

Test Excavations at the Old Rock Store (41MC827), Tilden, McMullen County, Texas



by
José Zapata and Sarah Wigley

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8155

REDACTED

Principal Investigator
Paul Shawn Marceaux

Prepared for:
McMullen County Historical Commission
P.O. Box 237
Tilden, Texas 78072



Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Archaeological Report, No. 461

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Abstract:

Working on behalf of the McMullen County Historical Commission (MCHC), The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) conducted archaeological testing to locate and document the condition of the foundation of the Old Rock Store in Tilden, McMullen County, Texas. The Old Rock Store is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) and was therefore within the purview of the Antiquities Code of Texas. The project required obtaining Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8155 from the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) included a 1.5-m (5-ft.) buffer around the perimeter of the 7.6-x-14.9 m (25-x-49 ft.) structure, which is constructed on Lot 2, Block 4, in downtown Tilden. This project was led by José Zapata, Project Archaeologist, with Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux serving as the Principal Investigator.

Archaeological testing and archival research were completed between August 22 and 24, 2017. The sandstone-rubble foundation was located within 45 cm (17.7 in.) below the surface and extends to at least 65 cm (25.6 in.) below the surface. The artifact assemblage indicates that the top 45 cm (17.7 in.) of strata are mixed deposits and, owing to the foundation setting trench, the stratum at 45-75 cm (17.7-29.5 in.) is a partially intact archaeological deposit dating to the late-1800s. Since the mid-1960s, several attempts to restore and/or stabilize the building have been made. In spite of some missteps, the below-grade stones and foundation are in good condition. In terms of the date of construction, the results of this study indicate that the Old Rock Store was constructed circa 1878 and that Patrick Cavanaugh might have been the builder. The site was recorded and assigned the trinomial 41MC827.

At this time, CAR recommends archaeological monitoring of below-ground excavations extending 45 cm (17.7 in.) or more below the grade. In addition, planning for future site development should consider the possibility of encountering buried features, such as privies or cisterns, which may be extant outside the current APE but within Block 4 of the town site.

In accordance with the THC Permit specifications, all field notes, photographs, and other project related documents, along with a copy of the final report, will be permanently curated at the CAR facility. Currently, all recovered artifacts are planned to be loaned to the MCHC.

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Acknowledgements:

A number of individuals lent support to the successful completion of this project. Cecile Stanley, Chair of the McMullen County Historical Commission, was on site to extend the Commission's support of the project and provided invaluable insight. Jayne Varga of the County Judge's office was reassuringly located across the street and ready to lend support if needed. Gary Stanley was very helpful in sharing his knowledge of the site and assisting with his tools and labor. We are especially grateful to the CAR field crew, Jason Perez and Sarah Wigley, and José Zapata who served as Project Archaeologist. Sarah Wigley and José Zapata contributed an analysis and discussion of the recovered artifacts. Dr. Jessica Nowlin, who was also on site, provided GPS, GIS, and mapping support. Thanks are also due to Dr. Kelly Harris for editing this report and to Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux who served as Principal Investigator and oversaw the writing and production of the final report.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) was contracted by the McMullen County Historical Commission (MCHC) to conduct archaeological testing to locate and document the condition of the foundation of the Old Rock Store. The site is located at 502 River Street in Tilden, McMullen County, Texas (Figure 1-1). In 1966, the Old Rock Store was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), and it functions as the McMullen County Museum, which is open by appointment. Since the project includes work associated with a RTHL, it is within the purview of the Antiquities Code of Texas and required obtaining Texas Antiquities Permit

No. 8155. This project was led by José Zapata, Project Archaeologist, with Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux serving as the Principal Investigator.

The need to locate and evaluate the condition of the foundation was motivated by the deteriorating condition of the surface level course of sandstone blocks. This extensive spalling, amplified over a period of 130 years, was caused by rising damp that, coupled with the naturally occurring salinity of the soils, heightened the deterioration of the sandstone along the base of the walls.

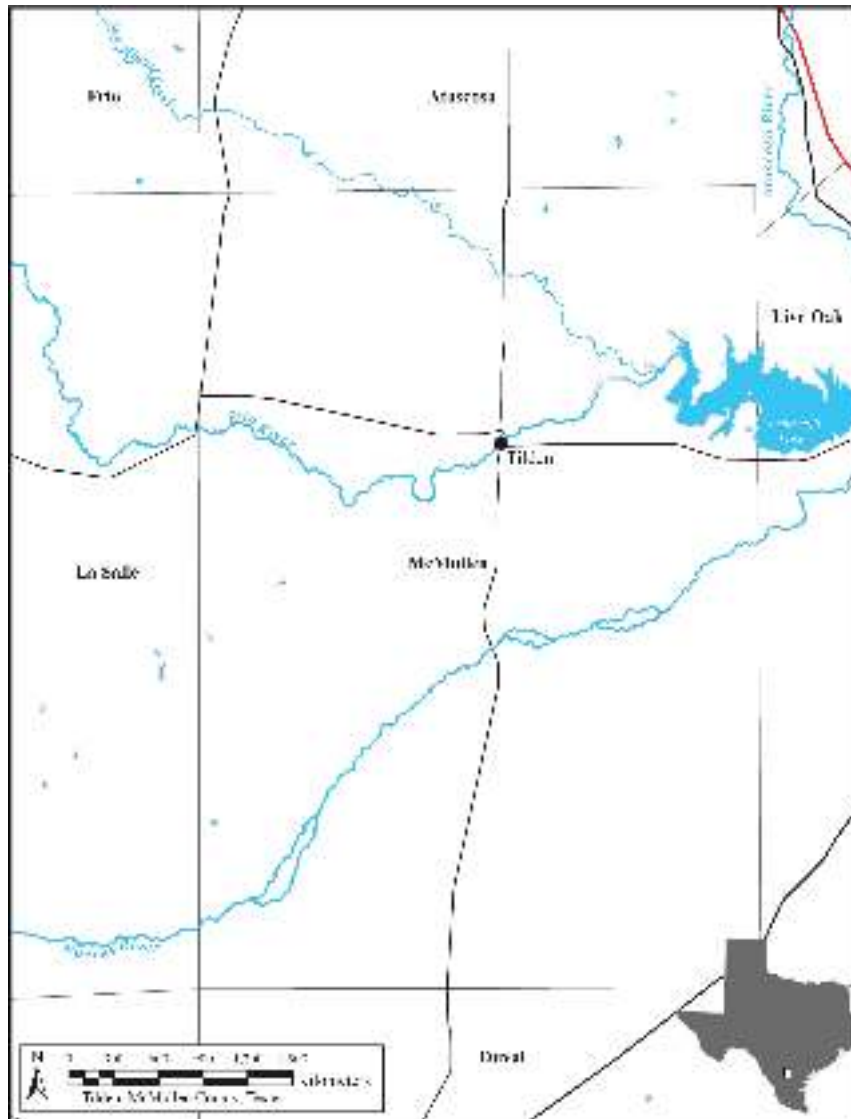


Figure 1-1. Location of Tilden in McMullen County in South Texas.

