

Dr Jay R Newman
US Army Engineers Ft Worth
PO Box 17300 CESWF-EV-EC
Ft Worth, TX 76102-0300

San Antonio River Improvements Project

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Archaeological Background

Historical Mission Reach

by
Anne A. Fox, I. Wayne Cox, Steve A. Tomka,
and Johanna M. Hunziker

Prepared for:
Carter & Burgess, Inc.
911 Central Parkway, Suite 425
San Antonio, Texas 78232

Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas 78249

December 2002

Abstract:

This study has been undertaken for the firm of Carter & Burgess, Inc. as an assessment of the archaeological and historical potential of the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. The report identifies several sensitive areas and makes recommendations as to their impact on the project.

The San Antonio River Improvements Project is a joint effort between the City of San Antonio, Bexar County and the San Antonio River Authority to develop and restore a 13-mile stretch of the San Antonio River. The project area is comprised of two reaches, the "Historical" Mission Reach (southern) and the Museum Reach (northern).

The Historical Mission Reach (southern) extends southward from Lone Star Boulevard to Mission Espada, just below Interstate Loop 410. This reach measures approximately nine miles. The Museum Reach (northern) begins at E. Hildebrand Avenue and runs south about four miles to Lexington Street. The entire project length for both the Mission and Museum Reaches is approximately 13 linear miles, and the project is slated for completion in a ten-year period.

The project is a comprehensive program of flood control, restoration, recreation and amenity improvements guided by the principles of hydrology, nature and people. Concept design aims developed for this project reduce the threat of flooding; create a more natural design to the river that promotes fish and wildlife habitat; and enhance appreciation of the river's historic significance in the life and development of the community. The approach for the Mission Reach is the application of fluvial geomorphology that will restore the river to a more natural condition and create a more stable river. The Museum Reach approach includes bioengineering applications to develop a linear park with greater habitat than currently exists to provide for future development and community recreation.

It is recommended that in the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River Improvements Project, archaeological consultations and assessments should be conducted prior to any ground altering activities for monitoring and mitigation purposes, and that the recommendations in regards to the specific areas outlined in this report be observed.

Table of Contents:

Abstract	i
Figures	iii
Photos	iii
Acknowledgments	iv
Section I: Project Overview	
Introduction	1
San Antonio River Improvements Project: A Brief Overview	1
Section II: Historical Background	
San Antonio: The Early Days	4
Water and Politics	9
Floods and the Changing Face of the River	16
Section III: Prehistoric and Historic Resources	
Prehistoric Properties	21
Historic Properties	30
Summary and Recommendations	48
Bibliography of Resources	51

Figures:

Figure 1. Extent of the Mission Reach River Improvements Project.	2
Figure 2. General overview of project area near Riverside Golf Course, note steep banks of channelized river.	3
Figure 3. General overview of project area near Mission San Juan.	3
Figure 4. Northernmost portion of the Mission Reach project area –from Lone Star Boulevard to Concepción Park.	22
Figure 5. Mission Reach project area from Concepción Park to Riverside Golf Course.	23
Figure 6. Mission Reach project area from Riverside Golf Course to Padre Park.	24
Figure 7. Mission Reach project area from Padre Park to Espada Park.	25
Figure 8. Mission Reach project area in the vicinity of Ashley Road and Mission San Juan Capistrano.	26
Figure 9. Southernmost portion of the Mission Reach project area.	27
Figure 10. Location of original San Juan Dam, from Hafernik et al. 1989.	38
Figure 11. Location of the Grothaus Mill as indicated in Scurlock et al. 1976:Map 6.	40

Photos:

Photo 1. Volunteers monument near Riverside Golf Course.	30
Photo 2. The Yturri-Edmunds mill complex.	31
Photo 3. Mission Concepción.	32
Photo 4. Foundations at the site of MP-44 (electric mill).	35
Photo 5. Mission San José.	36
Photo 6. Aerial view of the Hot Wells bathhouse post 1942 but before channelization of the river.	37
Photo 7. Espada Dam.	39
Photo 8. The Ashley House.	41
Photo 9. Ruins at Berg’s Mill ca. 1970.	42
Photo 10. Ruins at Berg’s Mill December 2002.	42
Photo 11. Berg’s Mill Bridge.	43
Photo 12. Espada Aqueduct.	44
Photo 13. Mission San Juan Capistrano.	45
Photo 14. Mission Espada.	46

Acknowledgments:

The authors would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the individuals who contributed to the research for this project. John Ogden Leal, retired Bexar County archivist, supplied information freely from both his vast experience and numerous files. The staff of the San Antonio Conservation Library were diligent in their pursuit of items buried in their holdings. The same can also be said of the staff of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library. The personnel of Stewart Title Company, especially Art Chapa, offered a wealth of information from their abstract archives. Bruce Moses and Richard Young of the Center for Archaeological Research compiled a mass of notes and sketches into meaningful illustrations to support and illuminate the report. Editors Maryanne King and Johanna Hunziker were responsible for report layout.

Section I

Project Overview

Introduction

This document is a review of all known historic and prehistoric resources along the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. The document was prepared in response to a Scope of Work (SOW) from Carter and Burgess, and is intended to serve as a summary of all prehistoric and historic cultural resources found within and in the immediate vicinity of the project area. The portion of the document that discusses properties found immediately within the project area proper will serve as the core of the research design that will accompany the Antiquities Permit Application that will be submitted, through the client, by the Center for Archaeological Research. The document contains several sections, including an introduction (Section I) outlining the goals and general parameters of the project, a general historical background that focuses on the San Antonio River and its role and impact within the community (Section II), and the actual review of the known prehistoric and historic properties or resources along the Mission Reach section of the River Improvements Project (Section III). A comprehensive list of bibliographic resources relevant to the prehistoric and historic cultural resources along the Mission Reach Project closes the document.

San Antonio River Improvements Project: A Brief Overview

The San Antonio River Improvements Project (SARIP) is a joint effort between the City of San Antonio, Bexar County and the San Antonio River Authority to develop and restore a 13-mile stretch of the San Antonio River. The project area is comprised of two reaches, the “Historical” Mission Reach (southern; **Figure 1**) and Museum Reach (northern) – “Urban” and “Park” Reach sections.

The project is a comprehensive program of flood control, restoration, recreation and amenity improvements guided by the principles of hydrology, nature, and people. Concept design aims developed for this project reduce the threat of flooding; create a more natural design to the river that promotes fish and wildlife habitat; and

enhance appreciation of the river’s historic significance in the life and development of the community. The approach for the Historical Mission Reach is the application of fluvial geomorphology that restores the river to a more natural condition and creates a more stable river. The Museum Reach approach includes bio-engineering applications to develop a linear park with greater habitat than currently exists to provide for future development and community recreation.

The Historical Mission Reach (southern) begins at Lone Star Boulevard and extends southward to Mission Espada, just below Interstate Loop 410. This reach measures approximately nine miles. The vision of the design guidelines developed by the SWA Group is to restore the Historical Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River to a more natural river condition and create a more stable river.

The Historical Mission Reach impacts will be on a broad scale since the majority of the developable land lies at a significant distance from the river itself and is currently obscured by steep banks (**Figures 2 and 3**). The primary economic stimulus will be through the provision of recreational and cultural opportunities linked with the interpretation of the missions. Impacts associated with these planned improvements will likely include grading and leveling for the construction of hike and bike paths and footpaths, active recreation pathways, linkages to mission trails, sculpting of riverbanks, the planting of trees as part of landscaping, the possible construction of a lock and dam system, and modifications to a number of bridges crossing the San Antonio River. The approximate project right-of-way (ROW) varies greatly along the route of the project. For instance, it is only 228 and 218 feet at Lone Star Boulevard and Steves Avenue, respectively, near the north end of the project area. It widens to approximately 574 feet at Interstate Highway 10 and reaches about 920 feet east of Lorraine Avenue. The ROW is approximately 538 feet at E. Southcross, 719 feet at E. White Avenue, and 861 feet at S.E. Military Drive. The ROW reaches near its maximum width just north of Ashley Road where it extends to a width of about 1,148 feet. Within this broad ROW, multi-use path (hike and bike) ROWs have been set at 10 feet

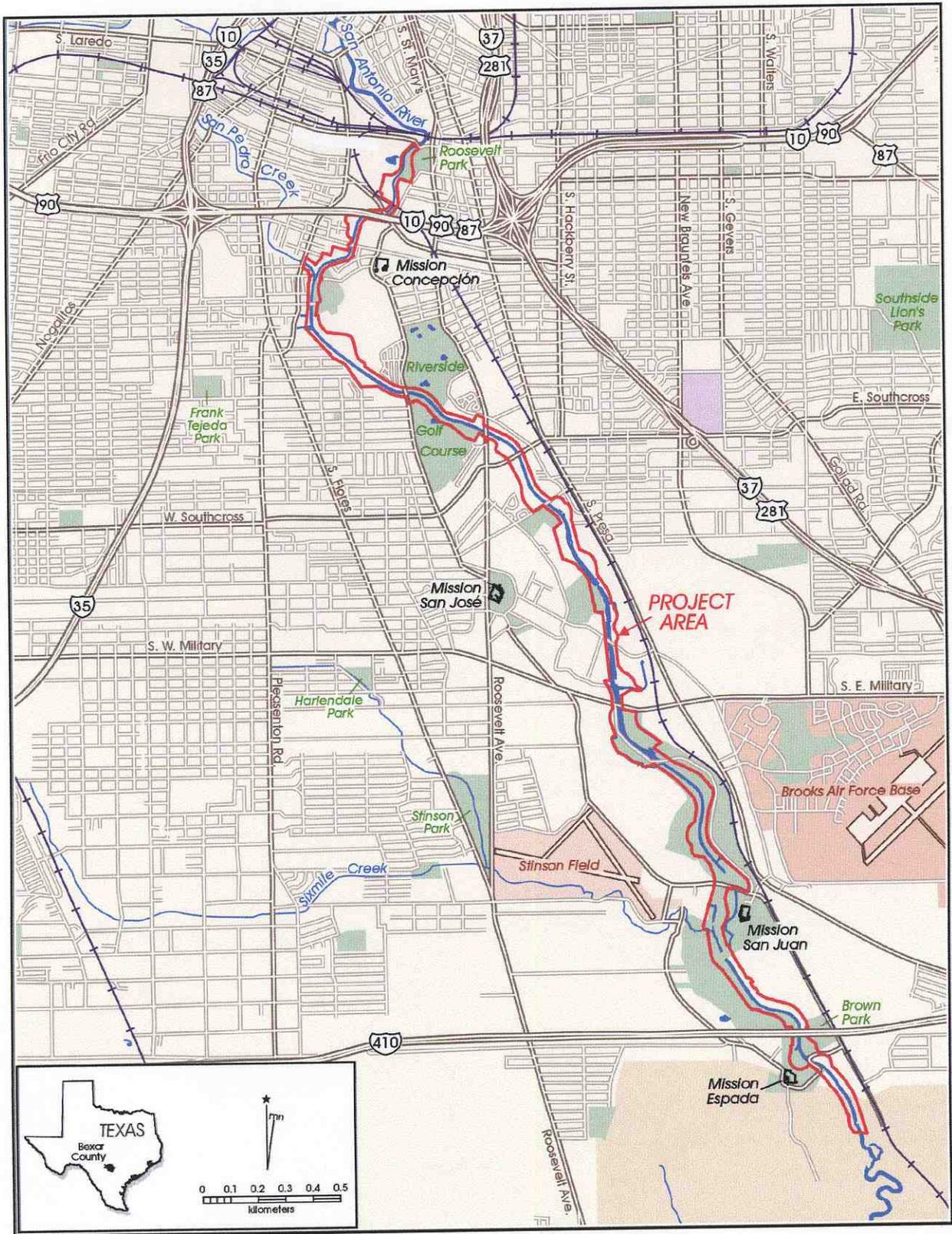


Figure 1. Extent of the Mission Reach River Improvements Project.

and the proposed pedestrian footpath ROWs are between six and eight feet wide.

The historic and prehistoric cultural resources that may be impacted by the project are being identified and considered at the concept design stage of the project. This approach is noteworthy because it allows a significant degree of flexibility in applying and implementing the general vision of the project along the San Antonio River. Therefore, the present document serves two main purposes. First, it identifies and documents all known historic and prehistoric cultural properties along the ROW of the entire Mission Reach project. Second, it provides recommendations regarding the mitigation of the impacts of project development and facilitates the preservation of sensitive archaeological resources by allowing for changes in or the

re-engineering of the ROW. This strategy is in turn more cost-effective and more desirable than the full-scale archaeological mitigation of planned construction impact in archaeologically sensitive areas.



Figure 2. General overview of project area near Riverside Golf Course, note steep banks of channelized river.



Figure 3. General overview of project area near Mission San Juan, note location of existing development away from river.

Section II

Historical Background

San Antonio: The Early Days

From its very conception the city of San Antonio has been irreversibly linked with the wealth of water from the Edwards Aquifer. This aquifer, that pulses throughout the porous limestone beneath it, is the source of the abundant springs that first attracted the indigenous peoples, and later the Spanish, to call it a home for a continuous period of over 10,000 years. The unique geological setting of this beautiful city has been both a blessing and a bane throughout its existence, for the same geography that makes the springs and rivers possible has also served to make for devastating floods that arose with alarming frequency. Throughout its history, San Antonio has engaged in a constant struggle with its watery resources. That same struggle continues in the present; it is not now just a question of control of the water, but the necessity of rational management that occupies the public conscience.

The area we now know as Texas was considered a portion of New Spain from the conquest of Mexico in 1540, but there was extremely limited interest in the area after early probes failed to find the rumored riches of gold and silver (Steen 1948:1–9). The Spanish claim of all the land from South America to the Red River was challenged by French intrusions into the area with the arrival of Robert Cavellier, Sieur de la Salle, at Matagorda Bay in 1684. The news of this attempt to establish a fort near the coast prompted three Spanish expeditions to locate the interlopers. The last *entrada*, led by Alonso de León, found only the ruins of Fort St. Louis with had been destroyed by Indians (Fehrenbach 1983:40). Although the French venture was a failure, it compelled the viceroy, prompted by the zeal of Fray Francisco Hidalgo, to establish Mission San Francisco de las Tejas near the Trinity River to serve as a buffer against further attempts to intrude into the territory (Webb 1952:I:483, II:552).

On the 13th of June, 1691, the *entrada* of Domingo de Terán recorded the first description of the San Antonio: “We marched five leagues over a fine country with broad plains—the most beautiful in New Spain. We camped on the banks of an arroyo adorned by a great number of

trees, cedars, willows, cypress, osiers, oaks and many other kinds. This I called San Antonio de Padua, because we reached it on his day” (Hatcher 1932:14). It would appear from this description that their route was to the south of the present site of Mission Concepción, for they failed to discover either San Pedro Creek or the springs at the head of the river.

The East Texas missionization effort proved a failure and the effort was abandoned in 1693, however, the founding of the colony of Louisiana, in 1699, again aroused the concern of Spain for the security of its remote frontier. Early in April of 1709, two zealous Franciscan Priests, Fray Isidro Felix de Espinosa and Fray Antonio de San Buenventura Olivares, escorted by a small cadre of Spanish soldiers under the command of Captain Pedro de Aguirra, crossed the Rio Grande with the intent of re-establishing contact with the Tejas Indians of East Texas. On April 13, Fray Espinosa recounted their arrival at a lush valley, a sharp contrast to the arid terrain they had traversed, and a profuse spring:

We named it Agua de San Pedro, and at a short distance we came to a luxuriant growth of trees, high walnuts, poplars, elms, and mulberries watered by a copious spring which rises near a populous rancheria of Indians...numbering in all about 500 persons, young and old. The river, which is formed by this spring, could supply not only a village, but a city, which could easily be founded here because of the good ground and the many conveniences, and because of the shallowness of said river (Tous 1930a:5).

The Padres’ observation concerning the shallowness of the river is not directed toward its depth, but an approval of the lack of steep banks, an essential quality to facilitate drawing forth the water for irrigation. The necessity of a practical method for distribution of water to produce crops in an arid to semi-arid environment was ingrained in the minds of the Spanish colonizers. In the reports of exploration dispatched to the viceroy and the King, the ability to irrigate was always a major consideration, even when they ventured into areas where this was not a limiting factor.

The Aguirra Entrada produced no tangible results, but in 1716, Captain Diego Ramon was dispatched to re-occupy the lands of the Tejas and establish four new missions. The tireless Fray Espinosa, San Antonio's first spokesman, again recounted the wonders of the prolific springs:

This river is very desirable and favorable for its pleasantness, location, abundance of water and multitude of fish. It is surrounded by very tall nopals, poplars, elms, grapevines, black mulberry trees, laurels, strawberry vines and genuine fan-palms. There is a great deal of flax and wild hemp, an abundance of maiden-hair fern and many medicinal herbs. Merely in that part of the density of its grove which we penetrated seven streams of water meet. These, together with others concealed by the brushwood, form at a little distance its copious waters which are clear, crystal and sweet (Tous 1930b:9–10).

One of the few areas of agreement between the viceroy and the clergy was that the earlier mission effort had failed, in part, due to the difficulty of transporting supplies from the distant settlements along the Rio Grande. Therefore, a new presidio was required to serve as a way-station to the mission effort. Governor Don Martín de Alarcón, accompanied by Fray Olivares and seven families of settlers, crossed the Rio Grande on April 9, 1718 to fulfill this purpose. Because of disagreements between the Governor and the priest, they traveled separately but arrived at the San Antonio River on April 25. Father Olivares explored the vicinity and independently founded a mission, San Antonio de Valero, "...near the first spring [San Pedro], half a league from a high ground and adjoining a small thicket of live oaks" (Hoffman 1938:318). Shortly thereafter he moved the mission to the east bank of the river, south of its present location. On May 5, 1718, Alarcón, "fixing the royal standard with the requisite solemnity," established the Villa de Bejar, near San Pedro Springs, named in honor of the brother of the viceroy (Hoffman 1935:49). Leaving the settlers and a contingency of troops, he proceeded onward to the East Texas settlements. Upon his return, in January of the following year, he found "nothing unforeseen what so ever had happened." He ordered supplies, livestock, and munitions for the villa and issued instructions to "begin with all assiduity the construction of canals for both the villa and the mission of San Antonio

de Balero (*sic*)," the beginning of the San Antonio acequia system (Hoffman 1935:22).

Since the acequia was initiated in January of that year, it would have been constructed to serve the intended new site, just to the south of its present location. This would mean that the Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia, later to be known as the Alamo Madre, was begun in 1719. The acequia emanated from the point suggested by Father Mezquía, at the ford of the "Paso de Tejas," by means of a dam that sprang from the west bank of the river and extended into the stream to raise and direct the flow toward the eastern bank where the canal intake was located. The acequia traced a sinuous path between the river and the low hills to the east, toward the south-southwest passing through the mission grounds to return to the river at the largest bend, creating a ditch approximately three and one-half miles in length.

In 1720, the second mission, Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, was founded farther down the San Antonio River and a new acequia was initiated to irrigate the fields for that endeavor. In 1724, Brigadier Pedro de Rivera y Villalon was dispatched by the viceroy to inspect and evaluate the frontier defenses of New Spain. The tour lasted until June of 1728, and covered over eight thousand miles. Among his recommendations was the reduction of the East Texas garrisons and the relocation of the three Querétaran missions to new sites on the Colorado River, near present-day Austin. Viceroy Antonio de Aviles, the Marques de Casafuente, acting on the recommendations, reduced the presidios and moved the missions in July of 1730. That location was not acceptable to Father Paredas, the guardian of the college, and the missions were again moved to the San Antonio River basin on March 5, 1731. Nuestra Señora de la Purisima Concepción de los Hainai became Nuestra Señora de la Purisima Concepción de Acuña, and was located between San Antonio de Valero and the new site of San José y San Miguel. San José de los Nazonis, now San Juan Capistrano, and San Francisco de los Neches, now San Francisco de Espada, were assigned lands farther to the south. Almost immediately, construction of acequias to support each of the missions was begun.

Another recommendation of Brigadier Rivera was that the frontier be settled with stable families, believing that "one permanent Spanish family would do more to hold

the country than a hundred soldiers” (Chabot 1937:141). The Spanish King, Philip V, turned to the Canary Islands to provide the emigrant families for New Spain. On March 9, 1731, 56 Islanders arrived at the presidio to form the nucleus of the Villa of San Fernando de Bexar, the first civil settlement of Texas. The Villa was established between the presidio and the river and a new acequia, rising from San Pedro Springs and progressing south between the river and San Pedro Creek, was designed to service both the military and civilian communities.

In 1756, the major powers of Europe became embroiled in what was to become known as the Seven Years War, the first war to involve all of the continent. The ultimate results of that conflict were to have major impacts throughout Europe, as well as in Asia and North America. When the war ended with the Treaty of Paris, on February 10, 1763, Great Britain emerged as the undisputed leader in overseas colonial power, having gained control of France’s empire in India as well as almost all of the French possessions in North America. Spain was forced to relinquish Florida to the English, but was compensated with the French territories to the west. The major threat to the Spanish frontier shifted from the French to the British and the increasingly hostile border tribes. Texas ceased to be the outpost against the French threat, the purpose it had held since its founding, and Spain was required to reconcile its defenses to fortify Louisiana and Alta California and strengthen the frontier against the Indians (Bolton 1917:102–104). King Carlos III appointed the Marquis de Rubí, Cayetano María Pignatelli Rubí Corbera y Saint Clement, the formidable task of investigating and evaluating the defenses of this vast borderland. Rubí began his inspection in the far northwest in March of 1766 and reported his findings to the King in April of 1768. His recommendations resulted in a Royal Order on September 10, 1772, to implement Rubí’s new plan of defense. The order reached the Governor, the Baron de Ripperdá, in May of the following year. Upon his arrival in East Texas, he encountered a population of more than five hundred protesting citizens, whom it was his duty to expel. He ordered the evacuation to begin in five days, but faced with protest, he allowed extra time, and the exodus began on March 25. Forced to abandon their ripening crop and much of their livestock, the inhabitants suffered many hardships on the journey, and arrived in San Antonio on

September 26 (Bolton 1917:113–115). Primarily because of this influx of population, demands for an additional acequia to irrigate the lands to the north became frequent. In August of 1762, a group of thirteen citizens petitioned the governor for land and water to be distributed as had been previously ordained. In their request, they claimed that “about the year of forty-five” the viceroy had ordered this of his predecessor, but for reasons unknown, he had failed to comply. The governor, Angel de Martos y Navarrete, agreed that the request was valid and directed Geronimo Flores, who was “skillful in withdrawing water,” to measure the lands proposed for the acequia. Flores reported that a channel could be constructed from a point on the river 5,853 varas (3 miles) north of the villa that would pass through 5,000 varas (4428.4 acres) of irrigable land. The only obstruction that presented itself was a stretch of 150 varas (416.6 feet) “across the brow of the hill which is called ‘Loma de la Vieja’” (now Tobin Hill). He further noted that it would require a dam of thirty-five varas (97.2 feet), twenty-five of them (69.4 feet) two and three-quarters varas in height (7.6 feet) and the remaining fifteen (41.6 feet) of one and one-half varas (4.2 feet). He estimated the cost of the dam and canal at three thousand pesos (Bexar Archives Translations [BAT] 1762, microfile holdings, University of Texas at San Antonio). The governor fully agreed with the proposal and submitted it to the viceroy, but for reasons unrecorded, the plan was not put into effect.

