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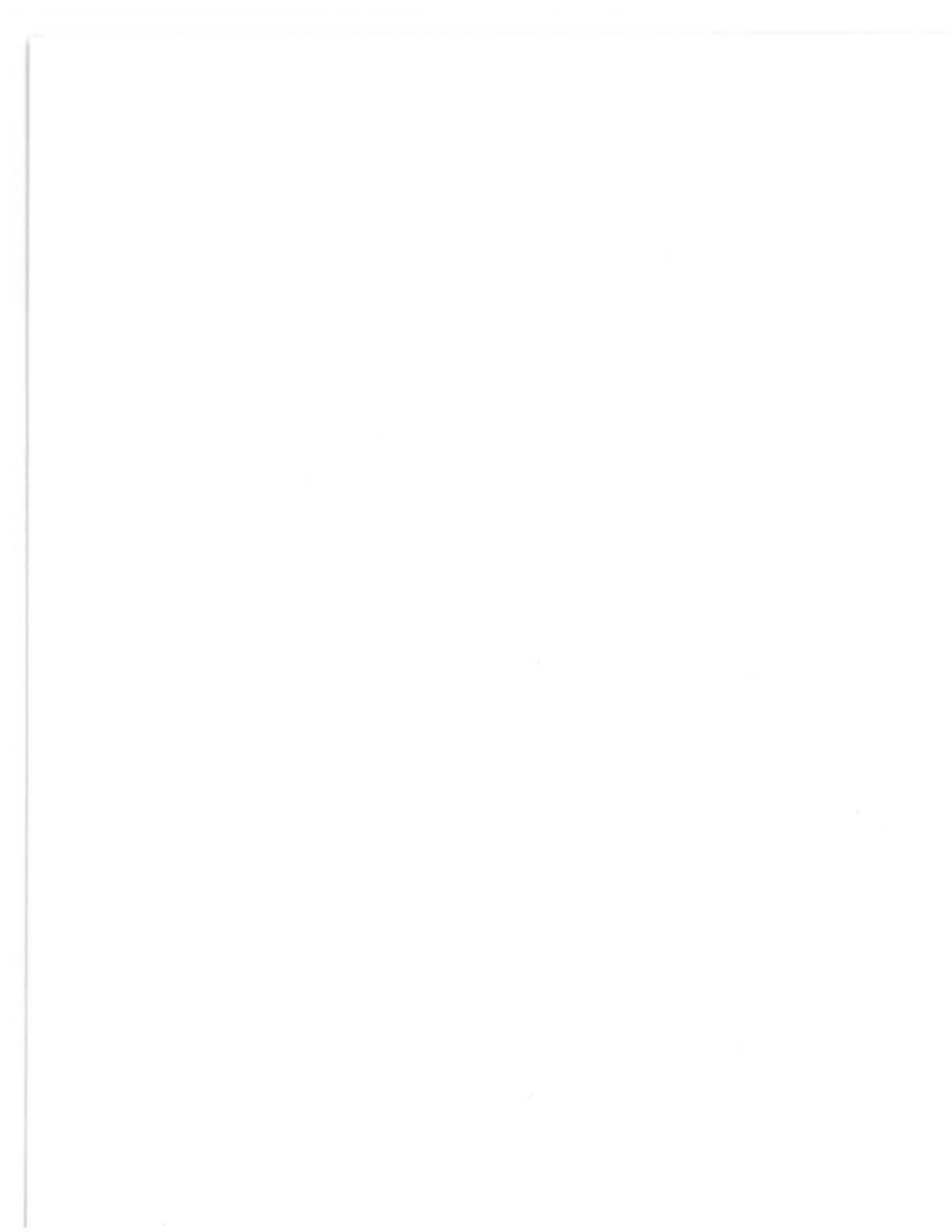
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**APPENDIX IV: POSSIBLE NONMISSION ORIGINS
OF THE HERRERA GATE**

POSSIBLE NONMISSION ORIGINS OF THE HERRERA GATE

Archival work conducted in conjunction with the Herrera Gate studies also investigated possible nonmission origins. The consideration of other structures as a possible origin for the Herrera Gate is an attempt to conduct as thorough a search as possible while not discounting the oral history tradition of the Herrera family. As will be shown, however, research supports the oral history of the Herrera family.

The massive size of the gate precluded many potential locations such as common homes or buildings present in San Antonio during the Spanish Colonial period. A few identified structures, however, would have been large enough or prestigious enough to have contained a large gate. These include the Presidio de San Antonio de B exar (more than one location), the Veramendi Palace, the Spanish Governor's Palace, and the San Fernando Church. Research of these structures was primarily secondary in source.

The original Presidio de San Antonio de B exar, built in 1722 by the order of the Marques de Aguayo, was basically square in shape with bastions located at each of the four corners (see plan in Habig 1977:34). Two entrances are shown, one small entrance on the north and a larger entrance on the south. According to the scale accompanying the plan, the north entrance was ca. 5 feet 7 inches and the south entrance was ca. 19 feet. A 1782 land grant to Jos e Antonio de la Garza described a grant of a *solar* to said de la Garza as being bounded by: "Soledad street, which leads from the gate of the Presidio. . ." (BCA, LGS, 276). This is the present location of San Antonio's City Hall.

An original floor plan of the "*cuartel de S. n Ant de B exar*" dated 1805 and drawn by Francisco Adam, illus-

trates the "*puerta principal*" of the quarters (BCA, on file). No scale is available. This compound, called "the old Spanish fort" was situated in Military Plaza between San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River on the present (1940) site of the City Hall (San Antonio Express-News August 5, 1940).

The Veramendi Palace, located along Soledad Street, was acquired by Don Fernando de Veramendi from Marc os de Castro in 1780 (Steinfeldt 1978:70). In 1783, the stone house was described as having a *zagu n* (entrance) with two large doors, one that opened to the street and the other provided access to a *patio* (Steinfeldt 1978). The "door that opened to the street" is now on display at the Alamo. The opening to the *patio* is shown in a photograph reprinted in McLemore (1980:69). The size of this opening is not known at this time nor is the disposition of the *patio* door.

The Spanish Governor's Palace, built ca. 1749, was originally the home of the captain of the presidio (Ramsdell 1959:112). This structure is the only remaining example of an aristocratic Spanish Colonial home in San Antonio. The size and location of the original Spanish Colonial gates to the property is not known at this time but the home was restored in 1929-1930. A replicated *patio* gate by master craftsman Frank Gaona was placed here in the 1950s (Frank Gaona, personal communication 1987).

A ca. 1850 photograph of San Fernando Church shows an enclosing wall around the church with a gate fronting the church (Guerra 1982:21). The height of this wall and size of the gate is not known but it appears to be a low gate.

Other possible structures containing large gates may have been present in Spanish Colonial San Antonio, and this list does not allude to being a final compilation. It has attempted to briefly examine the best known and most likely choices.

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