R. Cummings Export Lumber Mill Company (Harry 1940:97). By 1903 Cummings was producing 80,000 board feet of lumber a day. The mill had a band saw, a circular saw, a shingle and planing mill, three dry kilns, and dry sheds. All the clear output from the mill was being shipped to Germany (*Texas Almanac* 1904:233). The mill was the major business in Wallisville and provided 400 jobs for its inhabitants (John Middleton, personal communication). Boarding houses were constructed for white and Negro workers to the south of the mill, and small workers' houses were built at the west end of the town, separate sections developing for white, Mexican, and Negro workers (John Middleton, personal communication). The mill's offices and commissary were located



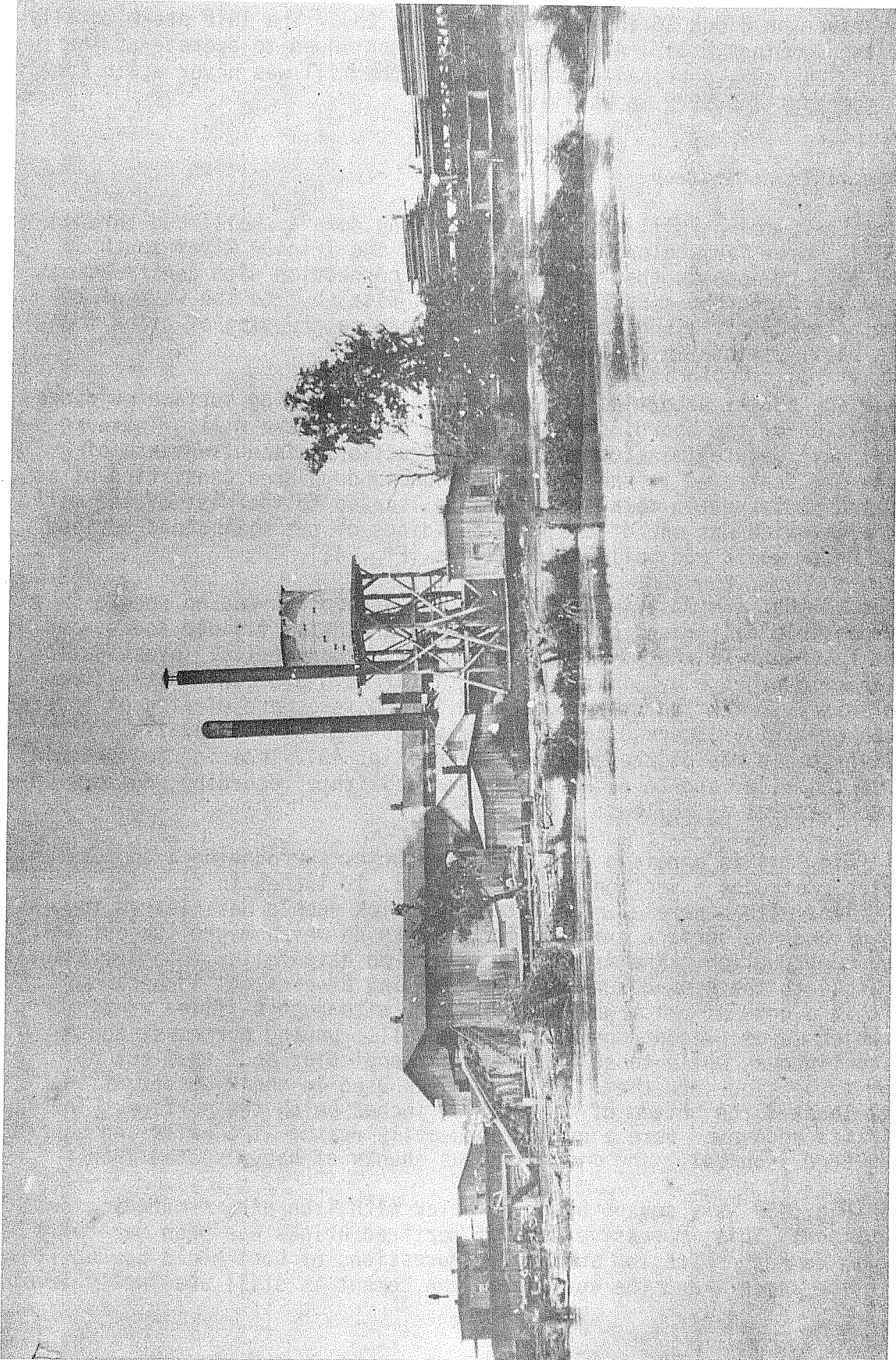


Figure 41. *View of Cummings Mill.*

across the river on Block 16 in Wallisville (Fig. 29). The 1915 storm totally destroyed the Cummings Mill. Although Cummings continued to operate at the site (Octavia La Four, personal communication), the mill was never again such a large, important industry in Wallisville.

### *Archaeological Investigation*

The site of the Cummings Mill was found by driving down a shell road through the old J. J. Mayes farm, along the west bank of the Trinity River south of Interstate 10. It appears that earth moving in connection with construction of the road has disturbed a portion of the mill site, but to the west of the drainage pit/borrow pit along the edge of the road, a grouping of brick foundations is still visible in a grove of trees.

Careful surface survey determined that there is no remaining surface evidence for the location of the boarding houses to the south of the mill. These foundations may have been eliminated by road construction, since fragments of brick piers are scattered in the ditch. A mounded dump area consisting of ash, charcoal, and badly rusted metal fragments is located to the west of the mill. Within an area which was one of the main buildings of the mill stand various remains of brick walls and boiler foundations (Fig. 42).

It was decided that the most important thing to accomplish was to record in every way possible all traces of the mill which are still visible today, and to attempt to determine what information further archaeological investigation might be able to provide by limited testing in areas where buried structures appear to exist. Brick features exposed on the surface were cleared of underbrush, then carefully observed and scale drawings made of all details. An overall plane table map of the site was drawn (Fig. 43), locating features in relation to the river and to each other. To facilitate recording, numbers were assigned to features as follows:

Feature 1 (Fig. 44) is a raised area of broken brick surrounding a depression, out of which protrudes a section of iron pipe ca. 12 inches in diameter which has been filled with concrete. The extensive brick rubble was cleared to ground level and the surface examined for patterning which might suggest its subsurface construction. The iron pipe appears to have fallen into a pit and is at an angle to the ground surface. As clearing progressed, it became apparent that a grid of brick walls is present, with rubble-filled areas between, which may represent open pits. The walls running northwest-southeast are continuous, while those which are perpendicular abut them but do not appear to be tied into them. No mortar was used in their construction. A test pit located the bottom of the wall 25 inches below the surface. The only artifacts recovered were a number of heavily rusted wire nails and square spikes, a large iron bolt, and miscellaneous chunks of heavy rusted iron.

Feature 2 (Fig. 45) is a square block of brick with iron bars protruding from its top surface. This impressive cube of mortared bricks has been carefully leveled with cement on its top surface. Impressions of boot heels are still visible in the cement, and the surface of the cement is still absolutely level.

**a****b**

Figure 42. *Views of Features at Mill.* a, looking south across feature 1 toward feature 2; b, looking east across feature 3.



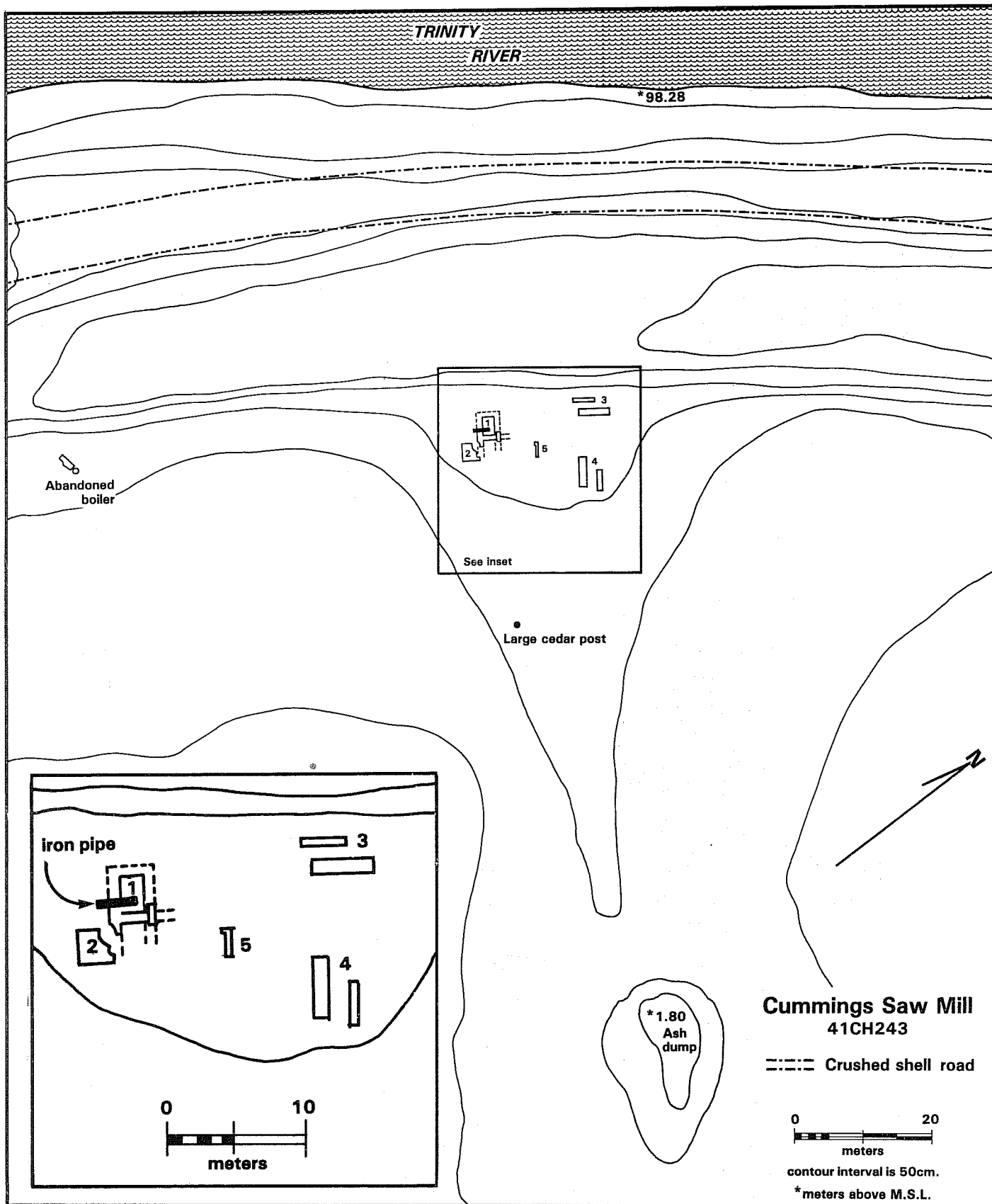


Figure 43. Map of Cummings Mill. Inset is an enlargement of mill foundations.

