

Archaeological Monitoring for the Construction of the IKE Smart City Kiosk at Mission Concepción, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

by
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Prepared for:
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Archaeological Report, No. 469

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Abstract:

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) was contracted by IKE Smart City to monitor excavation for an interactive kiosk and infrastructure on the grounds of Mission Concepción (41BX12). The work was conducted on September 25, 28, and October 1, 2018. Mission Concepción is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), is a State Antiquities Landmark, is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, and is located within a National Register District. It is a component of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and is co-administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The mission's listing on the NRHP required professional archaeological investigation prior to any ground disturbing construction. The project did not require a Permit for Archeological Investigations as mandated by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 because it fell under the national agreement between the NPS and the Texas Historical Commission and complied with the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment process. Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux served as Principal Investigator, and Leonard Kemp served as the Project Archaeologist.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located adjacent to and connects to the visitor contact station on the southeast portion of the Mission Concepción grounds. The APE is composed of two areas: the first is the concrete foundation for the kiosk encompassing 8.27 m² (27.1 square ft.), and the second is the approximately 23 m (75.4 ft.) trench for an electric conduit running from the visitor station to the kiosk. While only a few artifacts were recovered from the backfill of the trench, the foundation excavation revealed an intact Spanish Colonial-era sheet midden. The midden encompasses the footprint of the foundation and extends into the wall of it. It is approximately 20 cm (7.8 in.) below the grade of the adjacent sidewalk. Artifacts associated with the midden include ceramic fragments (Goliad ware and Yellow and Glaze II types), faunal bone, mortar, and charcoal. CAR recommends that any future ground-disturbing activities within or near this portion of the APE be archaeologically monitored. However, if the scope of future work is extensive, it may be prudent to scrape the soil overburden and excavate test units to determine the full extent and composition of the sheet midden.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) was contracted by IKE Smart City to monitor excavation for an interactive kiosk and infrastructure on the grounds of Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña (41BX12; hereafter referred to as Mission Concepción or Concepción) in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The work was conducted on September 25, 28, and October 1, 2018. The investigation began with background research followed by monitoring of ground disturbing excavation to look for unknown archaeological resources within the southeast portion of the grounds of Mission Concepción adjacent to the visitor's center. The project included the excavation of one 20-x-20 cm (7.8-x-7.8 in.) test unit to determine the temporal context of a midden discovered in the footprint of the proposed kiosk.

Mission Concepción (41BX12) is an archaeological site listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL), a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, and it is located within a National Register District. It is a component of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and is co-administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The mission's listing on the NRHP required professional archaeological investigation prior to any adverse effects that may impact the property. However, the project did not require a Permit for Archeological Investigations as mandated by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 because it

fell under the national agreement between the NPS and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and complied with the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment process. Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux served as Principal Investigator, and Leonard Kemp served as Project Archaeologist.

Mission Concepción is located east of the confluence of San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River along Mission Road. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located adjacent to and connects to the visitor center on the southeastern portion of the Mission Concepción grounds (Figure 1-1). The APE is composed of two areas (Figures 1-2 and 1-3): the first is the concrete pad for the kiosk encompassing 8.27 m² (89.6 sq. ft.), and the second is the approximately 23 m (75.45 ft.) trench for supporting infrastructure running from the visitor center to the kiosk.

This report contains five chapters. The first chapter provides project background, describes the proposed work, and delineates the APE. Chapter 2 presents a brief history of Mission Concepción and includes a description of previous archaeology and construction impacts to the project area. Chapter 3 discusses the field and laboratory methods used during the project. Chapter 4 summarizes the results of this investigation and describes the limited testing of a feature found during monitoring. The final chapter concludes with a project summary and recommendations for any future work in the area of the kiosk.