A General Services Administration (GSA) fact sheet is presented in Table 1-1, which serves to highlight the nature of and challenges associated with sandstone construction. The aforementioned problem of rising damp coupled with the presence of soluble salts, should be addressed by an architectural conservator. In the interim, the use of soaker hoses should cease, and the A/C window unit condensation should be drained at least 1.22 m (4 ft.) away from the building.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is a 10.6-x-16.2 m (35-x-53 ft.) is located on Lot 2 (15.2-x-42.7 m; 50-x-140 ft.), Block 4, of the town site. The CAR defines the APE as a 1.5-m (5-ft.) buffer around the perimeter of the 7.6-x-13.1 m (25-x-43 ft.) structure (Figures 1-2 and 1-3). The Old Rock Store is said to have been built in 1865 by Patrick Cavanaugh, an Irish stonemason.

To determine the presence of and to document the condition of a foundation, the CAR excavated two 1-x-1 m (3.3-x-3.3 ft.) test units along the north and west elevations. The two test units were placed against the walls of the structure. Archaeologists excavated the two units in arbitrary 10-cm (3.9-in.) increments, and soil from each level was screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth.

The fieldwork was supplemented by archival research conducted in the McMullen County Courthouse located across the street from the Old Rock Store. Owing to the accessibility to the digitized land records in the County Clerk’s office, CAR staff were able to produce a sequential history of ownership of the property and secure a copy of the 1877 plat of the Town of Tilden (McMullen County Clerk [MCC] A:72).

Archaeological testing and archival research began on August 22, 2017, and were completed on August 24, 2017. The sandstone-rubble foundation was located 45 cm (17.7 in.) below the surface and extended to at least 65 cm (25.6 in.) below the surface. The artifact assemblage indicates that the top 45 cm (17.7 in.) of strata are mixed deposits and, owing to the installation of a gas line (abandoned), the strata from 45-75 cm (17.7-29.5 in.) are only partially intact. Since the mid-1960s, several attempts to restore and/or stabilize the building have likely contributed to the deterioration. Extensive spalling (flaking) of the surface level course of stones is evident along the north, west, and south elevations, and the east elevation has stucco. In spite of the spalling and application of stucco, the below-grade stones and foundation are in good condition. The surface level stones will likely

Table 1-1. Common Problems Associated with Masonry Construction (GSA 2016)

Characteristics
Sedimentary rock consisting of sheets of sand, mineral particles, and binding matrix.
Very porous and water will penetrate it easily.
Available in a variety of textures and earth-tone colors.
Weathers best when its end-grain faces the weather (naturally bedded). Face-bedded stone is subject to greater deterioration. Water damages a face-bedded stone by spalling or flaking off entire sheets of sandstone.
Natural and Inherent Problems
Moisture-related problems: May be evident in sandstone as spalling, erosion, cracking, flaking, and deteriorated mortar joints.
Weathering: Disintegration of the stone’s surface usually caused by erosion, chemical action, and moisture freezing in the stone. Freeze/thaw cycles allow water to get into the stone and then freeze and expand, causing some of the top layer to split off.
Exfoliation: Separation and loss of large areas of stone along the bedding planes usually caused by the stone having been face-bedded
Blind Exfoliation: Separation of stone along bedding planes, but where layers are still loosely attached behind the surface. It is often caused by having laid the stone with the bedding planes running parallel with surface of the wall (face-bedding). Blind exfoliated stone will sound hollow when lightly tapped with a rubber mallet
Cracking: Narrow fractures in the stone from 1/16 to 1/2 inch wide.
Detachment: A clean break in the stone often resulting from a sharp impact or from stresses concentrated in a small area of stone due to structural settlement.
NOTE: In many nineteenth-century applications, the grain was placed parallel to the weather side (face-bedded) for aesthetic reasons.



Figure 1-2. Aerial image of the Old Rock Store APE.

have to be replaced and the below-grade stones repointed. In terms of the date of construction, the results of the archival research indicate that the Old Rock Store was constructed circa 1878 and that Patrick Cavanaugh was the likely builder.

The limited scope of this project precludes a thorough historical review of McMullen County, but a more detailed study would be a worthwhile endeavor as a component to a full-scale restoration effort. At this time, CAR recommends archaeological monitoring of excavations extending beyond 45 cm (17.7 in.) below the surface and testing, if features are encountered. In anticipation of future restoration efforts and/or installation of utilities, site development should consider the possibility of encountering buried features, such as privies

or cisterns, which may be extant outside the current APE but within Block 4. For example, the CAR is aware of a cistern off the southwest corner of the building and outside the APE (Gary Stanley, personal communication 2017).

The report is organized in five chapters. The succeeding chapter details the area's history and includes soils and climate data relevant to the built environment. Chapter 3 outlines the field and laboratory methods used for this project, and Chapter 4 presents the results of the excavations and archival research. The fifth and final chapter summarizes the fieldwork and in-field observations regarding the condition of the structure and concludes with the CAR's recommendations as restoration plans move forward.