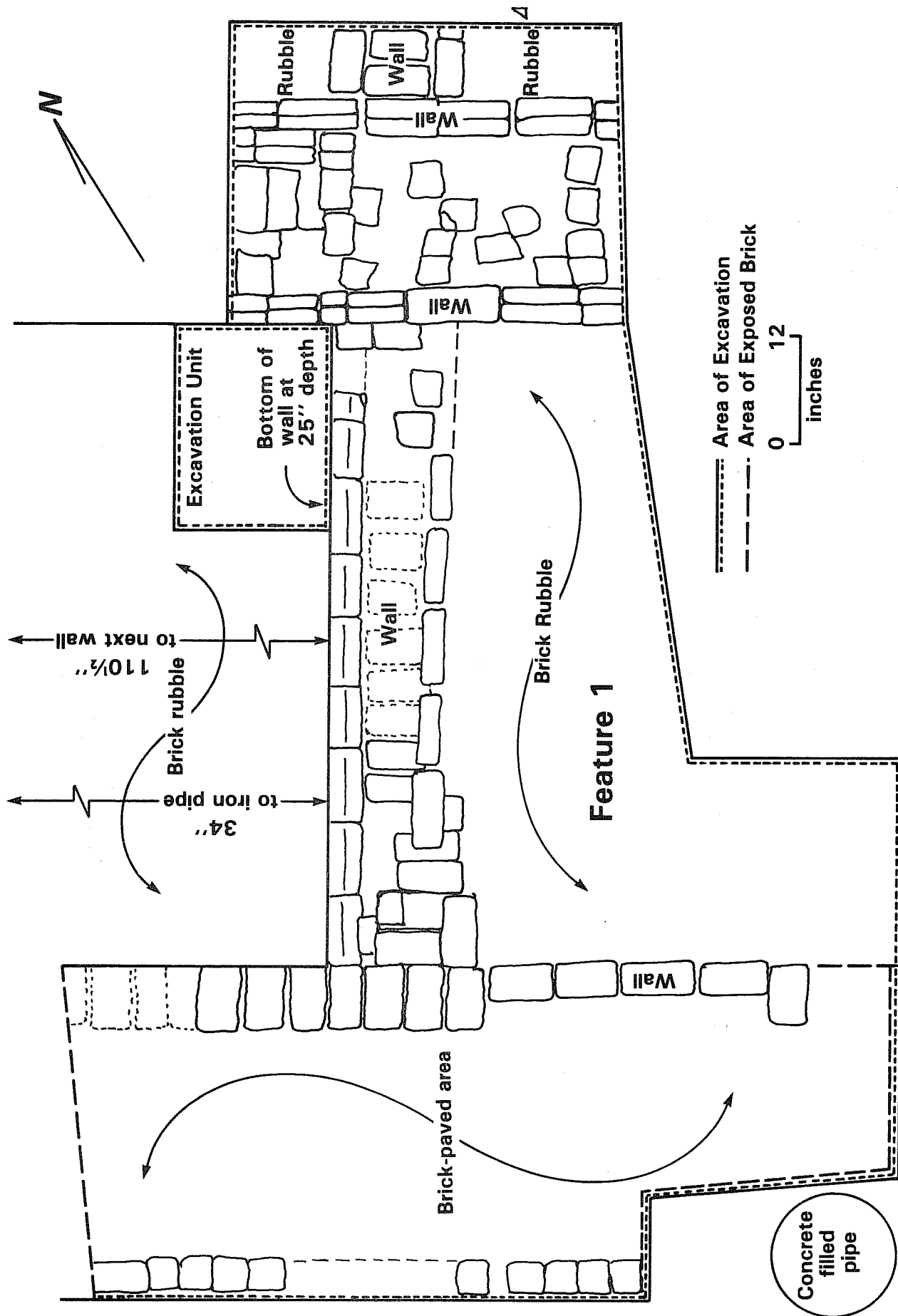


Figure 44. Scale Drawing of Feature 1, Cummings Mill.

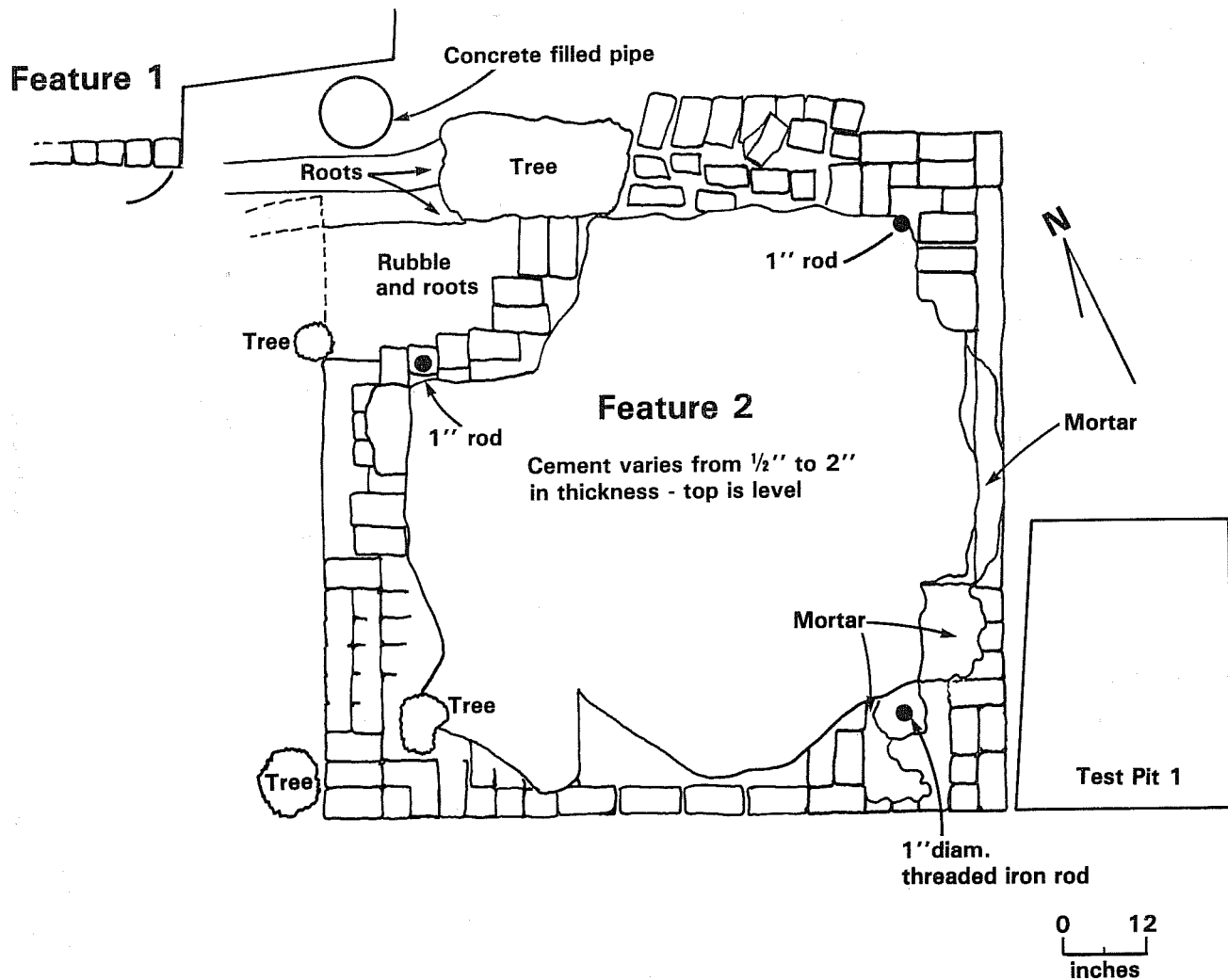


Figure 45. Scale Drawing of Feature 2, Cummings Mill.

Protruding threaded iron rods indicate that some sort of machinery was once bolted on top of the structure. Its close proximity to Feature 1 suggests a relationship in function between the two. A test pit near the south corner of Feature 2 revealed a stepped base sitting on a brick floor which is now covered with two feet of overburden (Fig. 46). A handful of heavily rusted nails and chunks of iron was recovered from the test pit.

Feature 3 (Fig. 47) is a brick boiler foundation. Two parallel walls of mortared brick approximately four feet apart make up this feature. As with Feature 2, threaded iron rods protrude at regular intervals from the surface of both walls. These are probably the foundation for installation of a boiler and its related flywheel which would have driven the mill machinery. A test pit on the southeast side of the foundation revealed a stepped construction from the present ground surface to the bottom of the structure 3.5 feet below. Evidence for the location of the original floor at approximately 1.75 feet below the surface was a layer of charcoal mixed with clay containing iron artifacts, which rested directly upon a sterile sand layer. Rusted nails and a 2-inch length of heavy glass tubing were recovered from the test pit (Fig. 48).

Feature 4 is identical in most dimensions and details to Feature 3 and therefore was not drawn in detail.

Feature 5 is an exposed section of a low brick retaining wall which forms the northern edge of the mound into which Features 1 and 2 are constructed (Fig. 43).

The majority of the brick found on the site were unmarked, pinkish brown, and measured ca. 2-3/4 x 3-3/4 x 8 inches. A small percentage of those in Feature 2 had a narrow groove running lengthwise down each of the wider faces, but otherwise resembled the plain variety. Scattered on the surface were a few fire brick, of a creamy color with dark rusty brown inclusions, which measured slightly larger, ca. 2-1/4 x 4-1/4 x 8-1/2 inches. A few of the latter were stamped "LECLEDE/ST. LOUIS." Also found on the surface was a fragment of heavy grating made by boring 3/4-inch diameter holes in a sheet of iron 3/4-inch thick. The surfaces of this artifact were covered with a purple deposit.

### *Observations*

The crew suffered from a distinct lack of information on the operation of a steam saw mill, which may have caused some oversights in recording the site. The detailed measured drawings and map were done in an attempt to overcome this handicap. The limited testing on the site showed that there is further information to be learned from more detailed excavations, after additional knowledge has been gained on the layout and operation of such a mill.

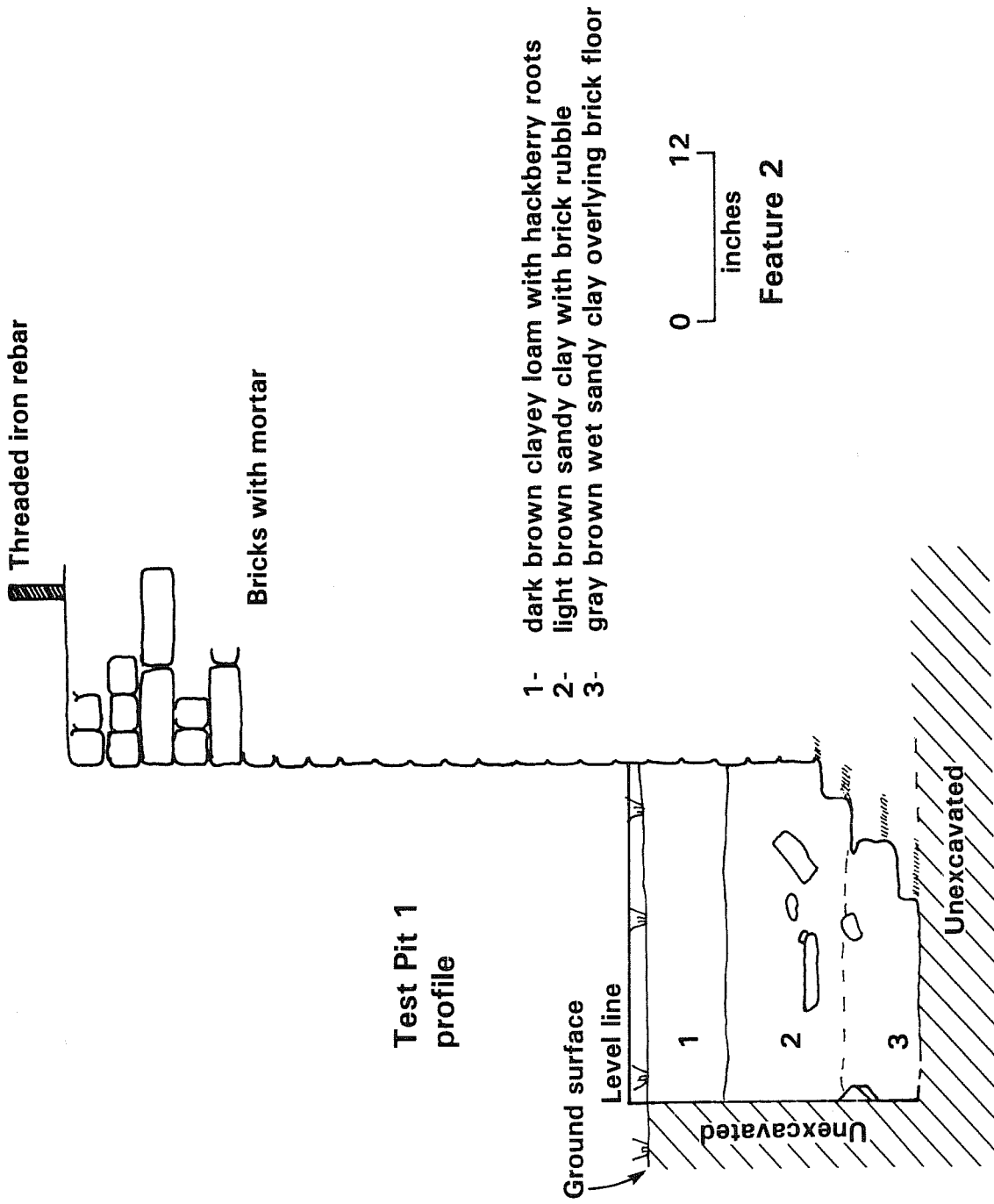
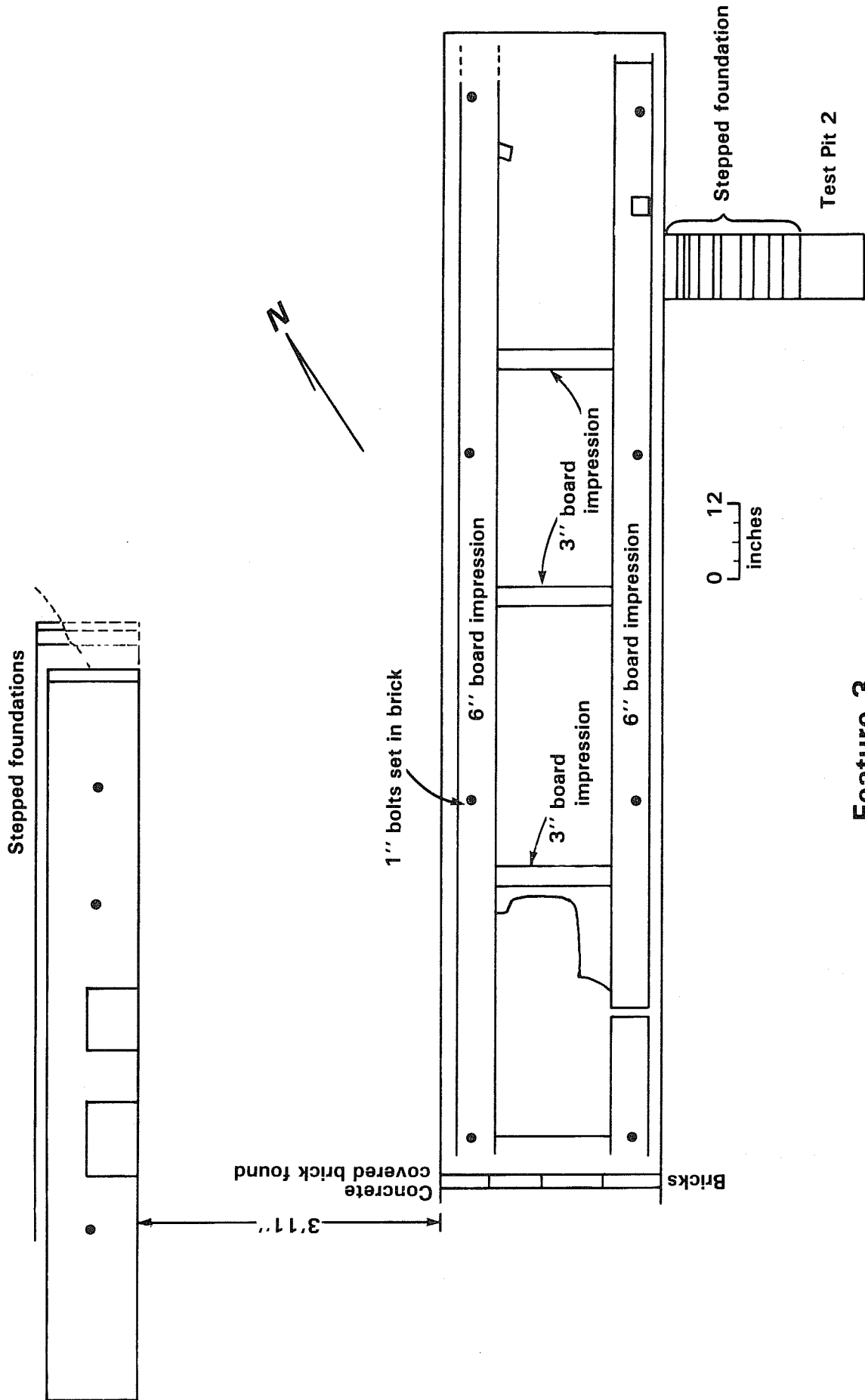