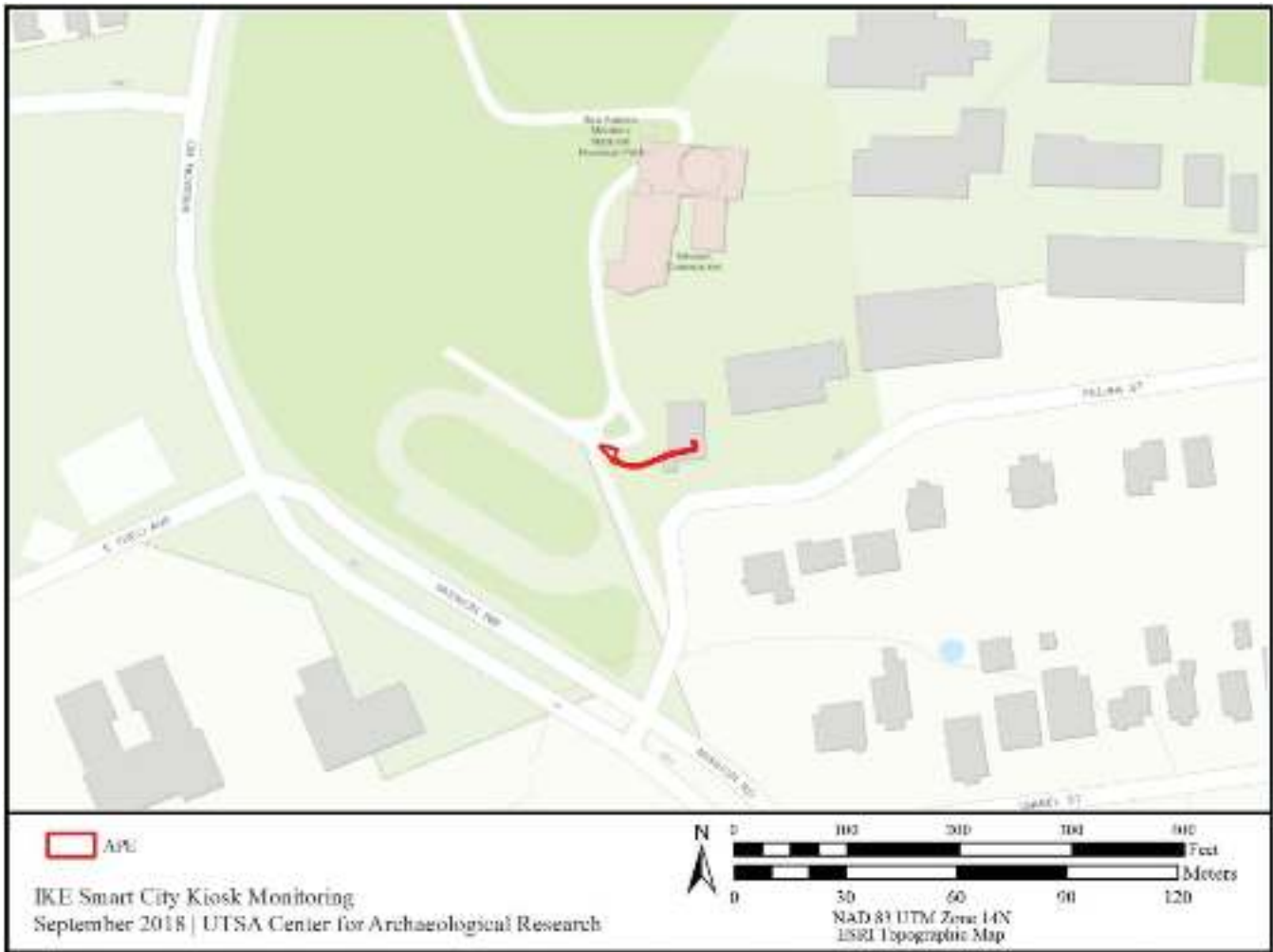


Figure 1-1. Project APE (highlighted in red) shown on Esri topographic map.



Figure 1-2. View of APE (prior to excavation) showing approximate locations of concrete pad and trench. The visitor's center is the building in the background.



Figure 1-3. View to the northeast of proposed trench (highlighted area) with tie-in to the visitor's center.

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Chapter 2: A History of Mission Concepción

This chapter provides a brief history of Mission Concepción from its beginning in 1731 to its ending as a mission in the late eighteenth century. The chapter also chronicles the latter role of Concepción as a local parish church, as well as its decline and revival in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The chapter concludes with a section that discusses relevant past archaeological investigations within or adjacent to the project APE.

History of Mission Concepción

Franciscans of the College of Santa Cruz de Querétaro founded the first Mission Concepción in 1716 along the Angelina River in modern-day west Nacogdoches County (Habig 1968; Ivey 2018). The mission was moved to its current, and final, location east of the confluence of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek in 1731. The move to San Antonio was initiated by Brigadier General Pedro de Rivera y Villalón that the missions in east Texas be abandoned for security and economic reasons (Habig 1968; Ivey 2018).

The building of the mission complex began in 1732 and continued until approximately 1770. Its location may have been determined by the presence of the irrigation ditch later known as the Concepción Acequia, as well as the former presence of the first Mission San José located on or near this location (Ivey and Fox 1999; Scurlock and Fox 1977). Based on the 1971 archaeological investigation, Ivey (2018) suggests that an adobe church with a *convento* were the first major structures of the mission. The foundation of the present stone church was begun in 1735 and completed in 1755 (Ivey 2018). In Ivey's (2018:47) description of Concepción's structural history, he explains that a stone *convento* had replaced the adobe one by 1745 and that construction for a second *convento* took place from about 1750 through 1756. A stone granary was built by 1745 with stone buildings identified as a forge and a carpenter's shop listed in the Inventory of 1772 (Ivey 2018). The construction of stone houses for the neophyte community began in 1756 creating an enclosed plaza as described by Father Juan Morfi in 1777 (Ivey 2018). Although Morfi's observations were made in 1777, all construction relating to Concepción had ceased in 1772 when the mission was transferred to the College of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Zacatecas following the expulsion of the Jesuit order.