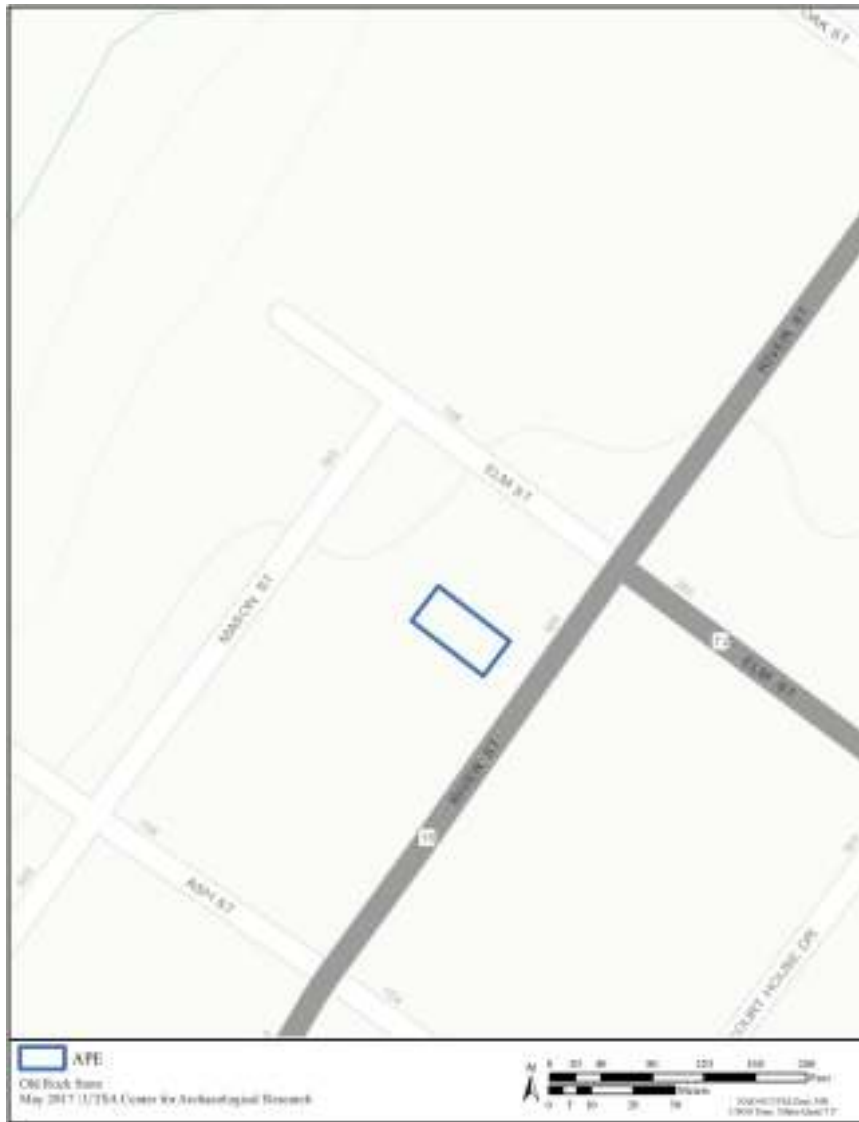


Figure 1-3. Location of APE on Tilden USGS 7.5-minute series quadrangle map.

Chapter 2: Site Background

The Old Rock Store is located at 502 River Street in the town of Tilden, McMullen County, Texas. McMullen County was created in 1858, but it was not organized until 1877 (Kennedy and Kennedy 1987:131). The county was carved out of portions of Bexar, Atascosa, and Live Oak counties (Kennedy and Kennedy 1987:131). One of the first settlements in the area was Rio Frio, later renamed Dog Town, then Colfax, and finally Tilden in 1877 (Smyer 1952:78-79).

Tilden was named the county seat, soon after the county was organized (McMullen County History Book Committee [MCHBC] 1981:622). The first official census for McMullen County was in 1880, the tenth Census of the United States, with a recorded population of 701. The highest population count, 1,374, was in 1940 (Texas State Historical Association 2017). The most recent population estimate for McMullen County was 804 in 2016 (U.S. Census 2016).

McMullen County is located about 104.6 km (65 miles) south of San Antonio, right in the middle of the South Texas brush country. The county is a rectangular area, running 45.06 km (28 miles) east to west and 65.98 km (41 miles) north to south, consisting of 301,531.68 hectares (745,101 acres). The major tributaries are the Frio and Nueces rivers, which flow from west to east and drain into the Gulf of Mexico. The nearest of the rivers, the Frio River, is located 75 m (246 ft.) west-northwest of the APE. Most of the land is used as rangeland, with less than two percent developed for industrial use, urban areas, or recreational use (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2017). The major economies are ranching, wildlife, and the oil and gas and oil industry. Based on the period between 1971 and 2000, the average winter temperature was 56°F, and the average temperature in the summer was 85°F (NRCS 2017). The county's average annual rainfall is 58.4 cm (23 in.), with most of the precipitation occurring between February and November. The dominant soils are dark-colored clayey and light-colored loamy soils, and the majority of the clayey soils are either sodic (disproportionately high in sodium) or saline (containing soluble salts; NRCS 2017).

Brundage (BrB) series soils comprise the APE, and the soils of this series form along drainage ways and stream terraces. The parent material is a saline, loamy alluvium (moderate-to-strong saline; NRCS 2017). Of utmost interest to this study, is the fact that saline soils contain soluble salts that, when combined with rising damp, accelerates decay, or spalling, at the base of masonry walls (Young 2008:4). As noted in the

introduction, the need to locate and evaluate the condition of the foundation was motivated by the deteriorating condition of the sandstone blocks. The saline in the soil is a contributing factor of the spalling.

Site History

Owing in large part to the area's unsettled conditions, namely raiding parties of Native Americans, there were no permanent settlements in McMullen County prior to 1858 (Smyer 1952:60-63). Among the first settlers in the area were James "Jim" Lowe (1824-August 1904) and his wife Melissa Jane York Lowe (1825-April 1904). Originally from North Carolina, the couple married in 1845 and moved to Texas around 1850-1851 (MCHBC 1981:188). They initially settled in Atascosa County where Jim Lowe served as a county commissioner soon after that county was organized in 1856 (MCHBC 1981:188). They moved to Rio Frio in 1858 and began raising stock and, within a few years, were among the top six open range cattle raisers in Texas (MCHBC 1981:188-190). Open range cattle raising began to fail in the 1870s with the advent of fencing (Moore et al. 2007:19). Jim Lowe did not own much land, but among the few land purchases he made was the D. M. Stapp Survey 27, where the town of Tilden was laid out. He donated the block for the Court House and a lot for the school, and Lowe sold other lots for \$25.00 to \$50.00, depending on the lot size and location (MCHBC 1981:622).