Fourteen years later, the citizens would again petition the governor, Baron de Ripperdá, for the additional land and water. The reason for this renewal of interest may have arisen from the fact that the villa was in the depth of a severe drought which began in 1771 and lasted for six years (Gunn et al. 1982:70). The governor, well aware of the volatile nature of the various factions of the villa, approached the proposal with a full awareness of the need of his diplomatic skills. On January 10, 1776, he addressed the citizens of the villa, stating that “there will be found in the archives of this province, two orders from the Sir Viceroy Marquez de Casa Fuente, of December 10, 1731 and March 12, 1733, distributing the waters of the two springs of San Pedro and San Antonio and that of the five missions adjoining this presidio and village.” He then noted that the governor, Antonio Bustillos, commissioned Lieutenant Governor Matheo Perez to give possession of a *saca de agua* above the *Paso de Tejas* out of the San Antonio River to the

residents of the village on October 27, 1733 (Spanish Archives, Bexar County Archives, Bexar County Courthouse Vol. 3:317). He then requested that “all Canary Island settlers as well as all the rest of the inhabitants...in order to avoid in future all motives of discord” present any documents that “may prove in their favor” within four days (Corner 1890:46). Upon receiving no valid complaints from this quarter, he then addressed a similar letter to Fray Pedro Ramires, president of the missions, inquiring if this would adversely impact the missions. The padre replied that he did not think that the missions would be injured by the building of the ditch (Spanish Archives Vol. 3:318). Having satisfied himself that neither the villagers nor the clergy had a strong protest against the project, he then ordered that by January 29, all “resident Islanders and others present themselves before me, and those who wish to contribute to said ditch, therefore after having enlisted themselves, to commence same, each to commence with one *peon* and the necessary tools.” He then specified that distributions of the lands would be made by *suertes* with its corresponding one day of water to each of the participants. The construction of the ditch was to be placed in charge of an “able man of experience” (Spanish Archives Vol. 3:318–319). The shareholders met on July 13, 1776, and elected Angel Galin to supervise the four *peon* and twenty-six men “who are to work daily on said ditch.” Thoribio Fuentes was placed in charge of the actual construction. For this they agreed to pay Galin \$1.00 per day “until the *madre* and other necessary ditches” were finished, while Fuentes was allotted an additional portion of land (Spanish Archives Vol. 3:322–324).

By April 28, 1777, the acequia had reached the midpoint of its construction, therefore, in order to place the ditch in operation for the planting season, the ditch was returned to the river, and a drawing was held to distribute the first twenty-six *suertes*, containing some 25,230 varas of land (Spanish Archives Vol. 3:325–332). By March of 1778, the remaining portion of the acequia was finished, “draining into the San Pedro Creek by a trough...so that the residents located on the other side may avail themselves of its excess,” and the drawing procedure was repeated to distribute the remaining *suertes* of land (Spanish Archives Vol. 3:327). Thus by March 10, 1778, the acequia was complete and the remaining irrigated portions of land had been distributed.

The acequia was constructed as envisioned by Geronimo Flores in 1762. The dam was erected on the west bank of the river at the “Paso de Tejas,” now Hildebrand Avenue, supplied by the group of springs to the west of the main spring feeding the river. The portion first constructed, between July of 1776 and April of 1777, progressed along the contours toward the southwest to a point at the present intersection of Evergreen Court and North St. Mary’s Street, where it returned to the river near the intersection of St. Mary’s Street and 9th Street, a length of almost three miles.

In 1790, the College of Zacatecas dispatched fray Manuel Silva, commissary and prefect of missions, to evaluate the state of their efforts among the Indians. He recommended that San Antonio de Valero be secularized, and that the other four missions be reduced to only two. On January 9, 1793, the viceroy issued a decree implementing the recommendations, and Governor Manuel Muñoz published a proclamation, on February 23, putting the decree into effect. On April 12, the farmlands of Mission Valero were surveyed and plots given to the fourteen family heads and unmarried adults of the mission. For their efforts, the surveyor, Pedro Huizar, and his assistant, Vincente Amador, were awarded similar tracts (Habig 1968a:66–67). In October, the *Adaesanos* finally received the land for which they had been petitioning for twenty years. They were granted the remaining mission lands to the east and north of the mission. These lands were distributed to the forty heads of families “of converted *Adaes* Indians and others,” as well as four residents of the villa (Bexar County Archives, Mission Records:2; Spanish Archives Vol. 3:305–315).

As secularization of the missions was begun, the dynamic forces in motion in Europe spilled over into the western hemisphere. As the century came to a close, France, with its ring of satellite republics, had emerged as a major power bloc in western Europe. To further threaten Spanish control, the seeds of revolution and liberalism spawned on the Atlantic seaboard and France would begin to take root throughout her remaining empire.

During this period of unrest, the seeds of revolution took root in Mexico, not in the capital, but in a remote mining district. Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, at the head of an army of Indians, mestizos, and a few creoles, declared for independence on September 16, 1810. In January of

the following year, the revolution spread to San Antonio. Juan Bautista Casas, backed by the presidial garrison, placed himself as the head of the government and declared for Hidalgo. His despotic and disorderly administration was overthrown on March 2, and he surrendered to the opposing forces. He was sent to Mexico, tried, beheaded, and the head returned to San Antonio to be displayed on a pole as a warning to other rebels. Father Hidalgo's army was routed the same month that Casas took power, and his execution followed in August of the same year (Faulk 1964:34; Webb 1952:I:305).

But the rising wave of independence did not die with Hidalgo and made Texas appear ripe for the filibustering ambitions within the United States. In August of 1812, José Bernardo Maximiliano Gutiérrez de Lara, a follower of Hidalgo, united with Lieutenant Augustus W. Magee and crossed the Sabine River with 130 men and captured Nacogdoches. Recruiting Mexican, Indian, and American supporters, they occupied La Bahía on November 7, where they were placed under siege by Governor Manuel Salcedo. Upon the death of Magee on February 6, 1813, Samuel Kemper assumed command. The following month, Kemper, with about 800 men, marched toward the capital. San Antonio surrendered unconditionally on April 1, and three days later 14 loyalist officers, including Salcedo, were executed. The following August 18th, General Joaquin de Arredondo, with some 4,000 men, met and routed the insurgents south of the Medina River. Arredondo's retribution was swift and bloody. In addition to the 600 slain on the field of battle, he imprisoned most of the population of the city. In all, 327 rebels were executed in Bexar alone. The retaliation left the town in shambles, the property of the citizens confiscated, and the majority of the men either dead or having fled the country (Cox 1990:1–9).

Mexican independence was a reality, but the transition did not bring tranquillity. The monarchy in Mexico was replaced by the Federal Constitution of 1824, influenced by the United States Constitution and European liberalism. Yet, the conflict between the federalists and centralists continued to fracture the government, aggravated by foreign intervention. In 1829, Spain invaded in an attempt to regain the country, only to be repelled by a young Mexican officer, Antonio López de Santa Anna Pérez de Lebrón. The heavy handed policies

of President Clay's Minister to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, infuriated the Mexican government and aroused new hatred and fear of the North Americans. Anastasio Bustamante, a reactionary tyrant, seized power, and placed Texas under the control of Manuel Mier y Terán, an avowed critic of North American colonization. Terán moved to garrison Texas with troops, an action which angered and threatened the new colonists. In May of 1832, Captain Juan Bradburn declared ten leagues of the coast under martial law and arrested several citizens, including a young firebrand named William B. Travis. Rebellion broke out among the Anglo-Texans, who moved to attack Bradburn's headquarters at Anáhuac and captured the fort at Velasco at the mouth of the Brazos River, rallying with cries for the return of the Constitution of 1824 and the hero of Tampico, Santa Anna. Total rebellion was averted only by the diplomatic effort of Austin and the continuing chaos within the government (Fehrenbach 1983:174–180).

By 1835, Santa Anna was fully entrenched in power. The state of Zacatecas rose in revolution and was brutally suppressed by Santa Anna, using methods he had learned as a Lieutenant with Arredondo. In April, he dispatched an army, under the command of his brother-in-law, General Martín Perfecto de Cós, to put down a minor civil war in Coahuila. Cós then moved north to reinforce the garrisons in Texas. Santa Anna officially revoked the liberal Constitution of 1824 shortly thereafter. In September, Austin returned to Texas from eighteen months in a Mexican prison, now convinced that the differences between the Texas colony and the new government were irreconcilable. The stage was set for full revolution.

The revolt began October 1 with shots fired at Gonzales, and soon the "Army of the People," under command of Austin, marched to San Antonio to place General Cós under siege. Cós prepared for battle by employing his troops to fortify a defensive position about the villa. He constructed strong cannon positions around the Plazas and began to convert the old Mission Valero into a fortification. Despite victories achieved in skirmishes, such as the battle of Concepción, the siege stagnated and almost dissolved until, on December 4, a group of volunteers under Colonel Ben Milam rallied to assault the city. They took up a position at the *Molina Blanco*, the old mill on the first return channel of the Upper Labor

acequia, and attacked the city from the north in house-to-house combat. General Cós capitulated to the Texans on December 10, and was paroled to withdraw his troops south of the Rio Grande. The humiliating defeat of his brother-in-law angered Santa Anna into a fury that drove him and his army into Texas with a speed that caught his enemy by surprise. When the Mexican army arrived February 23, 1836, the Texans were forced into a hurried withdrawal behind the wall of the make-shift fortress of the Alamo. After thirteen days of siege, the Alamo fell in a concentrated assault on the morning of March 6, 1836, and Santa Anna achieved what was to prove to be a hollow victory. After sweeping across Texas and driving Houston's army to the edge of the territory, he was caught unprepared by the Texans at San Jacinto and defeated and captured in a battle that lasted less than an hour. In a turn of events that seemed to defy all odds, the Republic of Texas was born.

In 1852, when the city of San Antonio acquired the right to sell its public lands, Mayor King, acting as agent for the corporation, conveyed lots 30 and 31, Range 1, District 2, to James R. Sweet for \$1,475 (Bexar County Deed Records [BCDR], Bexar County Courthouse K2:506, 508). This twenty-four acre tract, located approximately two and one-half miles to the north of the city, was purchased by Sweet with the understanding that it contained "Worth" Spring, the site where General Worth had been camped when he contracted cholera in 1849. However, upon survey of the property, it was determined that the major spring feeding the river, generally referred to as the "Blue Hole," was partially located on the lot just to the north. Sweet sued the city and was compensated by recovering \$85 of his purchase price (*Sweet vs. City of San Antonio*, Bexar County Court Records #1039). In April of 1854, Sweet contracted with J. H. Kampmann to "erect for him at the head of the San Antonio River a dwelling house" for \$5,200, to be completed by November of that year (BCDR M1:50). In 1859, while he was mayor, Sweet sold himself the three adjacent lots, bringing his total holdings at the springs to approximately sixty acres (BCDR R1:187). He occupied the "Sweet Homestead" until the fall of 1859 when he sold the spacious cottage and the land to George W. Barnes for \$10,000 (BCDR R1:189). Barnes sold the property, in September of 1869, to Isabella Helena Brackenridge, mother of banker George Washington Brackenridge, for \$4,500 (BCDR V1:220).

Water and Politics

The Brackenridge family had arrived in San Antonio in 1866. During the Civil War, three of the Brackenridge sons served with the Confederate Army, but George favored the Union and remained a merchant in old Texana, enraging many of his clients by insisting on bartering for cotton rather than dealing for Confederate dollars. When the war ended he was able to market his cotton at premium prices amassing a substantial fortune. He enlarged the Sweet cottage into a home for his mother and sister, Eleanor, and added the surrounding property bringing the total acreage of the estate to over two hundred acres on both sides of the river. In late 1871, the city raised the dam at the acequia and flooded portions of his property. The mayor appointed a special committee to "arrange the matter concerning the water and the removal of the dam." Ten days later, on January 23, 1872, the committee, composed of Aldermen Pentenreider, Bell, and Elmendorf, reported their recommendation to purchase "his property at the head of the San Antonio River, as it controls nearly all the water of the ...river" (CCM D:36). Their recommendation was approved by Council and the City Attorney, Julius W. Van Slyck, was directed to prepare a deed. The terms offered by Brackenridge were to convey his entire estate to the city for \$50,000, at eight percent interest over fifty years. He further offered to rent the land for \$4,000 per annum, the exact amount of interest involved (Corner 1890:53). The *San Antonio Express* reported: "the council of this city, at its last meeting, did that for which the future generations of this city will remember it in gratitude. It repurchased the source from whence the supply of water for the whole of this valley comes, at a reasonable price, and upon such terms that the most captious cannot complain." They concluded their report with congratulations "upon the purchase of property which, ten or twenty years hence would cost ten times as much, and which will be indispensable to the future public as light and air, sunshine and rain" (*San Antonio Express*, January 28, 1872). But the purchase was later rejected by City Council.

During the controversy over the purchase of the head of the river, or partially because of it, another water issue was being considered—the Alazan Ditch. The concept of diverting the flood waters of Olmos Creek that had first been addressed by G. Freisleben, surveyor and

engineer, in 1867, was now expanded upon by Mr. Hartnett, engineer, into not only a diversion channel but a means of providing irrigation to the growing population west of San Pedro Creek. A proposal was presented to the public in January of 1872 for such a ditch to be constructed. The ditch was designed to originate at a new dam just above the head waters at the confluence of Olmos Creek. It would then flow from the west bank above, and roughly parallel to, the Upper Labor Ditch, and above the city rock quarries. It would then pass a short distance above San Pedro Springs and beyond Fredericksburg Road, where it would turn south to join with Alazan Creek. The proposal immediately provoked criticism that it would require too large a dam, a thirty-foot-wide embankment and at least three new, large bridges (San Antonio Herald, February 1, 1872). The San Antonio Express was quick to respond that the “statements contained in the Herald” were not sustained by the “opinions of those who know whereof they speak” and expressed confidence “that the digging of the ditch in question will ensure our city against future overflows” (San Antonio Express, February 2, 1872). They also protested that the opposition to the project was due to the fact that the majority of the population to benefit was Mexican, and since “that nationality had ceased to control the council... discrimination had so depressed the value of property.” They further noted that the estimate of the cost of the six-mile-long channel was “within twenty-four thousand dollars” and would bring up to six thousand acres into irrigation (San Antonio Express, February 27, 1872). Late in March, C. Schmidt petitioned Council for action “concerning the completion of the Olmos and Alazan ditch”; the petition was “read and laid on the table” (CCM D:33). In April, another petition, with the signatures of “some three or four hundred good citizens,” was presented to Council and again rejected, the Board maintaining that the cost was beyond the ability of the depressed economy. But the San Antonio Express maintained that it was because of pressure from outside the city upon the newly appointed officials, and that the issue would arise again (San Antonio Express, April 12, 1872).

At a public meeting on May 9, 1874, a committee, consisting of W. D. L. Wickes, Anthony Earhart, B. Callaghan, Henry Colman, and J. E. Dwyer, were selected to “collect subscriptions and act in conjunction with the Finance Committee of the city” to open the Alazan Ditch

(San Antonio Express, May 12, 1874). However, on June 2, Freisleben presented to the Council his evaluation in regard to the “Hartnett Plan” for the Alazan Ditch. He found: “First, the line adapted is not favorable. The new ditch from the head of the Upper Labor Ditch down to North 13th Street on to the mouth of the proposed tunnel west to the San Pedro Creek is on a dead level for a distance of three and two-thirds miles. Second, the plan is to raise the water in the upper part of the Upper Labor Ditch four feet which would overflow a large part of the adjoining lands of G. W. Brackenridge. Without consent the whole plan is impracticable; the new channel just above the lower line of Brackenridge prevents raising of the water. Third, the raising of the water in the Upper Labor Ditch and the condition of the banks of said ditch give just cause of apprehension that breaks may occur which will not only endanger the new ditch but also destroy the irrigation in the Upper Labors. The owners of the lands in the Upper Labor are most interested parties in this new undertaking and I think the work should not be made without their full approval and consent.” Due to the distressing nature of his report, action was laid over until an engineer, Mr. J. P. Hector, could be consulted to produce another opinion on the subject (City Council Minutes [CCM], Office of City Secretary, San Antonio City Hall D:111). The local paper reported: “the bids for the ditch west of the river will not be opened at present, so we hear” (San Antonio Express, May 7, 1874). On July 23, “the report of Mr. Hector on the Alazan ditch was received and read.” After some discussion on the subject, the members of Council agreed to meet “...to repair to the line of the survey of said ditch for the purpose of making a personal examination of the same.” After their inspection they accepted a report “with specifications from the City Engineer” and authorized the mayor to contract “for the making of said ditch, commencing at the San Pedro Avenue over the Upper Labor ditch, passing around the San Pedro Spring, from then running down into the Alazan near its juncture with the San Pedro” (CCM D:118, JD:372).

While the controversy raged over the troublesome Alazan Ditch, an alternate water management plan was presented to Council by John Lockwood, agent for the New York National Water Works Company. The company, the most active in the United States at the time, offered to establish a water distribution system for the city at a basic cost of \$100,000 (San Antonio Express, May 1, 1875). Council

appointed a special committee of five to meet with the company and consider the proposal (CCM D:163). The press reminded the public: “San Antonio is happily situated, being at the fountain head of two magnificent crystal streams of never failing water; but these streams have worn channels below the surface and the old Spaniard conceived and carried out the idea of taking out the water from its natural channel and utilizing it to irrigate the land and to run before the door of every dweller in the valley.” But they expressed fear that we had perhaps reached the limits of making further demands upon the rivers, “water will not run up hill” (San Antonio Express, April 20, 1875). Others felt that it would be best if the endeavor was undertaken by local interest, and thus keep the capital within the local economy. The press countered by noting: “There are many reasons in favor of the city owning its own works and hence the right to buy is reserved in the proposal made” (San Antonio Express, May 1, 1875). The primary objection, and the major concern of Council, was the additional tax burden that the cost of constructing the works would place upon the public. The city was already faced with an empty treasury and there was a general depression and monetary crisis throughout the nation. However, it was also pointed out that the cost of the two new ditches would exceed \$40,000 before they were fully in operation, and even if completely successful, would be confined to a comparatively small area of the city. “For less money than these ditches cost ten miles of pipe can be laid, and water taken to the tops of our hills, and through every street and into every house and capable of being used for extinguishing fires, irrigation and every use of the household” (San Antonio Express, May 4, 1875). On the 18th of May, after lengthy discussion and several proposals and counter-proposals, the Council passed an ordinance “authorizing the National Water Works Company of New York to construct, operate and maintain Water Works in the City of San Antonio.” In the ordinance, the Council increased the number of hydrants, the number of citizens to be served, and reduced the proposed water rates (CCM D:165–167). In July, Lockwood transmitted the company’s answer “declining to accept the terms” offered by the city. They did, however, agree to “build the works as provided in said original ordinance for a sum of \$250,000” (CCM D:179). Thus, the hopes for a waterworks died for the immediate future.

There was another water concern presented to Council in that October session of 1878. A proposal was presented to Council by J. B. LaCoste “to construct a waterworks to supply the city of San Antonio with water for fire protection, sanitary, public and domestic purposes.” The offer was referred to a special committee composed of Aldermen Dashiell, Schreiner, Hahn, and Muench. Another attempt to provide the badly needed water plant had begun. The basic plan presented by LaCoste envisioned a piped water system extending over an area of nine and one-fourth miles “so distributed as to place the entire business portion of the city under fire protection, and in this line of distribution will be placed the fire hydrants.” For the use of each hydrant the city would be required to remit \$125 the first year, \$100 for the second, and \$80 for the third. This would have provided for three hundred such installations. He also offered to “furnish free water for washing and flushing the gutters, sprinkling the streets and plazas, filling fire cisterns, and such public fountains as the city may establish.” The company was also to “guarantee that the said works shall be of the most durable material and first class in every respect, and capable of supplying each individual at least 75 gallons of water per day, with sufficient pressure to raise the water to the highest building in the city, and capable of throwing six streams from as many hydrants at one time, through fifty feet of two-and-a-half-inch hose, and one-inch nozzle, to the height of the highest building that may be erected in the city.” The company agreed to begin the works “within 90 days and completed within one year after a railroad reaches this city.” The plan also called for a reservoir with a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons. The rate to private consumers “shall never exceed 6 cents per hundred gallons” (San Antonio Express, November 3, 1876). This was proposed as a twenty-five year contract, at which time the city was to have the option of purchasing the company at the appraised rate.

On April 3, 1877, the long-awaited report on the waterworks proposal was presented to Council by the special committee. Their report began: “we deem it unnecessary to discuss the importance or general utility of waterworks and will, therefore, pass to the immediate advantages to be derived by their construction in this city.” They then proceeded to present an astute analysis of the sanitary conditions that existed at the time. “It is

generally conceded that the well water which is being used by three-fourths of our population is entirely unfit for—in a sanitary point of view—the purpose of life; if actual disease does not result directly from their use, they certainly induce such a state of the system as will aggravate any constitutional tendency and cause it to fall an easy prey to the mildest epidemic. The experience of all cities proves that water derived from shallow wells steadily deteriorates until it becomes unfit for use by the percolating of sewage matter and privy filth when after long usage the soil becomes so impregnated that the water is absolutely poisonous. To this fact we must attribute the prevalence in past years of epidemic cholera.” Bear in mind that this report was given four years before Doctor Robert Koch presented his speculation on bacterial specificity. The committee then made mention of the benefits to be derived through the reduction of fire hazards and losses “...it is estimated that on a total of \$4,500,000 insurance at an average of 1 1/2 percent that the saving will be at least 1/4 of 1 percent which will of itself amount to over \$11,000 saving to the general public, but who cannot estimate the value as well as the comfort and convenience to the inhabitants of this city by the regular sprinkling of the streets and plazas?” They then recounted a brief history of previous proposals; first the offer by T. W. Mahan, President of the New York Water Works Company, who offered to construct the works in exchange for city bonds. Second, the offer of T. Daniel, engineer of the Dallas Water Works, to build the works, excluding the required reservoir, for \$95,000. There then followed the offer of Kampmann and Wall, “to construct waterworks under certain conditions under a franchise granted to the city”; and lastly, the present offer from LaCoste and Associates. They then pointed out that the first two proposals “would be the most expensive plan ultimately that could be adopted to secure the end in view.” While they cite the Kampmann and Wall proposition as being the most economical, they objected to the problems inherent to the design. They noted that the plan placed the works at the “Abat ford” which they deemed to be too near the populated district of the city to insure a pure water source. The “Abat ford” was located on the sharp bend of the river at Jones Avenue. They further objected that the plan had no provision for a reservoir, rendering the works useless except “in the event of high water.” With these considerations they felt that the LaCoste plan offered the most effective system at the lowest possible cost,

and “we should not neglect the opportunity here presented to interest public spirited citizens of our own city in an enterprise of so much importance” (CCM D:288–289).