Campbell and Campbell (1985) suggest two factors that compelled Native Americans to move to the missions. The first is the expansion of New Spain into Tamaulipas and

northern Mexico that displaced indigenous Native groups, and the second is the movement of Apache into the Edwards Plateau and South Texas. During this time, the mission brought stability, safety, and sustenance for local Native American groups. The marriage record of Mission Concepción is the sole source for the names of the groups that entered the mission (Campbell and Campbell 1985). Thirty-three named groups are recorded in this registry with the qualification that some groups overlap and that some groups are not included (Campbell and Campbell 1985:14-21). The most named groups were the Pajalat, Tacame, Siquipil, Tilpacopal, Patumaca, and the Patalca (Gonzalez 2011).

By most accounts, the initial founding of Mission Concepción was successful with approximately 300 individuals belonging to this community (Casteñeda 1936; Scurlock and Fox 1977). Habig (1968:135) states that 792 individuals were baptized and 558 were given Christian burials from the mission's founding in 1731 to 1762. The report also lists 58 neophyte families numbering 207 individuals living at the mission (Habig 1968:135). However, by the mid-1750s, the neophyte population had begun to decline with further reduction continuing through the 1780s. While there were multiple causes for this decline, the primary cause for the displacement of local Native American groups was the growing Hispanic community (Ivey 2018). The growth of the Hispanic community coupled with the high mortality rates among the neophyte community, especially infants and children, reduced the growth and viability of the mission community (Habig 1968; Ivey 2018).

In 1794, Mission Concepción was partially secularized through the division of land and property between neophytes and other residents (Ivey 2018). Habig (1968:141) describes the mission land being divided into common lots shared by the community. In addition, individual plots were allotted to the 16 heads of Christian Native American families (a total of 38 individuals), and a lot each was awarded to the Hispanic surveyor and overseer. The remaining livestock was divided among the neophytes (Habig 1968). Mission Concepción became a *visita*, or sub-mission, of Mission San José, which held custody of it until 1824 (Habig 1968).

In 1809, the population of Concepción consisted of 21 Native Americans and 32 Hispanics (Habig 1968:143). Ivey and Fox (1999) report that no Native American families were living at Concepción after 1823 and that the surrounding lands were sold to new owners. In 1824, the Mexican Government sold all the buildings of Mission Concepción, except for the

church and granary (Ivey 2018). The remaining San Antonio missions (less Mission San Antonio de Valero, which had been previously relinquished) were turned over to Presbyter Francisco Maynes, the priest of San Antonio de Bexar (Habig 1968; Ivey 2018).

The nineteenth century was a time in which Mission Concepción underwent a period of decline followed by a revival and subsequently a moderate decline. Numerous visitors describe the Concepción buildings as deteriorated with cattle and sheep corralled in the church and its grounds (Ivey 2018). Local inhabitants who used the stone to construct their houses (Ivey 2018) aided the deterioration of the complex. In 1840, Bexar County commissioners sold the “Public Rock” of Mission Concepción consisting of its buildings and walls accelerating its deterioration (Almaráz 1989:39-40).

In 1841, the Republic of Texas returned the title of Mission Concepción and adjacent lands, approximately 16.07 hectares (15 acres), to the Catholic Church (Almaráz 1989; Habig 1968). Almaráz (1989) cites the 1850 ruling of the Texas Supreme Court that recognized the Bishop of Galveston Jean Marie Odin as the rightful owner of mission properties. These actions occurred during the revival of Catholicism in Texas led by the Bishop in the mid-1850s (Foley 2010). In 1855, Odin allowed the Brothers of Mary to use the Concepción lands for farming (Habig 1968). The Brothers began the restoration of the church and re-instituted religious services in 1861 (Habig 1968). In addition, the Brothers established a seminary that operated until 1866 (Habig 1968). After additional restoration in 1887, the Bishop of San Antonio, John C. Neraz, rededicated the Concepción church (Habig 1968). However, Ivey (1999) describes the late nineteenth-century period as one of renewed neglect with mission land rented to sharecroppers. Ivey cites Corner (1890:16-17) who writes that “the barracks [Indian houses and walls] that surrounded the square have long disappeared [...] with the square of the Mission at this date [that] can very hardly be defined” (Ivey 1999:6). Further damaging the integrity of the complex was the rerouting of Mission Road through the mission grounds in front of the church sometime after 1887 (Ivey 2018).