On July 25, 1877, James and Melissa Lowe sold the subject property, Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, to R. W. Johnson and E. A. Whitefield for \$50.00 (MCC 2017). On June 12, 1878, as half owner, Johnson sold his interest in Lots 1 and 2 to W. A. Lowe for \$2,500.00 (MCC 2017). Based on the resale price, it would seem that significant improvements were made to Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, between July 1877 and June 1878. It could be that the improvements were on Lot 2 (i.e., construction of the Old Rock Store). This would seem plausible, since the charter for the Masonic Lodge in Tilden was granted in December 1881, and the lodge (rebuilt several times) has always been located on Block 4 (MCHBC 1981:666-667). R. A. Moore and L. W. Snowden were among the first officers of the Masonic Lodge, and both owned one-half interest in Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, between May 1880 and December 1891 (MCC 2017; Table 2-1). Ancillary research of the Lot 1, Block 4, property records may show the lot was set aside for the Masonic Lodge by Moore and/or Snowden between 1877 and 1882 (MCC 2017).

Table 2-1. Listing of Property Records for Lot 2, Block 4, in Tilden, Texas

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Property	Amount	Notes	Book	Page
20 Jan. 1838	Jackson County	D.M. Stapp	Certificate for 3/4 League and Labor of land	Land Grant	\$3.50 for each labor of irrigable land and \$2.50 for each labor of temporal or arable land	GLO*	n/a
1 June 1847	Jackson County	D.M. Stapp	Survey No. 27 - 10 2/3 Labor of land	Land Grant	3 Labors of arable land and 7 1/3 Labors of Pasture land	GLO	n/a
25 July 1877	James Lowe and M.J. Lowe	R.W. Johnson and E.A. Whitefield	Lots 1 and 2, Block 4	\$50.00	reference to Plat of said Town, Book A:72	A**	94
12 June 1878	R.W. Johnson	W.A. Lowe	1/2 interest in Lots 1 and 2, Block 4	\$2,500.00	reference to Plat of said Town, Book A:72	B	45
12 May 1880	W.A. Lowe	R.A. Moore	1/2 interest in Lots 1 and 2, Block 4	\$1,500.00	reference to Plat of said Town, Book A:72	C	243
29 Apr. 1882	R.A. Moore	L.W. Snowden	1/2 interest in Lots 1 and 2, Block 4	\$3,000.00	each lot having a front of fifty feet and running back 42.67 m (140 ft.)	D	189
5 Dec. 1891	L.W. Snowden	L.A. Scogins	Lot 2, Block 4	\$1,500.00	on which the Rock Store is situated	I	115
1 Aug. 1893	L.A. Scogin and Frankie Scogin	V.C. Martin and A.C. Miles	Lot 2, Block 4	\$700.00	on which the Rock Store is situated	I	153
16 July 1896	A.C. Miles	M.H. Martin	1/2 interest in Lot 2, Block 4	\$300.00	on which the Rock Store is situated	I	212
24 June 1929	M.H. Martin and V.C. Martin	Clifton Wheeler	Lot 2, Block 4	\$800.00	the same Rock Store House	7	438
23 June 1975	Clifton Wheeler and Nora Wheeler	Town of Tilden	plot of land 11.8-x-18.9 m (37-x-62 ft.); SE portion of Lot 2, Block 4	\$1.00	on which the structure known as the Old Rock Store is situated	135	23

*GLO: General Land Office

**On file at MCC

Based on the history of ownership of Lot 2, Block 4, the Old Rock Store was constructed circa 1878. The Texas Historic Sites Atlas names the builder as Patrick Cavanaugh, assisted by Dick Barker (THC 2017). A review of the 1880 census for McMullen County lists four stonemasons and five carpenters (Table 2-2; U.S. Census 2017). Among the stonemasons was a 29-year-old Irishman by the name of Patrick Cavanaugh (FamilySearch 2017; U.S. Census 2017). A search for Patrick Cavanaugh, using his age (1851 year of birth) and that he was born in Ireland (as noted in the 1880 census), failed to locate him in any succeeding census records.

Dick Barker (1864-1940) was a “negro” who worked on the Lowe Ranch for many years. A skilled carpenter and rock-mason, Barker arrived in McMullen County in 1885 (MCHBC 1981:141). A search for Dick or Richard Barker in the 1880 census failed to produce positive results. The

1910 census does list Richard G. Barker, a “black” man born in 1866 as living with the William A. Lowe family (FamilySearch 2017). The same Richard G. Barker is listed in the 1920 McMullen County census and then in the Texas Deaths, 1890-1976 (FamilySearch 2017). Dick Barker died in 1940 and is buried in Tilden’s Hill Top Cemetery (MCHBC 1981:142). This may have been the Dick Barker who assisted Cavanaugh. He would have been 12 to 14 years old, certainly old enough to assist, but the Old Rock Store was built circa 1878, prior to Barker’s arrival in McMullen County in 1885.

Previous Archaeology

Over 800 archaeological sites have been recorded in McMullen County, and none are within 500 m (1,640.42 ft.) of the APE. However, six recorded sites are within 1-km (0.62 miles) of the APE (Table 2-3 and Figure 2-1).

Table 2-2. List of Individuals in Building Trades, 1880 U.S. Census for McMullen County

Name	Age	Occupation	Birthplace	Notes
Otto Beyer	30	Carpenter	Germany	lives with brother Charles (p. 2)
W.F. Fisk	24	Stone Mason	Indiana	seems to be boarding (p. 4)
F. Maurine	33	Stone Mason	France	seems to be boarding (p. 4)
J.T. Morgan	28	Carpenter	Texas	listed with wife and 3 children (p.5); biography in <i>McMullen County History</i> (MCHBC 1981:505)
J.M. Tumlinson	31	Carpenter	Texas	listed with wife and 2 children (p. 6)
Sam'l D. Frazier	28	Carpenter	Missouri	listed with wife, 4 children, and in-laws (p. 6)
W.W. Conn	55	Carpenter	Kentucky	lives with father-in-law of Sam'l Frazier (p. 6)
John Fitzpatrick	31	Stone Mason	Ireland	lives with brother James (p. 8); biography in <i>McMullen County History</i> (MCHBC 1981:74)
Patrick Cavanaugh	29	Stone Mason	Ireland	lives alone (p. 8)

