

Archival Research for the South Flores Parking Garage Expansion, San Antonio, Texas



by
Kristi M. Ulrich



Prepared for:
Bexar County Infrastructure Services
233 N. Pecos, Suite 420
San Antonio, Texas

Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Technical Report, No. 21

©2010

Archival Research for the South Flores Parking Garage Expansion, San Antonio, Texas

by
Kristi M. Ulrich

Steve A. Tomka
Principal Investigator



Prepared for:
Bexar County Infrastructure Services
233 N. Pecos, Suite 420
San Antonio, Texas

Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Technical Report # 21

©2010

Abstract:

The Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) was contracted by Bexar County Infrastructure to conduct an archival review of the occupation history of a tract of land slated to accommodate the expansion of the Bexar County Parking Garage. The project area is located in downtown San Antonio, Texas, just southwest of the intersection of Nueva Street and South Flores. The property in question has a long history of occupation, dating to the Spanish Colonial Period. It appears the property was a parcel of land given to one of the Canary Island families that came to San Antonio in 1731. Over the years, portions of the property housed adobe dwellings, a stockyard, and a lumber and whole dry goods warehouse. The Texas Historical Commission requested that the County hire a professional consultant to conduct the background review to establish the ownership and use histories of the lot and recommend appropriate archaeological investigations, if warranted, to sample significant archaeological deposits that may remain prior to construction impacts. CAR's review finds that the tract of land has a history of residential occupation that extends as far back as at least 1849 and the parcel has been subject to both residential and commercial use. The removal of a gasoline storage tank from the southwestern portion of the APE appears not to have affected the portion of the project area that may have potential for producing information concerning the early history and occupation of San Antonio. Therefore and assuming that intact deposits may be present, CAR recommends limited archaeological investigations in targeted areas (e.g., in the vicinity of the location of the former 1849 adobe structure) following the removal of the asphalt from the existing parking lot and prior to construction.

Table of Contents:

Abstract.....	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
List of Figures.....	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
Area of Potential Effect.....	1
Scope of Work.....	2
Chapter 2: Historical Background of the Project Area.....	4
Spanish Colonial Background.....	4
Later Occupation of the APE.....	6
Review of the Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Maps.....	8
Chapter 3: Road System.....	15
Chapter 4: Previous Archaeology.....	17
41BX786 (Vollrath Blacksmith Shop).....	17
41BX302 (Navarro House).....	18
41BX334 (Campbell House).....	18
41BX336 (Dullnig House).....	19
41BX1775.....	19
Chapter 5: Summary of the Importance of the Project Area and Recommendations.....	20
References.....	22

List of Figures:

Figure 1-1. Location of the project area within San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.....	2
Figure 1-2. View to the southeast across the project area showing how it looks today.....	3
Figure 2-1. The location of the project area overlaid on the 1912 Rullman map depicting San Antonio de Bexar in 1837.	5
Figure 2-2. Eastern portion of the project area on the 1885 Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map.	9
Figure 2-3. Koch’s 1873 Bird’s Eye View of San Antonio with the project area outlined.	10
Figure 2-4. Eastern portion of the project area on the 1888 Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map.	10
Figure 2-5. Eastern portion of the project area on the 1892 Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map.	11
Figure 2-6. The project area overlaid on the 1896 Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map.....	12
Figure 2-7. Project area on the 1904 Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map.....	13
Figure 2-8. The project area overlaid on the 1912 Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map.....	13
Figure 2-9. The project area overlaid on the 1911-1954 Sanborn’s Map. The blue rectangle is the approximate location of an underground gasoline storage tank removed in 2000.	14
Figure 4-1. The José Antonio Navarro State Historical Park, also known as Casa Navarro, as it looks today.	18

Acknowledgements:

The author would like to thank the individuals that helped to make this a successful research project. Thanks to Bruce Moses for his help with information on the road systems in San Antonio, as well as providing helpful maps concerning the project area. Bruce Moses also produced the graphics in this report. The author would like to thank Alfred Rodriguez of the Bexar County Spanish Archives for help in trying to locate early documents. The author would also like to thank Dr. Steve Tomka, Director of the Center for Archaeological Research, for his guidance in the preparation of the report as well as conducting the internal review of the manuscript.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Bexar County Infrastructure, headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, contracted the Center for Archaeological Research of The University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR-UTSA) to conduct an archival background review of the occupation history of a tract associated with the planned expansion of a parking garage located in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The purpose of the review is to trace out the occupation and use history of the property to help determine if additional cultural resources investigations would be warranted based on the age and potential significance of the properties and events associated with the tract.

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect (APE) is located at 227 South Flores in San Antonio, Texas (Figure 1-1). The project location is in New City Block (NCB) 102, Lots 7, 8, 9, and 16. The APE is approximately 2 blocks from the Bexar County Justice Center Expansion. San Pedro Creek forms the western property line of the APE. San Pedro Creek is currently channelized, with the banks and base constructed of concrete. The project area is used as a parking lot adjacent to the southern side of a Bexar County Parking Garage located at the corner of Nueva Street and South Flores. Both facilities are used to service the patrons at the Bexar County Courthouse and Justice Center.

Approximately one- acre of ground surface will be affected by the proposed expansion. In preparation for the expansion, the current paving will be removed. The expansion will impact between two and three feet below the current ground surface. However, drilled piers spaced within the area of potential effect will extend 40'-50' below the surface to stabilize the structure. The expansion will consist of a 5-7 story garage that will house approximately 500 cars. It will occur to the south of, and adjacent to, the currently existing garage.

The existing parking lot, located immediately to the north of the project area, was constructed ca. 1988.