Figure 46. South Profile of Test Pit 1 at Feature 2, Cummings Mill.





### Feature 3

Figure 47. Scale Drawing of Feature 3, Cummings Mill.

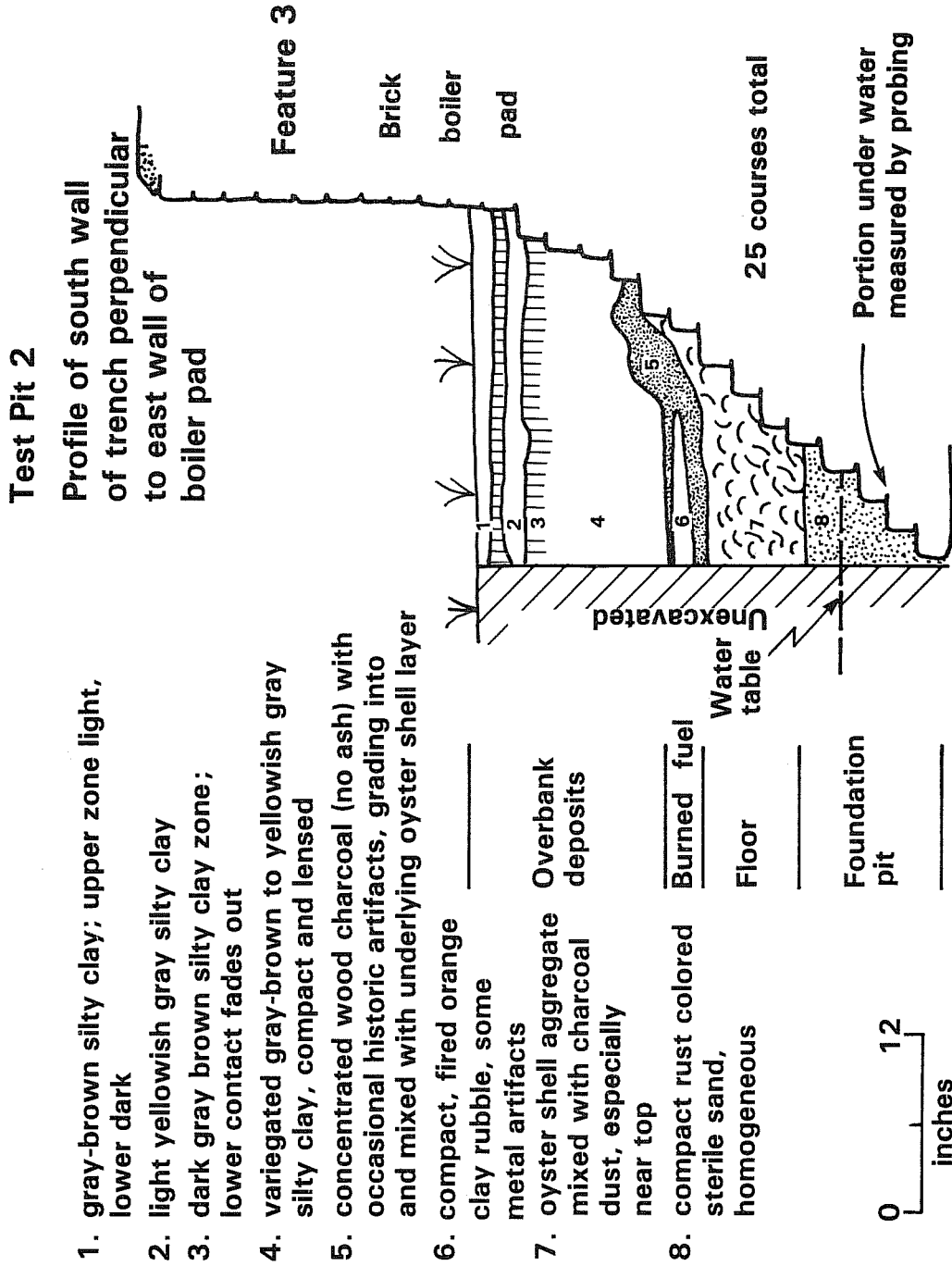


Figure 48. Profile of Test Pit 2 at Feature 3, Cummings Mill.

### *Recommendations*

The Cummings Mill was a most important factor in the growth and development of the town of Wallisville. Archaeological testing has demonstrated that there is a great deal of information still buried under the accumulated soil deposition on the site. A detailed study of the construction and operation of the mill should be a part of the research done in connection with the history of Wallisville itself, and there is interesting potential for research into the social aspects of the impact of the mill workers on the town. Allied with the study of the mill should be investigation of the areas where the workers lived and of the commissary.

We suggest that the site should be included in the Wallisville Heritage Park. If for any reason it becomes necessary to disturb the mill site, we strongly recommend extensive archaeological excavation to recover as much information as possible in any area due to be disturbed.

### J. J. Mayes Farm Site, 41 CH 242

#### *History*

The Mayes family settled on the west bank of the Trinity River, opposite the later site of the town of Wallisville, about 1838. Joshua Jackson Mayes married Sarah Amelia Dunman, granddaughter of E. H. R. Wallis (Williams *et al* 1976:n.p.), and accumulated a large amount of land on the west side of the river in his lifetime. A number of houses and outbuildings have been built on and around the original farmstead. The house illustrated in Fig. 49 may well include the first house the family built in the early 19th century, with numerous later additions. In 1883 the Mayes family built a two-story home just east of Wallisville, using some materials from the original home. Mrs. G. V. Mayes lives in this home today (J. B. Mayes, personal communication).

#### *Archaeological Investigation*

Using the Work map of 1930 as a guide (see Fig. 50), the crew surveyed an open area between the two rows of large, old trees which delineated fence lines in an area to the north of the present cattle pens on the property. No trace of structures was found, and no artifacts could be seen on the surface anywhere in this area. However, recent shell road construction may have obliterated such evidence. The area to the southeast of the cattle pens was badly overgrown, and it was impossible to do a thorough survey there. Occasional bricks can be found there, and according to local informants this was the location of the Mayes home, at least within their memory. These same informants remember a barn standing to the west of the pens where the shell road is now (Octavia La Four and J. B. Mayes, personal communication).

#### *Observations and Recommendations*

It appears that the area has been disturbed by road building and was too overgrown at the time of the 1979 survey to determine its archaeological potential.