Table 2-3. Previously Recorded Sites

Site	Site Notes	Project	Recorded by	Date
41MC341	Prehistoric to Archaic open campsite	San Miguel Lignite	Shafer and Baxter, Texas A&M	Nov. 1974
41MC419	Late Prehistoric lithic workshop, temporary occupation; see MCHC Special Report No. 1	Tilden Wastewater Treatment	McGraw, TxDOT	June 1991
41MC724	Late Prehistoric lithic scatter	Tilden EPOC	Davis, Turpin and Sons	Nov. 2012
41MC740	Prehistoric lithic scatter	Dilworth A1H Pipeline	Nash, Atkins Archeology	Apr. 2013
41MC741	Prehistoric lithic scatter	Dilworth A1H Pipeline	Nash, Atkins Archeology	Apr. 2013
41MC742	Prehistoric lithic scatter	Dilworth A1H Pipeline	Nash, Atkins Archeology	Apr. 2013

*MCHC: McMullen County Historical Commission

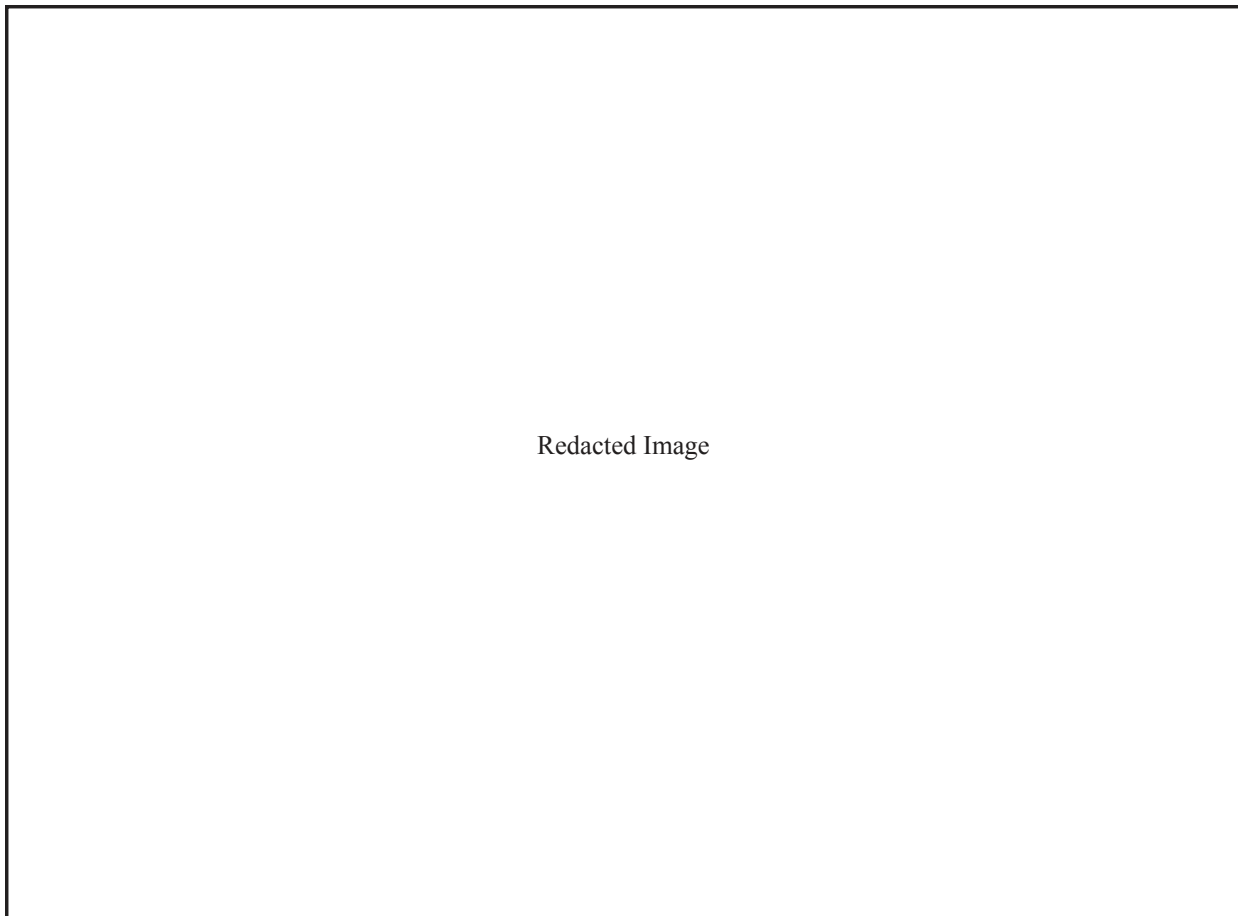


Figure 2-1. Area map showing previously recorded sites within 1 km (0.62 miles) of APE.

Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods

Two 1-x-1 m (3.3-x-3.3 ft.) test units were hand excavated along the north and west elevations of the Old Rock Store. Archaeologists excavated Test Unit 1 and Test Unit 2 in arbitrary 10-cm (3.9 in.) increments with soil from each level screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth. Excavation units were placed against two of the structure's walls in order to expose and assess the below-surface condition of the walls. A drawing of the Test Unit 2 west wall profile was produced, detailing the strata. It includes a description of soils and makes note of the wall foundation setting trench. The work was documented using standard archaeological procedures, which included completion of feature forms, drawings, and photographs. All diagnostic artifacts were recorded with appropriate provenience information and transported to the CAR laboratory for processing and curation.

All records generated during the project were prepared in accordance with THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Field forms were printed on acid-free paper and

completed with pencil. Artifacts collected were brought to the CAR laboratory, washed, air-dried, and stored in 4-mil zip-lock, archival-quality bags. Each laser-printer generated label contains provenience information and a corresponding lot number. These artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes that are labeled with standard tags.

All field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and labeled with archival-quality page protectors to prevent accidental smearing due to moisture.

Based upon the project findings, CAR staff prepared and submitted a site registration form to the THC Texas Historic Sites Atlas, and the Old Rock Store was assigned site trinomial 41MC827. Following completion of the investigation, project-related records, including a copy of the final report, were permanently stored at the CAR's curation facility. All recovered artifacts will be placed on loan with the MCHC.

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Chapter 4: Results

by José Zapata and Sarah Wigley

CAR staff were met on site by Cecile Stanley, Chair of the McMullen County Historical Commission. A walk through of the site was completed prior to deciding where to test, and in the process, CAR staff photo documented the condition of the Old Rock Store.