The city responded to the decision of the administration in its customary manner. A petition was submitted to Council from a group of citizens asking that any action on the waterworks be reconsidered, and no contract be awarded until “the wishes of the people may be ascertained by ballot.” Alderman Prescott moved that the petition be granted, but his motion was defeated by a vote of four to five. Alderman Degener then moved that the authority of the mayor to enter into the contract “be suspended until the next regular session.” By vote, his motion was tabled and the way was clear for the mayor to accept the contract (CCM D:292). One week later the following communication was received by the city: “In regard to the proposition made by me and on behalf of myself and my associates to construct and maintain waterworks in the city of San Antonio, Texas and which proposition was on April 3, 1877 agreed to by the City Council of said city with certain amendments, I hereby signify my acceptance of all the amendments so made...J. B. LaCoste” (CCM D:294). Thus were the waterworks begun. The Express felt compelled to comment “...the Mayor and City Council, as a body, have set themselves up as nothing less than dictators to the city of San Antonio” (San Antonio Express, April 20, 1877). On June 19, the mayor formally submitted the contract to the full Council, the contract was approved with only Aldermen Degener and Smith voting in opposition (CCM D:303).

Work commenced on the waterworks almost immediately under the direction of the Secretary and Engineer for the project, W. R. Freeman. The contractors began with the excavation of a raceway canal from the Tannery property across the eastward bend to a pump station located at what is now Lambert Beach, the swimming area of the present park. This provided a fall of nine feet, sufficient to power a large turbine which drove the plunger of a huge force pump. While the original design called for a reservoir to be located near the dam of the Upper Labor, which supplied water for the raceway, the company decided to relocate it to the summit of the hill behind Fort Sam Houston. Located in what is now the San Antonio Botanical Center, the reservoir was eighteen feet deep, lined with limestone, and had a planned capacity

of 5,000,000 gallons. The water, lifted by water-powered pumps to this elevated position, was distributed to the users by gravity flow through cast iron mains (Baker 1978:7). Upon completion the Express reported the actual dimensions: “The width of the reservoir at its base, from north to south, is 164 feet 6 inches, at its top, 194 feet 6 inches. From east to west, it is 164 feet 9 inches at the base and 194 feet at the top. The depth, between the base and the top of the coping is 20 feet.” Using these figures a capacity of 5,689,620 gallons was derived, well above that required by the contract (San Antonio Express, April 8, 1879). The reservoir is today the outdoor amphitheater for the Botanical Center. In February 21, 1878, the work had progressed to the point that the Council was required to determine the exact locations for the first one hundred hydrants (San Antonio Express, February 21, 1878). By July of 1878, the works were in operation. “Another test was given the waterworks last evening. Four hydrants were brought into play, throwing streams much higher than any building in the city under fifty pound pressure. It is contemplated to shortly have a contest between the waterworks and the fire engine in throwing water” (San Antonio Express, July 6, 1878). On July 5, the Chairman of the Special Committee on Water Works, James P. Newcomb, proposed a resolution stating “The city of San Antonio hereby formally accepts the waterworks constructed by J. B. LaCoste and Associates, under the contract made with the city...” (San Antonio Express, July 10, 1878). Banker G. W. Brackenridge was initially against the idea of the waterworks, but realizing that it had the potential to establish itself as a sound investment, he freely extended loans to LaCoste and his other investors. Within a year of the completion of the company, he held a majority of its stock and had become its president (Sibley 1973:131–132). In a special supplement to the Express in February, a retrospective review of the accomplishment of the past year was presented; one section was devoted to the history of the waterworks company. They recounted that the company had begun supplying water to the city on the 6th of June of 1878 and noted: “the undertaking was a gigantic one for so small a corporation, their means were limited and the required outlay to keep up the works and extend them soon forced them into financial straits. Still the citizens held aloof, unwilling to risk so much money as was necessary to bring the service to the required degree of perfection.” They then record that this was the condition when Brackenridge stepped in with

“his private means and personal attention until others sought to become associated with him, and the work was brought to its present degree of perfection.” They concluded that the waterworks “has done more to increase the growth of this city and advance property values than any two other agencies combined” (San Antonio Express, February 7, 1887).

On November 6, 1899, the stockholders of the San Antonio Water Works Company took action that was of momentous benefit to the city of San Antonio: “A resolution was passed authorizing the directors of the company to make a deed of gift to the city for park purposes of the magnificent natural park embracing upward of 200 acres and taking in all of the headwaters of the San Antonio river from Josephine Street northward as far as the property of the Sisters of Charity, formerly the private grounds of Col. Geo. W. Brackenridge.” The idea of creating a great natural park within the heart of the city had long been a dream of Brackenridge, “but its consummation was attended with difficulties that it has taken time and labor to remove” (San Antonio Express, November 7, 1899). Although the deed was directly from the Water Works Company, there was no doubt in anyone’s mind that it was from the director and chief stockholder, George Brackenridge. The restrictions of the deed clearly reflected his unwillingness to allow the city to establish the park contrary to his principles. These restrictions were four in number: first, that the city shall at all times allow the Water Works the use of the water and will not drill any wells or construct any dams on the property; second, the land could be used in no manner except as a public park; third, “it shall never permit any beer or intoxicating liquor of any kind to be sold, given away or drunk on any part of said premises”; and lastly, it could never “convey, alienate or encumber” the land (BCDR 185:183–188). It would appear that these restrictions would be sufficient to insure his desires, but Brackenridge was never one to leave matters to the whims of municipal government. To ensure that the city respected his wishes he retained 200 feet frontage the entire length of River Avenue (later Broadway), a distance of over a mile, and 25 feet around the remainder of the property, allowing the prerogative of restricting access to the park to his discretion. Two weeks later the city council made an inspection of the property. “The place was a revelation to the gentlemen, many of whom had never set eyes on a spot of such natural beauty” (San Antonio Express, November 23, 1899).

At the following session of Council a resolution was introduced by Alderman Barker to authorize the mayor to accept “this valuable piece of land by one of our wealthiest citizens as a manifestation of philanthropy and public spirit, for which the citizens of San Antonio should be profoundly grateful.” In presenting the motion, Barker commented that he was surprised and astonished at its beauty, and predicted “that this park was destined to rival in beauty the far-famed Central Park of New York, Fairmount Park of Philadelphia and the Forest Park of St. Louis. Nature has beautified it with a masterful hand and it only remains for the city government to make its grandeur and beauty accessible for it to become one of the most delightful places for our visitors who may come to us in the future in quest of health or pleasure, and a ‘joy forever’ to our own citizens now living and to those who may come after us.” Barker further suggested that the park be named “Brackenridge Park” and a “broad avenue leading to same be opened and be known as ‘Brackenridge Avenue’.” Alderman Davis was much more pragmatic about the gift. He pointed out that the land was surrounded by private lands through which the city would be required to open a street, that the Water Works Company would have the right to all water and improvements, and there still remained a mortgage on the property. He stressed that he voiced his objections without prejudice toward the donor, but did not feel that the Council should act in haste. After some discussion it was agreed that the deed be referred to the City Attorney and that a committee be appointed to discuss modifications to the restrictions with Brackenridge (San Antonio Express, November 28, 1899). The committee found that Brackenridge was adamant about his restrictions, stating that “he had made the same after mature consideration.” The city attorney, George C. Altgelt, delivered his opinion on the gift in what the press referred to as “the most remarkable and unique official document ever presented for the consideration of a parliamentary body.” Altgelt characterized the proposed gift as a real estate speculation and questioned the motives of the Water Works Company and Brackenridge in offering the property. He recommended that the land be accepted only if a free title of encumbrance was given, the anti-liquor clause be modified, a new survey be performed, a modification of the reserve rights, and free access from all directions. His denunciation of the gift had little influence upon Council, nor did his characterization of the tract as “Prohibition Park.”

However, his stand against the issue gave reassurance to Alderman Davis in his dissension. Despite the objections, the Council voted to accept the property with only Davis voting in opposition (San Antonio Express, December 5, 1899).

In August of 1917, bids were requested by the San Antonio Water Supply Company for the construction of an auxiliary water plant to be constructed in Brackenridge Park. This facility was designed to provide an additional twenty million gallons of water for the existing system. The daily capacity of the plant was 55,000,000 gallons with a daily consumption of 16,000,000 provided from twelve wells with five pumps, and a storage reservoir of 5,000,000 at the Market Street facility for emergency use. The increased capacity was designed to provide for the increased demand anticipated by residential growth (San Antonio Express, August 1, 1914). The following year, San Antonio Water Supply Company offered to sell to the city the narrow strip of land that Brackenridge had retained along the frontage of the park. Robert J. Harding, vice-president and general manager, announced to Council that the company intended to place the entire tract up for sale and preferred that it be purchased by the city rather than “having it divided into building lots.” The mayor instructed Commissioner Lambert to investigate the matter and obtain the company’s lowest price. “It is becoming necessary for the Water Company to dispose of this property now,” Harding announced, “because of its great cost and the fact that it is producing no revenue. With the increase in River Avenue property it will become a greater burden to us as the years go by. We prefer to have the city buy the property because if this is done the natural beauty of the park will not be spoiled by reason of a row of houses facing the street” (San Antonio Express, June 15, 1915). Despairing at the lack of action on the part of the city, in March of 1916, the Water Company petitioned the city for permission to plat the property into individual lots for private dwellings. The petition was referred to City Clerk Fred Fries, with the stipulation that it be required that the house cost “not less than \$2,500; outhouses to be not nearer River Avenue than seventy-five feet” (San Antonio Express, March 24, 1916). This prompted the Commissioners to consider the danger to the city’s major park: “Eleven hundred and eighty-three feet is to be saved from the ravishment of Brackenridge Park. A portion of the land lying between the park and River Avenue fronting 1,183 feet on River

Avenue and 250 feet deep to the park is to be preserved from backyards, garbage cans, outhouses, and lines containing family washing” (San Antonio Express, May 26, 1916). The total cost of the land to the city was \$30,000, paid in annual installments of \$6,000 (San Antonio Express, July 11, 1916).

Park Commissioner Lambert had already begun what would become a monumental effort to enhance the park system of the city. One of his first efforts was the development of a children’s playground near the head of the river. “The new playground is being constructed in Brackenridge Park, at a curve in the San Antonio River, opposite what is known as the old power plant. The site is of easy access and can be reached by a macadam road leading from two entrances to the park...Mr. Lambert is of the opinion that this point of the San Antonio River is the most available for swimming purposes because of a shallow depth, and because it presents more of a beach effect than any other portion of the river.” Lambert christened the new area the M. Eleanor Brackenridge Playground, in honor of the leading patroness because of her interest in all child welfare movements. Lambert constructed a bath house of corrugated iron with seven compartments, croquet grounds, a tennis court, and “a great sand pile, where kiddies can make mud pies and all kinds of sand figures” (San Antonio Express, June 6, 1915). This area soon acquired the name by which it is still known today, Lambert Beach. Lambert followed this effort with the request for an appropriation of \$60,000 to continue his improvements. A portion of this money was requested to “construct an 18-hole public golf links in Brackenridge Park in accordance with the Park Commissioner’s announced plan. This project has been advocated for years by the San Antonio Hotel Men’s Association and by individuals. It will be intended primarily to serve the winter tourists who come here and have no means of playing golf on the private links here” (San Antonio Express, June 24, 1915). In September of 1916, Mrs. Emma Koehler, widow of Otto Koehler, the founder of the city’s largest brewery, donated land to be named Koehler Park. In contrast to the deed of Brackenridge, her deed specified “...that at no time shall the city bar the sale of malt or wholesome non-intoxicating liquors in the park except on the Sabbath; that it shall maintain, through ownership or lease, at least one place in the park where such liquors may be had and

shall not demand a greater sum for the lease or rent of such a place than \$50 per month.” The deed further required that the revenue from food and refreshment stand be applied toward the upkeep or enlargement of the zoo and a golf clubhouse (San Antonio Express, September 8, 1916). There was no recorded comment from George Brackenridge, but shortly after this gesture he advanced the city \$27,500 to purchase thirty acres of land adjoining Brackenridge Park on the west of the river to join the two facilities (San Antonio Express, November 17, 1916).

Lambert envisioned a park system that was more interactive with the general public. He first began his improvements at the river with his swimming beach and children’s playground “...they began clearing the river bed of silt and other accumulations of years, some steep banks were cut away and it was not long before San Antonians, big and little, were having their dip.” In the dense groves of trees near the playground he established campgrounds where the city dwellers could get into the wilderness, if only for a short while. He then turned his attention toward the zoo. He concentrated on creating natural settings in the upper bend of the river and began to add more exotic species. This also included a portion of the new park area donated by Koehler. Lambert then engaged “the famous Tillingbast of Philadelphia” to design an eighteen hole golf course for the lower portion of the park, planned with the specific purpose of attracting winter tourists to the city (San Antonio Express, February 9, 1917). One of the strongest attributes that Ray Lambert brought to the park system was vision. He took the scars that time and utilitarian alteration had made to the land and converted them into special wonders. The old waterworks channel that bisected the lower portion of the park became a delightful feature of the golf course, as well as a challenging water hazard. The old quarry that the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company had gouged from the hillside became the tasteful and beautiful “Japanese Lily Pond.” Above this he introduced a scenic road along the highest point of the park, which he named Alpine Drive. His improvements proved successful and apparently what the public wanted from their park system: “More than 100,000 persons enjoyed the privileges offered the public by Brackenridge Park last week...” (San Antonio Express, June 10, 1917).

Floods and the Changing Face of the River

Almost since it's founding the city had experienced a disastrous series of floods, but as the city grew the problem became more severe and expensive. The disastrous flood of 1913, and the near flood of 1919, had convinced city officials that action must be taken to avert a major disaster. Some improvements had been accomplished, such as the "sea walls" constructed by Engineer Surkey in the "Big Bend" area of downtown, and the restrictions that had been placed upon construction along the river between Josephine and Mitchell Streets. In fact, the dictatorial placement of the Municipal Auditorium along the river was to a great extent a flood control measure; by using bonded river improvement funds they planned to eliminate a major bend of the river to create the construction site, thus solving two problems with the single expenditure of bond revenues. Yet all of these measures were merely partial fixes to a very complex problem. It had been obvious to those involved with the aftermaths of every major flood since 1865 that a final solution entailed straightening the river and removing all impediments to the free flow of water; but this was not an easy or popular solution. A majority of the citizens were too much in love with the picturesque, winding stream to have it converted into a widened concrete canyon slashing through the heart of the city. In addition, several of the major restrictions to the flow, the dams along its course, were still commercially important to several industries. It was quite obvious that an outside agency was required to make a careful study of the situation and offer an unbiased evaluation. In the spring of 1920, Commissioner Lambert was instructed to search out a firm to study the problem and produce an in-depth report to address the final solution to future flood hazards. The commissioner contacted the firm of Metcalf and Eddy of Boston, Massachusetts, and requested an estimate for a complete study of the alternatives. They submitted a bid of \$10,000 to produce a report that would address both past historic floods and develop substantive solutions and cost estimates of corrective measures. On June 9, 1920, the contract was approved by the city and the firm's chief engineer, Charles W. Sherman, immediately began a nine-day on-site evaluation of the existing river conditions, working in conjunction with City Engineer A. Marbach (Metcalf and Eddy 1920:1). The city approved a partial payment of \$1,000 in September, and an additional

payment of \$1,500 in November (City Commissioners Proceedings [CCP], Office of the City Secretary, San Antonio City Hall, Vol. D, September 20, December 15, 1920). The final report was submitted to the city on December 6, 1920 and the remaining \$7,500 was approved by the city on January 18, 1921 (CCP Vol. D, January 18, 1921; Metcalf and Eddy 1920:2). The report was both well-researched and insightful in regard to the past history of river and creek flooding with a realistic awareness of the actions that must be taken to correct the situation. It recognized the efforts of the city, but recommended against the Auditorium cut-off construction until further studies had been completed. It also addressed the necessity of removing all obstruction from the river channel, including not only both Guenther Mill dams, but also the remaining structures on the upper mill complex. It suggested that the city should undertake the construction of six cuts across bends of the river in the downtown section. The first cut-off suggested was just below Josephine Street where flooding had first begun in 1913; the second cut was between 8th and 10th Streets at the intersection of Oakland, Arden Grove and 9th Street; the third was the large bend at Trenton Street (now McCullough Avenue); and the fourth was suggested at the Romana Street bend where the Municipal Auditorium site was planned. The two remaining cuts were suggested for the bend at Martinez Street, near what is now the Durango Street crossing, and the final cut-off was proposed to shallow the curve at the Guenther Lower Mill (now Pioneer Flour). In addition, further river work was suggested along the "Big Bend" area and the raising of three bridges and the adjustment of the abutments on a fourth. Their overall planning factors were directed at enabling the channel to "safely carry 12,000 cubic feet per second through the heart of the city," the figure they anticipated would be required to handle the "hundred year flood." Contrary to popular opinion, the Riverwalk bypass channel was not recommended by this study. The estimated cost of this construction was placed at \$4,000,000; that figure included \$950,000 for a detention basin on Olmos Creek. The firm acknowledged that discussions with the city government had already indicated that the expenditure of this amount of money was not considered possible at the time due to "other urgent needs of the city." Therefore, they recommended the immediate expenditure of \$2,500,000 for what they considered the most critical needs within the period of the next five years. They concluded their study with a

rather dire prediction concerning the next major flood: “When such a flood will recur, no man can say. But that it will recur is certain. Therefore, with the rapid growth in value of property in the city, particularly in the congested value and commercial districts, it is imperative that this danger be recognized and that the work necessary to prevent serious injury from flooding be undertaken as rapidly as the financial resources of the city shall permit –lest when the flood comes it shall find the city unprepared and do ruinous damage” (Metcalf and Eddy 1920:ii).

After the record rainfall of 1919, the city again began a drought period. In 1920 the total rainfall for the year was a mere 19.56 inches, almost ten inches below normal. The first eight months of 1921 promised no respite from the dry spell with only 17.84 inches, a full inch below normal. Finally on September 9th, there was news of a break in the drought: “The most timely showers since 1919 have fallen over Southwest Texas in the past two days, coming just as stockmen were facing the prospect of buying feed or shipping their cattle to other pastures from the depleted range” (San Antonio Express, September 9, 1921). The rainfall that was beginning to break the drought in West Texas was the result of a tropical disturbance that had formed in the western Gulf of Mexico and had crossed the Mexican coast south of Tampico on September 7th. Weakening slightly after contact with the landmass, the storm took up a northeasterly direction from Mexico into Webb County. It then progressed into Bexar, Comal, Hays, and Travis counties before extending into Williamson, Bell, and Milam counties where it abruptly dissipated. In Milam County it reached the western bank of the Brazos River, but there was virtually no rainfall on the east bank or beyond. In San Antonio a light shower of 0.53 inches occurred on September 8th as a result of the moisture from the leading edge of the air mass, but the main thrust of the storm did not reach the city until between midnight and 1 a.m. on the 9th. At that time, steady rains began to plummet the city and continued throughout the night. The rainfall began to intensify throughout the day and continued into the next day. The storm was manifest as an entire series of intense thunderstorms, with driving sheets of rain and deafening thunder that passed over the town one after the other and continued with no relief until mid-morning of the 10th (Ellsworth 1923:8–10). The actual amount of rain varied considerably within

the San Antonio River basin but over eight inches was recorded within the downtown area with over seventeen inches reported in the upper Olmos Creek basin. At first it appeared that the improvements to the river would be adequate to contain the deluge, for the initial level was scarcely a foot above normal, but then the “wave from the Olmos, down the valley northwest of Brackenridge Park, struck the headwaters of the river and forced it beyond banks. So quick was the rise, more than one hundred tourists camping in Koehler Park barely had time to save their lives, and many lost their effects.” Within an hour the rise had passed through the limits of the park and water was more than two feet deep on Broadway Avenue, and the river in the downtown section was near the embankments near St. Mary’s Street. It was then hoped that the water had crested at the level of the 1913 flood, but within minutes the water was flowing down the street, “...in 20 minutes College Street was flooded as far as Navarro. In 10 minutes more, it had reached the flooring of the Navarro Street bridge at Crockett Street. By 1 o’clock it was impossible to leave the Express Building with any assurance of safety, in a torrent sweeping east to Presa Street. The crest of the flood apparently was reached about 1:45 o’clock when the water was between 5 and 6 feet deep on Crockett Street...and was more than 8 feet deep at Houston and St. Mary’s” (San Antonio Express, September 11, 1921). The toll of the flood was 51 lives lost with property damage in excess of \$3,000,000.

On November 22, the Committee on Flood Prevention presented its conclusions to a mass meeting of the citizens at City Hall. They first defined the extent of the problem confronting the city, pointing out that problem was in reality twofold; one consideration was the San Antonio River and its tributaries, while the other was the Alazan, Martinez, Apache, and San Pedro Creeks. In the case of the San Antonio River the major contributing factor was Olmos Creek. This intermittent stream flowed from its upper reaches through a canyon with a straight channel and steep grade, while the river in contrast meandered through the city along “a torturous channel and a comparatively flat grade of about one foot per thousand.” The watershed of these two combined streams drained approximately 30 square miles, while the western creeks had a combined watershed of 46.7 square miles. Situated on the Alazan was West End Lake (Woodlawn Lake) formed by an earthen and rock dam 800 feet long and 90

feet high; on Apache Creek was located Elmendorf Lake, one-half mile long and 400 feet wide, formed by a 175 foot dam. The committee then presented the various options that they had considered. The first suggestion concerned widening and straightening the entire river; it was generally agreed that this would require a channel 300 feet wide with all bends of the river cut-off to achieve minimum resistance, this would cost \$9,000,000. The second consideration was the construction of a parallel channel through the city, that was estimated to cost as much, or more, than the straightening. A third project would be the diversion of the water of the Olmos to several of the western creeks, the cost of which was estimated at from \$6,000,000 to \$40,000,000. A fourth suggestion called for the diversion of the Olmos into the Salado Creek basin, however, it was felt that “legal obstructions would prevent this project if it were practical from an engineering standpoint.” A fifth consideration was the construction of a large number of small storage reservoirs along the Olmos, with the number required estimated at 48, the cost was proposed to be \$5,000,000. A sixth project called for a retention dam alone with no modifications to the river below, but this would require a storage area in excess of the land available. After careful deliberation of the various projects, a combination plan was adopted. The primary consideration was “the construction of a detention or dry reservoir on the Olmos by raising a massive concrete dam at a site selected, after very careful examination, opposite the Argyle Hotel.” The point was stressed that the reservoir must always be kept empty and ready for the next rain. To accommodate the rainfall below the dam they proposed several alterations to the river channel; these included deepening the channel in selected areas and construction of several cut-offs to straighten the path of the river. The major new suggestion for a cut-off was “across the neck of the Great Bend and from a point just above Nueva Street to a point below, taking out the sharp bank at Bowen’s Island. For this proposed Great Bend cut-off, it is recommended that a strip 100 feet wide be acquired by the city but that is in view of the capacity of the existing channel around the bend, a channel 70 feet wide be cut through, this channel to be arranged as to not interfere with the summer flow in the existing channel. The cross section to be adopted by the river through the business section to be the present very pleasing arrangement of vertical stone walls, with a grassed berm and a small channel at the bottom for the summer flow.” In the

modification suggested by Metcalf and Eddy it was felt that the “pleasing and artistic appearance of the existing channel would be lost.” The cut, which was designed to be dry until flooding occurred, would allow the shortening of the channel from 4,000 feet to 600 feet and allow for a better slope. The total cost of these modifications was estimated at \$5,500,000 (San Antonio Express, December 4, 1921).