The early twentieth century marked a new beginning for Mission Concepción that would eventually make it the hub of other Catholic missionary institutions that are located on its former grounds. In 1911, the Brothers of Mary returned Mission Concepción to the San Antonio Archdiocese that was led by Bishop John William Shaw (Ivey 2018). Shaw began the restoration of the four mission chapels, less Mission Valero (the Alamo) that was then in the custody of the state (Fisher 1996). In 1913, Bishop Shaw celebrated the reopening of the church at Mission Concepción with a high

mass. In addition, he laid the foundation stone for the new St John’s Orphanage (later known as St. Peter-St. Joseph’s Orphanage) immediately southwest of Mission Concepción (Habig 1968; Ivey 2018). The Sisters of the Incarnate Word administered the orphanage (Habig 1968; Ivey 2018). In 1920, the administration building of St. John’s Seminary was opened immediately northeast of the Mission Concepción (Habig 1968; Ivey 2018). In 1926, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Convent was built southeast of the Concepción church (González 2011).

In 1932, the San Antonio Conservation Society initiated the restoration of Mission San José with the effort continued by the Works Progress Administration (Fisher 1996). Ivey (2018) states that only minor restoration was done at Mission Concepción citing Brooks (1936:134-135), an architect, who writes that it is “the best preserved among all the Texas monuments” (Ivey 2018:208). In 1941, Mission San José became a state park and a national historic site while remaining an active church (Fisher 1996:168-169). This partnership between state, federal agencies, and the San Antonio Archdiocese fostered the idea that the remaining three missions—Concepción, San Juan, and Espada—could be joined with Mission San José to form a national park while remaining parish churches. Over the next three decades, the Archdiocese, the NPS, the State of Texas, and the City of San Antonio negotiated an agreement in which the lands surrounding the mission were donated to and maintained by the NPS, while the churches themselves remained under the control of the Archdiocese (Fisher 1996). In 1978, the U.S. Congress approved the creation of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, which began operations in 1983. In 2015, the UNESCO approved the nomination of the San Antonio missions, including Mission Concepción, as a collective World Heritage Site.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

This section provides a brief background on previous archaeological investigations within or adjacent to the APE of the present investigation. It also documents construction activities that have impacted the area.

The first and most comprehensive, professional archaeological investigation of Mission Concepción was undertaken in 1971 and 1972 (Scurlock and Fox 1977). The former Texas State Historical Survey Committee (now known as the Texas Historical Commission), the NRHP, and the Archdiocese of San Antonio sponsored the project (Scurlock and Fox 1977). The investigation focused on the western portion of the mission grounds to search for wall locations and the other architectural and archaeological features of the mission complex. Scurlock and Fox (1977) found only a small portion of the mission’s west wall and a gully-like feature north

of the quarry depression that was characterized as a likely *acequia* remnant. Subsequent investigations have focused on the development of infrastructure for the property and remediation due to natural processes affecting the structures.

Figure 2-1 shows the location of relevant past archaeological work and impacts created by previous construction. Specific to the APE, NPS conducted an in-house investigation for the visitor's center and the new parking lot in 1988 (NPS archaeologist Susan Snow, personal communications 2018). Trenches 4, 5, and 6 are located in the area of the visitor's center. Results have not been published; however, the approximate locations of trenches are shown in Figure 2-1 based on a map provided by NPS. Table 2-1 summarizes the

artifacts found in those trenches listed in the NPS database (NPS 2018). In January 1999, CAR excavated four tests units after CPS Energy impacted a feature containing a large amount of animal bone (Meissner 1989). Based on the feature profile and Spanish Colonial-era artifacts, CAR concluded it was a remnant of the Spanish Colonial-era *acequia* with midden deposits (Meissner 1989). Also during this project, monitoring of trenches for electrical conduits revealed a portion of a north to south colonial-era wall (Robinson 2001). In addition to these infrastructure related archaeological investigations, other impacts include construction and demolition of the old Mission Road, the excavations for a 24-in. and a 30-in. waterline, and the excavation for a sewer manhole and line.