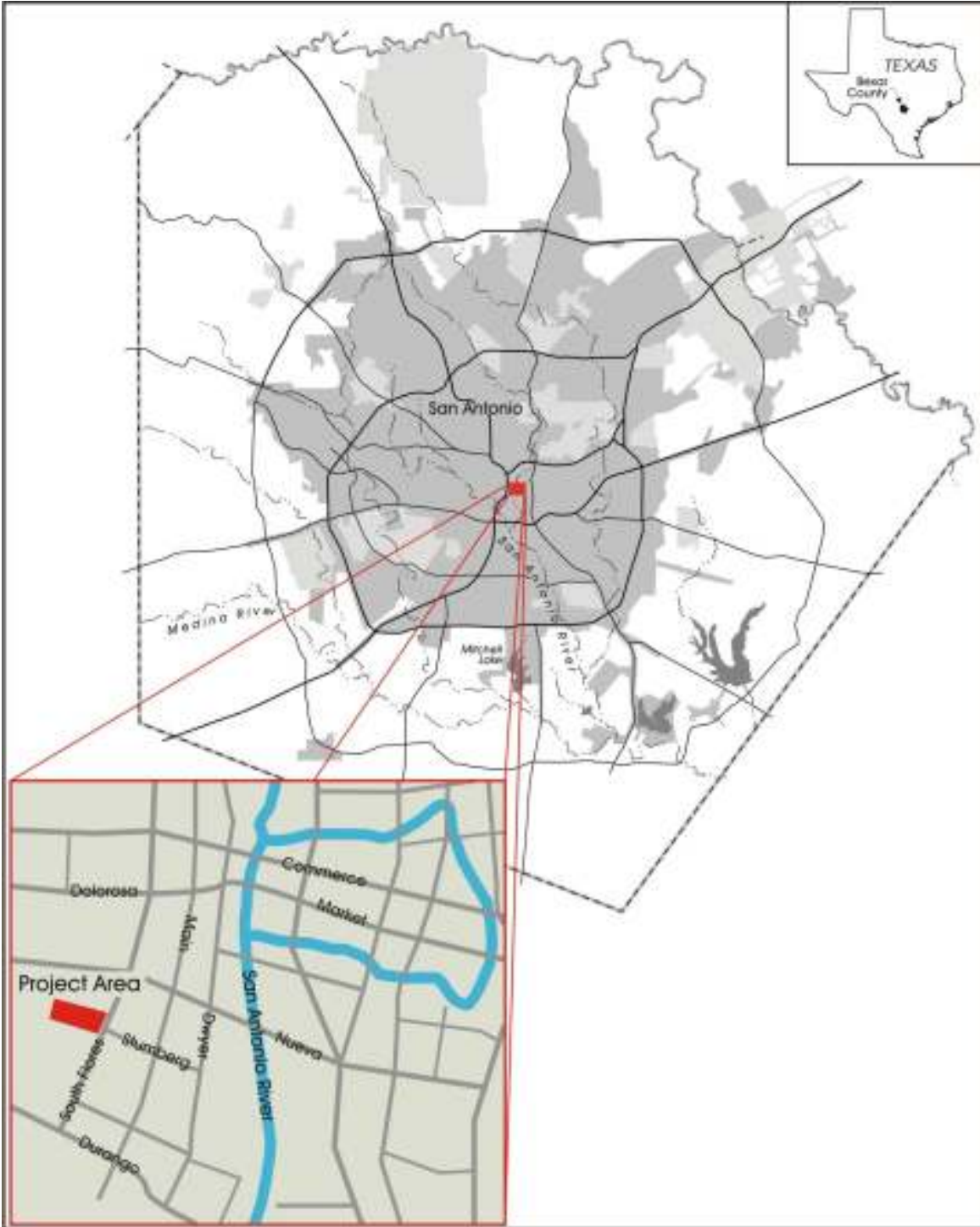


Figure 1-1. Location of the project area within San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Scope of Work

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) requested that Bexar County hire a professional consultant to conduct an archival review of the area to be impacted by the expansion of the Bexar County Parking

Garage. The purpose of the archival research and literature review was to determine the occupation and history of the project area. The goal was to assess the property's potential for producing significant cultural deposits under the existing parking lot (Figure 1-2). To accomplish this task, Bexar County Infrastructure contracted the Center for Archaeological Research to conduct the archival review and provide recommendations concerning the potential of the lot to retain significant cultural deposits and the need for further archaeological investigations, if warranted.

A comprehensive review of the available archival data, historic documents, and maps was conducted to determine the extent of the occupation and use of the APE. In addition, an examination of the archaeological sites within the vicinity of the APE was conducted utilizing previous archaeological reports and the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. To investigate the property, the author made use of deed records, historic maps, and other documents that highlighted the history of the area. The records utilized included the Bexar County Spanish Archives, Bexar County Deed Records (BCDR), Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps, and the Texas Sites Atlas. Additional information was gathered from previous research highlighting the development and growth of San Antonio de Bexar.



Figure 1-2. *View to the southeast across the project area showing how it looks today.*

Chapter 2: Historical Background of the Project Area

The project area is located in downtown San Antonio, not far from historic Military Plaza. Due to its proximity to what was once the center of town during late colonial and early statehood times, the project area has the potential for providing archaeological evidence related to the early history of San Antonio. In this chapter, ownership of the property will be reviewed.

Spanish Colonial Background

The beginnings of San Antonio were seen with the establishment of Mission San Antonio de Valero in 1716. Fray Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares had briefly visited the site several years prior, and petitioned to set up a mission at the headwaters of the San Antonio River to act as a waypoint in the journey to East Texas. The Marques de Valero, Viceroy of New Spain, granted Olivares' request and granted him permission (de la Teja 1995). Mission Valero occupied at least two locations before it settled into its current spot in the heart of downtown San Antonio. The final location was in use by 1724.

Within the next few years, four other missions were established within the San Antonio area. In 1720, Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo was established on the opposite side of the San Antonio River, and to the south of Mission Valero and Presidio San Antonio de Bexar. The remaining three missions were established in San Antonio within weeks of each other in 1731. These three missions, Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción, Mission San Juan de Capistrano, and Mission San Francisco de la Espada, were originally missions established in east Texas. When each failed along the eastern border, they were removed to San Antonio.

In addition to the five missions, the community outside of the mission and presidio, Villa de Bexar, began to grow in those few years.

The APE falls within the area that was part of the 1831 survey of the San Fernando *dehesas* and *pastos* (Ivey 2008). The APE was part of the lands cultivated by the Presidio de Bexar and the Villa de Bexar during the early years of occupation. These lands were later distributed to the Canary Islanders (*Isleños*) (Ivey 2008). The project area also falls within an area of town that was referred to as the *Barrio del Sur* (The South Neighborhood) on Rullman's 1912 map created using old city and county maps that depict San Antonio in 1836 (Figure 2-1). The property was bounded on the west by San Pedro Creek and on the east by Calle de Flores. Just to the south of the Barrio del Sur were the portions of land in the *Labores de Abajo* (Lower Labors) given to the Canary Islanders. The *Barrio del Sur* would have been portioned out to the settlers during the early years of San Antonio. The initial settlers of the Villa de Bexar consisted of 30 presidial soldiers, seven of whom were married and brought their families. The remaining settlers

were the 15 Canary Islander families and four single men that came to the villa in 1731 (Chipman 1992).

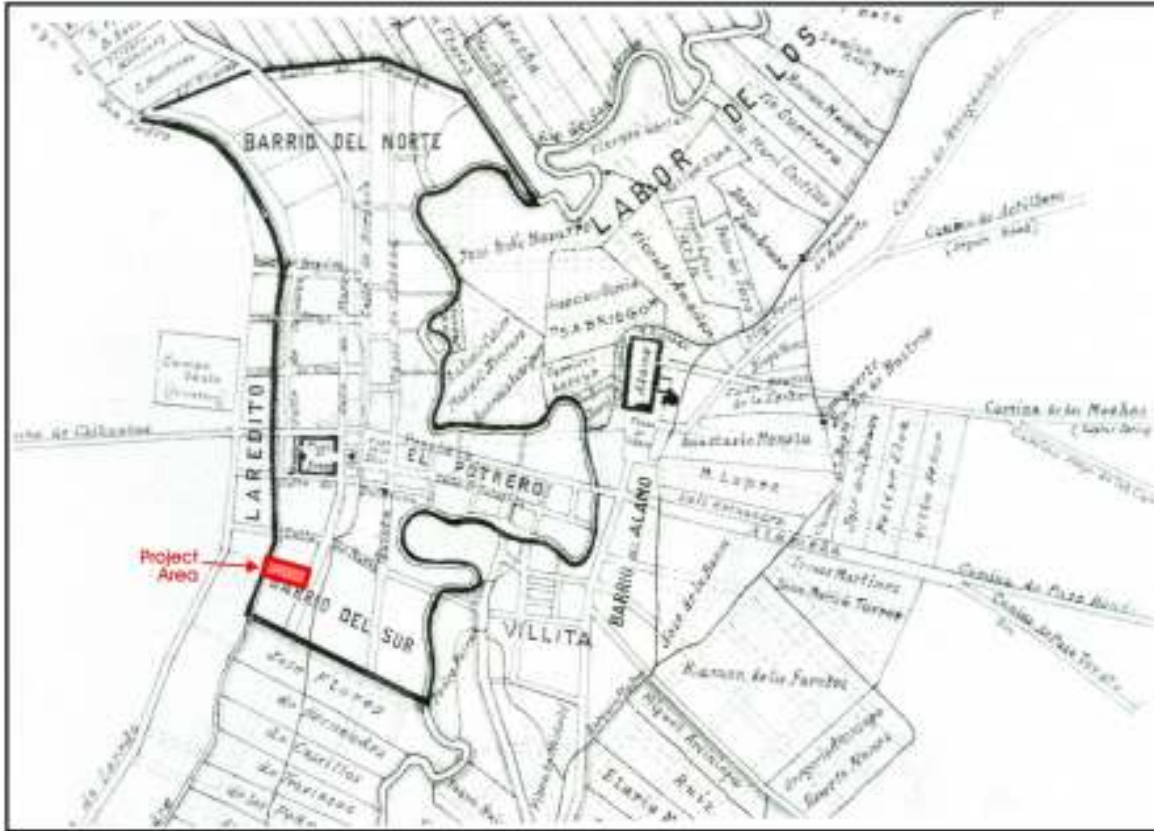


Figure 2-1. The location of the project area overlaid on the 1912 Rullman map depicting San Antonio de Bexar in 1837.