Finally, on October 25, 1923, the city commission voted unanimously to present the taxpayers with a bond issue of \$4,350,000 the first week in December. Along with \$2,800,000 for the dam on the Olmos were eight other proposals: \$200,000 for the new auditorium, \$100,000 for fire and police services, \$250,000 for streets, \$100,000 for bridges, \$250,000 for storm sewers, and \$100,000 for additional sanitary sewers (San Antonio Express, October 26, 1923). On the eve of the election, Mayor Tobin reminded the public of the importance of the issue: “This election for flood prevention is the turning point in San Antonio’s history, I hope everyone turns out and votes for greater San Antonio. If we don’t vote the bonds, we don’t go ahead.” The experienced observers at city hall were forecasting the heaviest bond issue in history, estimating a turn-out of 16,000 with a 9 to 1 majority for the bonds (San Antonio Express, December 4, 1923). They were partially correct in their predictions, for the total votes counted were the largest for any bond election; however, the flood prevention bonds carried by a majority of only 1,638 of a total of 15,904 ballots cast. All other issues were approved by a majority of 3,000 or more. Mayor Tobin expressed his pleasure that the issue had passed but stated “he felt a ‘little blue’ that the victory was not bigger for the bond issue...I am sure that when this great work is finished, the public will be sorry that all voters were not for it all along” (San Antonio Express, December 5, 1923).

One of the steps in the river channelization project was intended to be the elimination of the two sharp bends above the downtown sector, below Josephine Street and between 6th and 9th Streets. However, initial negotiations with the landowners indicated that the prices proposed would be excessive, so the route of the new channel was redesigned to place it twenty feet farther to the west, thus allowing the property to be purchased cheaper. This reduced the cost of the right-of-way from \$200,000 to \$60,000. This action didn’t meet with the approval of

the landowners and it was necessary for the city to undertake condemnation proceedings (San Antonio Express, October 16, 1928). This brought an instant protest from other property owners south of the 9th Street cut who feared that this would endanger their property before the downtown cut-off was completed. The mayor was quick to reassure them that the Big Bend cut-off would be completed before further flood prevention would be undertaken. “Little work can be accomplished in any of the flood prevention work until the city’s last bond issue of \$4,750,000 is sold, for the money on hand for this program is practically exhausted” (San Antonio Express, October 17, 1928). The problems with the land owners did not go away—as late as March of the following year the values demanded by the owners was still so excessively high that the city considered abandoning the idea of the cut entirely and resorting to merely widening the river in the hope that such action would be sufficient (San Antonio Express, March 27, 1929). In February of 1929, the city was finally able to advertise for bids on the Big Bend river channelization. Bids received ranged from \$153,265.87 to \$178,970.96. The high bid was submitted from Kroeger-Brooks Company, the lowest from Bart Moore, Inc., a local firm. Others bidding were McCrary Construction of Atlanta, Ga., Sumner-Sollitt Company, J. DePuy, Sexton Corporation, Walsh and Burney, and the McKenzie Company. All bids were under the cost estimated by the engineers Hawley & Freese by \$50,000 (San Antonio Express, February 19, March 12, 1929).

In June, Mayor Chambers was presented yet another plan for the beautification of the river. This scheme concerned the Big Bend area, submitted by Robert H. H. Hugman, and proposed to “divert all water of the river up to a certain level into the new flood channel and permit construction of walks and Spanish type architecture along the banks of the stream” (San Antonio Express, June 27, 1929). In reality, the Hugman plan was far more visionary and complex. His vision would create a “miniature Old World Street” along the river lined with shops, artists’ quarters, cafes, and apartments at the rear of all the present buildings (San Antonio Express, June 29, 1929).

The booming prosperity that the nation had been experiencing came to an abrupt end on October 24, 1929. For much of the nation the financial crash of 1929 created instant panic and economic chaos, but for San Antonio

the depression did not become a major factor until much later. After a series of attempts to develop an effective welfare program, the administration finally settled on the Works Progress Administration (WPA). In April of 1935 Congress passed legislation approving an expenditure of \$5 billion to support the concept.

As a means of improving and beautifying the parks a proposal was submitted to the Director of the WPA calling for support in the form of manpower to rock-line several areas of San Pedro and Brackenridge Parks; the program consisted of the use of over one hundred relief laborers to line the banks of the creek and river through the parks with stone from the city-owned quarries and constructed with sand and cement under supervision supplied by the city from maintenance funds. The project covered several months and was completed in August of 1935. The project resulted in a lining for the Labor Ditch in Brackenridge Park to provide a natural setting for the waterfowl display in the zoo; in addition, about 3,000 lineal feet of the San Antonio River from the swimming pool at Lambert Beach to Koehler Park were constructed from natural stone. In San Pedro Park, about 1,500 feet of drainage ditch was lined, two roads were added and seven footbridges were constructed. All of this was accomplished at a minimum cost to the city and provided paychecks to over one hundred families for a period of over nine months (San Antonio Express, August 4, 1935).

The opportunity also arose for a similar project for the San Antonio River in the downtown area. In mid-year, the Alamo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) voted to direct their efforts for the upcoming Texas Centennial toward the beautification of the San Antonio River. Upon hearing of this request, Robert H. H. Hugman again presented his design for the beautification, first proposed by him in 1929, to the DAR committee. “We have a priceless beauty spot in our river and could easily make it so that homes and even business places would be remodeled to face the river instead of turning their back doors toward it. The plan drawn up proposes to build stairways down to the riverbank in the downtown section, and to place benches there for the use of the public. The natural beauty could be enhanced by planting flowers and shrubbery” (San Antonio Express, October 1, 1935). Hugman suggested that \$1,000,000 be applied for from the WPA, with the added benefits of flood and malaria control being achieved.

While everyone was supportive of his concept, the price was considered too great and the time too short to coordinate the massive project with the Centennial; instead, an alternate plan for improvement and beautification financed by a grant of \$730,000 from the WPA was undertaken beginning January 8, 1936, at Concepción Park to divert some of the river's flow into an old section of the channel to "eliminate accumulation of stagnate, mosquito-breeding pools" (San Antonio Express, January 8, 1936).

The beautification of the city's little river had long been a reoccurring dream of visionaries who realized the potential of attracting tourists to San Antonio. However, it took a man of imagination and specific training like Robert Hugman to develop these ideas into concrete plans. After his graduation from the University of Texas School of architecture in 1925, he married and located in New Orleans where he began his practice. By his own admission it was during his three years in that city that he became impressed with their preservation of the Vieux Carré, and "the old world charm, beauty, local color and character of it all" (Hugman 1968:3). Upon his return to his hometown, in 1929, he attempted to transfer these qualities to the waterway of San Antonio. This was, of course, the time of massive alterations of the stream for flood control and there were fears that the downtown sector might be lost. Through the encouragement of the Conservation Society, Hugman was able to present his vision to about one hundred of the city's prominent people who endorsed its development for future planning on the river. Despite their support there were only funds for flood prevention and his dream of development and beautification had to be shelved. In January the city officials made formal application for federal funds for one \$50,000 portion of the river beautification program. Park Commissioner Rubiola also applied for WPA assistance in construction of a retaining wall along the river in Brackenridge Park to prevent the flow of the stream from cutting into the banks. He planned to first wall the east bank in the vicinity of the Witte Museum; he hoped eventually to wall both sides of the river from there south for a quarter of a mile (San Antonio Express, January 14, 1939). In order to obtain funds for the remaining portions, a public bond election was held and approved by the property owners along the river (San Antonio Express, October 26, 1938). Finally, in

mid-March, the city was able to announce that ground-breaking ceremonies would be held at 12 o'clock noon on Friday, March 24, on the river bank opposite the Smith-Young Tower (San Antonio Express, March 19, 1939). In October, the city officials were notified, by a telegram from Senator Tom Connally, that an additional \$483,395 had been approved for the second phase of the river beautification. This allowed the project to extend up the river beyond the Big Bend to the Municipal Auditorium. This also allowed them to include the adjacent parks, surface drainage facilities, walks, stairs, and retaining walls. "With costs of operating the first unit in the downtown area running approximately 20 percent below estimates, it will be possible to extend the beautification program beyond the Municipal Auditorium point, WPA officials believe" (San Antonio Express, October 15, 1939).

As the first phase of the river beautification drew to a dazzling conclusion, the visionary who had made it possible was summarily discharged from the project. On March 19, 1940, the commissioners met in council and enacted Ordinance 1568: "It is declared that the contract entered into, by, and between the City of San Antonio and R. H. H. Hugman, entered into, and approved by ordinance dated December 15, 1938, is terminated" (CCP, March 19, 1940, Vol. Q:520, Ordinance Book J:89). On Thursday March 13, 1941, the last remaining work on the river project was completed and the gates were opened and water returned to the entire downtown channel. Since the Spring of 1939, the project had improved twenty-one blocks, some 8,500 feet of river bank, stretching from the South St. Mary's Street bridge to the 4th Street bridge. "Construction included 17,000 feet of river walls and sidewalks, 11,000 cubic yards of masonry and 3,200 yards of concrete. Thirty-one stairways from the street level to the river were built with each stairway of a different design" (San Antonio Express, March 14, 1941).

Section III Prehistoric and Historic Resources

It is clear that the San Antonio River has played an important role in the city's history since its founding and remains the place where much of San Antonio life plays out day after day. However, as often rivers do, they bring both joy and sorrow to the people that depend on them as well as fear them. The long history of recurrent floods and the human desire and capacity to modify their surroundings have led to numerous yet ultimately ill-fated attempts to channelize the river hoping to reduce the loss of life and property at the expense of significantly altering its majestic course. Clearly, the human "sculpting" and redirection of the river is only the latest in a long geologic sequence of meanderings of the channel across its relatively flat and broad floodplain. Meanders were likely formed, cut-off into oxbow lakes, and reformed along the course of the river throughout prehistory, each time chasing settlers away and burying sites, only to see humans return once the memories faded. Doubtless, this scenario repeated hundreds of times along the course of the San Antonio River over the past 10,000–12,000 years.

Although it would be extremely useful to document the number, location, and distribution of ancient channel scars along the project area to provide stronger models to predict the locations of prehistoric sites, such an exercise falls in the realm of geology and outside of the scope of the present project. While ancient channel scars are more difficult to identify, the historic background section provides a relatively comprehensive summary of channel changes during the first half of the twentieth century. **Figures 4 through 9** present a summary of the locations of channelization efforts along the river and the prehistoric and historic properties (e.g., sites) known to exist along the original and channelized river. The actual location of the old channel of the San Antonio River and of the return channels (*desagues*) of the acequias has been compiled from numerous historic maps (acequia maps on file at City of San Antonio Planning Department, Historic Preservation Office, Acequia Maps 16-54, 16-55, 16-56, 17-53, 17-54, and 17-55). The locations of the known prehistoric and historic properties identified on the six maps come from the respective cultural resource management reports in which they were first documented and the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Texas Historical Commission 2002a; a copy

of the Mission Parkway site location map from Scurlock et al. 1976 is included at the back of this report). These reports are listed in the comprehensive bibliography presented at the end of this report.

Prehistoric Properties

The abundant rivers and springs of the San Antonio River basin that attracted the early Spanish *entradas* also served to attract earlier inhabitants to this rich environment. The numerous prehistoric archaeological investigations conducted in Bexar County have revealed a long history of human occupation stretching back at least some 10,000 years; beginning with the Paleoindian period and continuing into the Colonial period. Because river courses provided a rich and diverse range of edible and economically useful resources, throughout time they have been the focal points of human activity and settlement. Often, the abundance of resources they provide and the repeated reoccupations of preferred localities on their banks give rise to large, deeply stratified archaeological sites rich in material culture. In other instances, the exploitation of specific resources, such as mussel shell, year after year along particular stretches of river create special resource extraction localities characterized by an abundant yet narrower range of material culture (e.g., predominance of grinding implements) and cultural features (e.g., presence of hearth fields for food preparation). Both types of archaeological sites are expected along the banks of the San Antonio River and numerous examples have already been documented during previous archaeological investigations.

Through seasonal and intermittent floods, rivers deposit thick layers of sediment that cap and often deeply bury archaeological sites in their floodplains. While deep burial often can help preserve sites from shallow disturbances, it also can lead to difficulties in site discovery since traditional site methods (i.e., shovel testing) does not reach deep enough to sample such deposits. Finally, the meandering of the stream across its floodplain can sometimes skip archaeological sites while at other times entirely erode deposits containing archaeological materials.

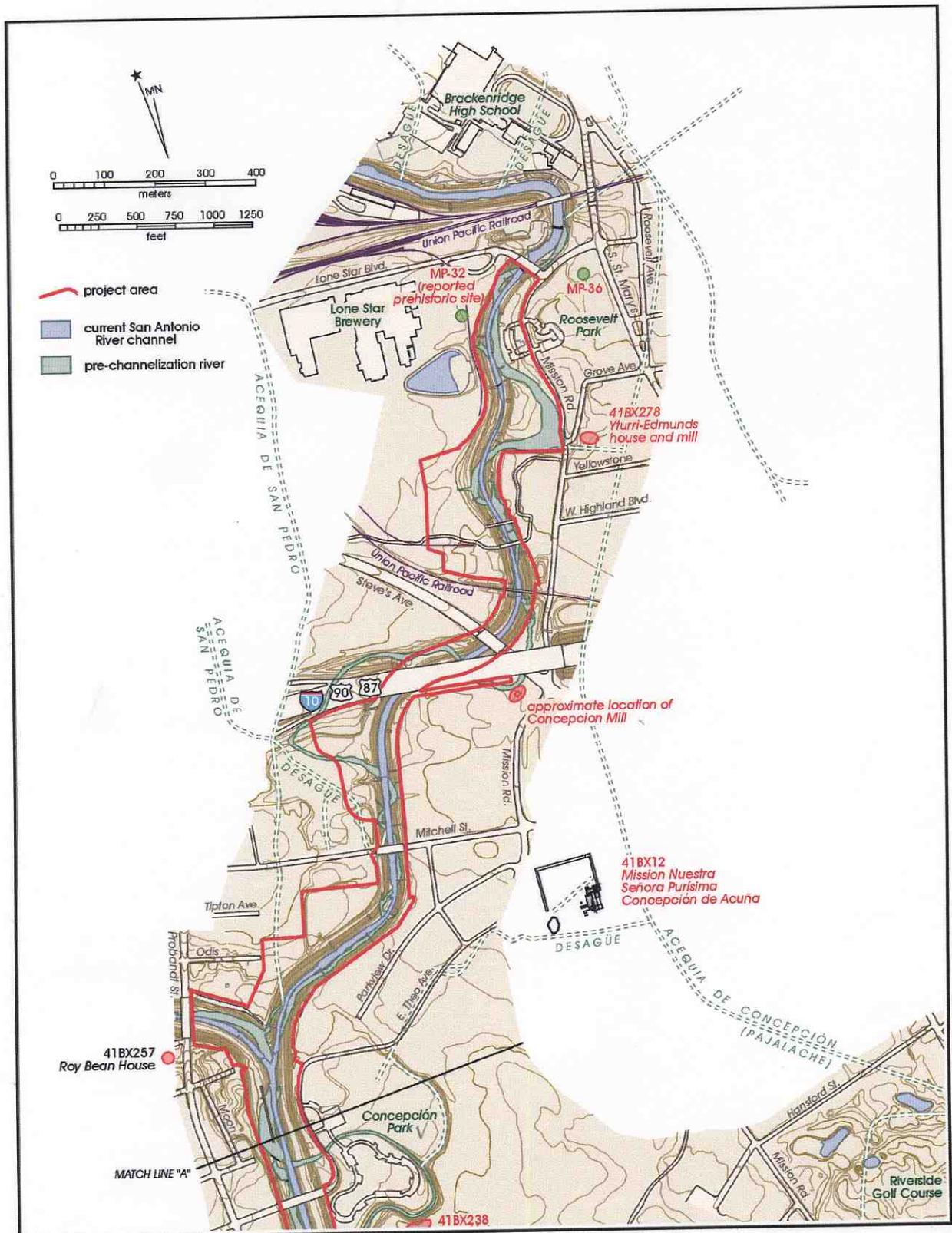


Figure 4. Northernmost portion of the Mission Reach project area—from Lone Star Boulevard to Concepción Park.

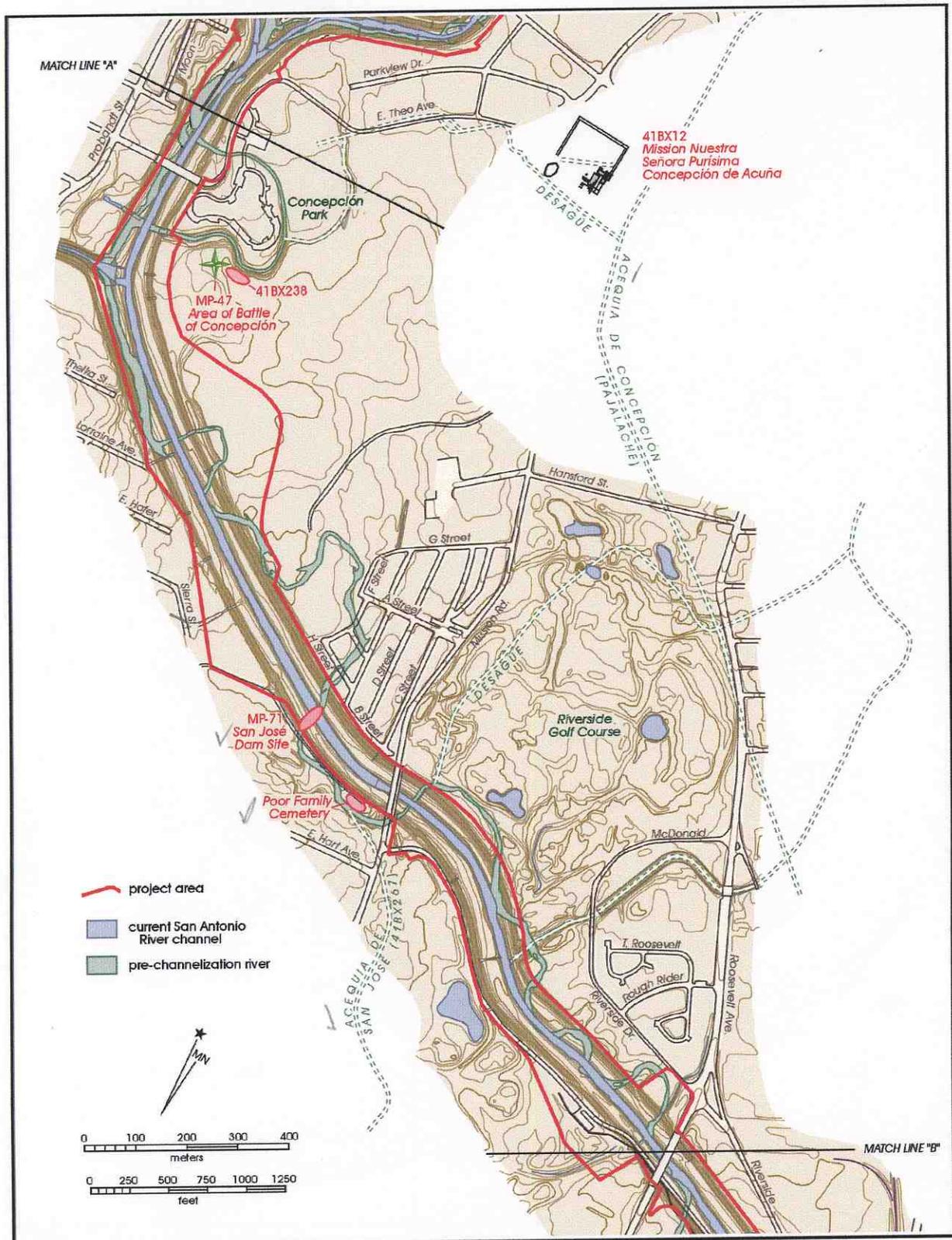


Figure 5. Mission Reach project area from Concepción Park to Riverside Golf Course.

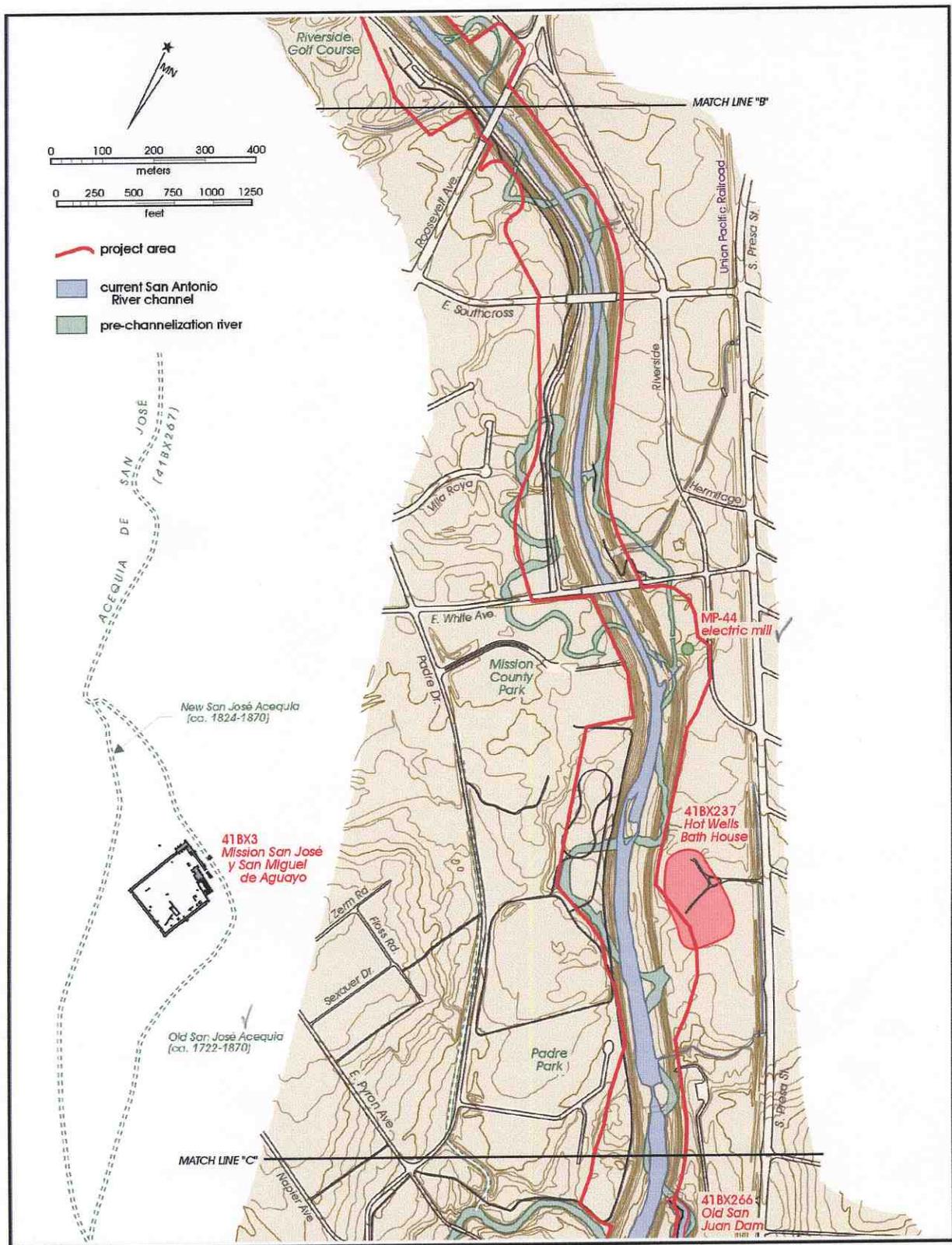


Figure 6. Mission Reach project area from Riverside Golf Course to Padre Park.