Site Condition Prior to Testing

The Old Rock Store is a single-story, sandstone-constructed building with a false front and pitched roof. According to Gary Stanley (personal communication 2017), the building originally had a flat roof, with a slight slope to the rear. The front of the building has a double door and two windows, one at either side of the door. The other window is located along the south elevation, towards the rear of the building. An air conditioning unit is installed in this last window, and the windowsill is rotting. The west elevation, or rear of the structure, only has a door. The north elevation does not have a window, but this is where the communication and electrical lines enter the building below the roof and through the wall.

The east elevation of the store, facing State Highway 16, has a coat of stucco and a concrete porch, so the condition of the sandstone blocks, is unknown. There is extensive spalling along the surface course of sandstone blocks, and the problem is acute at the southwest corner. According to Jason Cooper, McMullen County Fire Chief (personal communication 2017), the stones at the southwest corner appeared to be failing about 15 years ago, and at that time, he and some other county employees excavated a pit, undercut the corner of the building and then filled it in with ready-mix concrete. He said the pit was about 4.5-m (15-ft.) deep and 1.8 m (6 ft.) in diameter with a 1.8 m (6 ft.) in diameter concrete pour off the southwest corner. CAR staff observed a backfilled cistern (cavity is evident) located opposite the concrete pour and on the adjoining lot. The south elevation, adjoining Lot 3, appears to be heavily impacted and littered with rock rubble. A narrow and shallow concrete buttress is poured up against the wall, and it continues around and along the west elevation. The roof trusses are held up by a series of vertical and horizontal heavy gauge angle irons. Soaker hoses were noted along the south, west, and north elevations. CAR staff was advised that several attempts to stabilize and otherwise arrest the deterioration of the walls have been made over the years. At one point, the MCHC was advised to keep the perimeter of the structure wet to prevent settling (Cecile Stanley, personal communication 2017). These series of exterior interventions are identified in Figure 4-1.

CAR staff was allowed to tour the interior of the building that is the location of the McMullen County Museum. The museum features several display cases with antiques, photos, and documents. The rear of the building holds several shelves with old documents. The building has a concrete floor, which seems to have been poured up against the walls. Built-in cabinets line the north and south elevation walls. The ceiling is noticeably sagging at the rear of the building. The A/C window unit at the south elevation, towards the rear, was in operation.

Test Unit 1

An area along the west elevation (rear) of the building and 2 m (6.6 ft.) south of the northwest corner was selected for Test Unit 1 (TU 1). The datum for TU 1 was set at 20 cm (7.8 in.) above the surface, and the unit was excavated in 10-cm (3.9-in.) levels. Test Unit 1 was excavated to a depth of 43 cm (16.9 in.) below the datum (cmbd). Excavation of the unit only reached 23 cm (9 in.) below the current surface before encountering concrete.

Level 1 (0-33 cmbd; 0-13 in.) was composed of a very loose silty sand (23-27 cmbd; 9.1-10.6 in.), followed by a hard and dry sand with one percent gravel (27-33 cmbd; 10.6-13 in.; Figure 4-2 and Table 4-1). Screening of soils produced an assortment of surface trash, such as glass shards, nails, pieces of plastic, and mortar fragments. This material was not collected.

The Level 2 (33-43 cmbd; 13-17 in.) surface was a hard and dry layer of sand, with three different soil colors evident across the floor (see Table 4-1). The artifact density was low until the hard surface layer was broken through, exposing a less compact sandy loam. Excavation of this level fully exposed a narrow and shallow concrete buttress, meant to support the deteriorating sandstone blocks. Screening of the excavated soil produced mostly construction material, such as nails, window glass, and sandstone fragments, as well as modern trash from around the concrete buttress. This material was not collected. Excavation of TU 1 ceased because it became evident that the adjoining sandstone blocks were badly deteriorated. Excessive spalling of the sandstone blocks is extensive in this area, and additional excavation may aggravate the problem.



1. angle iron supports (horizontal and vertical); imbedded in concrete at base
2. spalling and soaker hose at south elevation
3. A/C condensation and rotting windowsill
4. concrete pour meant to support southwest corner; about 1.8 m (6 ft.) in diameter, 4.5-m (15-ft.) deep
5. spalling and soaker hose at north elevation
6. section of concrete buttress (narrow and shallow)

Figure 4-1. Old Rock Store showing areas of concern. Top: oblique view of west and south walls, facing northeast. Bottom: oblique view of north and west walls, facing southeast.



Figure 4-2. Test Unit 1, Level 1 (0-33 cmbd; 0-13 in.).

Table 4-1. Test Unit 1 Strata

Level	Depth	Description
1	0-33 cm (0-13 in.)	top 4 cm (1.5 in.) loose sandy soil, then hard sand
2	33-43 cm (13-17 in.)	broke through hard surface, then less compact sandy loam

Test Unit 2

This unit was located along the north elevation and between 1-2 m (3.3-6.5 ft.) east of the northwest corner of the building. The datum for TU 2 was set 10 cm (3.9 in.) above the surface, and the unit was then excavated in 10-cm (3.9-in.) levels. Test Unit 2 was excavated to a depth of 75 cmbd (29.5 in.) or 65.0 cm (25.6 in.) below the current surface.

The top 4 cm (1.5 in.) of Level 1 (0-15 cmbd; 0-6 in.) was a very loose silty sand, followed by a hard and dry sand that was difficult to excavate. Screening of soils produced an assortment of surface trash and several galvanized roofing screws. This material was not collected.

At Level 2 (15-25 cmbd; 6-9.8 in.), CAR staff continued excavating through a very hard and dry sand with five percent gravel that was difficult to excavate. A concrete pour up against the building was exposed at 17 cmbd (6.7 in.). This concrete pour is part of the work related to attempts to buttress the foundation from continued erosion and spalling. Screening of soils produced an assortment of modern plastic wrappers, an aluminum can fragment, wire, pieces of Styrofoam, and plastic wall anchors. None of the material was collected.