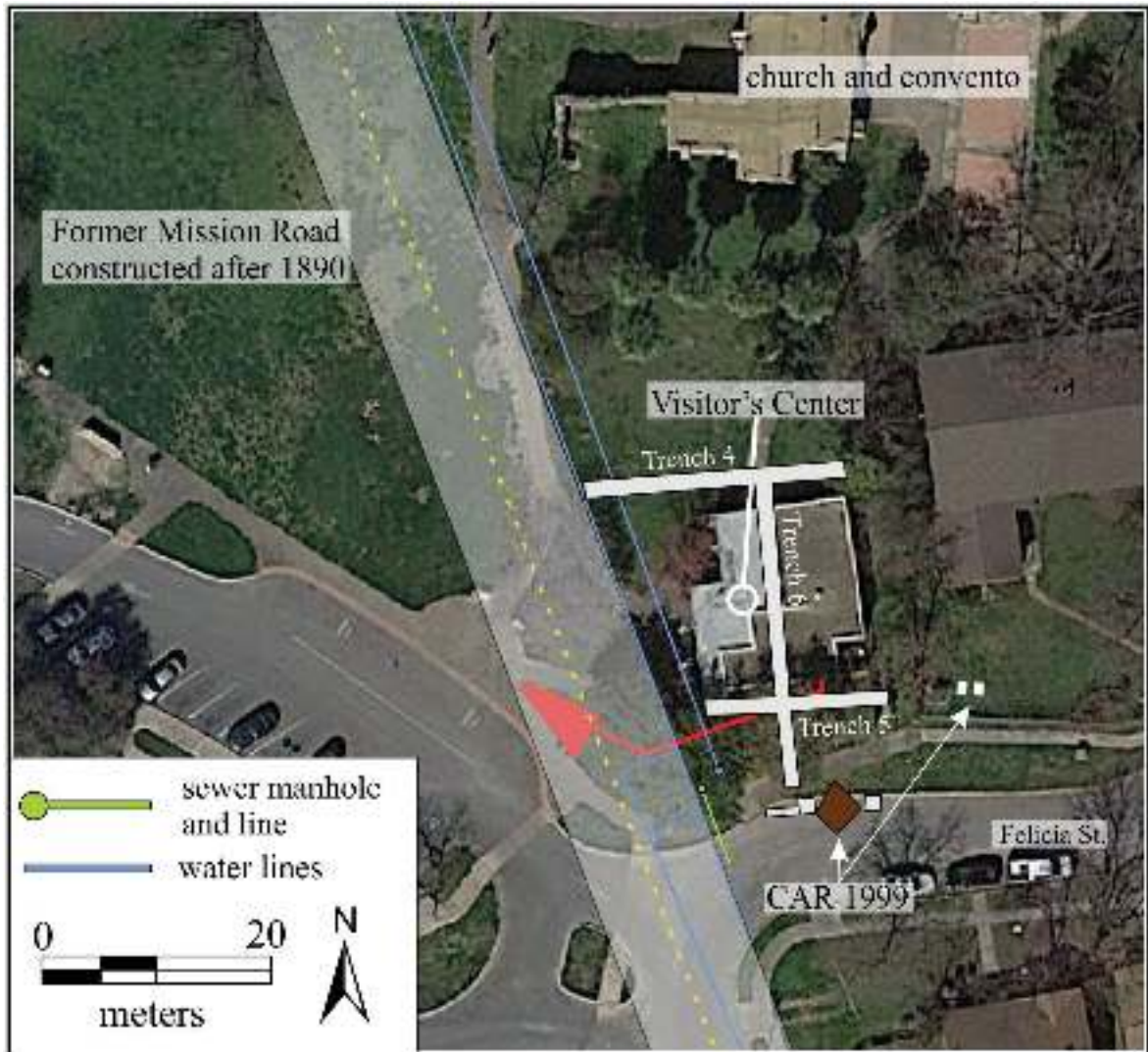


Figure 2-1. Previous archaeological work and impacts from construction near the APE (in red).

Table 2-1. Summary of Artifacts from 1988 NPS Project - Trenches 4, 5, and 6 (NPS 2018)