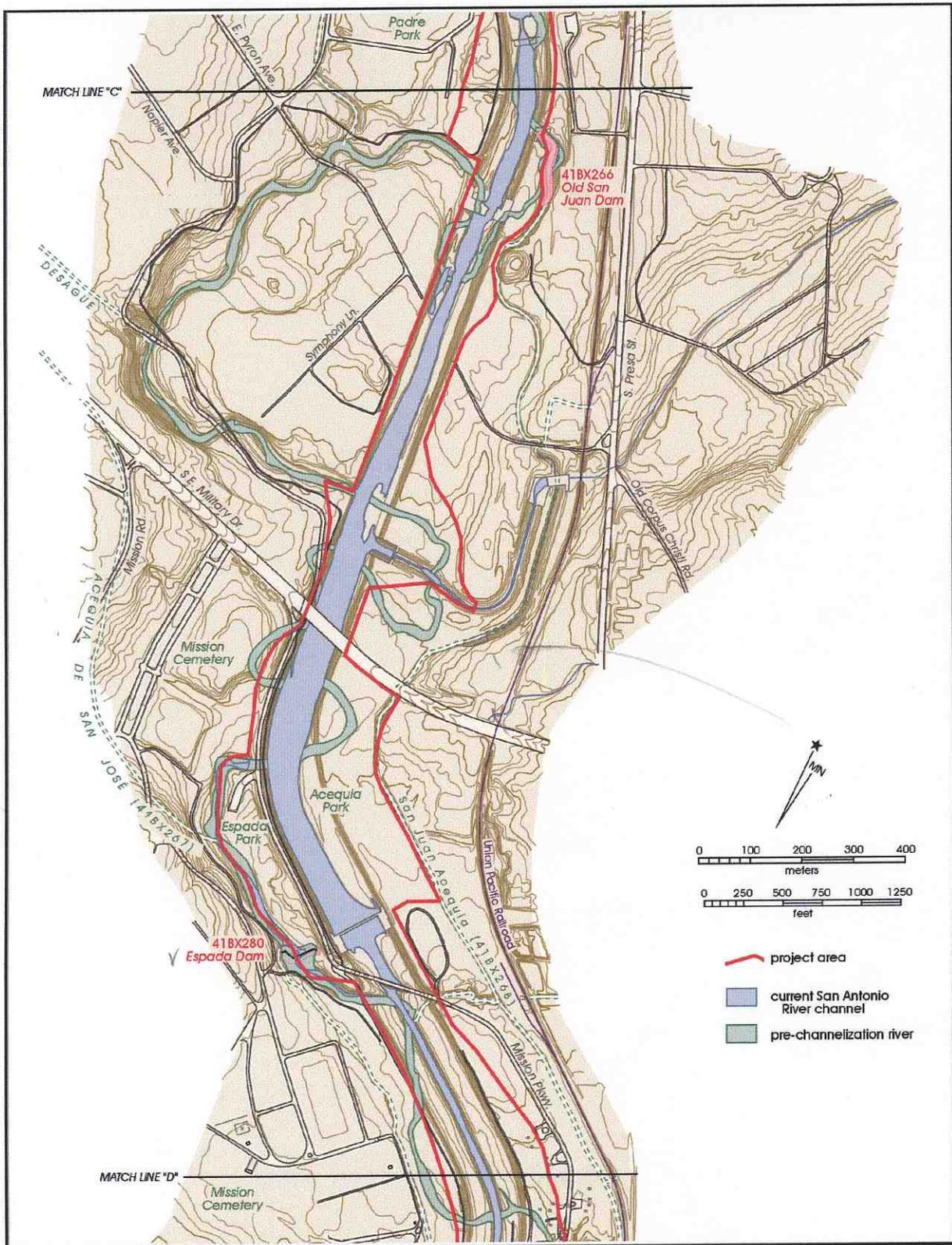


Figure 7. Mission Reach project area from Padre Park to Espada Park.

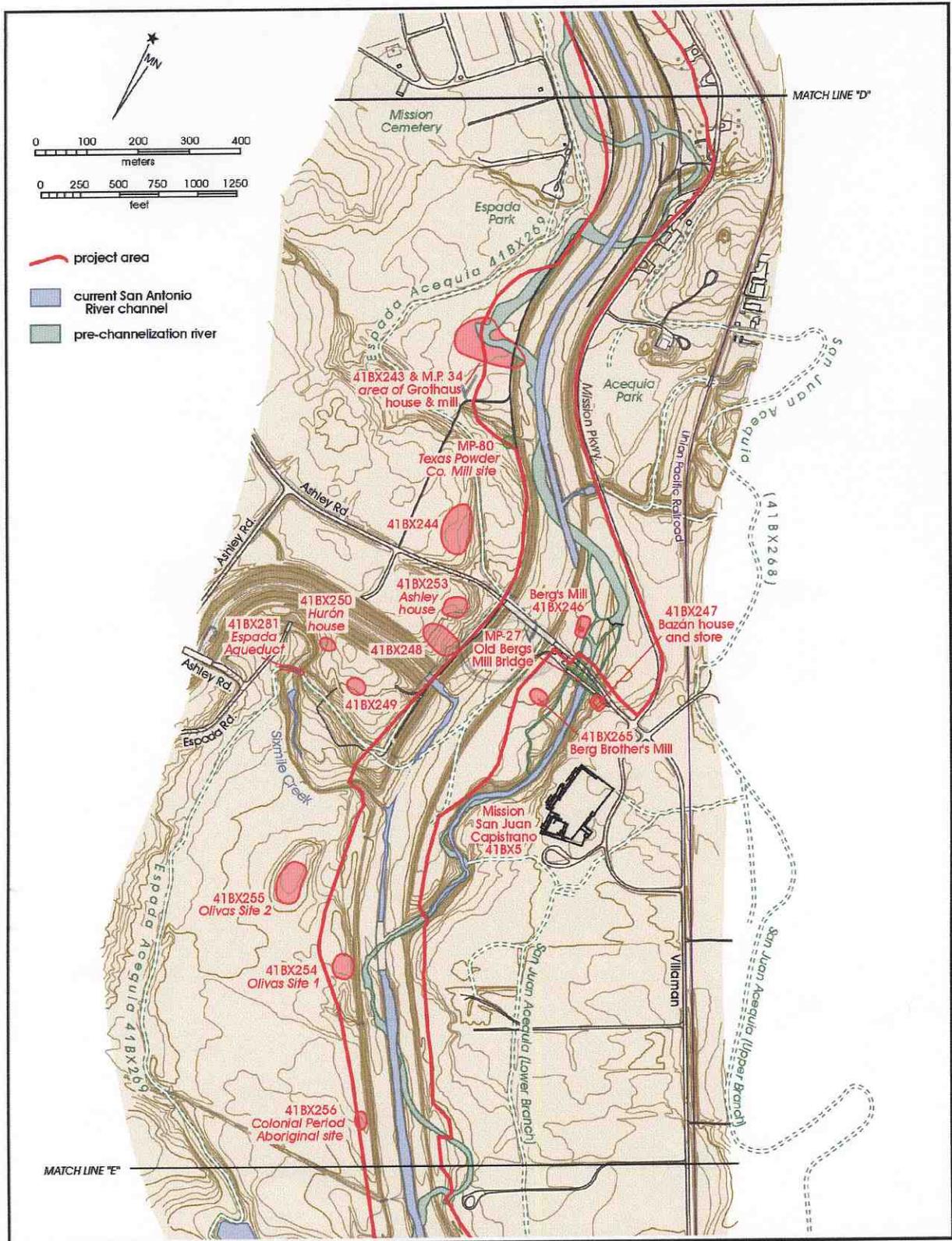


Figure 8. Mission Reach project area in the vicinity of Ashley Road and Mission San Juan Capistrano.

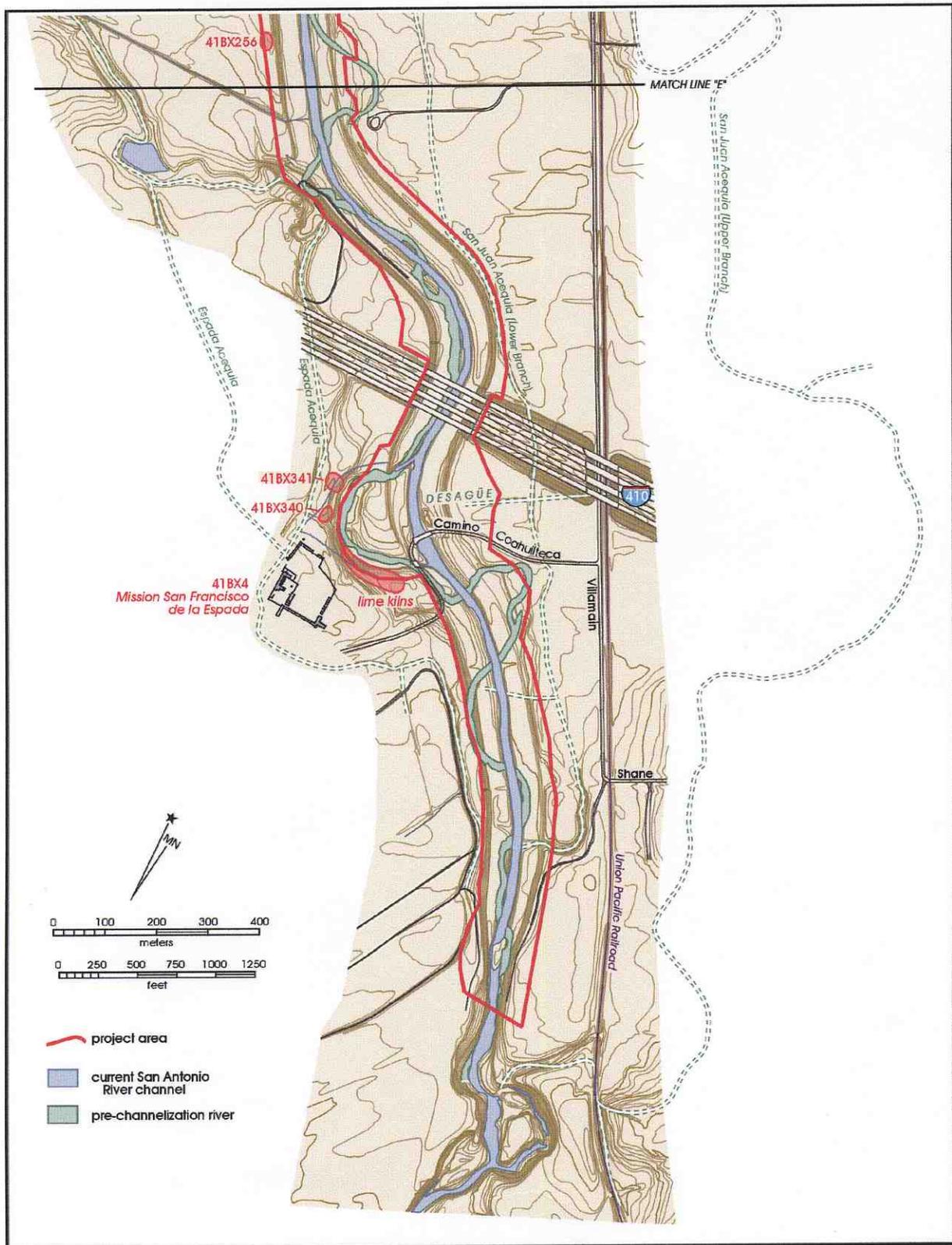


Figure 9. Southernmost portion of the Mission Reach project area.

One of the earliest systematic archaeological works along the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River took place between July and December of 1974 and was conducted under the direction of Dan Scurlock for the Texas Historical Commission (Scurlock et al. 1976). Prior to this survey, only four archaeological sites had been recorded along the river. All four are eighteenth-century missions. Seventy-three additional sites were identified during the survey. Only eight of these contained prehistoric components, the remaining sixty-five date to the eighteenth century or later. Of these eight, only seven were located sufficiently near to or within the current project area to be worthy of discussion.

The seven sites with prehistoric components identified during the survey are MP-32, 41BX238, 41BX248, 41BX249, 41BX254, 41BX255, and 41BX256. They range from lithic scatters to probable multi-component sites with residential debris. The summary begins at the north end of the project area with a locality that has been described by numerous informants but no site could be defined when survey personnel visited the area. The other six sites with prehistoric components represent recorded sites.

MP-32

A number of informants questioned during the original 1974 survey indicated that a prehistoric archaeological site was known to exist between the Lone Star Brewery and the San Antonio River (**Figure 4**). Numerous projectile points were recovered from this site and had been on display in the Buckhorn Museum at the brewery. Some of the artifacts recovered from the site reportedly included Archaic and Late Prehistoric types. Some informants also indicated that the prehistoric site may have extended onto both sides of the river, although the archaeological survey identified no prehistoric deposits on the east bank of the river. Heavy disturbance due to development may have been responsible for the lack of deposits.

41BX238 (MP-3)

This site consists of a small number of lithic artifacts and a few recent historic artifacts noted in the vicinity of St. Joseph's and St. Peter's Home near Mission

Concepción (**Figure 5**). The site is located on the east-descending bank of a large former meander in the river. This meander was cut off through channelization. At the time of its identification, the site was located in an agricultural field and had already been subject to disturbance from plowing. The depth of the deposits was not ascertained although the deposits were described to occupy an approximately 30 by 50 foot area.

41BX248 (MP-13)

This site is located south of Ashley Road on the west-descending bank of the river (**Figure 8**). At the time of its recording the site was located in a plowed field and measured approximately two acres. The channelized western bank of the river forms the eastern boundary of the site. It is likely that at least a portion of the site may have been heavily disturbed during channelization. Some degree of looter disturbance also was noted during site recording. Although no diagnostic projectile points were recovered, two Early Archaic Guadalupe adzes were collected and non-diagnostic lithic artifacts were quite common on surface and a single lead-glazed sherd was also encountered. The recording archaeologists suggested that the occupation of the site may have extended from the Early Archaic to the Late Prehistoric and likely even into the early historic period.

41BX249 (MP-14)

This prehistoric site is located some 500 feet (approximately 170 meters) south-southwest of 41BX248 on the west-descending bank of the river and just south of its confluence with Sixmile (Piedras) Creek (**Figure 8**). It lies on a crest of a small hill northeast of the creek and of Espada Acequia that runs between the creek and the site. The site is .3 of a mile west and across the river from Mission San Juan Capistrano (41BX5). The site is described as occupying between two to three acres, although artifacts were noted over much of the hill from the historic Hurón house to the channelized river bank. Artifacts consisted of chipped lithic debitage, broken points, hammerstones, cores, and mussel shell fragments. Owing to its prime location in the vicinity of a confluence between Sixmile Creek and the San Antonio River, it is likely that the site contains a significant prehistoric occupation or was the location of frequent revisits. The

depth of the deposits was suggested to be between one and two feet, although the means by which this was established is not described in the original site form.

41BX254 (MP-19)

This site is located on the west-descending bank of the San Antonio River some 750 feet (250 meters) south of Sixmile Creek (**Figure 8**). Prior to channelization, the site was on the western descending-bank of a meander in the river and channelization may have disturbed the eastern margin of the site. This prehistoric occupation site on the west bank of the river covers ca. three acres. It extended from the edge of the right-of-way (ROW) to a point ca. 400 feet to the west and from the north boundary of the Olivas property across a cultivated field south of the Olivas fence line (Scurlock et al. 1976:93). The original survey collected over 500 pieces of chert debitage and tools, a few mussel shell and bone fragments, a small amount of burned rock, ten sherds of Indian-made ceramics, and one flattened lead musket ball from the surface. The two projectile points collected date the site from the Archaic to the Late Prehistoric time periods. The site's deposits extended to the northwest away from the bank and towards a small rise where the late-nineteenth-century Sabino Olivas house once stood. The survey report estimated that some or most of the site had been destroyed by the channelization project. A test pit indicated that the depth of the site could be estimated at 60 cm.

If the current project includes any ground disturbing modifications in the river bank area, this work should be monitored and archaeological testing and possible mitigation would be warranted. Given that the current river bank will undergo extensive modification, a site revisit is recommended to establish the current condition of the site. Shovel testing should be employed as an exploratory technique. If intact portions of the site are discovered, a plan of extensive testing or mitigation should be devised in collaboration with the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

41BX255 (MP-20)

This site is located between 50–66 meters northwest of 41BX254 (**Figure 8**). The principal component on the site is a historic occupation although prehistoric artifacts

similar to those noted on 41BX254 also are present. The historic component consists of the original Sabino Olivas house although the site form also mentioned that the site was the former location of a number of jacales, not just one. The majority of the artifacts consist of historic remains that appear to date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, chipped lithic artifacts, that seem to become more common towards the south-southeast, also are present on site. These remains may represent the western extension of the materials from 41BX254. The artifact distribution covers between one and two acres but the depth of the deposits was not established during survey.

41BX256 (MP-21)

This site is located on the west-descending bank of the channelized San Antonio River (**Figure 8**). It was located at some 60–70 meters west of the old San Antonio River channel and about a quarter of a mile (235 meters) south of 41BX254. The site encompasses about one acre. Surface collected artifacts include 134 debitage fragments, an unidentifiable point fragment, nine chert tools, and a few mussel shells and bone fragments. In addition, the collection from 41BX256 includes 88 sherds of Native American manufactured ceramics, five Mexican lead-glazed sherds, and four Mexican tin-glazed or majolica sherds, dating the deposit to the historic period. The most important detail is the fact that the majolica pottery dates to the early 1700s. One of the sherds can be recognized as Puebla Polychrome, a type that has been dated to the last half of the seventeenth century (Goggin 1968:180) and has not been found on San Antonio sites built after about 1720. Judging by the implied date of the ceramics, this site was probably occupied before the arrival of Mission San Juan in 1731. More recent historic artifacts were also noted on the site, however, the predominance of the remains appear to be Late Prehistoric and Colonial in age.

Early maps of the Berg's Mill area show two locally known fords in the old river channel just north of this site. It is considered that this ca. one-acre site could be a camp related to one of the early Spanish expeditions as artifactual materials suggest (Scurlock et al. 1976:100). As such, the area retains great potential to provide archaeological information. If the project includes any ground disturbing modifications in the river bank area

this work should be monitored and archaeological testing and possible mitigation would be warranted.

Therefore, if river improvement plans call for any changes to the bank, it is recommended that a site revisit be conducted to establish just what portion of the site may remain intact. The revisit strategy would include surface inspection and shovel testing. If a portion of the site remains, it is recommended that a plan be developed, in consultation with the THC, for intensive testing or mitigation to be conducted.

Historic Properties

The historic properties are discussed from north to south, except for the acequias, which are discussed under one heading at the end of this section.

Training Area for Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders (MP-36)

Roosevelt Park, located on the east side of the San Antonio River between Mission Road and South St. Mary's Street, was reported to be one location where the famous 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry (Rough Riders) were trained by Theodore Roosevelt and Col. Leonard Wood in 1898 (**Figure 4**). The exact location of the training area is unknown, only that it was in the general vicinity of the current park (Scurlock et al. 1976:121). Scurlock et al. (1976:127) also state that the World's Fairgrounds, near Riverside Golf Course, was the training ground for the Rough Riders. A monument commemorating the Spanish American War and the Volunteers is located along Roosevelt Avenue on the northeastern side of the golf course (**Photo 1**).



Photo 1. *Volunteers monument near Riverside Golf Course.*

Yturri-Edmunds House and Mill (41BX278)

The property owned by the San Antonio Conservation Society (SACS) known as the Yturri-Edmunds house and mill is a complex of historic buildings maintained by the society (**Figure 4** and **Photo 2**). This land is a small portion of the lands of Mission Concepción granted to Manuel Yturri by the Mexican government in 1824. The restored ranch house includes a gristmill addition that was powered by the waters of the Pajalache acequia that passed through the complex. The exact path of the acequia and the portion that powered the mill, which probably returned to the San Antonio River via land occupied by the City Public Service (CPS) Power Plant, has not been established.

In 1861, the daughter of Yturri Castillo, Vicenta Yturri, married Ernest Edmunds and they were given a home that had once been a granary. Ernestine Edmunds, their daughter, willed the house and mill to the San Antonio

Conservation Society in 1961. The house is constructed of adobe block, one of the few still standing in San Antonio (SACS 2002). The mill was restored to working condition in 1972-1973 by the Conservation Society.

The complex also includes several other historic structures, including the Ogé Carriage House, constructed about 1881, that was relocated from the King William Historic District in recent years (Fisher 1996:441-442; Jennings 1998:262; Ramsdell 1959:144).

The house was recorded in the Historic American Buildings Survey of 1969. The house and mill now serve as a tourist attraction operated by the San Antonio Conservation Society.

The area on the northern edge of the property, near Grove Avenue, has been identified as the site of the Camp Roosevelt Tourist Camp, which dates from about 1926, and is one of San Antonio's earliest "tourist courts" – serving that function for over 50 years (Cox 1994).

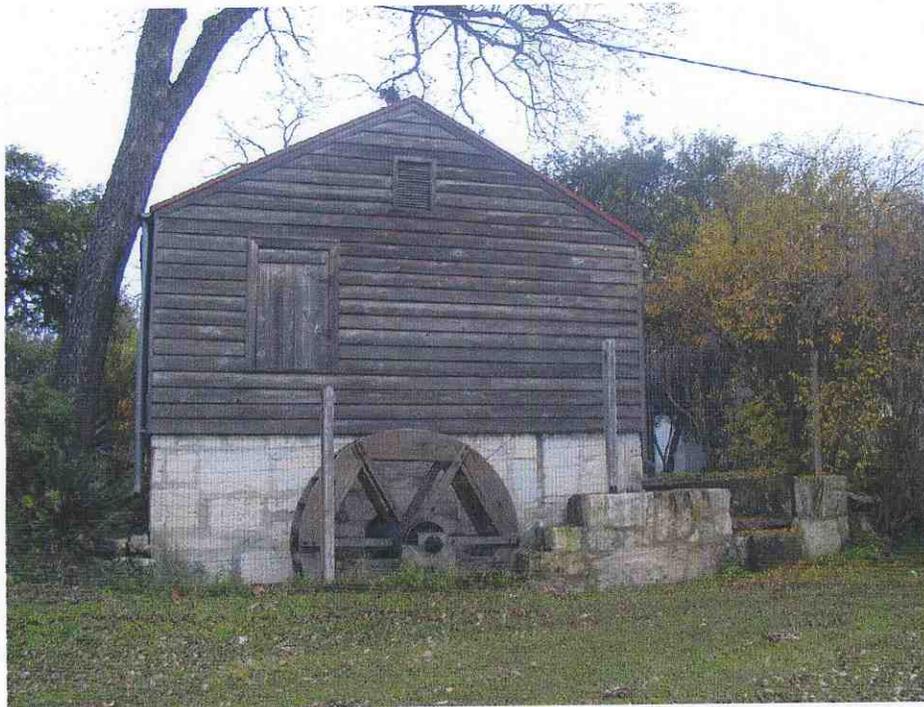


Photo 2. *The Yturri-Edmunds mill complex.*

Mission Nuestra Señora Púrisima Concepción de Acuña (41BX12) and the Concepción Mill

Mission Concepción was moved to its present location on the San Antonio River in 1731 (Figure 4). The mission had originally been established in east Texas in 1716. The current location of Mission Concepción may have been previously occupied by Mission San José at its initial founding and later by Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nájera (Ivey and Fox 1999). Mission San Xavier was established in 1722 and abandoned in 1726 (Cox et al. 2001), but documents concerning the founding of Mission Concepción state that it was located at the site of the abandoned mission (Cox et al. 2001).