Archival research indicates that the Canary Islanders immediately took over the land surrounding the garrison. There had been a lack of cleared land at the time of their arrival, leading Captain Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazan to allow the Canary Islanders the property (de la Teja 1995). The initial plan was for additional Canary Island settlers to be sent to San Antonio after the first group was established. Due to high costs to the Spanish Crown, no more groups were brought to Texas. The Canary Islanders bickered with the current inhabitants of the area, and amongst themselves. In 1731, the Canary Islanders established their own villa, named San Fernando de Bexar, with their own church. The arrival of the *Isleños* resulted in the first clearly defined civilian settlement in San Antonio.

During the early years of the Villa de Bexar, no formal titles were issued as the property was distributed (de la Teja 1995). If a presidial soldier and his family occupied the property, they likely did not own it. Prior to 1731, soldiers and settlers were issued licenses to build houses on and farm the land surrounding the garrison. The area was considered the royal property of the presidio (Ivey 2008), though it appears that the APE had come into possession of an *Isleño* family prior to 1779.

Later Occupation of the APE

During the early years of the Villa de Bexar and San Fernando de Bexar, the property that was granted to the *Isleños* and the settlers changed hands several times. The *Isleños* requested more property in the Labores, and attempted to hinder the original settlers from obtaining any more property. Though their efforts were not entirely successful, they did slow the amount of property given to the settlers (de la Teja 1995). As grants were passed out, it appears that the *Isleños* would sell their original grants to incoming settlers, or current non-*Isleño* inhabitants, then request an additional grant from the government. By the 1800s, seven families had control of approximately half of the *suertes* that had been distributed during the mid- to late-1700s (de la Teja 1995). One of these families was that of Pedro Flores, who had acquired five *suertes* of land by 1800 (de la Teja 1995).

Vicente Travieso was the seventh of the 15 families brought from the Canary Islands to help populate the area. He was married to Maria Ana Curbelo (Curvelo) and together they had ten children (Leal 1982). Vicente was the first *alguacil mayor* of San Fernando (Chabot 1937:163-165). On January 25, 1779, Vicente Travieso passed away, and in his son, Tomas, was executor of his will. The will stated that Travieso's wife, Maria Ana (Mariana) was to retain portions of the property, and Tomas was to receive a portion for being a good son. The other living descendants were to be allotted portions as seen fit by Tomas (Leal 1982). Previous archival research of the area adjacent to the APE indicated that the entirety of NCB 102 in which the project area is situated was granted to Tomas Antonio Travieso (Cox et al. 1990). The property was later sold off in parcels by Tomas's heirs. It appears that Tomas's daughter, Estefania, came into possession of the property. She married José Martin de la Garza in 1773 (Leal 1982). A deed dated 1812 records the sale of a portion of NCB 102 to Antonio Padilla by Estefania Travieso (BCDR J1:224). One of Estefania's children from her marriage to de la Garza inherited the remainder of the NCB 102, and was shown in his possession by 1849, when it was passed to one of his heirs, Maria Guadeloupe de la Garza, after his death (BCDR H1:309; Cox et al. 1990). She sold the property to Le Comte de Watine shortly after (Cox et al. 1990).

Deed records indicated that Ygnacio Pérez was in possession of at least a portion of the APE prior to 1848, and conveyed a portion of that property to Le Comte de Watine in 1850 for a sum of \$150 (BCDR K1:110-111). The deed indicates that this portion that was conveyed was bounded by property already owned by Ygnacio Pérez on the south and property already in Le Comte de Watine's possession on the east. In August of 1875, Juana Landin de Benites sold a portion of the APE to Simon Fest for a sum of \$1175 (BCDR 1:457). In this deed transaction, and as well in the deed between J. M. Foster and Simon Fest, the property is said to have been purchased from Ygnacio Pérez by Juana Landin in May of 1848.

The referenced deed in both documents was Book G No. 1, pages 467-468. Further inquiry at the Bexar County Clerk's Office indicates that the reference to Ygnacio Pérez's previous ownership of the property may be erroneous.

In April of 1858, Leon Lecomte conveyed a 20 *varas* by 40 *varas* portion of the APE to Pedro Flores (BCDR P2:580-581). This was a portion of the property he had purchased just a year earlier from Le Comte De Watine, recorded in the Bexar County Deed Records Book P No. 2, pages 329-330. Deed records show that the portion of the project area was in possession of Pedro Flores until 1859. Flores conveyed the property to John Kiszling in September, 1859 for a sum of \$300 in cash and \$125 in carpentry services (BCDR R1:484). It appears that the property was released to Kiszling in May of 1960 when the payment was made in full (BCDR H2:460-461). Prior to this release, it seems that Kiszling conveyed the property to Margaretha (Margarita) Muench for a sum of \$450 in April of 1860 (S1:217-218). Margaretha and Martin Muench conveyed the property to Amelia Mantenffel for a sum of \$500 in July of 1875 (BCDR 2:398-399). In 1883, Mantenffel purchased from J. M. Foster a parcel of land that was adjacent to that obtained in 1875 (BCDR 38:525). Amelia Mantenffel sold the property to Pat Jones in July of 1906. At this time, Mantenffel sold Lot 9 in Block 102. The portion that was sold for a sum of \$3500 was bounded on the northeast by the Vollrath Blacksmith Shop (BCDR 255.40-42). According to the deed, a man by the name of Joe Wearden also resided on the property for approximately 14 years prior to the sale the property. Due to his presence on the property, the transaction mentioned his name in the dealings. In the body of the deed, however, Amelia refutes any claim to a possible common-law marriage between herself and Wearden.

In May of 1883, J. M. Foster purchased a parcel of property from Simon Fest that was later portioned off to Mantenffel and J. A. Addington. This transaction was for a parcel of land bound by South Flores Street to the east, San Pedro Creek to the west, property formerly owned by Francisco Ruiz on the south, and property formerly owned by Le Comte de Watine and Juan Antonio Padilla on the north (BCDR 25:613). Le Comte de Watine had purchased his property prior to 1850 (Cox et al. 1990). Juan Antonio Padilla was an early land owner in NCB 102, purchasing lots 14, 15, and 16 in 1812 (BCDR J1:224).

J. A. Addington conveyed a parcel of property to S. M. Wharton for a sum of \$550 in January of 1889. The parcel of land consisted of property that was bound on the east by property owned by Mantenffel, and on the south by a piece of property Wharton had previously acquired from Foster, that was known at the time as Foster's Stables (BCDR 67:287). In November of 1901, S. F. Wharton conveyed a piece of property to Pat Jones for a sum of \$8000 (BCDR 200:355-356). The property was bounded on the north by property owned by Amelia Mantenffel, and on the south by Ed Kotula. The deed conveyed to Pat

Jones the two parcels of land that Wharton had acquired in the previous transactions in 1883 and 1889.

In October of 1925, Dave Martin Jones, executors of the estate of Pat Jones, conveyed the holdings to the Moncrief-Lenoir Mfg. Co. Inc. for a sum of \$100,000 (BCDR 849:177-179). The deed was executed, with an attached vendor's lien. The deed indicates that the property was bound on the south side by Wilhelmina Kotula's property, which had been referred to in the research conducted by Cox et al. (1990) as part of the property the Vollrath Blacksmith Shop occupied. The property conveyed in this transaction included the two parcels of land that Jones had acquired during his lifetime. In June of 1927, Moncrief-Lenoir Manufacturing Co., Inc. conveyed the property to A.C. Toudouze for a sum of \$97,500. Toudouze had to assume the outstanding debt from the previous transaction. The transaction included Lots 7, 8, 9, and 16 in Block 102 (BCDR 954:566-568).

A.C. Toudouze was part of the Toudouze Realty Company. Toudouze kept the property within the family until 2000, when the Toudouze heirs conveyed the property to Archbishop Patrick Flores in July 2000 in Warranty Deed (BCDR 8515:1811-1816). The Archbishop retained the property until 2004.

During February of 2004, an environmental site assessment was conducted of the project area to evaluate the potential for hazardous materials. The assessment revealed that a 400 gallon gasoline storage tank was buried underground in the southwestern portion of the lot. The tank was believed to have been installed ca. 1920s or 30s according to the environmental assessment. The tank would have been associated with the Moncrief-Lenoir Manufacturing Co., Inc. if it was installed during the 1920s and appears to be a reasonable guess when considering the use of the property. The assessment indicated that the storage tank was removed in the year 2000. In June of 2004, the property was sold to the County of Bexar (BCDR 10831:2128-2131), in whose possession the property still remains.