Excavation of Level 3 (25-35 cmbd; 9.8-13.7 in.) further exposed the concrete pour (buttress). A trowel was used to probe and ascertain that the buttress was not attached to the building. There was a 0.6-cm (0.25-in.) gap between the



Figure 4-3. Close-up photos of TU 2; note concrete pour meant as a water barrier.

pour and the sandstone wall (Figure 4-3). After consulting with Cecile Stanley (personal communication 2017), it was decided to break off a 1-m (3.3-ft.) section of the buttress in order to continue excavating. The procedure was photo documented. The excavation then continued and exposed a 35 cm (13.7 in.) strip of light colored, silty textured sediment that abutted the sandstone wall. The screened soils produced a small number of artifacts (n=32), which included cut nails, bottle glass, and ceramic sherds.

In Level 4 (35-45 cmbd; 13.7-17.7 in.), a light-colored stain was exposed at the south half of the unit. The stain appeared to be a trace of the wall footer. At the north half of the unit, excavation encountered a dense layer of river cobbles (80 percent), fist-size and smaller. The cobbles are not naturally occurring and may be another attempt to drain water away from the building. There was a significant increase in artifacts (n=294), especially in metal and glass.

The wall footer was further defined in Level 5 (45-55 cmbd; 17.7-21.6 in.) and in the process exposed an abandoned 1-inch gas line at 47 cmbd (18.5 in.; Figure 4-4). The density of river cobbles decreased but was replaced by sandstone cobbles (probable construction debris). The types of artifacts recovered from this level were similar to those from Level 4, but the count decreased by 35 percent (n=192).

To work more intensively on the exposed wall footer, excavation was limited to the south half of the unit (50-x-100 cm; 19.7-x-39.4 in.). Excavation of Level 6 (55-65 cmbd; 21.6-25.6 in.) exposed the wall footer, and a noticeable decrease in the number of artifacts recovered from this level (n=55) was noted.

Excavation of the south half continued into Level 7 (65-75 cmbd; 25.6-29.5 in.), which further exposed the wall footer. The wall footer is composed of stone rubble laid into



Figure 4-4. Close-up of TU 2 showing exposed gas line and wall footer.



Figure 4-5. Test Unit 2 (view south) with close-up (bottom) of wall footer and wall setting trench.



Figure 4-6. Test Unit 2 south half of floor at 75 cmbd (29.5 in.) and north half of floor at 55 cmbd (21.6 in.).

a yellowish pasty slurry. The number of artifacts recovered from this level were negligible ($n=12$), and artifacts were absent at 72-75 cmbd (28.4-29.5 in.).

Excavation of TU 2 ceased at 75 cmbd (29.5 in.), and the unit and wall footer were photo documented (Figures 4-5 and 4-6). Note that the abandoned gas line was not removed. A 20.3-cm (8-in.) long section of a 1/4-inch metal rod was used to probe beneath the exposed wall footer. The probe indicated the wall footer continued to an unknown depth. With the exception of Levels 8 and 9, the other levels are a mix of sandy loam, clay, and cobbles (Figure 4-7). These upper seven levels most likely represent fill episodes or disturbances caused by repeated attempts to remedy the rising damp problem.

Both units were backfilled, and screened soils were dampened as they were shoveled into the units. This allowed for tamping and compression of soils, as successive layers of back dirt were added. In the case of TU 2, the river cobbles removed from the last 30 cm (11.8 in.) and the fragments of concrete (section of buttress) were also used for the backfill in the north half of the unit, away from the wall. The entire process was photo documented. Soil descriptions of the TU 2 excavation are presented in Table 4-2. The artifacts recovered from Levels 3-7 of TU 2 were collected and are discussed below.

Artifacts

A total of 588 artifacts were collected from the Old Rock Store. Of these, about 63 percent ($n=372$) by count were glass fragments, and 24 percent ($n=144$) were metal, making these by far the most common cultural materials encountered. One personal item, 10 ceramic sherds, and 43 lithic artifacts were also recovered, as well as various construction and organic material. Table 4-3 summarizes the collected artifacts by class.

Artifacts encountered during excavation of TU 1 and those of Levels 1 and 2 of TU 2 consisted mostly of modern trash and included no diagnostic artifacts; therefore, none of this material was collected. Artifact collection began in Level 3 (25-35 cmbd; 9.8-13.7 in.) of TU 2. This level contained plastic, glass, metal, and lithic materials. The glass consisted of two small fragments of brown container glass, one fragment of clear bottle glass, and one neck/shoulder fragment of aqua bottle glass, which contained bubbles and showed evidence of a mold seam. The metal recovered included one bolt, both cut and wire nail fragments, two slotted keys for opening cans of sardines or Spam, a bullet shell, and a 2.5 cm (1 in.) in diameter electrical box knockout plug. Four pieces of debitage were also recovered.