By 1756, a church, convento, granary, various workshops, and jacales which served as the Indian quarters, had been constructed within the stone walls of the Mission Concepción compound (Cox et al. 2001:66–67).

At the time of partial secularization in 1794, there were only 38 inhabitants of the mission. The mission began to deteriorate, and by 1850 only the church remained intact—being used as a stable (Cox et al. 2001:67). The church was restored and rededicated in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and is still active today. The mission is a National Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Photo 3).

James Ivey, in his history of the missions of the Colonial period (Ivey et al. 1990:164; Ivey and Fox 1999:83) describes a mill built for Mission Concepción that is noted in a surveyor's observations as "the old stone mill, at the bend of the river San Antonio" (Bexar County Deed Records Vol.C:218, October 1823):

The 'Molino de Piez' was apparently located on the edge of a similar river terrace. Traces of a branch labeled 'old ditch' apparently running from the original line of the main Concepción acequia to the location of this mill, are indicted on a plat of the property north of the mission (Ivey and Fox 1999:83).

Reference to the "well hole" of the mill indicates that this one was similar to the one at Mission San José, which was built at about the same time. Study of the maps suggests that the Concepción mill was located between Steves Avenue and the railroad crossing, on the east bank of the river. The well hole, or reservoir, of the San José mill is 12 feet deep, six feet across at the top, and four feet across at the bottom (San Antonio Missions National Historical Park 1997:Figure 2-37). A similar feature for the Concepción Mill should have left a considerable trace in the river bank, if the present channel was not changed much in this location.

Archival research locates this Spanish Colonial mill on the property where SAWS is now situated on the east side of the river (Ivey and Fox 1999:Figure 2). It is probable that it was eliminated by later channelization and construction, however, traces of the structure may still remain. It is recommended that archaeological monitoring be conducted in this area during the construction phase of the project.

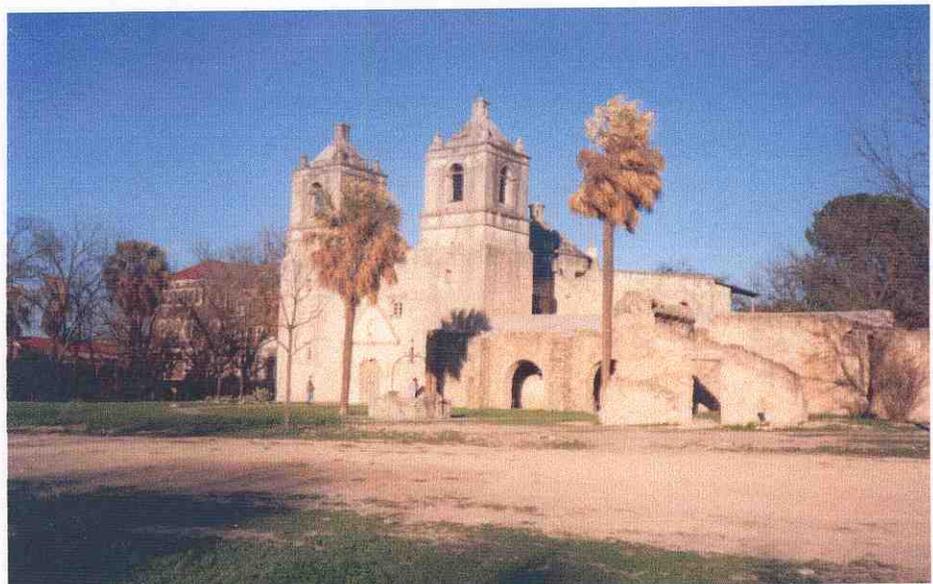


Photo 3. Mission Concepción.

The well hole, or reservoir for the Concepción Mill should have left a considerable trace in the river bank, if the present channel was not altered to any significant degree in this location. Traces of the old mill site should be examined and mapped by archaeologists. To carry out these investigations, we recommend pedestrian survey accompanied by backhoe trenching of the bank to identify any surviving segments.

A grant for a portion of the lands of Mission Concepción was given to Manuel Yturri by the Mexican government in 1823. Currently, this land houses the Yturri-Edmunds mill complex maintained by the San Antonio Conservation Society. The exact path of the acequia and return channel has not been established for the portion that powered the Yturri-Edmunds mill. It is recommended that any subsurface disturbances planned within this area require archaeological monitoring in an attempt to determine the route of these waterways.

The Battle of Concepción (MP-47)

The Battle of Concepción, the first conflict in the siege of Bexar, was fought between Texan and the Mexican forces in October 1835. The Texans, who had been sent from Goliad to locate a protected position for the planned assault on San Antonio, selected a spot that appeared suitable, where a large bend of the river west of Mission Concepción formed a natural cul-de-sac about one hundred yards across (**Figure 5**). The pecan-lined banks formed a natural embankment above the river, some six to ten feet below. The area within the bend was level, and with only scattered scrub brush, offered a clear field of fire (Hardin 1994:29–30). The Mexican troops attempted to encircle this location with positions on the west bank of the river and below the Texans (Barr 1990:24). The ensuing battle took place within this area in the proximity of the river bend.

It is possible that artifacts from this battle may exist throughout this bend in the river. Therefore, testing should be conducted in advance of any subsurface alterations for the trails or drainage improvements planned for this area. Monitoring of the actual construction work along this portion of the planned route is also recommended.

If the river improvements project calls for any subsurface alterations or disturbances in this area, we would suggest shovel testing and a one hundred percent pedestrian survey. If artifact distributions are identified during the shovel testing phase and/or survey phase, the development of a systematic testing program would be advisable. Archaeological monitoring would also be recommended for this site.

Padre Navarro (Roy Bean) House (41BX257)

This historic structure, dating to the early 1800s, is located at the corner of Glenn Avenue and Probandt Street (**Figure 4**). Padre Navarro, parish priest for Mission Concepción, reportedly constructed the building. The stone used in the construction of the house is the same as that used in building Mission Concepción. In the 1870s, Judge Roy Bean occupied the building that served as his ranching headquarters.

San José Dam Site (MP-71)

The first dam for the San José acequia would have been constructed shortly after the relocation of Mission San José sometime between 1722 and 1727 (Ivey and Fox 1999:45; Habig 1968a:86). It was described as being one-half mile above the Mission Road bridge, at the intersection of Lorraine Avenue and the river (Harston 1935; **Figure 5**). This would mean that it was a wingdam, not a full containment structure, but extended into the stream flow to raise the water level on the south side sufficiently to allow the pool created to be diverted toward the headgate of the acequia. This technique was also utilized for the San Juan and Upper Labor dams (Cox et al. 1999; Hafernik et al. 1989). The dam was described as 100 feet wide at its lower end and five feet thick at the base, and the foundation appeared to extend for 400 feet upstream (Harston 1935). It failed often due to the frequently flooding river, and was repaired or replaced on several occasions. In December of 1859, C. L. Pyron was appointed Ditch Commissioner of the San José Water Company. He reported that the dam ran “almost up and down the river a distance of 300 yards” and required repair on the lower 130 yards to put it back into service (Scurlock et al. 1976:149). His efforts

probably did not last for long because of damage suffered in the flood of the following year. In 1894, when the acequia was reopened under the Texas Water Act of 1889, the dam was relocated farther south on the river to a location near the Mission Road bridge (Cox 1988:2).

While any discernible traces of these dams were probably destroyed in the channelization of the river in the 1950s, there remains the possibility that buried remnants of either structure may still exist under the spoil on either bank of the present channel. Therefore, we recommend that any subsurface alterations in this area be closely monitored by archaeologists. This site should be archaeologically monitored during the construction phase of the project. If remnants of the dams are identified during the monitoring phase, systematic testing would allow location identification and determine the amount of structure remaining.

Poor Family Cemetery

The Poor family cemetery is located west of Mission Road and north of Hart Avenue near a small remaining portion of the old San Antonio River channel and north of a drainage ditch that was presumed to follow the original San José acequia (**Figure 5**).

It lies about 50 feet above the bank in the wooded area: a large cypress tree marks its approximate center. It was the burial site of the Poor family and their descendants and reportedly dates after the Civil War and no later than 1920
(Scurlock et al. 1976:158).

Other families represented included McClung, Wallace, and Schroeder and recorded burials date from 1865 to 1920. One broken, nondescript headstone was reported to remain on the site (Scurlock et al. 1976:158). Although four to six burials were removed from the cemetery during the 1930s, it was estimated that at least twenty burials still remained at the site (Scurlock et al. 1976:158).

Due to the highly sensitive nature of this site, all attempts should be made to ascertain the exact location and parameters of this site. To avoid any disturbance to graves (marked or unmarked) within this area, all project improvement work considered for this area should be closely monitored by an archaeologist.

It is recommended that any project improvement work considered for this area be rerouted to avoid any chance of disturbance. If rerouting is not possible, subsurface disturbances should be kept to a minimum and all work should be closely monitored by an archaeologist.

Site of Electric Mill (MP-44)

A water-powered electric mill was located on the east bank of the San Antonio River just south of E. White Avenue (**Figure 6**). The mill was in operation during the early 1930s (Scurlock et al. 1976:131). The mill was attached to the west end of a building (which was razed in the late twentieth century; **Photo 4**) and extended across the river and a canal (Mill Water Supply Canal) crossed the property (Scurlock et al. 1976). The 1974 survey did not identify any remains of the mill.

The owner/operator of the mill is not known, but D. F. Youngblood of the San Antonio Steel Company purchased the property at about the time the mill was in operation (Scurlock et al 1976:131).



Photo 4. Foundations at the site of MP-44 (electric mill).

Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo (41BX3)

Mission San José was established on the east bank of the San Antonio River in 1720, possibly in the vicinity of the present location of Mission Concepción. It was relocated to its present-day location on the west bank of the San Antonio River sometime between 1734 and 1727 (Tomka and Fox 1999:1–3; **Figure 6**). A stone church, stone Indian quarters, a granary, and a friary were constructed within the following seven decades, and by 1789 the mission was enclosed by a wall with four bastions (Habig 1978).

Secularization of the mission began in 1794 and the property was divided between the remaining Native American inhabitants. The Indian quarters fell into disuse and began to deteriorate; many were replaced by frame houses (Tomka et al. 1999). By the early twentieth century, few traces of the original walls still existed, and a small settlement, primarily of descendants of the first property owners, existed around the mission (Hard et al. 1995).

Restoration of the mission was undertaken by the Civil Works Administration (CWA) in the 1930s (**Photo 5**). The mission was designated a National Historic Site in 1941.

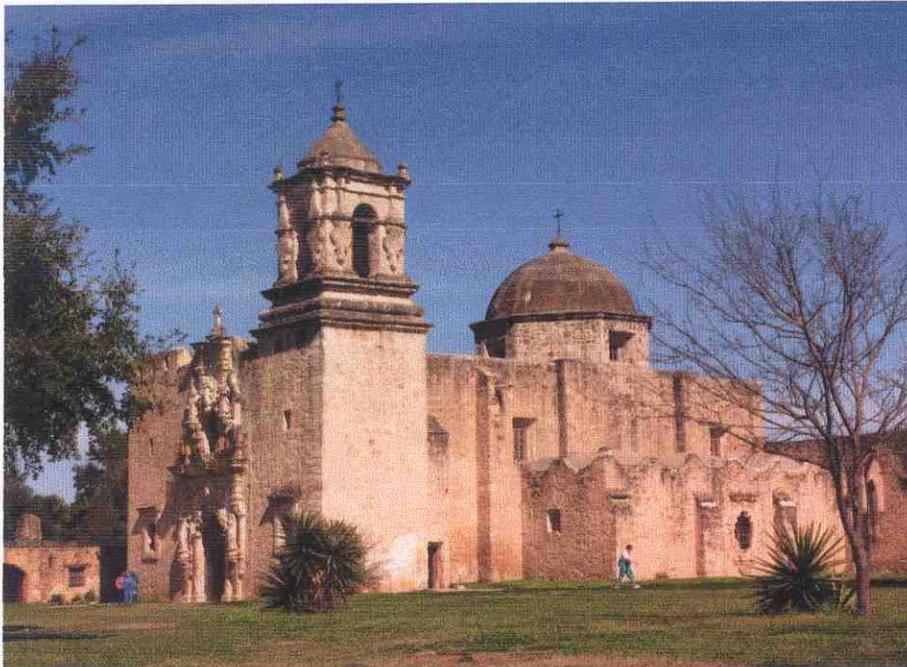


Photo 5. Mission San José.

Hot Wells Hotel and Bath House Site (41BX237)

In 1892, an artesian well on the property of the Southwestern Lunatic Asylum, a few miles south of the city, was found to produce water with a strong odor of sulfur. The water was determined to be unfit for domestic use. However, when the sulfur water was thought to have medicinal qualities, Charles Scheuermeyer opened a resort near the asylum, renting water from the asylum (Fox and Highley 1985).

In 1893, McClellan Shacklett outbid Scheuermeyer for the water, bought a ten-acre pecan grove nearby, and proceeded to build a bathhouse and planned a sanitarium named The Natural Hot Sulphur Wells. Unfortunately, the bathhouse burned to the ground on December 23, 1894, and Shacklett was unable to rebuild. On January 17, 1900, a new group of businessmen bought Shacklett's land and by midsummer had nearly completed a new bathhouse under the title of The Texas Hot Sulphur Wells Sanitarium (**Figure 6**). By 1902, a three-story brick hotel was completed and was attracting social events and numerous famous visitors (Fox and Highley 1985).

By 1915 the hotel began to lose its popularity. In 1923, the Christian Scientists purchased the property and converted it into a school. The hotel was destroyed in a fire in January 1925. The property later became a tourist park and numerous tourist cottages were built between the bathhouse and the river bank. Some, but not all of these, were eliminated by the channelization of the river in the 1960s (Fox and Highley 1985).

Although the hotel and bathhouse were set back from the river (**Photo 6**), the proposed encroachment of the new channel onto Hot Wells property may encounter traces of nineteenth-century hotel-related structures (Fox and Highley 1985). This site should be archaeologically monitored during the construction phase of the project. We suggest a one hundred percent pedestrian survey of the area using shovel testing to identify if any portion of the old cottage/camping grounds still remain. If artifact distributions are identified during the shovel testing phase, the development of a systematic testing program would be advisable.



Photo 6. Aerial view of the Hot Wells bathhouse post 1942 but before channelization of the river. From Jonathan Paul de Vierville personal files, reproduced in Fox and Highley 1985).

Old San Juan Dam (41BX266)

The dam for the San Juan acequia was constructed soon after the mission moved to its present San Antonio location in 1731. It was built along the west bank of the old river channel, jutting out into the stream so as to direct the flow of part of the river water into the acequia in order to irrigate the fields below the mission (Figure 7). Technically, this was a weir rather than a dam since it was intended to be a diversion rather than a barrier (Hafernik et al. 1989; Figure 10).

When the river was channelized in the 1950s, the section of the old channel that contained the dam was completely cut off, thus terminating the irrigation at San Juan. Lawsuits and counter suits resulted between landowners and the San Antonio River Authority, ending in a agreement by SARA to restore the water to the acequia by building a dam across the new channel. This dam was washed out by a flood in 1977 (Hafernik et al. 1989).

A new pumping system soon proved unacceptable because of alterations and washouts in the acequia. These have since been gradually repaired and an entirely new pumping system has been constructed so that water can be directed into the acequia. The National Park Service now plans to restart the flow in the acequia within the next year or so in order to irrigate cultivated fields to the south of San Juan as a demonstration farm.

With National Park Service (NPS) plans to restart the acequia flow in the near future, it is recommended that any ground altering activities in this vicinity should require archaeological monitoring. Therefore, given that a least a portion of the dam still survives in the cut-off old river channel, the identification of this dam would provide a welcome addition to the interpretive portion of the project, particularly in conjunction with the NPS plans to restart the flow of water within the acequia. In addition to the monitoring effort, an archaeological survey effort designed to relocate and photo-document the surviving dam is recommended.

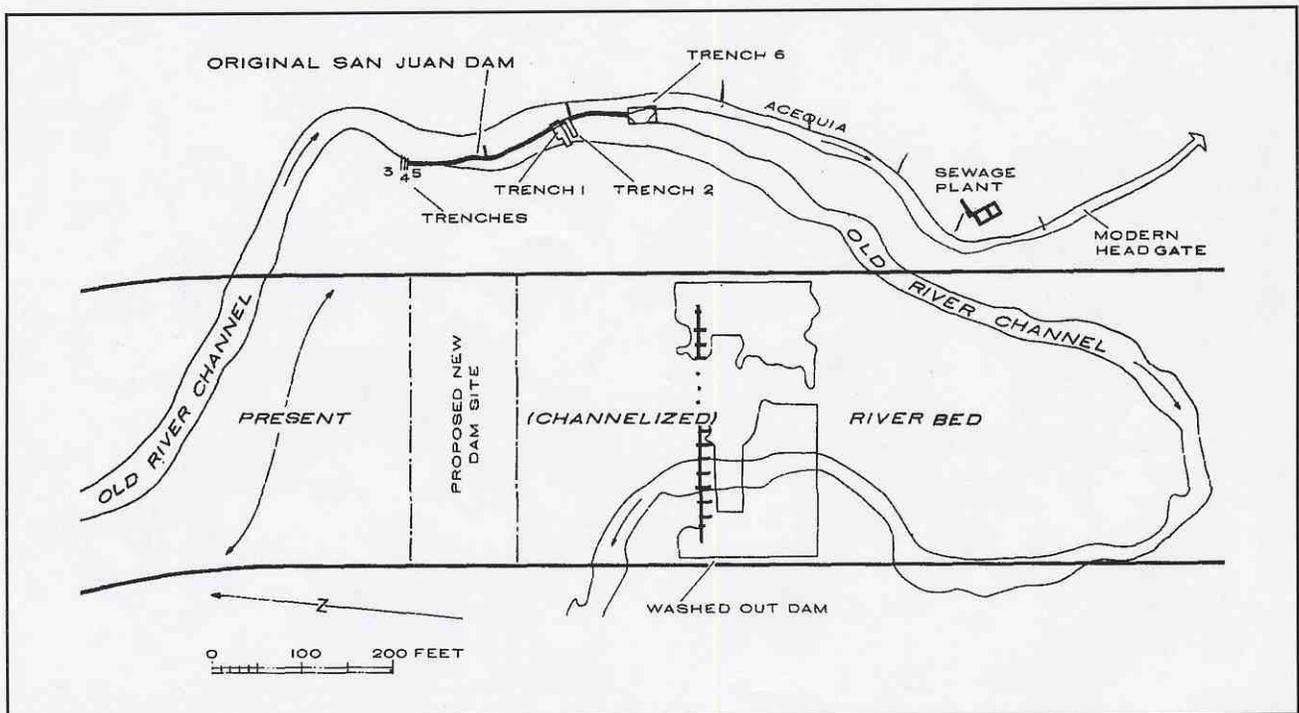


Figure 10. Location of original San Juan Dam, from Hafernik et al. 1989.

Espada Dam (41BX280)

The old Espada dam was built during the 1720s and 1730s during the founding of the missions (**Figure 7**). It is the only surviving dam of the four built during this period (Scurlock et al. 1976:112). The dam is constructed of limestone and lime mortar and arches downstream (**Photo 7**).



Photo 7. *Espada Dam.*

Grothaus House and Mill Site (41BX243 and MP-34)

F. E. Grothaus built the Grothaus house and mill in 1884 or 1885. He purchased the land from R. H. Brown on May 23, 1884. The property also contained a barn and several outbuildings located to the north of the house (Scurlock et al. 1976:81; **Figure 8**).

The mill was located closer to the river, to the east of the house. A dam upstream on the river, which had been built about 1862 for another purpose and rebuilt in 1890, fed water into a canal that powered the mill. Called at the time the San Juan Mill, it produced “corn meal, bran, grits, and hominy” (Scurlock et al. 1976:Figure 19). The mill was a sturdy two-story wooden building, with a turbine or horizontal water wheel enclosed in a metal casing.

F. E. Grothaus died in 1899, but the mill continued under new management until about 1930. The Grothaus property and adjoining land became Ashley Park in the late 1930s and early 1940s, featuring picnic tables, barbecue pits, and a swimming pool. This would have included both the

mill and the dam and the millrace. It appears that the mill site was destroyed by channelization in the 1960s, but a portion of the park area has been preserved.

There is some disagreement between maps as to where the mill and house sites were originally located. The location on **Figure 8** was derived from the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas map and the map accompanying the description of the mill in Scurlock et al. (1976:120, Maps 5 and 6). The Archeological Site Map in Scurlock et al. (1976:69) places them farther south than shown on **Figure 8**—they are plotted south of MP-80, the Texas Powder Company Mill site. On the map accompanying the site description (Map 6) in the same publication, the mill is plotted on a bend in the old river channel that corresponds to the location on **Figure 8**. Although this map is labeled Berg’s Mill in the Scurlock report, it shows the a mill location on the west side of the river near the Espada acequia (**Figure 11**).

Although it appears that this mill site was destroyed the 1960 channelization of the river a portion of the park area has been preserved and traces of the mill and millrace may still exist in the river bank. The recommendation for this area is archaeological monitoring of the construction activities in the vicinity of this mill site.

Texas Powder Company Mill Site (MP-80)

This Confederate powder mill was located on the property later owned by F. E. Grothaus, south of the Grothaus homestead (**Figure 8**). The mill site was purchased from Felipe Gaitán for \$600 in gold by Francis Giraud, on behalf of the Texas Powder Company, in October 1861 (Scurlock et al. 1976:162). The dam constructed for this mill was later used by F. E. Grothaus for his gristmill, but little else is known about this mill site.

Three Houses on the Lamm Property (41BX244)

These three houses, one brick and two frame, are located north of Ashley Road and just west of the Espada acequia (**Figure 8**). Frank Ashley built the two frame houses (Scurlock et al. 1976:81). Scurlock et al. (1976) postulate the houses were built during the 1920s or earlier, based on architectural style. The brick house is more recent and may have been built by Mary (Ashley) Culp or Anita Ashley. A dry ditch was reported to have been located between the frame houses and the Espada acequia but could not be identified during the 1974 survey of the property (Scurlock et al. 1976:86).