Review of the Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps

The APE is present on the Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps of San Antonio. CAR had access to maps dating back to 1885. The map created in 1885 depicted the area to the north of the APE as the Smith, Redman & Co. Stock Yard. Within the APE, a portion is labeled as the Kentucky Stock Yard (Figure 2-2). Two structures located in the northern portion of the APE are labeled as dwellings. One of these, the structure just to the north of the Kentucky Stock Yard is a dwelling with an attached office. Attached to the dwelling was a structure that appears to be labeled as "vacant". Several outbuildings are also depicted on the 1885 map to the west of the dwelling, including a carriage shed.

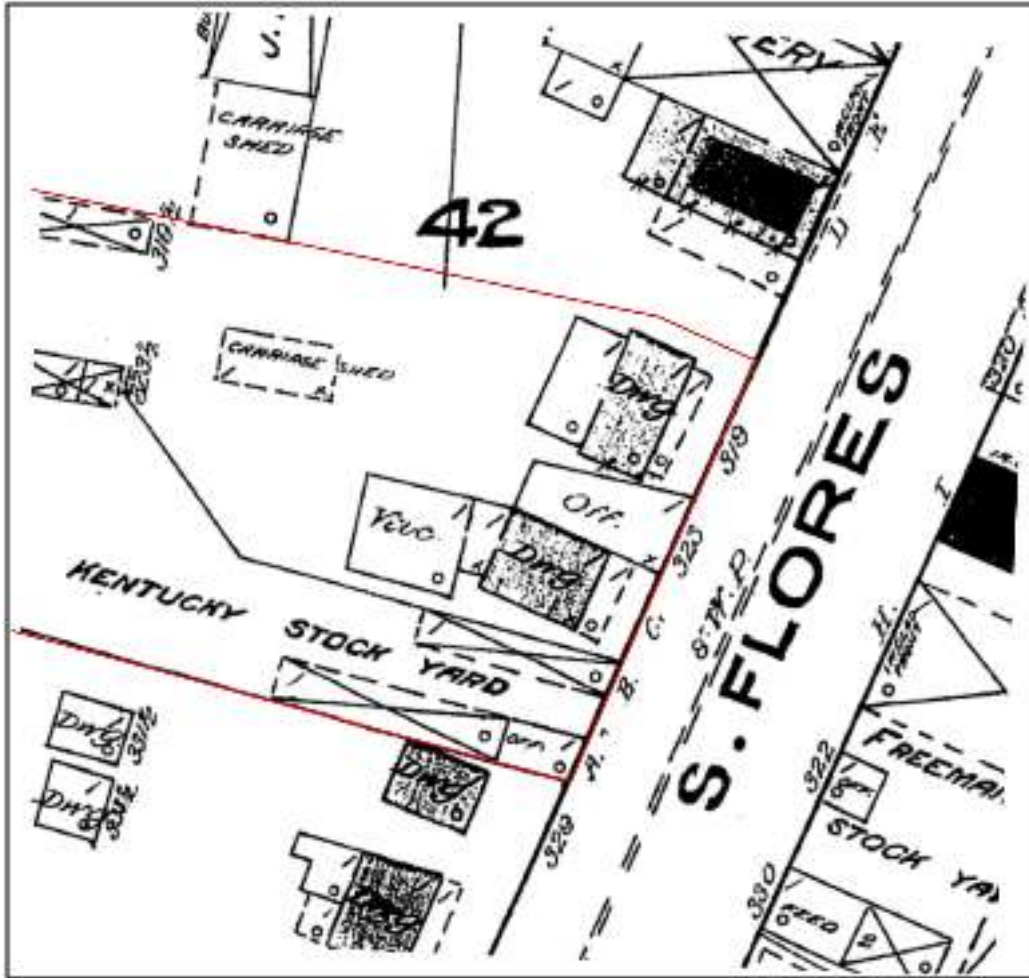


Figure 2-2. Eastern portion of the project area on the 1885 Sanborn's Fire Insurance Map.

The information obtained from the 1885 map was compared to Koch's Birds Eye View drawn of 1873. It appears that the stockyard was not in business at the time of the drawing, but several structures are similar to those depicted on the 1885 Sanborn Map (Figure 2-3). Note, however, that the scale of Koch's drawing is not accurate and therefore the APE depicted on the map appears slightly off.

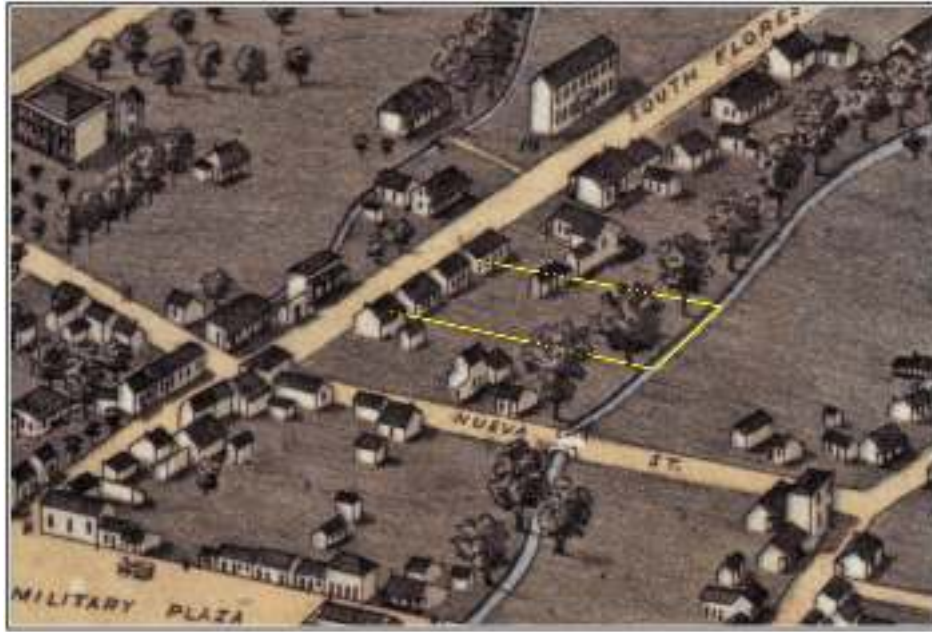


Figure 2-3. Kook's 1873 Bird's Eye View of San Antonio with the project area outlined.

The next map in the sequence indicates that there were no changes made to the portion of the lot that makes up the APE through 1888. The same structures are depicted on the map as in 1885, though one previously vacant structure is now labeled as a dwelling, and the Kentucky Stock Yard occupies the majority of the APE (Figure 2-4).

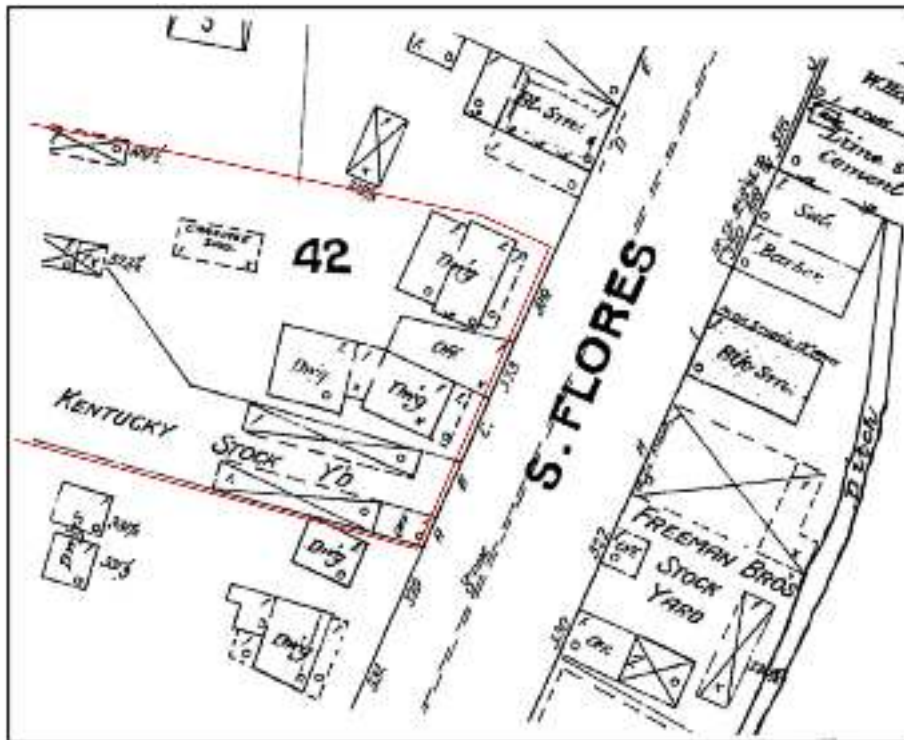


Figure 2-4. Eastern portion of the project area on the 1888 Sanborn's Fire Insurance Map.