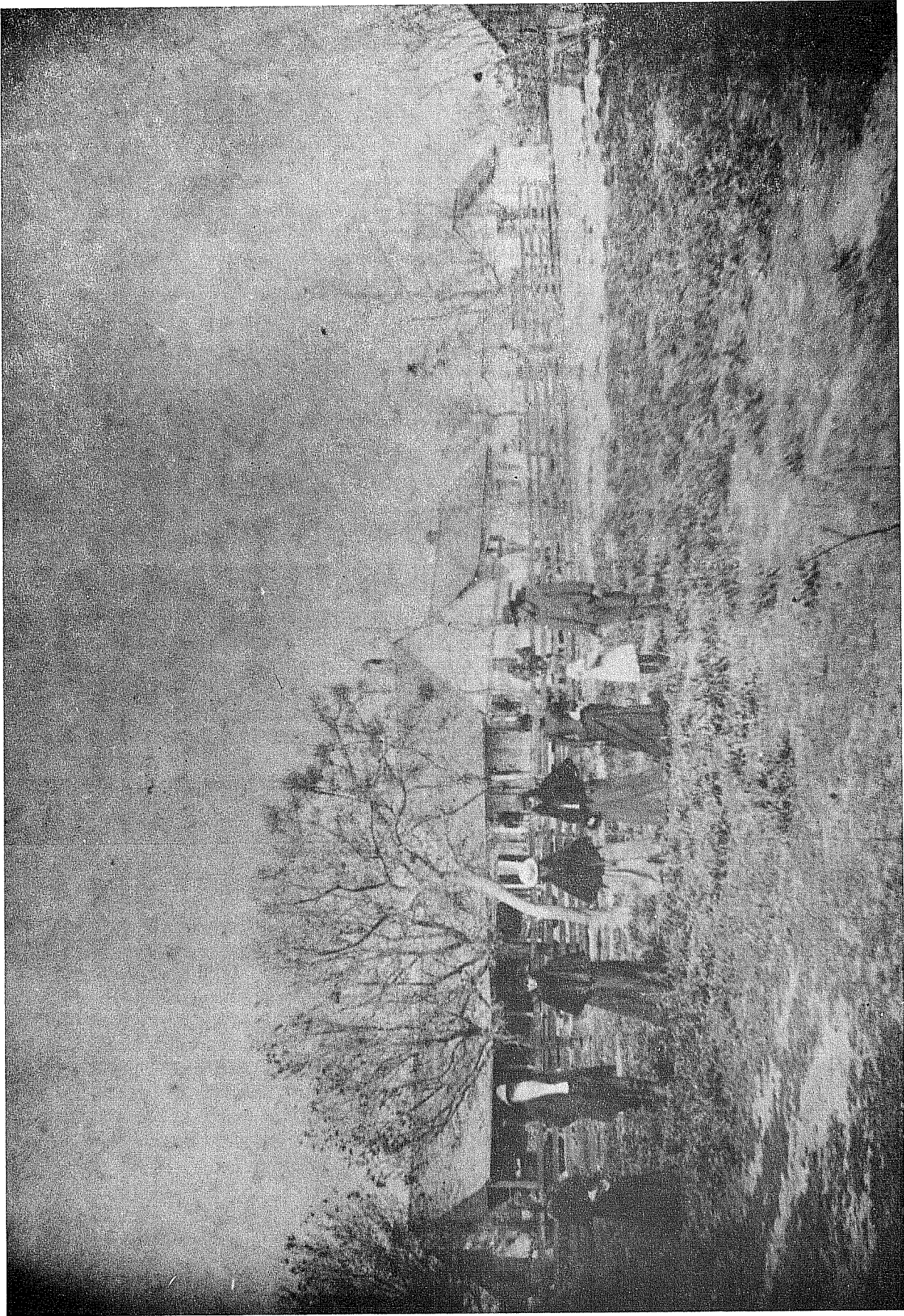


Figure 49. *View of J. J. Mayes Farm and Family. Mr. Mayes is second from left.*

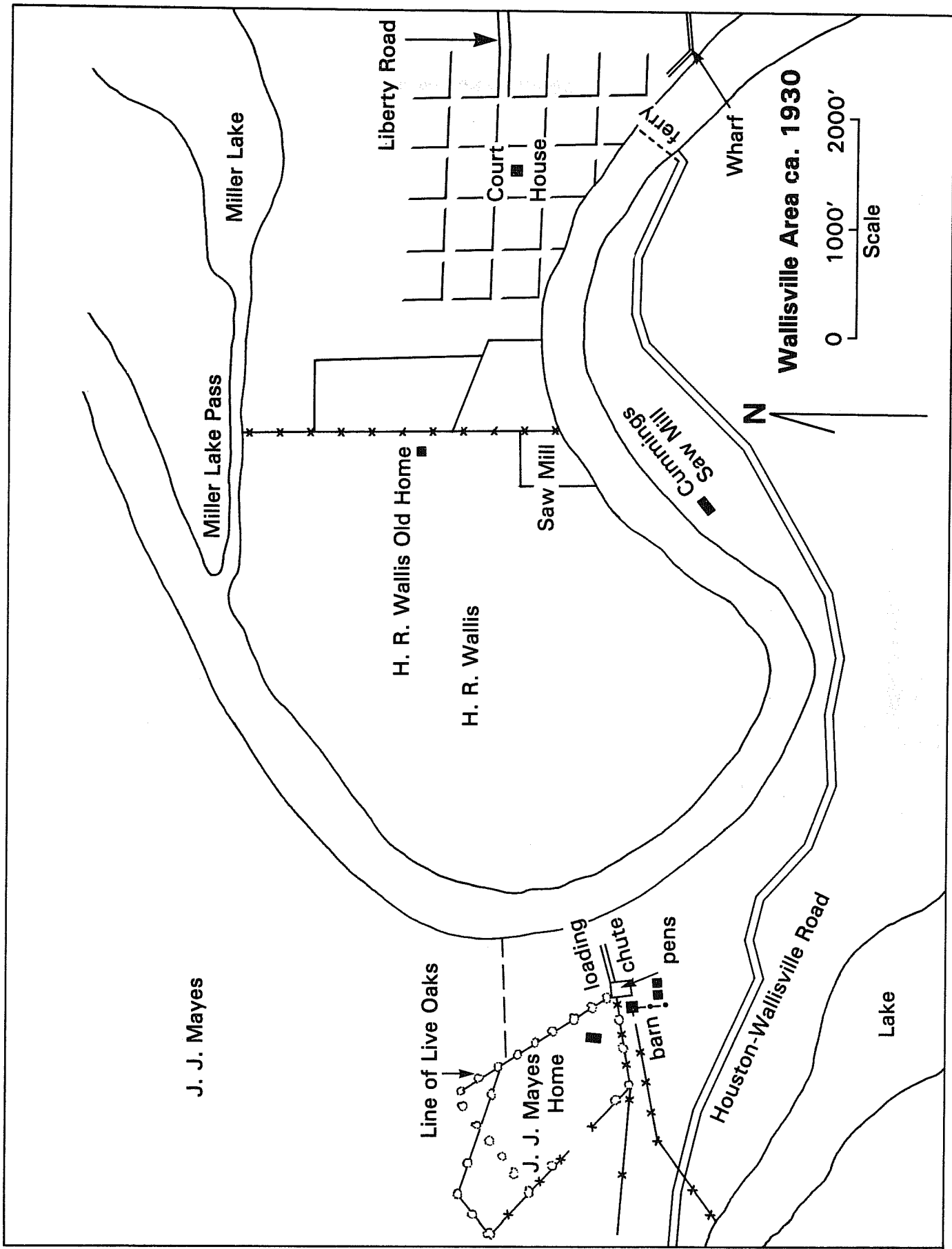


Figure 50. Wallisville Area ca. 1930. Shown are the locations of Mayes farm, mill and town site taken from map by W. O. Work (1930).

Since the first house was apparently dismantled in the late 19th century, there is probably not much evidence remaining of the original farm.

## *OLD RIVER*

### Icet Mill and Boat Yard, 41 CH 244

#### *History*

Captain William Icet, Sr., was a boat builder and miller in the Cove community in the late 19th century. His shipyard was built in 1880 and continued in operation after his death in 1892 under the direction of his sons, Henry and William (Harry 1940:70). They also operated a cotton gin, a mill, and a blacksmith shop (Fleischman 1976:237,238). William died in 1915 (CCPR 1915:No. 233), and the shipyard ceased operation at that time.

#### *Archaeological Investigation*

Mrs. Gladys Avery, granddaughter of William Icet and great-granddaughter of Captain Icet, guided a group composed of family members, interested Chambers County people, and the archaeological crew to the site of the Icet mill and shipyard, on the west bank of Old River.

Pipelines run just north and south of the property, but the Icet site has been preserved. A recently built house sits near the road on the top of the hill, overlooking the site. A number of large trees are present on the property. The site is in a relatively clear and open grassy area on a gentle slope toward the water's edge. Brick foundations are visible here and there in the grass, and an occasional square nail can be found on the surface. Mrs. Avery has a hand-drawn sketch done from memory of the layout of the buildings and rooms in the complex; this sketch should be preserved.

#### *Observations and Conclusions*

It appears that the layout of the shipyard and mill could be reconstructed on paper, using a combination of archaeology, historical research, and family papers.

#### *Recommendations*

While the site is not of national or statewide importance, it is an unusually well-preserved archaeological site which could yield much information, and it is of importance in the local history of Chambers County. We recommend that more research and a program of archaeological testing be undertaken to determine its eligibility for nomination to the National Register.

## Almeras Brick Works, 41 CH 231

The early ownership of this property is confused and difficult to trace. It was originally a part of the Robert Wiseman Survey, a portion of which, after many changes of ownership, came into the hands of Dr. James P. Alford in 1872 (Mullins n.d.:2). That same year Dr. Alford deeded 100 acres of the Robert Wiseman Survey to Pierre Almeras, Louis Guertin, and Euclide Brisson (CCDR 1872:H,42). Apparently Almeras then proceeded to build a large-scale brick-making operation on the portion of the property which fronted on Old River, for in 1875 Almeras gave Dr. Alford his power of attorney to take control of his interest in the brickyard and 100 acres owned by himself and Guertin, and to sell the brick (Almeras 1875). Apparently the brickyard was a short-lived business, since it was not mentioned in the 1870 or the 1880 census reports, nor in any other records or newspaper accounts so far examined (Villa Mae Williams, personal communication). This is surprising considering the extensive layout which is visible in ruins on the surface of the site.

Apparently the brickyard was allowed to fall into ruin, while being slowly covered with alluvium from flooding and robbed of usable bricks. No trace of structure remains today except what portions of the walls were quickly buried in mud and the rubble of broken and rejected bricks which had been piled around the outside of each kiln.

The *Wallisville Age* of May 11, 1898, carries a brief mention of charcoal burning on the west side of the river. While no specific mention is made of this activity on the Almeras property, there are several circular areas of deeply burned clay soil in the vicinity of the brick kilns which may have resulted from charcoal burners' fires.

### *Archaeological Investigation*

This site was first investigated and recorded by W. L. Fullen and Jean L. McGinty in 1978. At this time eight kilns and three burned areas were noted, as well as two possible borrow areas (McGinty 1978). The site was registered with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin and assigned site number 41 CH 231.

The exact location of the westernmost kiln in relationship to the boundary of the Corps of Engineers property line could not be readily determined. It was decided by the present investigators to establish the location and size of the structure in order to later determine how much of the site belongs to the Corps and how much is on private land.

Probably the one factor which has done the most to protect this site is the dense underbrush which covers most of the kiln area. The river bank is heavily used by fishermen and campers, and roads have been worn through the brush. The kiln chosen for testing is the one most likely to be disturbed by the public, since an access road cuts across it, exposing crumbling bricks in the road bed, and it is the closest kiln to the river.

Each of the kilns appears on the surface as a circular ring of mounded brick rubble and soil. The underbrush was selectively cleared from this mounded area on the kiln to be tested, taking out only what was necessary to the investigation.



This was done in order to avoid arousing public curiosity about the structure and to insure that the protective growth would rapidly hide the kiln when the work was finished.

Three trenches were laid out at various locations perpendicular to the mound (Fig. 51), trenches A and B across the west side and C across the south. As excavation progressed, it was discovered that the mounds actually were not the walls of the kiln but piles of broken bricks and soil, which probably represent the covering removed after the kiln had cooled and the bricks were being removed from the kiln. Just inside the mound was the outer wall of the kiln. On the inside of this wall there remained a layer or two of a row of fired bricks which had never been removed (Fig. 52). The shape of the kiln was found to be square rather than round as first believed. The parallel rows of bricks were laid out north-south, with the "eyes" of the kiln on the north and south ends (see Appendix I). This was confirmed by expanding trench C slightly to the west to uncover one bricked-up opening in the south wall (Fig. 51).

Since the road cutting through the site had changed the original contours, it was difficult to determine where the east wall of the kiln might be. Trench D was laid out across a similarly mounded feature to the east of the road in the possibility that the wall might be there. However, no wall was encountered, and when the trench approached the point of disrupting the road bed, it was discontinued. A row of bricks which appeared to be in place was exposed in the road bed at the point where the north wall of the kiln was estimated to be, and a band of brick rubble was eroding from the road bed on a line with the mound outside the south wall. Unit E was a shallow, rectangular excavation to examine the original floor of the kiln, which was found to be 10 cm below the surface at this location. At 10 cm the brown, sandy soil changed to a bright orange clay, showing the effects of the heat of the kiln on the clay subsoil. The same orange clay surface was encountered on the inside of the kiln in trench B, whereas the clay subsoil on the outside of the wall in this trench was observed to be the tan-to-dark-brown color of the normal clay in this area.

A datum was established by driving a nail into a tree on the northeast corner of the site and assigning to this the arbitrary height of 100 m. The kiln site and its immediately surrounding area were mapped using a plane table and alidade (Fig. 51).

Near the kiln at the bank of the river several semicircular intensively burned areas were examined. Evidence of intense heat was visible to a depth of 10 or more cm into the clay, creating an appearance not unlike a brick pavement. These may be areas where charcoal was burned for shipping to Galveston and Houston in the late 19th century.

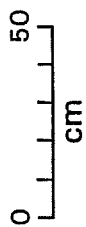
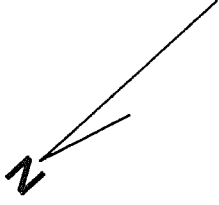
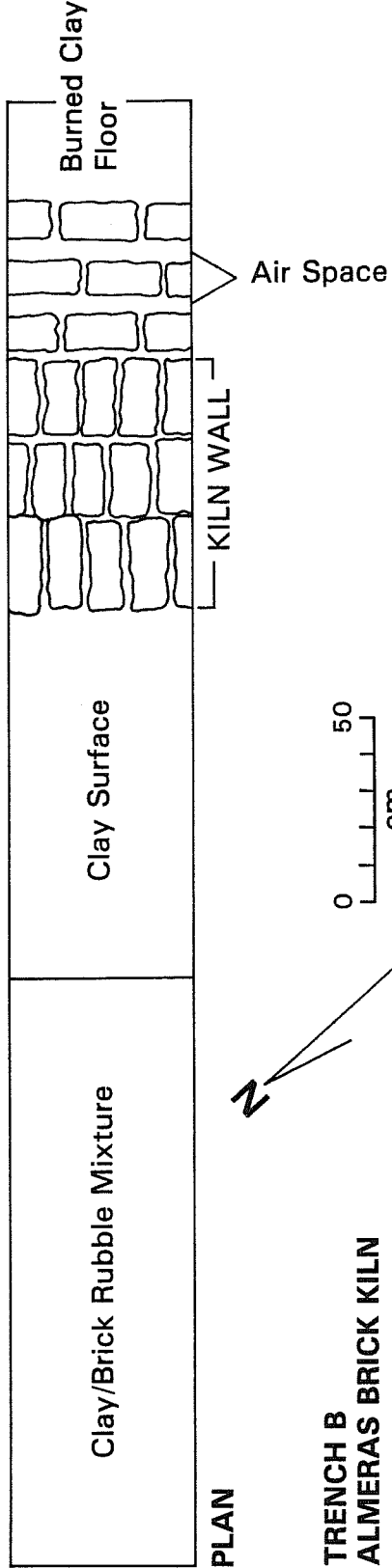
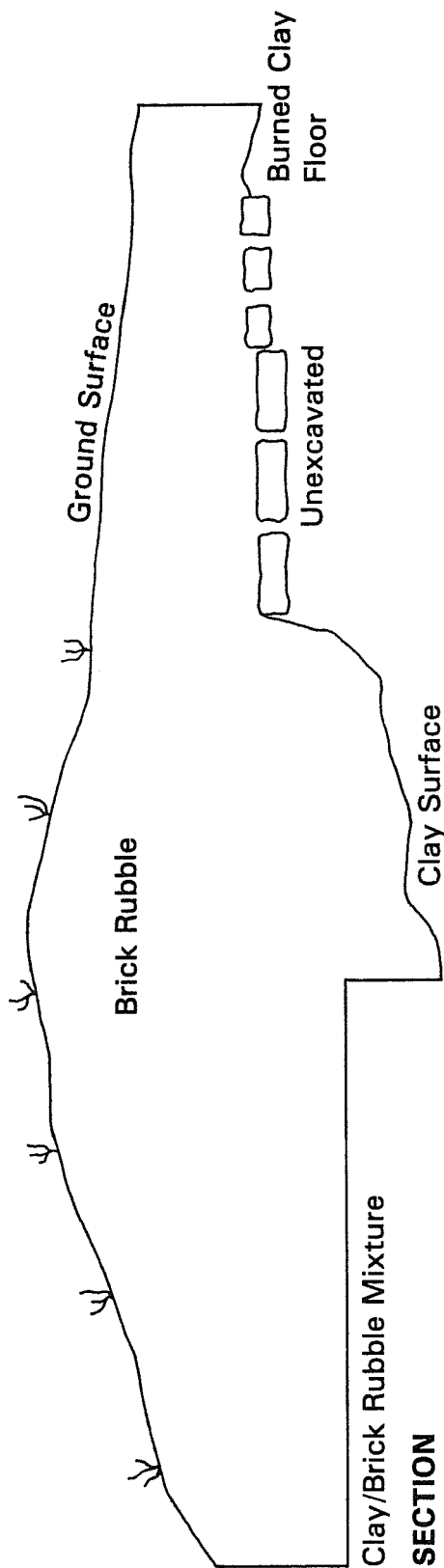
### *Observations and Conclusions*