Provenience	Description	Item Count	Weight
Trench 4 - fill	Large mammal bone		578 g
Trench 4 - fill	Large mammal teeth		33 g
Trench 4 - fill	Burned bone		1 g
Trench 4 - fill	Burnished redware, c. 1700-1800 (1); Undecorated Majolica (3); San Elizario (1); Lead glazed utility ware (3); Hand painted English, c. 1800-1830 (1); San Augustine Blue on white (5); Stonewarewhite ware, c. 1870-1900 (1)	15	
Trench 4 - fill	Burnished Goliad (1); Valero (2)	3	
Trench 4 - fill	Clear glass with green tint	2	
Trench 4 - fill	Round nail	1	
Trench 4 - fill	Ferrous wire; unknown metal object	2	
Trench 4 - fill	Sheet rock fragment	1	
Trench 4 - fill	Linoleum tile fragment	1	
Trench 4 - fill	Brick fragments	2	
Trench 4 - fill	Debitage	2	
Trench 4 - Test Unit 1, Feature 1	Lead glazed utility ware (1); Burnished redware (1); Blue on white (1)	3	
Trench 4 - Test Unit 1, Feature 1	Clear glass with iridescent tint	1	
Trench 4 - Test Unit 1, Feature 1	Trigger guard with curved edges and incised lines	1	
Trench 4 - Test Unit 1, Feature 1	Cement fragment	1	85 g
Trench 5 - fill	Large mammal bone		54.5 g
Trench 6 - fill	Large mammal bone		724.5 g
Trench 6 - fill	Large mammal bone		1387 g
Trench 6 - fill	Undecorated Majolica (1); San Agustin (1); Blue on white Majolica (1)	3	
Trench 6 - fill	Goliad (2); Valero (1)	3	
Trench 6 - fill	Goliad (3); Valero (1); unidentified earthenware (1)	5	
Trench 6 - fill	San Elizario Majolica (1); Majolica (1), Ironstone c 1850 - refit	7	
Trench 6 - fill	Undecorated Valero rim (1)	1	
Trench 6 - fill	Clear glass with iridescent tint- portion of neck with raised letters "Made in PA USA"	1	
Trench 6 - fill	Clear glass (2) with one fragment with raised letters spelling "pint"; Green glass (1)	3	
Trench 6 - fill	Brown glass (2)	2	
Trench 6 - fill	Clear glass with blue decorations	1	
Trench 6 - fill	Corroding ferrous fragments	3	
Trench 6 - fill	Large square nail, hooked at on end	1	
Trench 6 - fill	Brick fragments	1	
Trench 6 - fill	19th and 20th century brick fragment	5	
Trench 6 - fill	Possible gunflint	1	
Trench 6 - fill	Debitage	3	
Trench 6 - fill	Debitage	4	
Trench 6 - fill	Angular chert chunks	2	

Chapter 3: Archaeological Field and Laboratory Methods

This chapter outlines field and laboratory methods that CAR, in consultation with the NPS, developed to investigate the APE and to establish a protocol when archaeological deposits were encountered. In addition, it provides information concerning the final deposition of found artifacts and records generated by the project.

Field Methods

Fieldwork consisted of archaeological monitoring for archaeological features and artifacts. Prior to construction, the Project Archaeologist met with Susan Snow of the NPS and Sam Lopez of Central Electric to review proposed construction activities and to discuss the role and concerns of archaeological monitoring. As per the Scope of Work, an archaeologist was present on site to monitor any ground disturbing activities. The archaeologist maintained a standard monitoring form with all activities described on the form. These observations were supported by digital data, including recording GPS locations and photographs. A lab-based GIS technician supported the project by creating a shapefile of the project area and by downloading and managing GPS data as well as photographic data collected by the monitor. The Project Archaeologist maintained a photographic log in addition to the daily monitoring logs.

If prehistoric or historic cultural features and/or artifacts were encountered during the course of the monitoring, the Project Archaeologist was authorized to halt the excavations in the vicinity to determine if the materials were found within intact or disturbed contexts. One intact Spanish Colonial-era midden was discovered during the excavation within the footprint of the kiosk foundation. It was investigated with a test unit measuring 20-x-20 cm (7.8-x-7.8 in.) as requested by NPS. The location of the unit was recorded with a GPS unit and placed on the west side of the excavation for the kiosk pedestal. The unit was excavated in arbitrary 10-cm (3.93-in.) levels with the top of the sidewalk used as the height of the datum. The unit was terminated at the sterile caliche and gravel level. The locations of all collected material were recorded with appropriate provenience information and transported to the CAR laboratory for processing, analysis, and curation.

If human remains were encountered during any portion of this project, the archaeologist would have immediately stopped work in that area and notified the NPS and IKE Smart City.

The handling of human remains would conform to conditions of the State Health and Safety Code (Chapter 711). No human remains were identified.

Artifact Analysis and Curation

Throughout the project, the analysis and organization of records, artifacts, and daily logs were ongoing. All records generated during the project were prepared in accordance with Federal Regulations 36 CFR Part 79 and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Field forms were printed on acid-free paper and completed with pencil. Any artifacts collected during the investigations and monitoring were brought to the CAR laboratory, washed, air-dried, and stored in 4 mil zip-lock, archival-quality bags. Any materials needing extra support were double-bagged, and acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Labels were generated by laser printer, and each label contained provenience information and a corresponding lot number. If necessary, these artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes, which were 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 with archival-quality page protectors to prevent accidental smearing due to moisture. Finally, following completion of the investigation, all recovered artifacts and project-related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR's curation facility. All artifacts were entered into the NPS Interior Collections Management System (ICMS) as the NPS manages the curatorial collections for all the area within the park boundary.

Reporting Requirements

Following completion of the investigations, CAR prepared a draft report of the investigations and provided documentation summarizing the activities and results of the effort. The report included recommendations regarding the significance of any archaeological discoveries and suggestions for additional research. The CAR submitted the draft report to IKE Smart City and NPS for comments. These review comments were incorporated into the final document, which was printed and distributed as required by NPS.