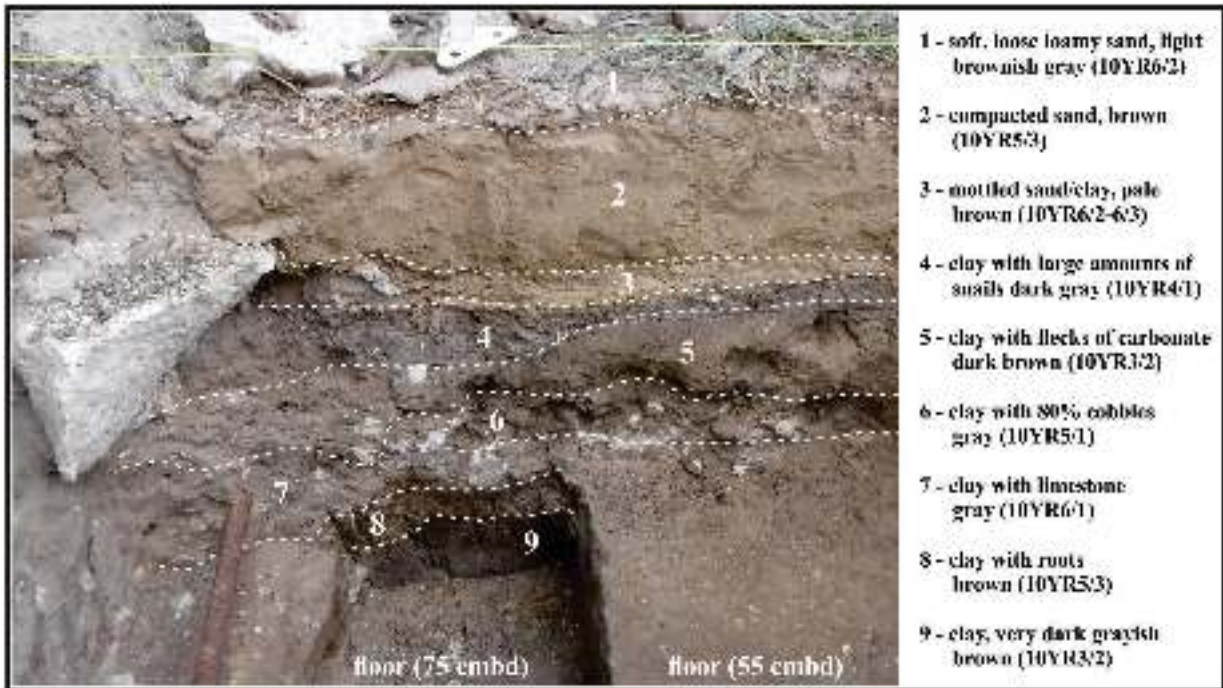


Figure 4-7. Test Unit 2 west wall profile; note assorted fill episodes.

Table 4-2. Test Unit 2 Excavated Levels

Level	Depth	Description
1	0-15 cm (0-6 in.)	very hard and dry; 1% gravel
2	15-25 cm (6-9.8 in.)	hard and dry sandy clay; 5% gravel
3	25-35 cm (9.8-13.7 in.)	very hard and dry sandy clay; 5% gravel
4	35-45 cm (13.7-17.7 in.)	very hard and dry sandy clay; 75% river cobbles
5	45-55 cm (17.7-21.6 in.)	very hard and dry sandy clay; 70% river and sandstone cobbles
6	55-65 cm (21.6-25.6 in.)	compact sandy silty
7	65-75 cm (25.6-29.5 in.)	compact sandy silty

Table 4-3. Test Unit 2 Count of Artifacts Recovered by Class

Level	Depth	Ceramics	Construction	Glass	Lithics	Metal	Organic	Personal
1	0-15 cmbd (0-6 in.)	not collected	not collected	not collected	not collected	not collected	not collected	not collected
2	15-25 cmbd (6-9.8 in.)	not collected	not collected	not collected	not collected	not collected	not collected	not collected
3	25-35 cmbd (9.8-13.7 in.)	0	2	4	4	22	0	0
4	35-45 cmbd (13.7-17.7 in.)	4	4	217	22	45	1	1
5	45-55 cmbd (17.7-21.6 in.)	5	3	111	12	60	1	0
6	55-65 cmbd (21.6-25.6 in.)	1	0	38	4	10	2	0
7	65-75 cmbd (25.6-29.5 in.)	0	0	2	1	7	5	0
Totals		10	9	372	43	144	9	1

One 4-hole shell button and four sherds of undecorated white earthenware were recovered from Level 4 (35-45 cmbd; 13.7-17.7 in.). This level also contained fragments of plastic and rubber. Metal artifacts recovered from this level consisted of bullet shells, including one Winchester Ranger shotgun shell, both cut and wire nails, a fence staple, ferrous wire, one possible monkey wrench handle, and unidentified scrap. Glass fragments (n=217) represented almost 74 percent of the cultural material recovered from Level 4 by count. Both container and window glass fragments were present. The container glass included clear, aqua, amber, olive, and milk glass, one applied aqua bottle lip, and fragments of a potential milk glass cosmetics jar. Some embossed fragments were present, but none were complete enough to determine bottle brand or type. One burned biface fragment, 21 pieces of debitage, and mussel shell were also recovered from this level.

Five ceramic sherds were recovered from Level 5 (45-55 cmbd; 17.7-21.6 in.). These consisted of three fragments of salt-glazed stoneware, which appear to be from the same vessel, one sherd of undecorated white earthenware, and one sherd of earthenware with a Meyer-Leon slip (Greer and Black 1971:1-5). A small cement rod was recovered from this level,

as well as some plaster fragments. Metal artifacts included both cut and wire nails, wire, a screw, a nut, and unidentified scrap. Shards (n=111) of container and window glass were recovered from this level, including clear container glass, amber and aqua bottle glass, and olive container glass with a molded sunburst pattern. Lithic material recovered consisted of one specimen of unmodified petrified wood and 11 pieces of debitage. Mussel shell was also present in this level.

Level 6 (55-65 cmbd; 21.6-25.6 in.) contained one rim sherd of Red Burnished colonial earthenware (Fox and Ulrich 2008:44). Sherds of clear, amber, aqua, and olive container glass (n=38) were recovered. Many of these fragments were heavily patinated. Most metal recovered was too corroded to be identifiable. Lithic material included one chert core and three pieces of debitage. Mussel shell was also present in this level.

The final level excavated, Level 7 (65-75 cmbd; 25.6-39.53in.), produced a negligible number of artifacts (n=12) and included two fragments of clear container glass. The metal present was too corroded to identify. One tertiary flake and mussel shell were also recovered. The final 3 cm (1.12 in.; 72-75 cmbd; 28.3-39.5 in.) were culturally sterile.

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

The results of the two test units indicate that the strata within 1 m (3.3 ft.) from the walls and extending to at least 45 cm (17.7 in.) below the surface have been heavily disturbed. These areas have been impacted by recurring efforts to stabilize and/or curb the deterioration of the sandstone-constructed walls. The range and type of artifacts recovered from isolated unit levels suggest a mixed deposition due to recurrent attempts to mitigate the structure's deteriorating condition. Trenching was evident in TU 2 from the concrete buttress that was installed and the exposure of an abandoned gas line laid directly above the wall footer.

The need to locate and evaluate the condition of the foundation was motivated by the deteriorating condition of the surface level course of sandstone blocks. The extensive spalling, accumulating over a period of 130 years, was caused by rising

damp that, coupled with the naturally occurring salinity of the soils, heightened the deterioration of the sandstone along the base of the walls.

The Old Rock Store, 41MC827, was an important component to the commercial development of Tilden in the late-1800s. It is constructed of locally quarried sandstone and is among the few extant historic buildings in McMullen County. Considering the level of restoration that will be required to correct the Old Rock Store walls, the CAR recommends archaeological monitoring of excavations extending 45 cm (17.7 in.) below the surface and testing, if features are encountered. Also, in anticipation of ancillary site restoration and/or the installation of utilities, planning stages should consider the possibility of encountering buried features, such as privies or cisterns, which may be extant outside the current APE but within Block 4.

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