Projecting the confirmed wall locations, it is possible to reconstruct the outline of the kiln. It would have been approximately 35 feet square. Approximately 15 meters to the north was a depression locally reputed to be a cistern used by the brick works. Seven similar kilns are laid out in a double row to the east of the one recorded, indicating an unusually ambitious operation was going on here in the 1870s. Perhaps Mr. Almeras over-extended himself.



This page has been redacted because it contains restricted information.

# North Wall Profile



# TRENCH B ALMERAS BRICK KILN

Figure 52. Trench B Across Kiln Wall.

It is apparent that a great deal of information about the local brick industry could be learned from an extensive study of this site. Careful observation and selective clearing of the underbrush would allow the entire layout to be mapped, and possibly the areas given over to brick forming and drying could also be found and studied. Further archival research would undoubtedly reveal old photographs and documents dealing with similar operations of this period.

### *Recommendations*

This is obviously an important site which shows great potential for further research. Unfortunately, very little is known about the brick-making industry in Texas, despite numerous historic references to kilns in operation. The site is presently endangered because of public use of the area. We recommend that the Corps of Engineers cooperate with the landowner who owns the balance of the site in nominating it to the National Register and protecting the area from vandalism.

### The Coffee Site, 41 CH 103

#### *History*

This shell midden site was recorded in 1968 by W. L. Fullen (1968). It covers an area approximately 40 x 140 feet, and the deposits are 12 to 18 inches deep. Members of the Houston Archeological Society and the previous landowner have recovered prehistoric sherds, lithic debris, flintlock gun parts, a gun flint, and glass trade beads from the surface, after a portion was plowed by the landowner. A burial was also removed, but has since been misplaced (W. L. Fullen, personal communication). Detailed drawings of these artifacts are filed with the site survey form at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin.

#### *Archaeological Investigation*

The site was examined briefly, and the following artifacts were recovered from the surface:

- 7 sand-tempered sherds
- 18 sandy paste untempered sherds
- 16 chert flakes
- 2 petrified wood flakes
- 1 flat chert pebble with flakes removed
- 1 baked clay lump
- 1 blue glass bead (Fig. 26,a).

### *Observations and Conclusions*

The bead can be classified, according to Harris's system, as a No. 13, large, dark Bluebird Blue, translucent, olive-shaped necklace bead of simple construction, tumbled (Jelks 1967:100), which dates to the mid-18th century (*ibid.*: 104). Identical beads have been found on the Gilbert site in Rains County (Jelks 1967:104) and the Womack site in Lamar County (Harris *et al* 1965:309). This bead is said to be identical to those found previously on the site. The gun parts recovered were from the same period.

On the basis of the artifacts recovered from the site over the years, there is little doubt that it was occupied in both prehistoric and historic times.

### *Recommendations*

We believe that this site shows more promise of containing additional evidence of the period of Orcoquisac contact with the Europeans than either 41 LB 4 or 41 CH 110 (Gilmore 1974:1), which were included in the Orcoquisac Historical District. For this reason, plus the fact that the site is more easily accessible and appears to be partially undisturbed, we recommend that the site be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

## V. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During July and August 1979 the Center for Archaeological Research conducted survey, testing, and historical research on lands to be included in the Wallisville Lake in Liberty and Chambers Counties, Texas. A total of 31 previously recorded sites was examined, and 16 new sites were recorded. Twenty-one pre-historic sites due to be within the proposed Plan 2A were assessed for possible impact of the reservoir, and recommendations have been made for mitigation of some of these sites. Nineteen historic period sites were examined and their comparative importance determined through historical research and archaeological testing. Recommendations have been made for nomination of certain sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and for protection of sites which will be threatened with serious erosion by the construction and maintenance of the reservoir.

### Area of Plan 2A

Section II of this report includes recommendations for possible mitigation of certain sites. However, we feel that the final decision regarding such mitigation should be made by a group which includes a representative of the State Historic Preservation Officer and one or more of the archaeologists who participated in the original surveys of the reservoir as a whole. In this way, decisions can be made from the point of view of the potential of the entire lower Trinity Valley, rather than the necessarily narrow view which was obtained by this survey. For this reason, our recommendations are based on the necessity to establish the relationships of large and small, valley wall, and flood plain sites to each other and to sites tested in earlier surveys which were located farther downstream and in potentially different situations.

The recommendations for historic sites within the proposed reservoir are included in Table 15. Our conclusions were reached after a great deal of thought and discussion, taking into consideration the probable primary and secondary effects of the reservoir on the area as a whole, the history of Chambers County and its immediate surroundings, and its relationship to the history of the state.

The statement that no additional work need be done at present is intended to indicate that there is still research and investigation potential at the site for others, such as the Chambers County Historical Commission or interpretive researchers for park displays to pursue in the future. Where protection is advocated, we recommend that some means be devised to stabilize presently eroding bank areas and to minimize wave action against these areas when the water level is raised to maximum level. Public use of these areas should also be discouraged.

These factors are particularly important in the Orcoquisac Historic District. Since archival research has reaffirmed that a French ship lies somewhere near the first presidio site (41 CH 57) and recent magnetometer testing suggests that this method of search would yield accurate results, a thorough, professional magnetometer survey should be undertaken to find the location of the ship. This should be done in order to avoid damaging the remains by any bank stabilization or other construction undertaken to protect the bank from wave action. Careful

TABLE 15. ANALYSIS OF HISTORIC SITES

<u>Site</u>	<u>Effects of Reservoir</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
Brick Kiln (41 CH 232)	None	National Register
McFaddin Marker (41 CH 233)	None	No further work at present
Labadie Site (41 CH 62)	Erosion, bank collapse	Protect (with 41 CH 63); National Register
Munger Site (41 CH 234)	None	No further work at present
Presidio San Augustin I (41 CH 57)	Erosion, flooding	Protect; magnetometer survey
Orcoquisac Camp (41 CH 22)	Erosion, bank collapse	Protect
Mission La Luz (41 CH 54)	None	Protect; no further work at present
Presidio San Augustin II (41 CH 53)	Public access	Protect
Wallisville townsite	Flooding	Study; Historic District
Cummings Mill (41 CH 243)	Flooding	Research and excavation
J. J. Mayes Farm (41 CH 242)	Flooding	No further work
Shipwreck in Lake Miller	Further silting	No further work at present
Icet Mill and Boat Yard (41 CH 244)	None	Further research by Chambers County; no further work at present
Almeras Brick Works (41 CH 231)	Public Access	Protect; National Register
Coffee Site (41 CH 103)	None	National Register

documentation of the wreck location would make possible a future excavation of this ship as part of an overall research plan for the area.

Also, there seems little doubt that there is a shipwreck somewhere in the northwest quadrant of Lake Miller, possibly by this time buried in the silted-in area of the lake. While this is an extremely interesting historical resource, no new threat is posed to it by reservoir construction. If a magnetometer survey is undertaken at 41 CH 57, it might be worthwhile to also locate this wreck for future reference.

Concerning the town of Wallisville, the problem of flooding needs further study, as suggested above. We recommend that the town be made a Historic District, and that this be made the interpretive center for the reservoir. Use of a renovated structure from the old town or a building such as the proposed courthouse reconstruction would be an ideal setting and would form the nucleus for development of an attractive park on the town site. The combination of a Wallisville Heritage Park with the Orcoquisac Historic District would allow the study of several thousand years of history in one location.

The site of the Cummings Mill offers several alternatives. As mentioned previously, although this was once an important industrial site, much of it has been severely disturbed during construction of the road which now runs between the mill and the river. Construction of a dike on this location would visually cut off the mill site from the town to which it was so closely related. On the other hand, if the dike were built west of the mill, the site would frequently be flooded. Therefore, it seems that the most practical course in the event that the reservoir is constructed as planned would be to extract as much information as possible from the site through research and excavations for use in an interpretive program on the Wallisville town site. Future reservoir construction would make it inaccessible for use as a part of the park.

The combination of a large, rich prehistoric site (41 CH 62 and 41 CH 63) and a historic site which involves a well-known participant in the Texas Revolution merits consideration of the Labadie site for the National Register. If future plans call for a recreational park in this area, we urge that access to the water be at the gently sloping shoreline near the Munger site and that any concentrated foot or vehicular traffic be routed around the bluff at the Labadie site as much as possible in order to avoid further erosion.

#### Area Outside Plan 2A

The reasons for recommendation that the Almeras Brick Works and the Coffee site be nominated to the National Register have been explained above. Research into the history of the Icet Mill and Boat Yard might properly be carried out by the Chambers County Historical Commission, with the possibility considered that it may merit nomination to the National Register.

Since no archaeological sites were found to be located within the general areas designated for control structures, we foresee no particular archaeological problems with their construction. However, in this and in all construction work done in connection with the proposed reservoir, we strongly urge care on the part of contractors and consultation with a professional archaeologist should any type of human occupational remains be found.





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## APPENDIX I.

## CEDAR BAYOU BRICKYARDS

Nelson Martin was a pioneer resident of Baytown and remembered the Cedar Bayou brickyards when they were in production. His family urged him to write down his memories, and the following series of articles appeared in the local newspaper soon afterward.

## BRICKYARDS DOMINATED EARLY ECONOMY HERE

Nelson A. Martin

In all, there were as many as seven brickyards in operation up and down Cedar Bayou at one time. Ed Smith had a yard at Needle Point (near Gulf Oil Corporation's olefin plant). Just downstream from him, on the bayou, was the Rheume brickyard. About where Highway 146 crosses Cedar Bayou was the brickyard operated by Rosemon and Milam (later owned by W. D. Haden).

Ranging downstream from Highway 146 were brickyards operated by Fred Gillette, Will Fayle and Mike Casey. Furtherest downstream -- and just below where Roseland Park stands today -- was the brickyard of Tom Wright.

It didn't take too much capital investment to get into the brick-making business. This was fortunate because it was not much of a moneymaking business, as we shall see.

For example, the first brickyards molded their brick and then dumped them to sun-dry on a smoothed-off place in the yard -- scraped bare and swept clean. This gave the industry its name: brickyard.

But this method soon proved unsatisfactory since the "green" unbaked brick were more or less inclined to dry unevenly in the sun. When they dried too fast, they tended to crack.

Then they began to build drying sheds in which to store the fresh-molded brick out of the sun's heat. This not only allowed a longer drying time but protected the still-soft brick from the rain.

A day's work for a six-man molding crew was 5,000. These six workers included four men and two boys.

A day's batch of brick began in the molding pit. This pit -- about 12 feet long by 7 feet wide -- was dug three to four feet down into the earth. It was walled and floored with heavy planking.

First man in the production line was the dirt-carter who hauled the raw material in a two-wheeled cart to the molding pit. Suitable soil might be found within a couple of hundred yards of the brickyard, or it might have to be hauled as much as a mile.