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Chapter 4: Results of the Archaeological Investigation

Archaeological monitoring and testing for the interactive kiosk and infrastructure at Mission Concepción took place on September 25, 28, and October 1, 2018. The first day consisted of monitoring trench excavation for an electrical conduit (Figure 4-1). The trench measured approximately 23 m (75.45 ft.) in length, 20 cm (7.87 in.) in width, and ranged from 40.8-50.8 cm (16-20 in.) below the surface (Figures 4-2 and 4-3). Visibility was limited by the narrowness of the trench. No features were observed, and no artifacts were found in situ. Three artifacts were collected from the back dirt including a cut faunal bone, a brick fragment, and a sandstone paver fragment.

The excavation for the kiosk foundation used a mini-excavator with a 60.9 cm (2 ft.) toothed-bucket (Figure 4-3). The triangular footprint measured 4.2 m (14.1 ft.) in length and 3.7 m (12.4 ft.) at the largest width. The depth of the excavation was 15 cm (6 in.) below the grade of the sidewalk. The footprint lies on a slope and required deeper excavation of approximately 40-45 cm (15.7-17.7 in.) on the north side of the footprint. The excavation for a pedestal to support the

kiosk was placed off center within the footprint and measured 160 cm (5.2 ft.) in length, 70 cm (2.2 ft.) in width, and 1 m (39.3 in.) in depth. In the southwest corner of this excavation at approximately 30-40 cm (11.8-15.7 in.) below the sidewalk, several Spanish Colonial-era ceramic fragments, faunal bone, and mortar fragments were found (Figure 4-4). In addition, the surrounding soils appeared to be charcoal stained. Although not initially recognized as a feature upon review of several photographs, the stained horizon was identified as Feature 1. This information was relayed to Susan Snow of NPS on October 1, 2018, who visited the site and requested that CAR define the extent of the feature. The excavated foundation was scraped with a shovel revealing darkened soil under the overburden that was considered evidence of the midden. The midden's depth was documented based upon the grade of the present sidewalk with the assumption that any future work in the area use the sidewalk as a reference. In addition, a small test unit measuring 20-x-20 cm (7.8-x-7.8 in.; Figures 4-5 and 4-6) was excavated in the west wall of the kiosk pedestal excavation to determine the midden's integrity (i.e., if non-colonial artifacts were present).



Figure 4-1. View to the west of trench excavation adjacent to visitor's center.



Figure 4-2. Views to the east showing trench location relative to the visitor's center. Image A shows the trench coming from the visitor's center. Images B and C show the trench location south of the building. Image D shows the trench termination at the sidewalk.



Figure 4-3. A view to the southeast of the excavation for kiosk foundation.



Figure 4-4. Location (circled in red) where artifacts were found in kiosk pedestal excavation (left). Detail of southwest corner of excavation with red lines bracketing stained soils of the midden (right).



Figure 4-5. West and north extent of midden (red arrows) as determined by shovel scraping. Scale is metric. Arrow point indicates north.



Figure 4-6. Location of test unit along the west wall of the kiosk pedestal excavation. Scale is metric. Arrow point indicates north.

Feature 1

Feature 1 is a Spanish Colonial-era sheet midden that lies within the footprint of the kiosk foundation and measures approximately 5.8 m (19 ft.) west to east and 3 m (9.8 ft.) north to south. The midden ranges from 15 to 20 cm (5.9 to 7.87 in.) in depth and approximately 20 cm (7.87 in) in thickness. The feature is likely larger as it continues into the wall of the foundation excavation. The homogeneous soil is a very dark brown (10YR 2/2) silty clay with grains of degraded limestone and fragments of charcoal. Artifacts found in association with the midden include diagnostic ceramics (Goliad, and Yellow and Green Glaze II), mortar fragments, faunal bone,

and charcoal. Table 4-1 list the artifacts found associated with Feature 1. While testing was minimal, results suggest that this portion of the midden is intact and likely capped by later construction and then old Mission Road. The midden dates to the Spanish colonial period based on the presence of the Yellow and Green Glaze II (Fox and Ulrich 2008) and Native American ceramics. Several of the ceramic fragments were refitted allowing identification of vessel components, the base (Figure 4-7) and jar with a lug or handle (Figure 4-8) of two Native American vessels, respectively. In addition, one Spanish vessel suggests a decorated jar (Figure 4-9). Following testing, the midden and test unit were covered with geo-fabric and soil for protection, and work was allowed to proceed.