The next map in the sequence dates to 1892 (Figure 2-5). At this time, there is no mention of the Kentucky Stock Yards, though two structures that were associated with it in the past are still present on the map. The dwellings present in 1885 and 1888 are also present. A few outbuildings that were noted on the previous maps are missing suggesting that they were demolished (Figure 2-5). The carriage shed also appears to be missing from the 1892 map although it is possible that it is the unmarked structure located along the property line.

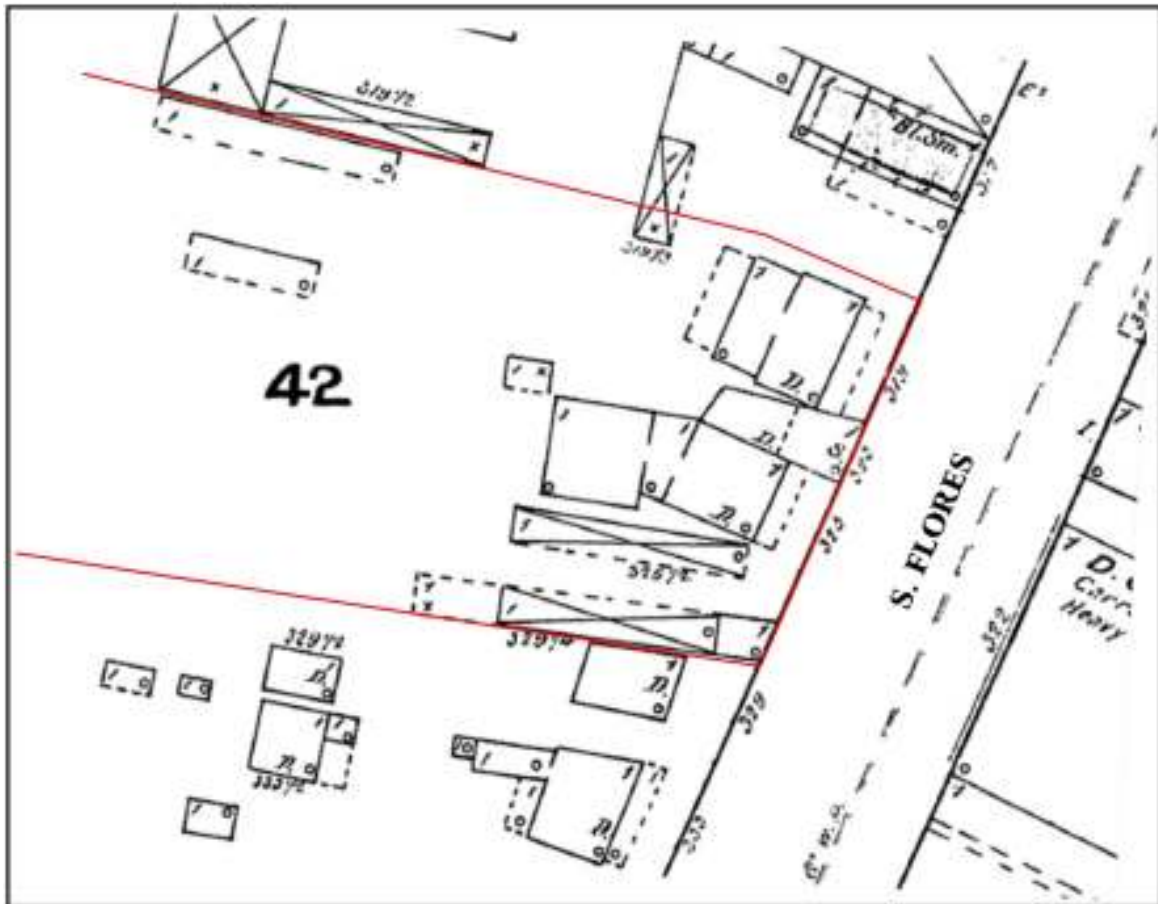


Figure 2-5. Eastern portion of the project area on the 1892 Sanborn's Fire Insurance Map.

A few changes are noted in the next map drawn in 1896 (Figure 2-6). Additional stables appear to have been added to what was the Kentucky Stock Yard in 1888. The area on the 1896 map is referred to as the Sale Stable, with the addition labeled as “Old Shed”. The northeast portion of the APE changed only slightly, though outbuildings associated with the northernmost dwelling have disappeared from the map.

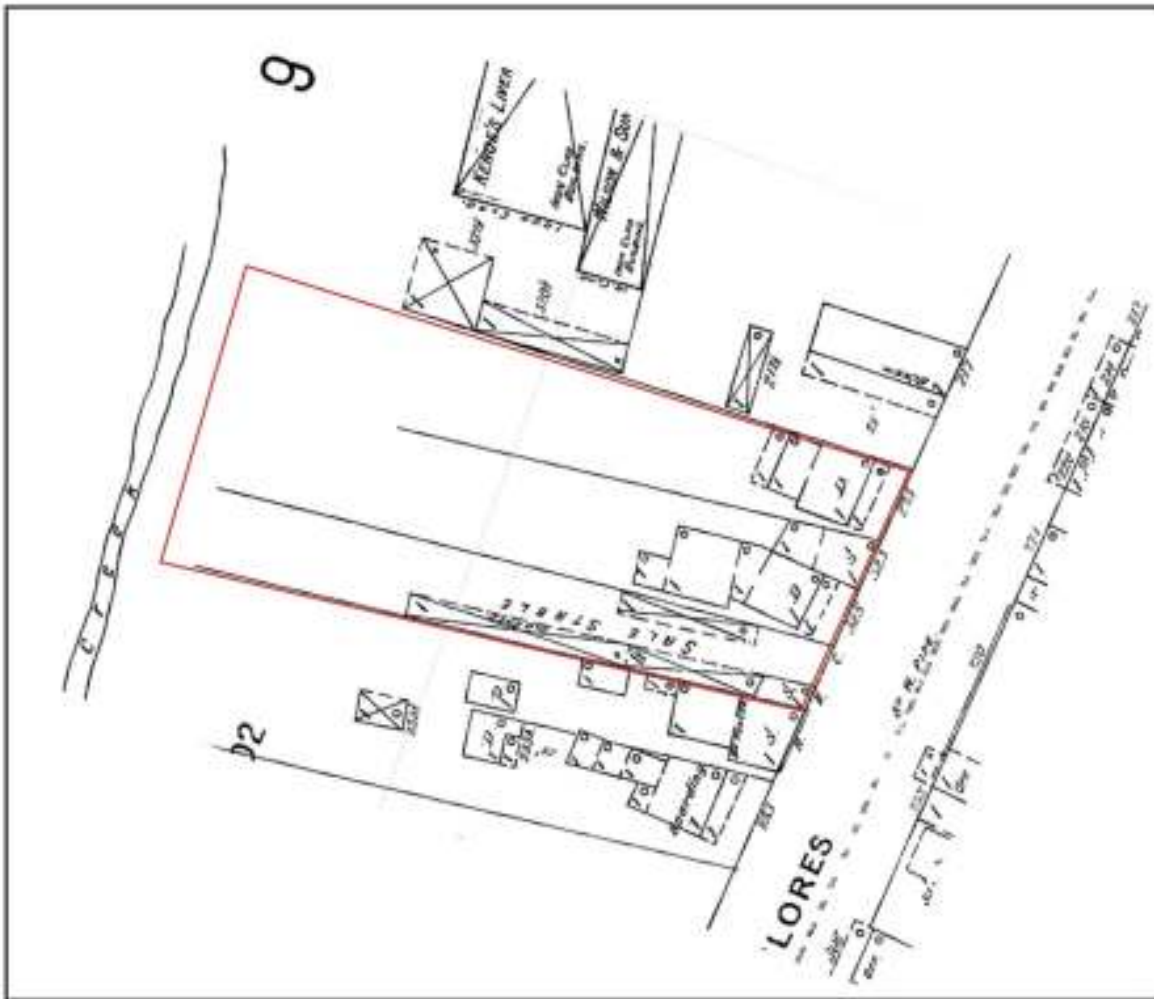


Figure 2-6. The project area overlaid on the 1896 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