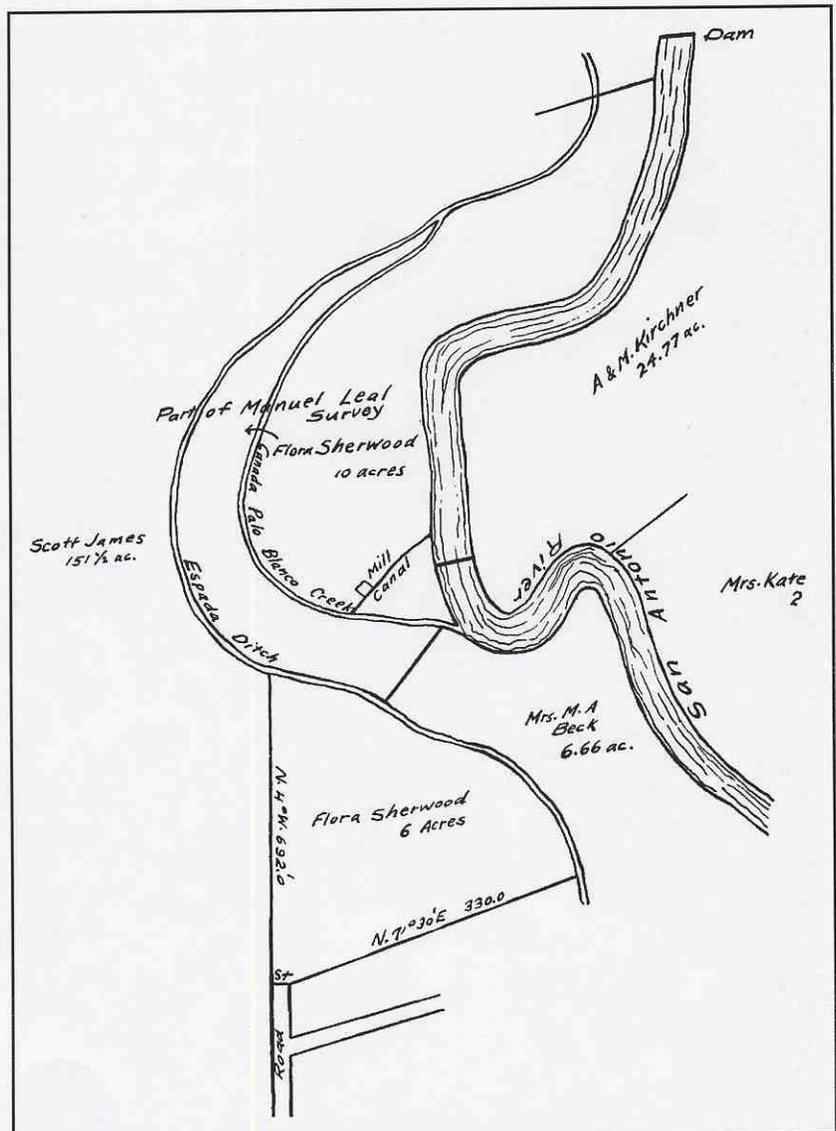


Figure 11. Location of the Grothaus Mill as indicated in Scurlock et al. 1976:Map 6.

The Ashley House (42BX253)

The Ashley House is located on the southern side of Ashley Road in the Berg's Mill community (**Figure 8** and **Photo 8**). The structure consists of one adobe room with later frame additions. Scurlock et al. (1976:93) suggest the adobe portion was constructed before the start of the twentieth century, but the date of construction and the first occupants remain unknown. Some of the frame portions were added around 1909 from lumber from the Berg's Mill store (or Hellmans store; Scurlock et al. 1976:126). Frank Ashley owned and operated the store and was residing in the house at this time. The store was razed in 1909 and replaced with a stone structure.

During the 1974 survey, a stone milling wheel and a grooved stone block were recorded in the yard of the house (Scurlock et al. 1976:93, Figures 12a and 13b). Residents living in the house during the early 1970s recovered a millstone on the southern edge of the property. Scurlock et al. (1976:93) suggest the grooved stone block may have been a baptismal font from Mission San Juan, but could not verify this.

The Hurón House (41BX250)

The concrete foundation of the one-story house was all that remained during the 1974 survey (Scurlock et al. 1976:92). The remains are located north of the Espada Aqueduct and Sixmile Creek (**Figure 8**). The foundation measured 12 x 12 feet and the location of two doorsills (east and west walls) and a fireplace (south wall) were discernible. The earliest known occupants were Cayetano Hurón and his wife, who lived there during the early part of the twentieth century. The structure may appear on a 1904 map, but its construction date is unknown (Scurlock et al. 1976:92). A surface collection from around the house recovered twentieth-century artifacts. Adjacent the house on the east side is a pile of hand-cut stone put there by the San Antonio Conservation Society (Scurlock et al. 1976; Texas Historical Commission 2002b). The stone is reportedly from a house formerly located in Hemisfair Plaza.



Photo 8. *The Ashley House.*

Berg's Mill (41BX246)

An old stone ruin sits north of Ashley Road and east of the present river channel, just north of Mission San Juan (Figure 8; Photos 9 and 10). When this stretch of the river was channelized in the early 1960s, the old river channel that ran close to the mission was filled in north of the road. However, part of the river flow was diverted into a large, buried pipe in order to continue some water into the original river channel south of the road. It appears that the name of the road was changed from San Juan Road to Ashley Road between 1888 and 1904.

The land on which the ruin stands was part of a grant to Juan Francisco Gomez dated December 31, 1824. Gomez sold the entire tract to José Antonio de la Garza in 1838. In 1842 Roderick Higginbotham bought the land that at the time was described as west of the river and north of San Juan Road. It appears that Higginbotham was already running a mill there by that time. About a month later he



Photo 9. Ruins at Berg's Mill ca. 1970. (From Scurlock et al 1976:Figure 11b.)

transferred a half-interest in the mill to his brother-in-law, William P. Kerr. Evidently Kerr was not too interested in the mill, for within a year he agreed to sell his half-interest to Hendrick Arnold (Scurlock et al. 1976:Table 8). Unfortunately, Arnold died in a cholera epidemic in 1849, but his heirs went through with the transfer the next year (Rock 2000:123). By 1859, Joseph Anderson had acquired the mill and lands north and south of San Juan Road, which he sold to Louis W. Ashley in 1866. The deed referred to a saw and grist mill, but there were implications that they were no longer in operation, since they were referred to in the past tense (Scurlock et al. 1976:Table 8).

Ashley apparently built a new mill north of the old stone mill and built a new dam and dug a new mill race. The new mill apparently was built of lumber rather than stone, and was referred to as the Ashley corn mill. In



Photo 10. Ruins at Berg's Mill December 2002.

1879, Ashley leased the property both north and south of San Juan Road to Henry and Louis Berg. The millrace was extended across the road to the south in order to run a new mill there for the Berg brothers. The lease also lists Ashley's "entire water Power, mill House, Corn mill, water wheel and all the fixtures thereto appertaining" (Bexar County Archives Vol.19: 214) on the land north of San Juan Road.

It is difficult to determine exactly how much of the Higginbotham and Ashley mills and their dams and related millraces will be uncovered during the recreation of the river channel in this area. The necessity for archaeological excavations and/or monitoring will depend on the exact location of this channel. Since there has never been any archaeological investigation of this site, the Texas Historical Commission may well require this sort of work here because of the expected use of heavy equipment in the area.

Old Berg's Mill Bridge (MP-27)

The old Berg's Mill bridge crosses the old channel of the San Antonio River just south of Ashley Road (**Figure 8 and Photo 11**). The steel bridge was built in 1914, replacing an earlier wooden bridge (Scurlock et al. 1976:107). The bridge was damaged in the flood of 1921 and the center of it was replaced with concrete. After the new river channel was dug in the late 1960s, a new bridge was built along Ashley Road to span the present course of the river (Scurlock et al. 1976).

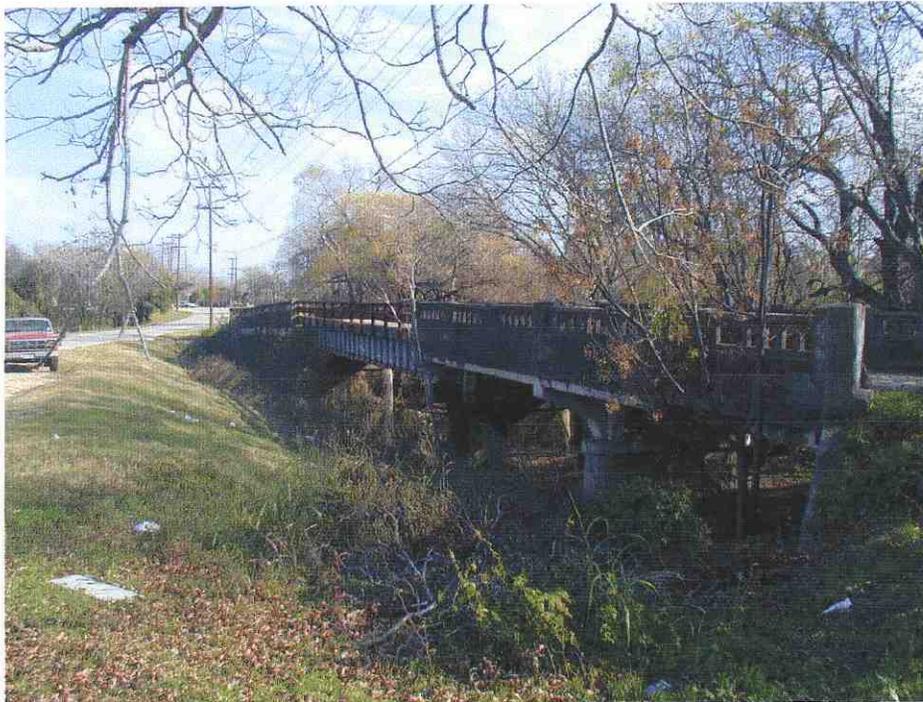


Photo 11. Berg's Mill Bridge.

Berg Brothers' Mill (41BX265)

The Berg Brothers' Mill was located on the west side of the old river channel (now the east side of the new San Antonio River channel), just south of the old Berg's Mill bridge (Figure 8). The mill site was owned by Louis Ashley and leased to the Berg brothers in 1879. The wool mill became fully operational in October of that year (Scurlock et al. 1976:114). The mill, called "Mission Mill," was a four-story frame building. The Bergs constructed a water-powered cotton gin nearby in 1881. The mill measured 32 by 130 feet and the cotton gin measured 30 by 60 feet (Scurlock et al. 1976:114).

In 1936, H. B. Tennent built a hydroelectric mill on the site, forming the Berg's Mill Utilities Company (Scurlock et al. 1976:114). Later that same year, the company was sold to D. F. Youngblood and then to the San Antonio Public Service Company.

At the time of the 1974 survey, remains of the mills were not evident and the area was covered by grass. Informants reported that machinery and materials related to the mills remained under the surface (Scurlock et al. 1976:114).

Bazán House and Store (41BX247)

The site of the Bazán house and store foundations is just south of Ashley Road on the east side of the old San Antonio River channel (the east end of the 1914 Berg's Mill bridge; Figure 8). The store originally faced north with the house adjoined on the east side (Texas Historical Commission 2002b). The dates of construction and original owners are not known. The

Bazán family ran the store during the early part of the twentieth century (Scurlock et al. 1976:91). After the death of Eluterio Bazán in 1935 or 1936, the buildings were used as a "feather factory" (Scurlock et al. 1976:91). There were several small structures (many were houses) clustered in the general area of the Bazán property along Ashley Road (Scurlock 1976:91; Texas Historical Commission 2002b).

The Espada Aqueduct (41BX281)

The Espada Aqueduct crosses Sixmile (Piedras) Creek just east of Espada Road (Figure 8 and Photo 12). Habig (1968a:208) suggested the aqueduct was most likely built between 1740 and 1745. It is constructed of stone from the Mission Concepción quarry. It was described in 1772 as a "...conduit of lime and stone of thirty-eight varas (105.5 feet) in length; six (16.6 feet) in height; with its diamond point, and two arches, which allow the currents of said creek to pass..." (Sáenz de Gumiel 1772). The diamond point referred to is the pointed projection of the central pier that diverted the pressure of the stream away from the support for the two arches. The aqueduct was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

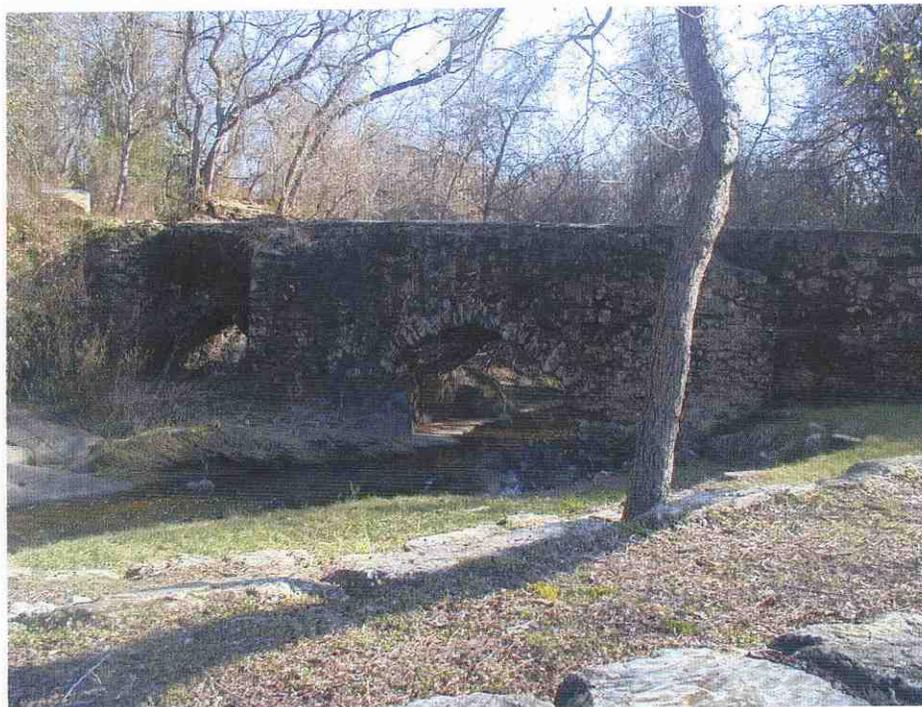


Photo 12. *Espada Aqueduct.*

Mission San Juan Capistrano (41BX5)

Mission San Juan Capistrano is located on the east bank of the San Antonio River just south of Ashley Road (**Figure 8** and **Photo 13**). The mission, originally named Mission San José de los Nazonis, was first established in 1716 in the village of Nazonis, near present day Cushing, Texas. In 1731, the mission was relocated to the San Antonio River and renamed San Juan Capistrano.

By 1756, the first jacal church had been replaced with one made of stone and a friary and granary had been constructed (Cox et al. 2001; San Antonio Missions National Historical Park 2002). In addition to these structures were jacales where the Native inhabitants resided and several smaller stone structures. (Cox et al. 2001:1–3). Construction of a larger church, on the east side of the compound, began between 1772 and 1779, but was never finished (Cox et al. 2001:3). The mission was partially secularized in 1794, and secularization was complete by 1823.

Restoration of the mission began in 1933 by the Works Progress Administration. Additional restoration efforts have continued throughout the latter part of the twentieth century. The mission complex currently consists of the compound walls, the ruins of the first stone church, the restored chapel, the Native American quarters, the convento, and the “Tufa” house, constructed around 1950 (Cox et al. 2001:5; Texas Historical Commission 2002b).

Mission San Juan Capistrano has been designated a State Archeological Landmark and is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

41BX341

This site is located on the west bank of the old river channel between Loop 410 and Mission Espada (**Figure 9**). The site consists of a scatter of post-nineteenth-century artifacts that cover an area of approximately 100 feet in diameter (Ivey and Fox 1999:73). No indication of a structure is visible.



Photo 13. *Mission San Juan Capistrano.*

41BX340

Site 41BX340 is located just north of the Espada acequia approximately 650 feet north of the north wall of Mission Espada (Figure 9). The site is just south of 41BX341 and is on the west bank of the old river channel. The site consists of a ca. 100 by 50 foot surface scatter of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century artifacts in a plowed field (Ivey and Fox 1999:72–73). A small number of lithic artifacts were also recovered during surface collection. Ivey and Fox (1999:73) suggest the artifact scatter may be the result of cleaning the acequia and subsequent cultivation and erosion of the field has spread them across the field.

Mission Espada (41BX4) and the Espada Lime Kilns

Mission Espada is the southernmost of the five missions in San Antonio (Figure 9 and Photo 14). It was originally founded in east Texas. In 1731, it was moved to the west side of the San Antonio River, nine miles south of the town of San Antonio, and renamed San Francisco de la Espada. It initially consisted of temporary buildings, but by 1745 a friary, a sacristy, and the acequia (including the aqueduct over Sixmile Creek) had been constructed and by 1756 a chapel had been completed (Cox et al. 2001:111). By 1762, most of the mission buildings had been constructed of stone (Habig 1968a:213).

The mission has been partially restored and the church was rebuilt during the latter part of the nineteenth century. The remains of the chapel, convento, a fortified tower, a granary, and Indian quarters are still present in the compound.

The type of construction used in the early structures required lime for mortar and plaster, which would have been produced somewhere on the site. An inventory of the mission done in 1772 (Saenz de Gumiel 1772) stated that there was a lime kiln present.

The mission was situated on a high point overlooking the river, which provided an excellent location for lime kilns to be dug into the bank. These had to be loaded from the top and fired from a flue at the bottom. A river terrace below would provide an area for firing and then unloading the kiln.

In 1970, a survey of the area between the mission and the river located four lime kilns in the bank north of the mission wall. Up to this time, the only feature that had been recorded in this area was the trace of an abandoned acequia that ran along the top of the bank. In 1977, an archaeological crew from the Texas Historical Commission conducted limited excavations to the northwest of the recorded kilns and examined two additional ones (Killen and Scurlock 1978).

The planned construction of a hike and bike trail along the top of the bank over the old river channel would destroy the acequia and could weaken the kiln structures. The National Park Service would prefer to have a simple hiking trail down on the terrace below the lime kilns and to eliminate the bike access in this area in order to avoid the depth of construction necessary. It is suggested that the pathway be moved down onto the flats nearer to the old river channel and archaeological monitoring and possible mitigation work should be conducted on any

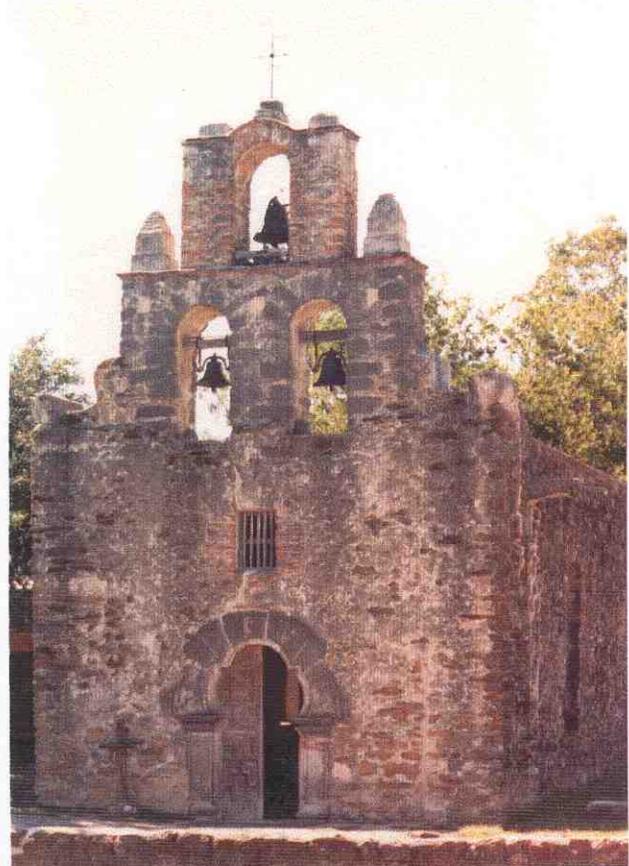


Photo 14. Mission Espada.

ground disturbing activity performed on or near the Mission Espada property, especially in the area of the lime kilns.

If the hike and bike trail cannot be relocated, it is recommended that a one hundred percent ROW pedestrian survey be conducted in the vicinity, accompanied by shovel testing and backhoe trenching. Coordination with the National Park Service and the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio will be critical in this area.

Acequias

Acequia de Concepción (Pajalache)

The site of Mission Concepción and the Pajalache, or Concepción, acequia was initially constructed to serve San José at its founding location in 1722. After Concepción was moved to its present location, the channel provided the water for that mission. The channel began on the east side of the river at a rather large dam that spanned a point just above the town's major ford at Presa Street. It progressed, southward along the west side of the road to the lower missions, to a point 2,500 feet from the intake to where a *canoe*, or hollow log, transported a later extension of the Alamo madre over the canal on its return to the river. This was later replaced, probably during the mid-1800s, by a "substantial arched stone aqueduct," extant in 1890 (Corner 1890:43). It then progressed along the road to the mission compound where it diverted westward to return to the river south of the confluence of San Pedro Creek. The original acequia had a total length of approximately three and one-third miles. In later times a double gate was installed 1.4 miles from the intake and an eastern branch was constructed adding another two miles to its length. Before the acequia was abandoned, it consisted of over seven and one-half miles of ditches.

There are three outflows (and possibly a fourth) of the Concepción acequia which fall within the project ROW (Figures 4 and 5). The first is near the intersection of Grove Avenue and Mission Road. The second outflow intersects a bend in the old river channel just south of E. Theo Avenue. The extent of the northern branch of this is unknown, and may have returned to the river in the proximity of the intersection of the project ROW and

the old river channel. The third outflow intersected the old river channel just east of Mission Road in the vicinity of Riverside Golf Course, and the fourth is at the eastern extent of the golf course.

Acequia de San Pedro (41BX337)

The San Pedro acequia was fed by San Pedro Springs and joined the San Antonio River north of San Pedro Creek. There are two outflows from the San Pedro acequia within the project ROW on the western side of the river (Figure 4). One is in the vicinity of the Mitchell Street bridge and the other is just north of the confluence with San Pedro Creek.

Acequia de San José (41BX267)

The San José acequia for the final, and present site, of San José was probably begun after 1727 with its removal from the present site of Mission Concepción. The new dam was established on the river eight-tenths of a mile south of Concepción just above a ford of the river for the Mission Road crossing. The dam thrust upstream into the river to divert the water to the west bank. There a channel snaked southward to the compound of the mission which it passed on the west, and was later relocated to the east side of the compound. After passing the mission it veered slightly to the east to return to the river north of Espada Dam (in the vicinity of Espada Park). The total length of the madre was approximately three miles.

The start of the San José acequia begins on the western side of a remaining portion of the old river channel. The start and return of the acequia are within or at the very edge of the project ROW (Figures 5–7). There are two outflows into the bend in the old river channel, one just north of E. Pyron Avenue and the other at Padre Drive. Both of these are a considerable distance from the current project area.

San Juan Acequia (41BX268)

The acequia for Mission San Juan Capistrano was probably begun about the time that the first huts were constructed on May 4, 1731, but progress on the mission, and probably its acequia, was slow during the first ten years due to frequent Apache raids, obstructionist tactics of Governor Franquis de Lugo, and an epidemic in 1739 (Habig 1968a:162). However, the acequia was in operation by February of 1740 (Santa Ana 1740).

The dam which serviced the acequia (old San Juan Dam) was constructed along the west bank of the river, almost directly opposite the present site of Mission San José, and was approximately three hundred feet in length and projected downstream diverting the flow to the deep intake located on the east bank. Approximately 550 feet down the acequia a stone headgate was constructed to control the flow. The channel continued southward on the east side of the river to the mission and returns to the river south of Camino Coahuilteca. The original acequia was slightly over three miles long. An eastern branch to irrigate later fields added an additional 2.6 miles of canals.