The mixture required two loads of top-soil loam to one load of clay. Most of the clay was found two or three feet down under the top-soil, but Mike Casey would plow up clay in his pasture and shovel the plow-turnings into the dirt-cart.

This loam-and-clay mixture was wet down in the molding pit and allowed to soak with water for at least 24 hours. Mike Casey was his own yard foreman and hauled his own water. He had a 50-gallon barrel mounted on sled-runners, which he drove to the bayou bank. There he would use a bucket on a short rope to



reach down the few feet to the water's surface and to raise the bucketsful of water to dump into the barrel. If the dirt mix was dry it would take ten or more barrels to soak the mud. And his mud was allowed to soak for 24 hours at least.

*Baytown Sun*, February 12, 1968, page 4

## PIONEER RECALLS BAYOU BRICK-MAKING HISTORY

Nelson A. Martin

A mud mill stood alongside the molding pit. This was a four-foot by four-foot box of heavy planking and stood five feet high. Upon and down through the center ran a revolving king-post projecting almost two feet on every side. As the king-post turned, these teeth mixed the mud as it passed through the mill.

This was a one-horse-power (or a one-mule-power) mill. A long lever-like sweep-boom projected from the king-post and arched over the molding pit. Hitched to the end of this boom, a horse or mule plodded an endless circle around the molding pit and mud mill.

Standing in the mud, the pit-shoveler threw the loam-clay mixture into the top of the mud mill. As the horse, through long habit, circled his hoof-grooved path without direction, the teeth mounted in the grinding king-post cut through the mud to cut and mix it thoroughly.

A slot cut in the bottom of the mud-mill wall let the mixed mud out when it was ready to be worked into brick. A hinged board served as a door to open or close the outlet from the mud-mill, thus regulating the output. The longer the mud remained in the mill, the more moisture was ground out of it and the drier the mixture became.

The mud-wheeler moved the mixed mud, by wheel-barrow, from the mud-mill to the brick molding table. If the horse on the mud-mill lagged, the wheeler threw a clod or a stick to make him move faster.

The molder, considered the head man in the molding crew, stood at the molding table and hand-molded the mud into a three-brick wooden mold. Standing directly across the molding table from the spot where the mud-wheeler dumped the mixed mud, the molder made a circle of his arms until his finger-tips touched. Then he would slice his hands down across the edge of the mud pile and cut off a pone of mud just the right size to mold into a brick.

(Long experience let him cut off pones with great accuracy. This constant working in mud seemed to have no ill effects on the molder's hands. However, he would occasionally bruise or cut his hand on a stone or stick embedded in the mud.)

As he drew the pone toward him, the molder turned it three times on the table covered with sifted sand. Thus "floured" with sand, the damp brick could be handled easily without sticking. Finally, he raised the pone and plopped it into one of the three cells in the three-brick mold, using enough force to fill all corners of the mold with mud. He finished by spanking it into place.

Twice more he repeated this process to fill the three-brick mold, which had been well sanded so that the brick would not stick to the sides or bottom of the mold.

Finally he would take a striking stick -- a 16-inch stick about an inch and a half wide and made out of quarter-inch material -- which he would drag across the mold to finish it off with a smooth surface, ready to be dumped on a board for storing in the drying shed.

*Baytown Sun*, February 13, 1968, page 4

#### HOW BRICKS WERE MADE ALONG CEDAR BAYOU

Nelson A. Martin

The crew kept two of these three brick molds busy. While one was being filled, the molded brick were being dumped from the other.

Both boys in the crew were called off-bearers. They did two different jobs and they changed every 500 or every 1,000 brick.

One boy picked up a three-brick mold as soon as the molder had filled it with mud and then dumped these three brick on a three-quarter-inch board about four inches wide and three feet long. (The mold was a long slot with two partitions dividing it into compartments for three bricks, end-to-end.)

The other boy carried the board with the three brick into the drying shed. The open shed was a frame-work of vertical eight-inch wooden posts buried at least three or three and a half feet in the ground. Horizontal strips -- one inch by two-inch lumber -- were nailed from post to post. The ends of the brick-bearing boards were rested on these strips which were spaced just far enough apart to allow room for the brick.

A rough-batten roof of one-inch by 12-inch lumber kept out the rain and prevented direct sunlight from drying the brick too fast.

The boy would bring back empty boards from the shed -- board from which already-dried brick had been removed -- to the off-bearers' table where they were stacked within easy reach of the other off-bearer who was emptying the molds. As soon as this off-bearer emptied one of the molds onto a board at the off-bearers' table, he would sand the mold and hand it back to the molder.

The molding crew also included two brick-wheelers who moved the brick in wheelbarrows from the drying shed to the brick kiln. These brick would have been in

the drying shed for three or four weeks, depending on how long it took to get ready to burn another batch in the kiln.

Wheelers used two-inch by twelve-inch (or one-inch by twelve-inch) boards to make a gangway for their wheel-barrows as they delivered brick to the kiln.

The brick-setter worked in the kiln and was probably the highest-paid man in the crew. He might earn \$1.25 a-day while molders got from \$1 to \$1.25.

A kiln would hold about 300,000 brick and there would be another kiln to burn about every six weeks. These kilns were built of green or unburned brick. The first time the kilns were fired, these wall-brick were burned hard on the inside and heat-dried on the outside surfaces so that they took weather pretty good.

They used three-eyed and four-eyed kilns. These eyes were arch-shaped opening extending from ground level up for about four feet in the brick walls. As the brick-setter stacked dried brick inside the kiln in preparation for firing, he arched his brick so that these eyes extended all the way through the kiln. A one-brick-wide partition across the middle of the kiln cut across these eyes but this partition was usually punched out in the process of firing.

It took about 150 cords of wood to fire a kiln. When a kiln was ready to fire, the molding crew stopped molding brick and worked -- three men on each side of the kiln -- on the firing.

At the first day of the firing, just a small fire was built in the opening of the eye -- a bit of blaze in each eye. Gradually the amount of fire was increased.

By the fifth day -- and from then until the eighth day -- the fire was kept as hot as possible around the clock. Four-foot sticks of pine cord-wood was shoved into the eyes as fast as it would burn. Long green-wood poles were used to push these burning logs as far into the kiln as possible, finally punching out the interior brick partition.

Intensity of the accumulated heat can hardly be described. Flames would sear up through layer upon layer of brick and flicker across the tops of the bricks in the kiln.

*Baytown Sun*, February 14, 1968, page 6

5,000 BRICKS BROUGHT ONLY \$30 AT GALVESTON

Nelson A. Martin

On the eighth day the eyes of the kiln would be filled in with dried brick to complete the wall. Then these eyes would be mudded over. Buckets of loose dirt would be passed up to the brick-setter who, standing with one foot on a

ladder and the other on the edge of the kiln, threw this dirt across the hot bricks until they were covered two or three inches deep -- thus holding in the heat. As soon as the kiln grew cool enough, a roof of rough-batten one-by-twelve boards would be fitted in place to keep out the rain.

It would take about ten days for the kiln to cool enough to open up and let the brick be moved. Actually, the brick remained in the kiln until a boat could come up the bayou to ship the brick to Galveston or to Houston.

All the yards except Gillette's and Casey's owned their own boats. Rosemond and Milam owned a three-masted schooner. The rest were two-masted schooners. Casey and Gillette operated during the latter years when tow-boats could be used to barge brick out of Cedar Bayou.

Since most of the brickyards were located some three to ten water-miles from the mouth of the bayou in Galveston Bay, it was a problem to move sailboats up and down the relatively narrow bayou.

Rosemond and Milam developed an interesting procedure for moving their boats down this twisting bayou to the open bay.

They beat down a tow-path along the east bank of the bayou on the Chambers County side -- across the stream from Harris County. (They were the biggest operators on the bayou, supposedly operating three or four molding crews and owning their own boats.)

Their towing operation was powered by a horse or mule ridden by a small boy. He did not, as one might suppose, have a harness on the animal with the tow-rope hitched to the singletree for pulling power. Instead, the tow-rope ran from the pommel of a saddle upward to where it was tied high on the mast of the boat being towed. This kept the rope free from tangling in the brush and shrubbery between the tow-path and the water's edge.

Posts and braces still stand, half-rotten, to mark the footbridges used by horse and rider to cross the tributary gullies which flowed into the bayou.

This tow-path permitted regular trips up and down the bayou by sailboats regardless of the wind.

When a boat was on hand to be loaded, even the molding crew would sometime take off from molding to help wheel the burned brick onto the boat.

Ordinarily a crew could get to work by good daylight and finish work before noon because a day's work for a molding crew was 5,000 brick.

These boats hauled 50,000 to 100,000 brick. They had very roomy holds, as the below-deck cargo space was called. Then as many bricks as possible -- often more than were in the hold -- were stacked and stored on the open deck.

Brickyard owners never did get rich for there was not the profit in brick-making that there was in the lumber and saw-mill business.

In those days brick sold for only about \$6 a thousand delivered in Galveston. The 5,000 brick produced by a molding crew -- four men and two boys -- thus sold for \$30 on the Galveston wharves.

Out of this income, brickyard owners had to pay the molding crew and maintain the brickyard -- which was not very expensive -- and buy wood for the kilns. In addition, they had to own boats or pay the cost of shipping the brick to Galveston or -- later -- to Houston.

*Baytown Sun*, February 15, 1968, page 4

### NO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON A DOLLAR PER DAY

Nelson A. Martin

When I was a small boy, off-bearing at Mike Casey's yard, we boys got 60 cents a day while most of the men got a dollar. It is surprising how well families got along. There was no unemployment or economic problems and no starving children in those days.

Of course, after a man finished his day's work at the brickyard about noon, he still had half a day in which to grow food for his family and feed for his livestock. Most men raised enough food and feed that they had to spend little at the local stores.

Irish and sweet potatoes were grown and could be stored for almost year-round use. Most meat was home-grown.

But at either side of the two stores -- Ilfrey's or Ellisor's -- a family could buy a side of bacon for \$1.50. A 48-pound sack of Tidal Wave flour, milled in Galveston, cost 75 cents. A pair of dress shoes sold for \$1.50 to \$2 and heavy brogans for working sold for \$1 to \$1.25. A quarter would buy a big bag of navy beans.

Brickyards did not operate in the winter months because the bricks would freeze and break while they were still wet. (Otherwise, weather did not pose too much of a problem except that a hard rain during the day would often cost a day's work since there would be too much water in the unroofed molding pit.)

On just ordinarily damp days we used to dry our sand by building an open fire and scattering sand across it so that, after it burned out, we could scoop up the dry sand and ashes in wheel-barrows to use on the molding table.

But the brickyards provided winter-time employment even though no bricks were being molded. It took a lot of wood to burn the brick and everyone who wanted to work could go to the woods and make almost as much cutting cord-wood in cold weather as they could make in a molding crew during warmer weather.

Cutting wood meant a longer day's work, but there was less gardening and farming to be done in the winter time. And this off-season employment did tide families over through the winter season.

For more than half a century, this brick-making industry was the economic backbone of the Cedar Bayou community from which Baytown later developed.

I do not know where to find information about the beginning of brick-making on Cedar Bayou. But I would judge that it started between 1850 and 1865. Allen Wright told me that his grandfather, Tom Wright, came to Cedar Bayou in 1871 as an immigrant from England and that the brickyards had been operating for several years by that time.

Tom Wright bought out the yard which had been operated by Col. Ashbel Smith who sold it because it seemed to be a money-losing operation. So evidently, brick-making had been under way along Cedar Bayou for some years prior to 1871.

In addition to serving as the basis for the economy of the Cedar Bayou community, brickmaking contributed importantly to the building of Galveston and then Houston. Unfortunately, our Cedar Bayou brick cannot today be identified in the landmark structures of those cities since it was not the practice in the early days to stamp trade-marks into bricks.

I remember being in Houston as a small lad and seeing workers build a street of brick. They first graded the street surface to the grade-level desired and then laid one-inch by twelve-inch creosoted boards as a rough floor. Then they stood brick on edge, as close together as possible and without any mortar between them. This made a very good street.

It provided a smooth surface and kept out the mud. Of course, it was a little noisy with the old iron-shod horses and steel-rimmed wheel of the horse-drawn vehicles in those days.

Brickyards operated along Cedar Bayou until the discovery of oil -- after the turn of the century -- brought in the much higher wages paid to workers in oil production and later in oil refining.

Thus came to an end a little-known but very significant industry which was -- except for some farming and livestock -- the sole support of the Cedar Bayou community of Texas pioneers who were the forebears of many Baytown families.

*Baytown Sun*, February 16, 1968

APPENDIX II.