By 1904, the properties have undergone some changes that consist of the reappearance of an outbuilding that may have been the carriage house (Figure 2-7). In addition, it appears that a property line has been drawn to the west of the northern dwelling. The Sales Stable changed shape, and is now not as deep in the property as in 1896. The structure located just north of the Sales Stable had a second story added during the eight-year span between the two maps. In addition, the attached room that was once labeled as a dwelling is now been identified as storage. The dwelling that was located in the northeast portion of the APE is now been identified as adobe.

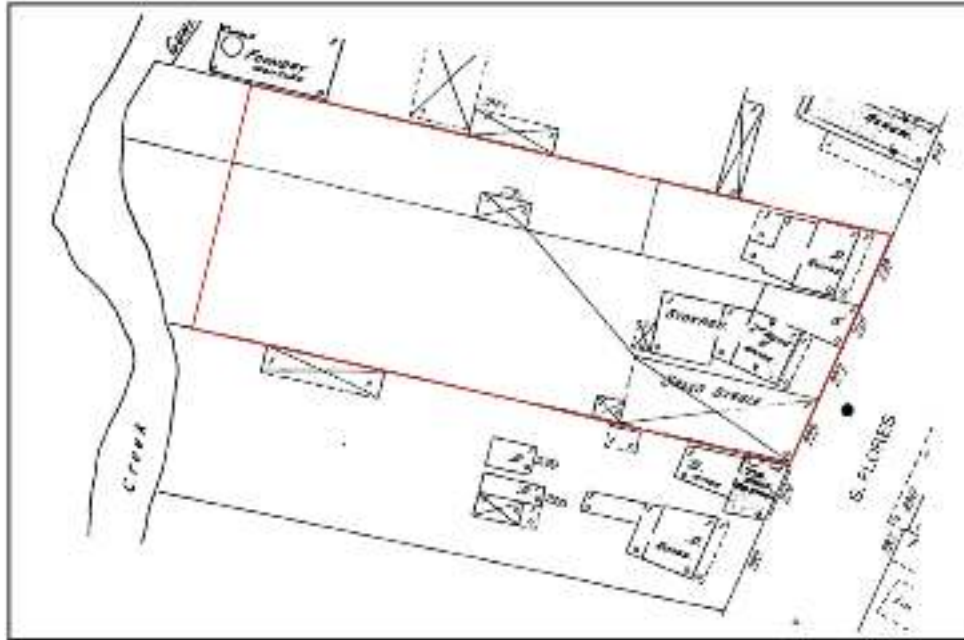


Figure 2-7. Project area on the 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

The Sanborn's map of 1912 shows significant changes to the structures present on the lot (Figure 2-8). The Sales Stable and adjacent structure was converted into a rectangular building. It also is possible that the structure in the 1904 map was razed and this was a new one. The adobe structure that was located in the northeast portion of the APE appears to still be standing in 1912

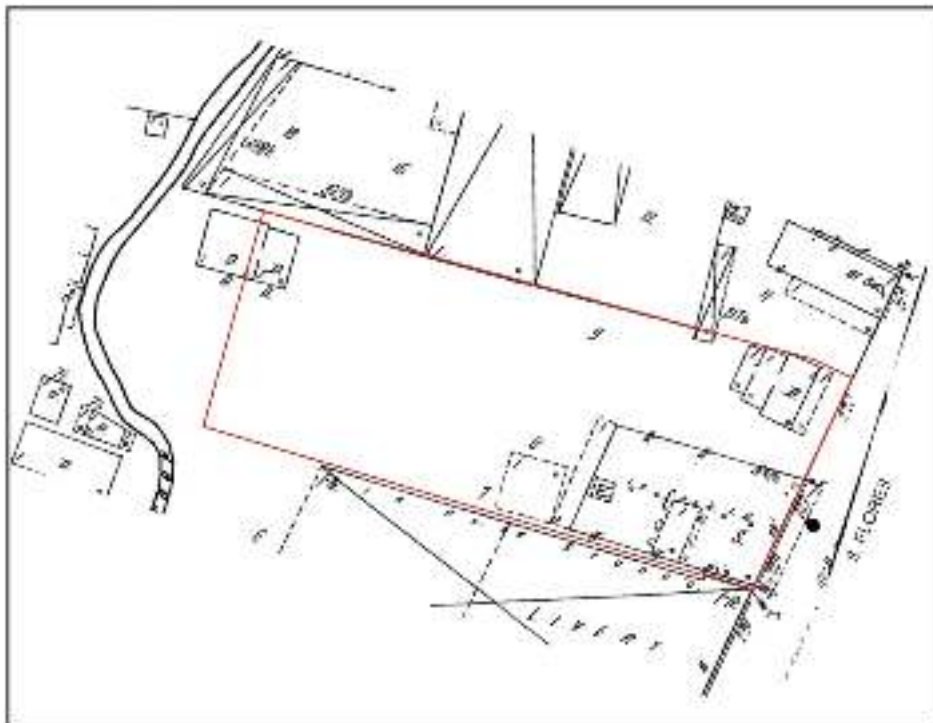


Figure 2-8. The project area overlaid on the 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

The last of the historic Sanborn's Fire Insurance maps consulted shows the lot as it appeared between 1912 though 1951 (Figure 2-9). This map shows significant changes to the APE. All previous structures are gone. In place of the adobe dwelling is a wholesale dry goods store. The rectangular building that had appeared on the 1912 map is now a paint store. A Machinery Repair Garage and a Tractor Repair facility are added in the central portion of the APE.