Table 4-1. Summary of Feature 1 Artifacts

Feature	Description	Provenience	Level (depth in cm)	Count	Weight
1	Faunal Bone	N3251 339.439/ E549 335.281	40 cm below sidewalk grade		93.2 g
1	Native American	N3251 339.439 / E549 335.281	40 cm below sidewalk grade	3	
1	Mortar/Plaster	N3251 339.439/ E549 335.281	40 cm below sidewalk grade	2	59.8 g
1	Native American (2 - refit)	N3251 339.439/ E549 335.281	40 cm below sidewalk grade	2	
1	Faunal Bone	TU 1	1 (0-10)		17.3 g
1	Mortar/Plaster, Some Burned	TU 1	1 (0-10)		690.9 g
1	Native American (base [2] -refit)	TU 1	1 (0-10)	3	
1	14C Samples	TU 1	1 (0-10)		0.2 g
1	Shell	TU 1	1 (0-10)	1	0.1 g
1	Shell	TU 1	2 (10-20)	3	0.4 g
1	14C Samples	TU 1	2 (10-20)		0.2 g
1	Mortar/Plaster	TU 1	2 (10-20)		964.8 g
1	Faunal Bone	TU 1	2 (10-20)		17.2 g
1	Spanish Colonial Lead Glazed (Yellow and Green Glaze II - [5] refit)	TU 1	2 (10-20)	5	



Figure 4-7. Calcium carbonate tempered Goliad jar. The exterior is on the left and interior on the right. The drawing of the jar's profile is in the center.



Figure 4-8. Bone tempered Goliad jar base. The exterior is on the left and interior on the right. Its profile is in the center.



Figure 4-9. Refit of decorated Yellow and Green Glaze II jar body. The exterior is on the left and interior on the right. Its profile is in the center.

Summary

CAR monitored the excavation for an information kiosk near the Mission Concepción visitor's center. During the course of the excavation, an intact Spanish Colonial-era sheet midden was discovered and tested. Following testing, the exposed portion of the midden was covered with geo-fabric and

excavated soil, and the concrete foundation was poured over it. Based upon the findings, CAR suggests that any future ground-disturbing activities near the kiosk take into account the midden's presence and, at the minimum, monitor the activity. However, if the scope of future work is extensive, it may be prudent to scrape the soil overburden and excavate test units to determine the full extent and composition of the feature.

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Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

The CAR was contracted by IKE Smart City to perform archaeological services for the construction of an information kiosk on the grounds of Mission Concepción on September 25, 28, and October 1, 2018. Its construction involved ground-disturbing activities that included trenching adjacent to the visitor's center. The APE is composed of two areas: the first is the concrete pad for the kiosk encompassing 8.27 m² (27.1 sq. ft.), and the second is the approximately 23 m (75.4 ft.) trench for an electrical conduit running from the visitor center to the kiosk. Archaeological investigations were required because Mission Concepción is listed on the NRHP, is a SAL, is a World Heritage site, and is located within the boundary of a National Register District. However, the project did not require a federal permit under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 because it fell under the national agreement between the NPS and the THC and complied with the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment process.

While the area had been impacted by previous construction (i.e. old Mission Road and electric, gas, and water infrastructure), previous archaeological trenching by NPS (1988) within the footprint of the visitor's center suggests the presence of archaeological deposits. Trenching for the electrical conduit was approximately 40-50 cm (15.7-19.6 in.) below the surface and excavated. Visibility was limited by the width of the trench (20 cm; 7.8 in.) with only a few items recovered from the backfill. The excavation for the foundation allowed greater

visibility as well as the in situ recovery of Spanish Colonial-era ceramics, faunal bone, and mortar. The depth of excavation was 15 cm (5.9 in.) below the adjacent sidewalk, however, because the foundation footprint was on a slope, deeper excavation was necessary on the north side of the footprint to 40 cm (15.7 in.) below the surface. In addition, the support pedestal for the kiosk required the excavation of deeper pit measuring 160 cm (62.9 in.) in length, 70 cm (27.5 in.) in width, and 1 m (3.2 ft.) in depth. Feature 1, a sheet midden, was found in the southwest wall of this excavation and reported to NPS. NPS archaeologist Susan Snow requested that CAR delineate the extent of the midden and test for its integrity. It appears to lie within the footprint of the kiosk foundation and measures approximately 5.8 m (19 ft.) west to east and 3 m (9.8 ft.) north to south, and it is approximately 20 cm (7.8 in.) thick. Feature 1 appears to be an intact Spanish Colonial-era sheet midden. Following testing, the feature was covered with geo-fabric and soil, and work was allowed to proceed.

Given the historical importance of Mission Concepción, as well as its listing on the NRHP and designation as a SAL and World Heritage site, CAR recommends that any future ground-disturbing activities within or near the project area be archaeologically monitored at a minimum. However, if the scope of future work is extensive, it may be prudent to scrape the soil overburden and excavate test units to determine the full extent and composition of the feature.

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