ARTIFACTS FROM WILSON BOARDING HOUSE TEST PIT

Personal Articles

- |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7 clothing hook fasteners   | brass latch part                      |
| clothing snap fastener      | brass hinge                           |
| fastener tab: "TRUEFIT"     | 3 brass tacks                         |
| filigree metal belt buckle  | threaded brass knob                   |
| gilded watchband buckle     | spring                                |
| 2 small buckle fragments    | spring, 5/8" in diameter              |
| 8 shoelace eyes             | clock gear                            |
| eyeglass lens               | folding ruler hinge                   |
| metal cufflink, glass set   | 4 clay marbles                        |
| 8 shell buttons             | fragment cut celluloid (guitar pick?) |
| 4 white glass buttons       | 3 slate fragments                     |
| orange glass button         | slate pencil fragment                 |
| bone button fragment        | 10 porcelain doll fragments           |
| 3 purse frame fragments     | porcelain doll teapot fragment        |
| 2 metal tear-shaped objects | 2 porcelain doll dish fragments       |

Kitchen and Dining Articles\*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| clear whole bottle:<br>"CHEESEBROUGH MFG. CO/VASELINE         | blue shell-edged earthenware                                     |
| 2 clear whole bottles   | 9 gold-decorated earthenware                                     |
| 483 clear glass containers                                    | 2 silver luster decorated earthenware                            |
| 3 clear glass drinking containers                             | 12 decalcomania-decorated earthenware                            |
| whole aqua glass panel bottle:<br>"DR. S. PITCHER'S CASTORIA" | 24 plain white earthenware                                       |
| 103 aqua glass containers (mostly<br>canning jars)            | 136 ironstone, including "J. & G.<br>MEAKIN" and "JOHNSON BROS." |
| 38 brown glass containers                                     | 2 ironstone with green-painted design                            |
| 11 blue glass containers                                      | ironstone with blue transfer design                              |
| 12 emerald green glass containers                             | porcelain (cup handle)   |
| 11 blue glass containers                                      | 8 plain white porcelain  |
| lavender glass pitcher handle                                 | 9 decalcomania-decorated porcelain                               |
| 28 lamp chimney/light bulb                                    | 4 gold-decorated porcelain                                       |
| 21 pressed glass  | 7 painted oriental porcelain                                     |
| glass stopper   | luster on stoneware  |
| cream-colored glass mug                                       | stoneware bottle fragment  |
| 7 pink-cased glass  | metal pot handle   |
| green and white cased glass                                   |  |
| 7 white and clear cased glass                                 |  |
| 5 milk glass  |  |
| 5 white glass jar lid liners                                  |  |

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\* Fragments except where otherwise noted.



Building Materials

220 cut nails and fragments	corrugated fastener
242 wire nails and fragments	pipe flange
367 unidentifiable nail fragments	plated metal window shade bracket
8 square spikes	10 wire fragments
2 tacks	2 lead sprue fragments
6 fence staples	early light bulb base
screw hook	6 electrical fixtures fragments
screw eye	47 brick fragments
4 washers	174 window glass fragments
2 door hinges	

Miscellaneous

electrical fuse	beveled flashlight lens
valve cap	10 oz. coal
3 shotgun shells:	32 oz. clam and oyster shell
"UMC Co./No.12/NEW CLUB" (2)	28 oz. unidentifiable metal scrap
"WINCHESTER/No.12/NUBLACK" (1)	7 fragments peach pits



## APPENDIX III.

"INVENTORY OF THE GOODS WHICH THE MISSION OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA LUZ HAS,  
EXISTING IN THE ROYAL PRESIDIO OF SAN AGUSTÍN DE AHUMADA . . ."

Melchor Afan de Rivera  
Presidio of Orcoquiza  
Sept. 12, 1766

Translation by Dora Guerra

## Inventory of Orcoquisac Mission

7

	M
N.	.62

Inventory of church, house, and field goods belonging to Mission Our Lady of Light in the Orcoquisac (territory) turned over to me in January 1767, and (list of) improvements from said year to the present day of 24 May 1768, which I, Father Manuel Maria de Senor San Jose Marentis minister of said Mission turn over to the soldier Manuel de Acosta by order of Rev. Father Miguel de Santa Maria. The items are . . .

Church. There was no church in existence. Goods which I received, and turned over.

- First 1 Canvas painting of Our Lady of Light
- 1 Canvas painting of Christ before Pilot
- 1 St. Peter Alcantara. I was able to find only the burlap, and that is how I turned it over.
- 9 Little drawings on paper
- 1 Small canvas picture
- 1 Metal cross
- 1 Tin lamp
- 2 Brass candleholders
- 1 (Statue) of St. Esleta which Fr. Silba burned because it was in such a poor state.
- 1 (Statue) of St. Francis Xavier with a silver crown and heart.
- 1 Embroidered banner
- 1 Copper baptismal font filled with holy water, plus a silver conch for pouring.
- 1 Copper, holy water container.
- 1 Altar table.
- 3 Black sheepskins.
- 1 Red lectern.
- 1 Confessional.

- 1 Altar platform. It is listed in Fr. Salbino's (inventory?). It was not turned over to me, nor did I carpet it.
- 1 Box of (church) ornaments.
- 1 Alb. 3 amices. 1 surplice and (1 word unknown).
- 1 Small chest with 21 purificators.
- 1 Small chalice spoon. It was lost.
- 1 Paten and 1 white cape.
- 1 White humeral veil and 1 white (1 w. unkn.).
- 1 Goldplate over silver reliquary.
- 1 Ciborium cover and (2 words illegible) cloth.
- 1 Red (1 w. ill.).

//3

- A few silk and gold cords.
- 4 Altar cloths in red, purple, green, and black with their corresponding capes.
- 2 Cross covers. One black, one white.
- 3 Small silver bottles.
- 2 Boxes of vials.
- 1 Mold for making hosts.
- 2 Undamaged bells.
- 2 Bronze crosses. One is a crucifix.
- 1 Badly damaged silk cloth.
- 1 Piece of a tunic.
- 3 Pieces of satin. I have turned over only two.

-----

Improvements to the church during my administration, and which I now turn over.

First 1 church. Eleven to twelve varas long and about seven varas wide with a nailed down shingle roof. It is whitewashed, and has an adequate sacristy, also

with a shingle roof. Its chancel is on a platform with railings and the choir has a floor and railings. (There is) a pulpit, confessional, and baptistry. Its entrance is around two or four varas wide. It has a cemetery, thirty varas long and sixteen wide surrounded by handrails.

1 Silver chalice about a cuarta (measure) tall, and four which measure about two cuartas.

1 Chalice, two patens, and two little spoons.

1 White vestment.

2 Missals and one Saints-day manual.

1 Pair of pulpit cloths.

2 Altar cloths one of which had been turned over to me, and which had not been listed in the inventory.

2 Communion rail cloths.

6 (2 w. ill.) (Chambray) that is Brittany cloth.

3 Altar cloths, one of which I cannot find but which I did turn in. It is probably misplaced.

4 Canvas paintings. One of the Trinity; another of Christ, another of Our Lady of Sorrows and another one of St. Anthony.

7 Small drawings on paper.

8 Holy pictures.

1 (1 w. unkn.) and one bronze censer, with its spoon.

Next page

//4

2 Large, wood, gold-leafed candle holders.

1 Bronze one of the same date.

4 Glass (1 w. unkn.).

8 Glass (1 w. unkn.).

6 Bottles.

1 Tabernacle covered in satin with its satin curtains.

1 Altar.

- 1 Altar carpet. Two mats, three wooden platforms in the sacristy.  
An altar and a confessional.
- 2 Drapes on the two doors of the sacristy.
- 1 Small altar bell. Two glass vinegar containers and their glass plate.
- 1 Tin Host box.
- 10 Varas of ribbon for Our Lady.
- 2 Glass Glasses.
- 9 Corporals which had not been listed, and twelve coins, and 2 rings.  
Some bracelets.
- 1 Small container for the salt of the baptistry.
- 1 Small cup with salt and holy water.
- 9 Small cups.
- 1 Small bench in the sacristy used in the holy service.
- 1 Small hand lavatory stand used as a table in the chancel.
- 1 Throne for Our Lady.
- 1 Missal borrowed from Fr. (2 letters illegible) nellano and, a chalice  
from the mission at Los Adaes.
- 1 Thick flannel table cloth for the sacristy, and one bench for daily  
use, also some curtains that had not been listed before.
- 1 Vara of tissue-like ribbon for the tabernacle.
- 1 Armchair for daily use.
- 1 White cape.

Books I received and turned over

- 3 Volumes of Martimas (?) de Garau.
- 2 Vols. of meditations by the same author.
- Leaves from The Tree of Life.
- Works of Zabaleta.
- Larraza (author?).

## Sermons

1 Book of sermons

Father Corella

Next page

//5

Father Montenegro.

Second and third parts of The Mystic City of God.

3 Vols. of Barcia and another one I found later.

The Damages of Lechery.

Father Castro.

3 (1 w. ill.) Christian, one of them red.

Father Fulgencio Lafore.

Finosinum theolojicum.

1 Book of eulogistic sermons.

2 Catechisms, one of the present.

2 Quivers (for arrows), one of them is missing.

1 Seven day missal.

1 Manual.

Claudiano.

7 Vols. of Boyvin's Philosophy and Theology.

7 Breveries in four parts.

Another one which I found, and had forgotten.

2 Vols. of Afolis de la Muza.

Holy Week homilies not included (in prior list?)

House. There was none. Following are the household goods which I received and now turn over.

2 Shelving units and a wardrobe.

2 Beds and two canopies.



- 2 Benches, large and small.
- 1 Armchair and three armless chairs.
- 2 Copper holy water containers one has a lid and key. The other one is without a lid and contains the Baptismal water.
- 1 Cabinet with eight glasses some of them crystal.
- 1 Large iron and a pair of tailors scissors.
- 1 Box with its lock and key.
- 2 Platters.
- 10 Small glasses and several tablecloths.
- 1 Spoon and two forks.
- 1 Large damask.
- 1 Chamber pot.
- 2 Candlesticks and two broken snuffers.

//6

Kitchen. There was none. Goods which I received and turn over.

- 2 Iron stokers.
- 2 Ladles.
- 3 Tri-legged pots.
- 2 Copper ones (pots).
- 2 Skillets.
- 1 Mortar with handle.
- 1 Heater.
- 1 Small caldron.
- 3 Grinding stones, one is without a handle.
- 1 Iron grill.

Mission miscellanea which I received and now turn over.

- 4 Hoes.
- 2 Augers.

- 2 Saws.
- 4 Plowshares and one pointer.
- 2 Hammers.
- 3 Machetes.
- 1 Brush and one plane.
- 2 Small plots of land.
- 9 Chisels and two (1 w. unkn.).
- 1 Hatchet.
- 2 Locks and keys.
- 1 Round file.
- 1 Branding iron.
- 2 Pear trees from the Coast, but which I am turning over here.
- 2 Bars and a tong.

Improvements to the Mission, etc. [sic.]

First A house measuring 23 varas in length. It has a livingroom, two cells, an awning, a balustrade and an arched entry. It has six doors which lead to the street and two that lead to the inside. Four of the doors have locks and keys. The house is whitewashed, and has a nailed down shingle roof.

//7

A kitchen with its chimney 92 varas long. It has a door, and a room used as an office. There is an awning, a door and key. There are the necessities with doors.

- 1 Chicken coop.
- 1 Oven.
- A garden fence against the house with its gate and lock.
- A Stockyard and a pig pen.
- An iron kettle.
- A copper kettle.
- A pot, a skillet, and an iron grill.
- 3 Glasses, one small and two medium ones.

- 6 Cups from Puebla.
- 7 Bowls and six plates from Puebla.
- 2 French plates.
- 2 Salt shakers, a tin one and a wooden one.
- 2 Pewter plates.
- 3 Napkins.
- 12 (1 w. unkn.).
- 1 French, white jar, and another medium one.
- 1 (1 w. unkn.).
- 1 Tray (1 w. unkn.).
- 2 Clay jugs one contains some lard.
- 4 (1 w. unkn.).
- 1 Large and one small tables. The large one has a tablecloth of cotton.
- 8 Harnesses, riding gear, horse blankets, and ropes.
- Fr. Santa Maria has one of the harnesses.
- Four others are at the Sabine creek, left there by (2 w. ill.) and covered with a blanket. Don Gaspar Christen left a harness and riding gear at the Mission at Los Adaes.
- 4 Sets of riding gear are in very bad shape.
- 1 English rifle. The key (lock?) was taken to be repaired by Nicolas.
- //8
- 2 Augers. One large and one small.
- 1 Large stone cutting chisel.
- 2 Broken hatchets.
- 4 Pieces of steel.
- 1 Lock for which the key could not be found at the time of the inventory.  
Key has been found.
- 1 Gun barrel and key.
- 2 Wooden stools.

4 Boxes. One small and 3 large.

1 Pound of white, loose, string.

Some sugar cane.