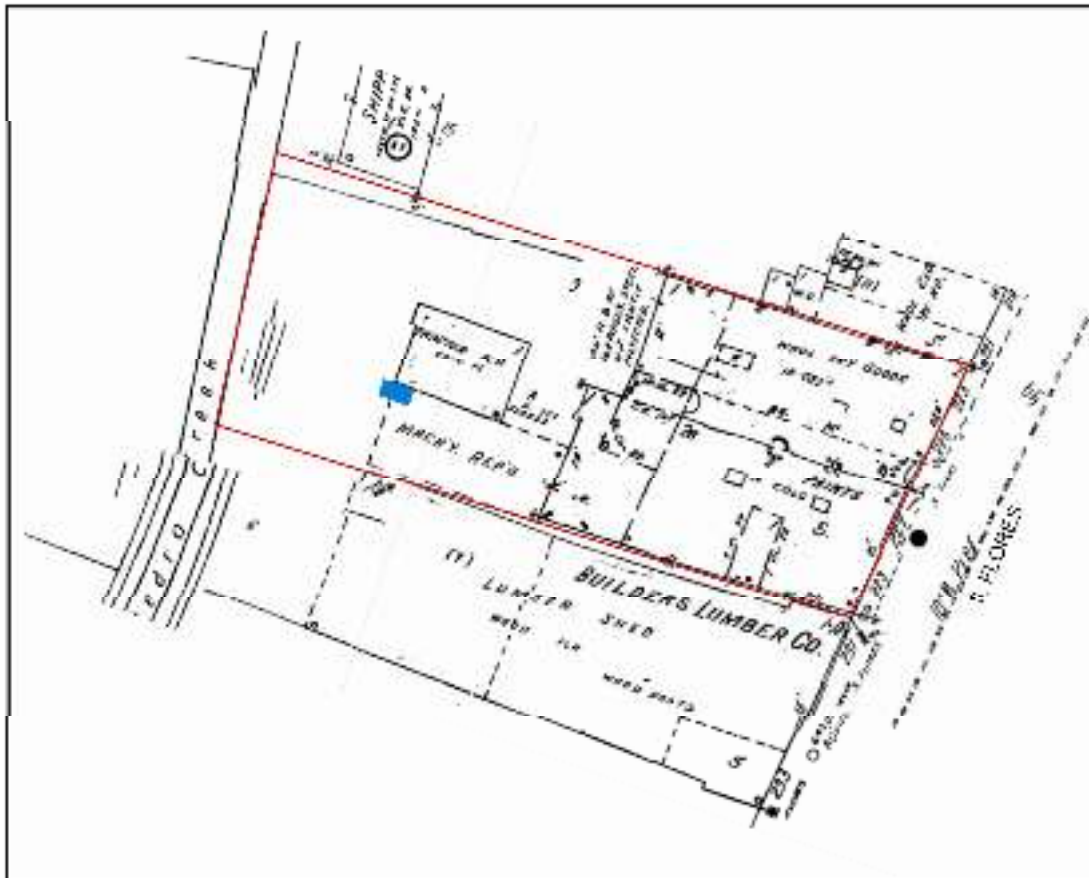


Figure 2-9. The project area overlaid on the 1912-1954 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The blue rectangle is the approximate location of an underground gasoline storage tank removed in 2000.

The Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps reveal that the APE underwent several changes between 1885 and 1951. The most drastic change was documented in the 1912-1951 version of the map. Most important to the history of the lot is the presence of an adobe dwelling on the northeastern portion of the APE as early as 1849. The available records consulted by CAR staff did not shed light on the actual construction date of the dwelling. However, the fact that the structure remained in use through at least 1912, makes it one of the longest used structures in the APE.

Chapter 3: Road System

By 1689, Alonso De Leon started demarcating the first route of the Camino Real (McGraw et al. 1998). Villa de Bexar became one of the major thorough fares of the Camino Real. Unlike the Camino Real in other portions of the Spanish Territory, in Texas it did not consist of just one route, but rather a system of routes to allow access to the far corners of the Texas Territory. Three routes of the Camino Real fed into and out of Villa de Bexar between the mid-1700s to the mid-1800s. One route passed through Bexar on its way to Laredo, crossing the Rio Grande, before heading to Monterrey. The San Antonio-Laredo route was a major route of commerce between Louisiana, Texas, and Mexico (McGraw et al. 1998:160). This route was used by detachments from the Presidio de Bexar to meet convoys that carried supplies from Mexico City during the early occupation of San Antonio.

Another route of the Camino Real that passed through Bexar was known as *el camino de en medio*, or the Lower Presidio Road, which headed south from town and passed through present day towns of Poteet and Pleasanton. The Lower Presidio Road also was the same route as the Laredo route before they split south of San Antonio. The Lower Presidio Road and the Laredo Road were located on the west side of San Pedro Creek as they headed south from San Antonio.

Goods moved in and out of San Antonio de Bexar through the Camino Real. Freight charges were calculated based on the degree of difficulty to move the goods. Wares that needed extra care (such as ceramic vessels, oils, and wines) were often more expensive to transport than fodder, textiles, and grain. Luxury items, such as chocolate, coffee, sugar, and certain ceramics and glass vessels, often incurred a higher freight charge. In addition, the increased threats of native attacks, poor conditions of the roads, and the distance of the journey also would be factored in to determine freight charges. Though San Antonio relied on the Camino Real for the transport of goods, the later part of the eighteenth century saw the routes being used for cattle drives as well. The cattle drive between Natchitoches to Laredo could last up to three months (McGraw et al. 1998). Stockyards were created within Bexar to accommodate the influx of the cattle during the drives. The Kentucky Stock Yard present in the APE in the late 19th century is a clear witness to the significance of cattle drives and the ranching industry in the region. .

In addition to the Camino Real being used as a means of importation and exportation of goods and during cattle drives, stagecoaches utilized the system to transport passengers and mail. Stagecoach companies had stiff competition. Many companies were vying for mail contracts, as these were the primary source of income. To get, and keep a contract, the companies would have to be fast, have a good record of being on time, and a low incidence of native attacks. If a stagecoach company lost its mail contract, the

company would soon be out of business (Thonhoff 1971). More than 50 stagecoach companies were in operation in and around San Antonio between 1847 and 1881.

The APE is located on the west side of South Flores, just south of the intersection with Nueva Street. During the initial colonization of Villa de Bexar and San Fernando de Bexar, these roads were known as *Calle de Flores* and *Calle de Nueva* as noted on the Rullman Map (1912) (Figure 2-1). *Calle de Flores* ran south from *Plaza de Armas*, and took a turn to the northwest as it headed through the *Barrio del Norte*. From the *Plaza de Armas*, *Calle de Flores* ran to the south, through *Barrio del Sur*, and appears to have ended at the property owned by Jose Flores in 1837. *Calle de Flores* acted as the main north-south route through town during the early years. It appears that it extended farther to the south either in later years, or was not depicted on the Rullman map (1912). Later maps (Jennings 1998:73) indicate that *Calle de Flores* extended past the *Isleños suertas*, and further south of town until it met up with the Laredo or Lower Presidio Road. Some maps indicate that *Calle de Flores* and Laredo Road are separate until they join south of town (Jennings 1998:73). Other maps indicate that *Calle de Flores* and Laredo Road are one in the same (Ivey 2008). Potentially, as the town of Bexar became more populated, it is possible that the route of Laredo Road was altered so as to not run through the center of town.

Chapter 4: Previous Archaeology

The project area lies within a portion of San Antonio that is rich in historic archaeological sites. At least five historic sites have been identified within a 200 meter radius of the project area. Each of these sites provided an intimate glimpse of the occupation of San Antonio from the early colonial period to the mid-1900s. Sites 41BX786, 41BX302, 41BX334, 41BX336, and 41BX1775 are all located to the north of the project area.

41BX786 (Vollrath Blacksmith Shop)

Located immediately to the north of the project area, 41BX786 was identified in 1988. The site consisted of the remains of the foundations associated with the Vollrath Blacksmith Shop that was founded in 1874. The shop was constructed of stone and was in operation until 1917 (Cox et al. 1990). The property of 41BX786 changed hands and was parceled out many times prior to the establishment of the blacksmith shop. It was originally part of the grant issued to Travieso prior to 1808.

In May of 1988, CAR was contracted by the Bexar County Commissioners Court to investigate the northern portion of NCB 102 prior to the construction of a parking facility to service the Bexar County Justice Center. Initial archival research indicated a need to conduct subsurface testing to investigate the foundations of the blacksmith shop. Only two lots were targeted for archaeological investigations due to the fact that the John Deere Plow Company had disturbed a section by constructing a basement in 1929, and the remaining outbuildings of the blacksmith company would not have had substantial foundations that would have survived when the standing structures had been cleared from the area.

Subsurface testing consisted of the excavation of several trenches along the stone foundation. Several trash pits were encountered during the trenching. Artifacts encountered included an array of colonial and twentieth century ceramics, glass bottles, buttons, horseshoe nails, wire nails, forged nails and cut nails, horse and mule shoes, and various other metal objects. Evidence of blacksmithing was recovered, but the trenches also revealed that a transition to automobile repair was made by the 1920s. The site was documented, but the high level of disturbance allowed for the construction of the parking facility (Cox et al. 1990).

When compiling the archival research for the Vollrath Blacksmith Shop, Wayne Cox found information that would indicate that older structures could be present in the vicinity. Cox states: “The lot immediately to the south once contained one of the oldest structures in the area, an ‘adobe’ house probably dating to as early as 1849” (Cox et al. 1990:29).

41BX302 (Navarro House)

Located at the south corner of South Laredo and Nueva Streets is 41BX302. The site today is known as the José Antonio Navarro State Historical Park, also referred to as Casa Navarro (Figure 4-1). It consists of three structures constructed of adobe and limestone during the nineteenth century (THC-TASA 2010). The lot was purchased by Navarro in 1832, though was not used as his primary residence until 1853 (Tyler et al. 1996: Vol 3:1003-1004). Navarro was a leading participant in the Texas Revolution and one of the three Mexican signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence (Tyler et al. 1996: Vol 4:954-955).

The property was registered as a Texas Historical Landmark in 1962. In 1972, the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The three structures are thought to have been Navarro's residence, kitchen, and law office, though archival research does not seem to support that claim. Rather, at least one structure was his residence, his daughter resided on the property as well for a time, and records indicate that Navarro rented out one structure (Tyler et al. 1996: Vol 3:1003-1004).



Figure 4-1. The José Antonio Navarro State Historical Park, also known as Casa Navarro, as it looks today.

41BX334 (Campbell House)

Located in NCB 100, along Nueva Street, adjacent to and west of Bexar County Courthouse, is 41BX334. The site is known as the Campbell House. Dr. Charles A. R. Campbell was a well known physician during the late 19th and early 20th century. Dr. Campbell is credited with pushing for city ordinances that

prohibiting the killing of bats and built several roosts around town to encourage bats to live in populated areas. Dr. Campbell's work with bats was internationally recognized as a way to combat the spread of malaria by encouraging bat populations to flourish in mosquito infested areas (Jennings 1998:194). Dr. Campbell was nominated by the State of Texas for a Nobel Prize for Medicine in February of 1919.

The Campbell House site consisted of the stone foundation of the house and kitchen. The foundation was in good condition and excavations produced an array of late 19th century artifacts that tie the site to Campbell's occupation. Interestingly, the site form notes that a cache of metal plates used in the printing of his book entitled "Bats, Mosquitoes and Dollars" were found during the investigations. The site was nominated as a State Archeological Landmark (SAL) in 1989 (THC-TASA 2010).

41BX336 (Dullnig House)

Located to the west of 41BX334, the Dullnig House was identified in 1978 during the archaeological surveys conducted prior to the construction of the Courthouse annex. The foundation to the structure was in poor condition, and was originally constructed of cut limestone set in sand and lime mortar. The western wall was augmented with a concrete footer at some point. City records indicate that John Rulling occupied the property from 1879 into the early 1900s. Rulling converted the front of the house into his grocery store, and he and his family lived in the rear of the building. While the site was documented, due to disturbances over the years and the poor quality of the foundations, no further work was recommended for the site. It was not formally designated as an SAL, or nominated for the NRHP (THC-TASA 2010).

41BX1775

Located to the north of sites 41BX334 and 41BX336 was a concentration of several architectural features that were designated as 41BX1775 in 2008. The features did not appear to be related to each other. Four limestone walls and one plaster floor appear to date to 1885. The remaining features consisted of brick walls that date to the early to mid 20th century. The structures that the walls and floor represent were razed to accommodate the construction of a parking lot. Artifacts recovered from the site were consistent with a late 19th and early 20th Century occupation. Due to the lack of research potential the site presented, no further investigations were recommended, and expansion of the Justice Center was allowed to proceed. The site was not eligible for nomination as a SAL or to the NRHP (THC-TASA 2010).

These five represent just a glimpse of the historic archaeological sites present in the area. Downtown San Antonio has immense potential for producing evidence of early occupation of the city. The proximity of significant sites such as the Vollrath Blacksmith Shop and the José Antonio Navarro State Historical Park would indicate that the area has potential for producing significant cultural remains.

Chapter 5: Summary of the Importance of the Project Area and Recommendations

The project area falls within a portion of San Antonio that has a very rich history dating back to the early Spanish colonial period. The APE is located within two blocks of the Bexar County Courthouse, the José Antonio Navarro State Historical Park, and in proximity to *Plaza de Armas*, *Plaza de las Islas*, and San Fernando Cathedral.

The APE consists of a parcel of land that was given to Vicente Travieso prior to 1779. Travieso was one of the 15 families that were brought from the Canary Islands in 1731. At his death, ownership of the property was passed to his son, Tomas. The parcel of land appeared to have been kept in the family until the mid-19th century. At this point, the larger portion of land was parceled out into smaller sections and sold to local residents.

Examination of historic maps reveals that the APE was occupied and used for residential and commercial purposes throughout the late 19th to early 20th century. At least two structures that once occupied the property were constructed prior to 1873, as can be seen on Koch's Birds Eye View. At least one of these adobe structures was constructed ca. 1849 (Cox et al. 1990) and may have been occupied until after 1912. Construction activities associated with the expansion of the parking garage have the potential for encountering remnants of this early adobe structure. Evidence presented on the Sanborn's maps indicates that a portion of the property was used as a stockyard for several years. This appears to play into the increased use of the *Caminos* as routes for cattle drives in the late 19th century.

The Sanborn maps indicate that several of the structures had been present on the property from at least 1873 into the 20th century. These structures may have had associated outbuildings such as cisterns and privies, though they do not appear on the Sanborn maps. Rather than being removed entirely when these outbuildings would cease to be used, they were typically filled in with refuse and the above ground portion razed to ground level. Because their trash-filled contents may be less disturbed even through abandonment, their presence on historic residential lots may serve as concentrated repositories of period artifacts that would greatly enhance our knowledge of consumption patterns in early San Antonio. The location of the underground gasoline storage tank has been determined to be in the southwestern portion of the lot, closer to San Pedro Creek rather than South Flores Street. The location of the tank would not have affected the area to have been occupied by the adobe structure potentially pre-dating 1849. The adobe structure was located in the northeastern portion of the APE. In fact, the location of the gasoline tank was in an area of the lot that appears to have not been developed until after 1912 according to the

Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps. This indicates that the property still have potential for producing significant cultural remains associated with the early occupation of the lot.

Given the potential significance of the pre-1850 residence and its lengthy occupation history, CAR recommends that the removal of the asphalt be monitored to determine if evidence of the early structures (especially the adobe located in the northeastern portion of the APE) and occupation are visible. In addition, if the monitoring identifies architectural features (e.g., foundations of the adobe structure, privies) and concentrations of cultural debris (e.g., midden deposits) associated with the aforementioned structure, CAR recommends testing these areas to determine the integrity and significance of the deposits and document and sample intact features dating to the first half of the 19th century.

References:

Chabot, F.C.

1937 *With the Makers of San Antonio*. Privately published, San Antonio, Texas. On file at the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Chipman, D.E.

1992 *Spanish Texas 1519-1821*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Cox, I.W., M.J. Brown, J. Hageman, and C. McKenzie

1990 *Investigations at the Vollrath Blacksmith Shop (41BX786), San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 188. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

de las Teja, J.F.

1995 *San Antonio de Bexar: A Community on New Spain's Northern Frontier*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque.

Ivey, J.

2008 A Reconsideration of the Survey of the Villa de San Fernando in 1731. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. CXI (4):251-281.

Jennings, F.W.

1998 *San Antonio: The Story of an Enchanted City*. The San Antonio Express News. San Antonio.

Koch, A.

1873 *Bird's Eye View of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, 1873*. From the collection of the San Antonio Museum Association. Published by R. H. Holland.

Leal, J.O.

1982 Vicente Alvarez Travieso, vertical file. On file at San Antonio Spanish Archives.

McGraw, A.J., J.W. Clark, and E.A. Robbins (editors)

1998 *A Texas Legacy The Old San Antonio Road and The Camino Reales: A Tricentennial History 1691-1991*. Texas Department of Transportation, Austin.

Rullman, J.D.

1912 *Map of Old San Antonio de Bexar as it was in 1837*. Copy on file at the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Ltd.

Map of San Antonio, Texas, 1885, 1888, 1896, 1904, 1912, 1950. New York

THC-TASA (Texas Historical Commission-Texas Archeological Sites Atlas)

2010 Database of recorded archeological sites. <http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us/>. Accessed March/April 2010.

Thonhoff, R.H.

1971 *San Antonio Stage Lines 1847-1881*. Southwestern Studies Monograph No. 29. Texas Western Press, El Paso. .

Tyler, R.C., D.E. Barnett, and R.R. Barkley (editors)

1996 *The New Handbook of Texas*. 6 vols. Texas State Historical Association, Austin.