1 Large box filled with (1 w. unkn.) for locks.

1 Pack of 30 packets of tobacco.

3 Bamboo mats.

1 Book of Indian funerals and baptisms.

1 Said book of Spanish funerals and baptisms, both bound in (1 w. unkn.).

1 Said book of marriages.

1 Crate of soap with a thousand bars. Also Julia. (The word Julia here seems to be used in reference to wrapping material. It is consistently used in that context, but I could not verify this, other than that each time it is used it is used along with other words that signify wrapping materials.)

2 Spoons. One is metal, the other is tin.

18 Pounds of wax from the North, made into 94 candles already blessed.

1 Lead ink well with its sandbox.

1 Small host box.

1 Box with 700 bars of chocolate with its corresponding wrapping materials, and ropes.

1 Counter with its respective booth.

1 New hatchet.

2 Horse blinders and a (1 w. unkn.).

4 Weeding hoes and shovels.

3 Latches without (1 w. unkn.).

1 Knife holder with 9 knives.

A few new (1 w. unkn.).

2 Small crystal jars and a large one.

1 Small dinner plate and knife.

- 1 Brazier.
- 2 Sheets, one is Brittany cloth, the other is cotton, and is torn.  
2-1/4 varas of striped, coarse cotton.
- //9
- 7-1/2 varas of cloth from Querétaro.
- 3 varas minus 2 fingers breadth of flannel.
- 1 Coarse cotton cloth from Villalta and a Patio (?).
- 1 Handful of black beads.
- 3 Sheets of sieve cloth, and one sieve.
- 1 Striped shawl.
- 11 Varas of Chinese linen.
- 6 Field blankets.
- 93 Small paper notebooks.
- 6 Hand breadths of cut paper.
- 2 Jars of ink.
- 4-1/2 Pounds of cotton spun for wicks.
- 9 (1 w. ill.) 2 (1 w. ill.) of saffron.
- 2 (1 w. ill.) of black pepper.
- 9 Packets of anise, coriander, rosemary, cumin, and (1 w. unkn.).
- 1 Metal spoon.
- 90 Pieces of (molded) brown sugar in a crate with its corresponding wrappings and Julia.
- 10 Pairs of leather shoes.
- 5 (1 w. unkn.) 9 pounds in a sack of un-milled flour.
- There is a half-filled keg of wine.
- 12 Skeins of white silk.
- 1 Fifty-nine lb. crate of suet with its corresponding wrappings and ropes.

37 Skeins of cotton thread.

13 Skeins of blue century plant thread.

26 Skeins of blue silk.

4 Arrobas plus 6 lbs. of salt with its corresponding sacks, wrappings,  
and rope.

3 Packets of straight pins.

1 (1 w. ill.) of hemp for rope.

17 lbs. of nails for shingles.

1 Grain measure of garbanzo beans, and 6 lbs. of rice.

Plus 1 iron fork.

2 Jars of oil.

//10

1 Gourd bowl filled with ground chilies.

6-1/2 bushels of corn.

1 Jug.

9 Sacks of packing and wrapping materials, and 1 (sack of) burlap  
(wrapping).

891 Ears of yellow corn.

Another sack of burlap.

4 Loose guangoches (wrapping material).

2 Loose crates.

2 Bed boards.

1 Small vial of ointment.

1 Pocket watch with a broken stem.

2 Plows.

12 (1 w. ill.) of fish.

4 Steer horns. One small sack of chilipitin peppers.

1 Candy Box. Found the lost key to the lock above mentioned.

1 (1 w. unkn.) and a handleless knife.

1 Mirror. One dinner fork.

1 Valuable spoon.

7 Chickens, 1 rooster, and 6 chicks.

Field goods which I received and now turn over.

Mares

2 Dapple-grays

2 Roans. One of these is being claimed by (1 w. ill.) Josephine Sensuya. I have not given it up because of insufficient proof (of ownership). Plus (the mare) has the Mission's brand (1 w. unkn.).

1 Honey-colored (mare).

//11

1 Black mare

1 Red, which I exchanged.

1 Roan. This one died. Everyone is aware of it.

1 (4 w. ill.) which I exchanged.

1 Roan from the Valdez stock. I received and now turn over with two foals, but she is embargoed because Miguel Ramos claims she belongs to him.

All the rest listed in the inventory turned over to me at the beginning of my administration, which were not really accounted for, I do not claim to have received.

Another black mare from the Valdez stock which I received, I now turn over. All in all I have turned over seven mares.

Fillies received and turned over.

4 Fillies. One (1 w. unkn.) Dapple-gray, one roan, one red, one dapple (1 w. ill.).

4 Colts born after Rev. Fr. Salbino departed.

1 Dapple horse.

Mules received and turned over.

1 Bay coyote, which I am turning over.

1 Male Pilatos (Tribe?) which I turn over.

1 Black male which I received, but which was left in Nacogdoches by one of my braves because the mule was too tired to travel.

1 Bay mule. I lost her at Las Cruces.  
Her name is Pollita.

1 Roan colored young mule which I sold. That is why I have only two missing ones and two present ones to turn over.

Steers which I received and I am now turning over.

I received six oxen. At my departure for La Bahia I turned over nine. When I returned I received two, one of which was dying. I now turn over two in good health. Of the remaining steers reflected in the inventory turned over to me, they were never accounted for; because some had strayed and other had died. I noted that in that particular inventory.

//12

Summary of these goods turned over.

Mares accounted for	11
Oxen	02
Stud horse	01
Mules accounted for	02

Missing Goods

1 Two-year old dapple mare with her foal.

1 Two-year old roan and her foal.

1 Small roan. Two (3 w. ill.).

Mules and Males Missing

1 Black male left in Nacogdoches by one of my men because it was too tired to travel.

1 Bay mule named Pollita in Las Cruces.

Missing Oxen

1 Black mouthed ox strayed to Calzones.



Summary of Missing Goods

3 Mares	03
Fillies	02
Mule and male	02
Oxen	01
	Total (Blank) sic.
14 Mares	14
Colts and fillies	06
Mule and males	04
Oxen	03
Stud horse	<u>01</u>
	Head 28

Improvements under my administration which I now turn over.

Mares ready for mating whose colors I have already listed in the Mission's cattle notebook 19

//13

Colts and fillies present 02

Missing already mentioned 02

Foals present 08

Stud donkey. Black. present 01

Horses turned over and accounted for.

A roan

A (1 w. unkn.)

A black one.

A red one.

A (1 w. unkn.).

Missing Horses

One bay  
 One (1 w. unkn.).  
 One Dapple

These three were left behind by my  
 braves from San Jacinto.

One roan  
 One (1 w. unkn.).

I said already from the San Jacinto  
 brand.

Mules Accounted for and Turned Over

1 Red mule.

1 Dapple with Fr. Roque's brand.

Another red mule.

One chestnut colored male with Fr. Francisco's brand.

Another chestnut colored mule.

Another " " "

One dapple mule.

Another one.

One black mule named Lachinpas.

One chestnut colored male.

Another bay, male.

//14

Mule Foals Accounted For and Turned Over

1 Young female dapple.

1 Young black male.

1 Young red male.

Missing Mules and Males

1 Black mule for mounting.

1 Black male.

1 Chestnut-colored male with broad forehead. These three stayed on this  
 side of the Guadalupe. They  
 have the brand of the Pro-  
 vincial Captain.

1 Old, ash-colored male which I left behind at La Bahia. Plus one  
 chestnut-colored male which at the time of my departure strayed.

Cows Accounted For and Turned Over

7 Cows  
 1 One-year old bull.  
 1 Male calf.  
 1 Female calf.

Summary of Above Enhancement to the Stock

Mares ready for mating and accounted for	19
Young colts and fillies	09
Missing	02
Foals not missing	08
Black stud donkey not missing	01
Horses not missing	06
Horses missing	09
Mules and males not missing	(Blank) sic.
Cows not missing	07
1 One-year old bull	01
2 Sucklings, a male and a female	<u>02</u>
Total addition to the Stock	75

//15 General Total of Present and Missing Goods Received  
 And Turned Over. Including the Enhancement To The Stock

Received 28

Increased 75

103 Head

NOTES

I am in debt to no one. Nor have I loaned anything to anyone. Of the Mission's debts, as reflected in the Mission's ledger, left behind by Fr. Salvino, I have paid for three cows, including their calves, as shown in the ledger. (The Mission) owed (1 w. unkn.). I paid Capt. Melchor Afan for them, or better still he, himself, paid himself as is reflected in the ledger, but (the ledger) is in error with respect to what is owed this Captain.

Also I have paid for four pounds of nails which the ledger shows we owe the soldiers. I have already paid them.

With regards to these two other transactions reflected in said ledger stating that to Moises Laforma fifty four pesos are owed; I have not paid them by order of my Superior. I sent (1 w. ill.) Fr. (1 w. ill.) that did not happen to me (??? meaning is confused). As for the other transaction of twelve pesos to Dn. Manuel de Soto. Said gentleman has not returned to be paid, nor is it known where he might have gone, since he is a fugitive. (The transactions with the French, are the ones I have orders to send to Father). sic.

I declare that besides these transactions which keep appearing in the ledger time and again, there came Don Ramon asking to be paid for three cows, for which I have not paid due to the absence of papers from said Father (1 w. ill.) to verify (ownership).

I declared that from Fr. Salbino's administration nothing more is owed.

//16

Debts Owed This Mission

This Presidio's Captain, Don Melchor Afan, (owes) two-hundred pesos (1 w. ill.) for my masses and sermons as is evident from a draft which he left for one-hundred pesos 200

4-1/2 Bushels of corn, and six brown sugar cones

2 Pairs of leather shoes

Also the (military) Company owes five and one-half (bushels) of corn, which I agreed to return in species.

Manuel Mendez (owes) 2-1/2 varas of cotton and 1-1/2 of linen.

1 Grain measure of corn.

Lt. Cordoba, 2 grain measures of corn.

Marcos Losoya 1 grain measure.

Chavez another and (1 w. unkn.).

Lascano 1 grain measure as above.

Sargeant Ramos 1 horse which he brought from La Bahia lent to him by Fr. Lopez.

Bernabe del Rio 1 horse for the price of a mule.

Josephine owes 19 reales, with the agreement that she is to pay back in milk and cheese. Also she owes 1/2 a vara of cotton and three fourths of linen. I have deducted 5 reales for milk she has already brought.

I turn over to the said Manuel de Acosta the power to collect 4 mules owed to me by Lt. Josephine.

Another power given to me by Eustaquio for collecting 30 head of horses owed by Mosiva Carlos. Of these I received only 5 mares, which he (Carlos) had already paid (Eustaquio). Of these (five), one did not belong to him. It belonged to Aunt Rosa to whom I returned it. He (Eustaquio?) had sold me a missing colt which he claimed was at the ranch. I paid for it, and never received it.

Even though I have a burro from that stock, I paid for it in reales. (half a line is blank)

In Maria de Chiber's stock, I declared that two mares with the Mission's plain brand, one of which is a bay and the other a black pinto, are hers,

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as well as a colt among those listed. Of those (1 w. ill.). I gave my part to Juan Domingo in return for his help in gathering my belongings (2 w. unkn.).

Also I declare that at the time of my departure, one of my mules which I was taking (1 w. ill.), and so I took one of the ones listed in the ledger.

All the things referred to in these eight pages I have turned over to Joseph Manuel de Acosta in the presence of Lt. Christobal de Cordoba and Don Francisco Portilla. To verify its authenticity I signed it on 25 May 1768.

Fr. Manuel Maria de San Joseph Marentis  
Rubric

I received from the Reverend Father Manuel Maria Marentis everything stated in these eight pages to my satisfaction. All of which will be turned over to whichever Fr. Minister may come (1 w. ill.) on behalf of the Mission that I might be ordered to carry out. To verify, I signed a cross, since I do not know how to write. I requested Don Christobal de Cordoba to write my name for me. I, Francisco de la Portilla having helped the aforementioned Fr. Marentis with this inventory (do hereby sign).

Orcoquisac, 25 May 1768

Christobal de Cordoba  
Rubric

+ Francisco de la Portilla  
Rubric

I declare that all the above is true. I declare that the Rev. Fr. Manuel Maria Marentis did in truth turn over to the soldier from my company Joseph Manuel de Acosta, to Acosta's satisfaction, all the things listed in this inventory, with

the understanding that Acosta is to turn things over to whichever Rev. Minister comes.

Presidio Orcoquisac

25 May 1768

Melchor Afan de Ribera  
Rubric

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This was faithfully copied from the original which can be found in the Mission. To verify, I signed it on the very same day, 25 May 1768.

I signed with a cross because I am illiterate, and Don Christobal de Cordoba signed for me, at my request. Portilla.

Christobal de Cordoba  
Rubric

+ Francisco Portilla  
Rubric

Vo. Bo.  
Afan de Ribera  
Rubric