There are numerous outflows during its course, four fall within the project ROW (**Figures 7–9**). Portions of the acequia proper also fall within the project area along the eastern edge of Acequia Park, south of S.E. Military Drive and just north of Loop 410. The northernmost outflow is just south of the Mission Parkway bridge. The second is in the southern end of Acequia Park, north of Ashley Road. The third is just south of Loop 410, and the fourth is between Camino Coahuilteca and the acequia return.

Espada Acequia (41BX269)

The acequia for Mission San Francisco de Espada began at a dam (41BX280) spanning the river, midway between missions San José and San Juan, diverting water into a channel along the western side of the river. This dam, the last of the functioning Spanish Colonial dams, is constructed of limestone and lime mortar, and arches downstream of the river flow. At a point 1.49 miles down the acequia it became necessary to construct an aqueduct to convey the water over Sixmile Creek; it remains as the only surviving stone aqueduct. The acequia continues south to the mission and below for a total length of approximately three and one-quarter miles (**Figures 7–9**).

The return of the acequia is within the project ROW, as well as a portion of the acequia proper—with one channel running along the western edge of the project ROW and the other crossing the new river channel and running along the eastern bank. The two branches meet again just north of Sixmile Creek. The eastern branch has a spur extending to the eastern edge of the ROW just southwest of Mission San Juan (Figure 8). The portions of the acequia within the new river channel have most likely been disturbed, but the portions that fall along the

edges of the ROW may still be intact. Two additional segments of the acequia (possible outflows) intersect the ROW just north of Loop 410.

Summary and Recommendations

The cultural resources associated with the Mission Reach Project fall into two main categories: prehistoric and historic properties. The previous sections reviewed the hitherto known prehistoric and historic properties identified during previous archaeological investigations along the present project ROW. Some specific recommendations were also given regarding proposed archaeological work associated particularly with historic sites. A comprehensive list of recommendations for all prehistoric and historic sites will be provided in the near future in the scope of work that will accompany the permit application. The following brief section provides general guidelines in approaching the treatment of these known resources during the various stages of project development.

A total of seven known prehistoric and 33 known historic sites and 19 known acequia returns (or segments of acequias proper) have been reviewed in the previous pages of this document. Not all of these prehistoric and historic properties/sites fall within the project area as defined by the current project boundaries. In fact, only five of the seven known prehistoric sites fall within the project ROW. They are 41BX248 (MP-13), 41BX249 (MP-14), 41BX254 (MP-19), 41BX255 (MP-20), and 41BX256 (MP-21).

Only 13 of the historic sites and 17 acequia outflows/segments reviewed above fall within the project ROW. The thirteen historic sites are MP-44 Electric Mill, Hot Wells Bath House (41BX237), MP-80 Texas Powder Company and Mill Site, Berg's Mill (41BX246), Poor Family Cemetery, Grothaus House and Mill (41BX243 and MP-34), Old Berg's Mill Bridge (MP-27), San Juan Acequia (41BX268), Espada Acequia (41BX269), Old San Juan Dam (41BX266), Old Espada Dam (41BX280), and San José Dam Site (MP-27). The 17 outflows are part of the Acequia de Concepción (Pajalache), Acequia de San Pedro, Acequia de San José (41BX267), San Juan Acequia (41BX268) and the Espada Acequia (41BX269).

268

It is important to note and recognize that in addition to the prehistoric and historic properties summarized in the previous sections, many yet undiscovered sites may be found along the project ROW. As summarized above, the San Antonio River has been channelized and many old meanders have been cut off. The prehistoric and historic properties that are found along these cut-off segments of the old channel will not be impacted by the present project, since much of the planned work will occur along the existing modern channel of the river. The previous review excluded all properties that fell adjacent to old channel segments of the river and were judged not to be impacted by the planned project.

This means, however, that the planned project limits include work to be conducted along original segments of the river as well as along heavily channelized segments. In most cases, channelized portions of the river have little relationship to the old channel. Any cultural resources that would have been in the areas where the new channels were cut would likely have been destroyed, although a few may have escaped destruction on the banks of the channelized stream. It is likely that cultural resources found on the banks of the current channelized segments of the river will be heavily disturbed. On the other hand, the likelihood of finding less disturbed prehistoric and historic sites on the banks of the original stream are higher. Furthermore, given the aggrading depositional context (e.g., continued burial of surfaces), it is also likely that the probability of finding deeply buried and potentially intact cultural deposits in the immediate vicinity of the original banks of the river are higher than adjacent channelized segments of the river. These differences in the context of archaeological deposits in the vicinity of the original as opposed to the channelized segments of the river suggest different potential for encountering intact cultural deposits and argue for different levels of effort and different site discovery methods in these areas.

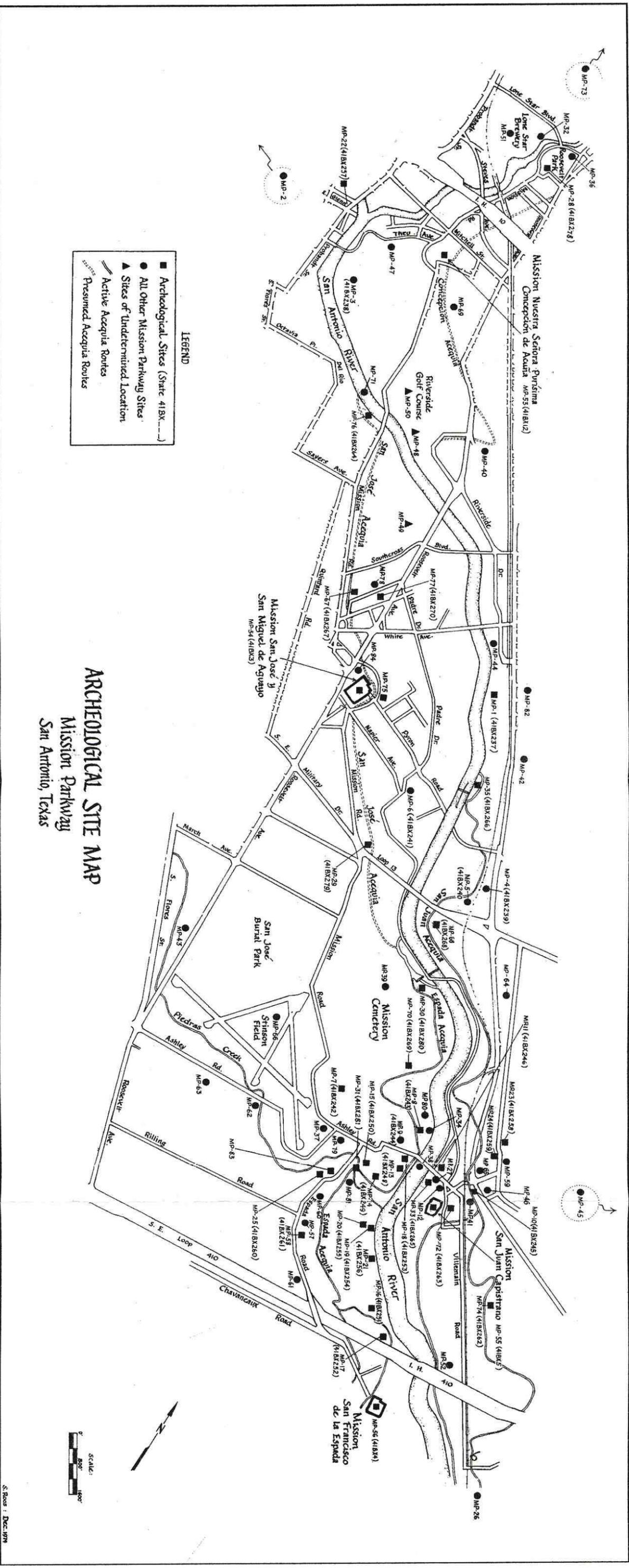
It is recommended that two critical activities related to the cultural resources along the project area be carried out: 1) the survey of the entire length of the project area to identify new prehistoric and historic properties; and 2) concurrently with this survey, the revisitation of all known archaeological properties to establish their current condition. Critical for both of these surveys is a clear

understanding of the width of the ROW, or area of potential effect, since it will inform both archaeologists, project planners, and Corps of Engineers and Texas Historical Commission reviewers of the specific areas and properties that may be impacted by the planned improvements along the project route. Also critical at this stage will be a clear understanding of the types of improvement-related disturbances (i.e., trenching, grading, major excavations) that will occur along the project area and exactly where these may take place. Coordination with the cultural resource contractor will be critical to ensure that this information is available to develop the scope of work and the permit application for the Texas Antiquities Permit required to conduct the necessary archaeological fieldwork.

A one hundred percent pedestrian survey of the entire project area is recommended to ensure that all historic and prehistoric properties that are located in the ROW are discovered and the nature of these archaeological sites is documented (i.e., are they eligible for National Register of Historic Places [NRHP] listing or for nomination as State Archeological Landmarks [SALs]). This baseline information is critical at this stage of planning because it may allow the reorientation of proposed ROWs to prevent disturbances to cultural properties in situations where the mitigation of disturbances may be more costly than ROW redesign.

It is further recommended that, concurrent with this survey, archaeologists revisit all prehistoric and historic properties along the ROW and assess their current status regarding NRHP and SAL eligibility. This step is important because, particularly in the instance of prehistoric properties, the status of a site is not immediately self evident given its burial. In some instances, disturbances occurring since the original documentation of a site may have severely impacted the research potential of that site in the intervening years between original recording and the present. Therefore, even if the original documentation of the site indicated significant research potential, subsequent disturbances resulting from either river channel dredging and widening or other construction, or simple channel erosion, may have partially or totally destroyed the site. Establishing the present NRHP and SAL eligibility of known prehistoric and historic sites that will be impacted by construction is critical.

The abundance of known prehistoric and historic cultural resources associated with the San Antonio River can be perceived as either a hindrance or a valuable opportunity for the Mission Reach portion of the River Improvements Project. The cultural properties present along the river document the fact that this watercourse has been the lifeblood of human populations for thousands of years. Prehistoric and historic groups depended on it for food and resources and San Antonio developed along it, anchored by the Spanish Missions that relied on it to irrigate their crops and put down cultural roots in its fertile soils. The celebration of the river, which is at the core of the River Improvements Project, is an opportunity to bring together its historic significance and use it as a revitalized foundation upon which to build a better community.



Archaeological Site Map from Scurlock et al. 1976.

Bibliography of Resources

Baker, T. L.

- 1978 "A Brief History of the San Antonio Waterworks." *Perspective*, Society of Architectural Historians/ Texas Chapter, March.

Barr, A.

- 1990 *Texans In Revolt: The Battle For San Antonio, 1835*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Buck, S. M.

- 1980 *Yanaguana's Successors: The Story of the Canary Islanders' Immigration into Texas in the Eighteenth Century*. Reprinted. Robert M. Benavides, San Antonio.

Chabot, F. C.

- 1937 *With the Makers of San Antonio*. Privately Published, San Antonio, Texas.

Cox, I. W.

- 1988 *Archaeological Monitoring of the San Jose Acequia (41BX267), Wastewater Facilities Improvements Program, San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 175. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.
- 1990 *Field Survey and Archival Research for the Rosillo Creek Battleground Area, Southeast San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 177. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.
- 1994 *Archival Research for the Yturri-Edmunds Annex (Camp Roosevelt Tourist Camp) San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 229. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Cox, I. W., J. J. Durst, D. D. Edmondson, B. A. Meissner, and S. A. Tomka

- 2001 *Archaeological Investigations at Four San Antonio Missions: Mission Trails Underground Conversion Project*. Edited by C. L. Tennis. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 297. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Cox, I. W., E. D. Johnson, and C. B. Bousman

- 1999 *Excavation for the Upper Labor Dam Site, Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 268. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Corner, W.

- 1890 *San Antonio de Bexar: A Guide and History*. Bainbridge and Corner, San Antonio, Texas.

Current, R. N., T. H. Williams, and F. Freidel

- 1979 *American History: A Survey. Volume II: Since 1865*. Fifth Edition. Alfred A. Knoff, New York, New York.

Ellsworth, C. E.

- 1923 *The Floods In Central Texas In September, 1921*. Department of The Interior, United States Geological Survey, Water Supply Paper 488. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Faulk, O. B.

1964 *Last Years of Spanish Texas, 1778-1821*. Morton and Company, London.

Fehrenbach, T. R.

1983 *Lone Star, A History of Texas and the Texans*. The McMillian Company, Toronto.

Fisher, L. F.

1996 *Saving San Antonio: The Precarious Preservation of a Heritage*. Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock.

Fox, A. A.

1975 *An Archaeological Assessment of the Southern Portions of the Olmos Basin, Bexar County, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 9. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

1985 *History and Archaeology of the Hot Wells Hotel Site, 41BX237*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 152. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Fox, A. A., and C. L. Highley

1985 *History and Archaeology of the Hot Wells Hotel Site, 41BX237*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 152. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Fox, A. A., and E. C. Frkuska

1979 *Archaeological Monitoring and Testing at the Catalpa-Pershing Storm Drainage Project in San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 48. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Goggin, J. M.

1968 *Spanish Majolica in the New World*. Yale University Publications in Anthropology 72. Yale University Press.

Habig, M. A.

1968a *The Alamo Chain of Missions: A History of San Antonio's Five Old Missions*. Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago, Illinois.

1968b *San Antonio's Mission San José, State and National Historic Site, 1720-1968*. The Naylor Company, San Antonio, Texas.

Habig, M. A. (compiler)

1978 *The San José Papers: The Primary Sources for the history of San José y San Miguel de Aguayo from its Founding in 1720 to the Present*. Part I: 1719-1791. Translated by B. Leutenegger et al. Old Spanish Missions Historical Research Library at Mission San José, San Antonio.

Hafernik, D. B., I. W. Cox, and A. A. Fox

1989 *Archaeological Investigation of the San Juan Dam, 41BX266, Bexar County, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 179. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Hard, R. J., A. A. Fox, I. W. Cox, K. J. Gross, B. A. Meissner, G. I. Méndez, C. L. Tennis, and J. E. Zapata

1995 *Excavations at Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 218. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Hardin, S. L.

- 1994 *Texian Iliad: A Military History of the Texas Revolution, 1835-1836*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Harston, J. E.

- 1935 "Almost Forgotten Mission Waterway Which Determined San José Location Bared by Geologist During Surveys". *San Antonio Express*, September 1.

Hatcher, M. A. (translator)

- 1919 Texas in 1820, by Juan Antonio Padilla. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 23:47-68.
1932 *The Expedition of Don Domingo Teran de los Rios Into Texas*. Preliminary Studies of the Texas Catholic History Society, Volume II, No. I.

Hoffman, F. L. (translator)

- 1935 *Diary of the Alarcón Expedition into Texas, 1718-1719*. Quivira Society Publications, Volume 5, reprinted, Arno Press, New York.
1938 The Mesquía Diary of the Alarcón Expedition into Texas, 1718. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 16:20-50.

Hugman, R. H. H.

- 1939 Plans for the Improvement of the San Antonio River, Block O, August 30, 1939. Manuscript on file at San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio, Texas.
1968 How Paseo Del Rio, by the Architect. Unpublished manuscript on file at San Antonio Conservation Society, Wulff House, San Antonio, Texas.

Ivey, J. E., and A. A. Fox

- 1999 *Archaeological Investigations at Mission Concepción and Mission Parkway*. Archaeological Survey Report 114. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Ivey, J. E., M. B. Thurber, and S. Escobedo

- 1990 *Of Various Magnificence, The Architectural History of the San Antonio Missions in the Colonial Period and Nineteenth Century*. Volume One of an Architectural and Administrative History of the San Antonio Missions in Two Volumes. National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Southwest Cultural Resources Center, Professional Papers No. 11, Santa Fe. Draft on file at Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Jackson, A. T.

- 1971 *Mills of Yesteryear*. Texas Western Press, The University of Texas at El Paso.

Jennings, F. W.

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

Katz, S. R., and A. A. Fox

- 1979 *Archaeological and Historical Assessment of Brackenridge Park, City of San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 33. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Killen, K. L., and D. Scurlock

- 1978 A Report on Preliminary Test Excavations at Mission Espada Lime Kilns, San Antonio, Texas. Preliminary Draft. Manuscript on file, Texas Historical Commission.

Labadie, J. H.

- 1989 *Archaeological and Historical Investigations for the Mission Road Realignment Project, San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 173. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Long, C.

- 1996 Fries, John M. In *The New Handbook of Texas*, vol. 3, Ron Tyler (editor), p. 5. The Texas State Historical Association, Austin.

Metcalf and Eddy

- 1920 *Report to City of San Antonio, Texas, Upon Flood Prevention*. Metcalf & Eddy, Consulting Engineers, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Massachusetts. December 6.

National Park Service, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

- 2002 Mission San Juan Capistrano. <<http://www.nps.gov/saan/missionsanjuan.htm>> Accessed November 2002.

Noonan-Guerra, M. A.

- 1978 *The Story of the San Antonio River*. San Antonio River Authority and Mary Ann Noonan-Guerra, San Antonio, Texas

Ramsdell, C.

- 1959 *San Antonio, A Historical and Pictorial Guide*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Rock, R. Z.

- 2000 Los Habitantes: A History of Texas' Mission San Juan Capistrano and Its People. Draft manuscript. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Saenz de Gamiel, J. J.

- 1772 *Inventario de Espada, Zacatecas and Celaya*. Microfilm, Old Spanish Missions Historical Research Library, Our Lady Of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas.

San Antonio Conservation Society [SACS]

- 2002 Yturri-Edmunds Historic Site. <<http://www.saconservation.org/places/yturriedmunds.html>> Accessed November 2002.

San Antonio Express (Daily Express)

- 1872 "Proceedings of City Council." January 28.
"Local Affairs." February 1.
"The Alazan Ditch." April 12.
1874 "Local Affairs." May 7.
"At a Public Meeting." May 12.
1875 "The Water Question." May 1
"Water." April 20.

- “Water Works vs. Ditches.” May 4.
- 1876 “Water Works For San Antonio.” November 3.
- 1877 “The Water Works Question.” April 20.
- 1878 “Special Meeting of the City Council.” February 21.
 “Local News and Gossip.” July 6.
 “Doings of the City Dads.” July 10.
- 1879 “Our Waterworks.” April 8.
- 1887 “San Antonio’s Water Supply.” February 7.
- 1899 “Princely Donation To The City Of San Antonio.” November 7.
 “Visit To The New Park.” November 23.
 “Discussed The New City Park.” November 28.
 “City Accepts Gift Of Park.” December 5.
- 1914 “New Water Plant To Be Built For Residence Section.” August 1.
- 1915 “Strip Adjoining Brackenridge Park Offered To City.” June 15.
 “City Playground Is Dedicated To Miss Brackenridge.” June 6.
 “To Better Parks System Lambert Seeks 460,000.” June 24.
- 1916 “Children’s Play Festival Is To Welcome Spring.” March 24.
 “Twelve Hundred Feet Saved From Ravage Of Park.” May 26.
 “Commission Will Clothe Police In Summer Uniforms.” July 11.
 “City To Build Three Miles Of Sanitary Sewers.” September 8.
 “City Playground Will Be Enlarged By Thirty Acres.” November 17.
- 1917 “Parks Of Beauty Where Pleasure Abounds.” February 9.
 “Where 100,000 San Antonians Seek The Country In The City.” June 10.
- 1921 “Timely Showers Revive Ranges In Southwest Texas.” September 9.
 “Air Service Weather Bureau Not Needed.” September 9.
 “Caught Unaware, Sleeping Scores Are Suddenly Swept Off.” September 11.
 “Flood Prevention Bonds Hinge On Higher Taxing Power.” December 4.
- 1923 “\$4,350,000 City Bond Election Is Called For Tuesday, Dec. 4.” October 26.
 “Tuesday’s Vote On Bonds Turning Point, Says Tobin.” December 4.
 “Flood Prevention Bond Issue Carries.” December 5.
- 1928 “City To Condemn Land For Channel.” October 16.
 “Mayor Reiterates Business District River Work First.” October 17.
- 1929 “Bids Called For In River Program.” February 19.
 “\$153,265 Lowest Of Eight Bids For Big Bend Auxiliary River Channel Across Commerce St.” March 12.
 “City Considers Abandoning Plan For New Channel.” March 27.
 “Plans To Beautify ‘Big Bend’ Meets Mayor’s Approval.” June 27.
- 1935 “Rock Work Adds Beauty To Parks.” August 4.
 “Architect Tells Of River Beauty.” October 1.
- 1936 “River Improvement And Beautification Begins.” January 8.
- 1938 “Bonds Approved For River Work.” October 26.
- 1939 “City Officials Take Steps Today To Speed \$340,000 River Program.” January 14.
 “River Beautification Project To Start At Ceremony Friday.” March 19.
 “Additional \$483,395 Allotted River Beautification.” October 15.
- 1941 “River Beautification Project Turned Over To City By WPA.” March 14.

San Antonio Herald

- 1872 “Editors Herald.” February 1.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Division of Professional Services

- 1997 *Grist Mill Historic Structure Report, Mission San José*. National Park Service, Intermountain Region.
2002 <<http://www.nps.gov/saan/home.htm>> Accessed November 2002.

San Antonio River Improvements Project Concept Design

- 2001 Design Guidelines. Prepared by SWA Group, Biohabitats, Inc., PBS&J, Economics Research Associates, Sprinkle Robey Architects, and Jaster-Quintanilla, Inc. Manuscript on file at the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Santa Ana, F. B., de

- 1740 "Fr. Benito Fernández de Santa Ana to Fr. Pedro del Barco, February 20." Archivo General Nacional, Historia, Volume 28. Translated by Fr. B. Leutenegger, *The Americas*, Volume 25, No. 2, October 1968, pp. 199–206.

Scurlock, D., A. Benavides, Jr., D. Isham, and J. W. Clark, Jr.

- 1976 *An Archaeological and Historical Survey of the Proposed Mission Parkway, San Antonio, Texas*. Archeological Survey Report, No. 17. Office of the State Archeologist, Austin, Texas.

Sibley, M. M.

- 1973 *George W. Brackenridge, Maverick Philanthropist*. University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas.

Texas Historical Commission

- 2002a *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas*. <<http://pedernales.thc.state.tx.us>> Accessed November 2002.
2002b *Texas Historic Sites Atlas*. <<http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us>> Accessed November 2002.

Tomka, S. A., and A. A. Fox

- 1999 *Archaeological Investigations of Rainwater Catchment Basins along the South Wall of Mission San José, San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 287. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Tomka, S. A., A. A. Fox, and B. A. Meissner

- 1999 *Mission San José Repointing and Underpinning Project, San Antonio, Texas*. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 294. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Tous, G. (translator)

- 1930a *The Espinosa-Olivares-Aguirre Expedition of 1709*. Preliminary Studies of the Texas Catholic Historical Society, Volume I, No. III.
1930b *Ramón Expedition: Espinosa's Diary of 1716*. Preliminary Studies of the Texas Catholic Historical Society, Volume I, No. IV.

Webb, W. P. (editor)

- 1952 *The Handbook of Texas*. Two volumes. The Texas Historical Association, Austin.

Wright, R. E., O.M.I.

- 1996 Zambrano, José Darío. In *The New Handbook of Texas*, vol. 6, Ron Tyler (editor), pp. 1140–1141. The Texas State Historical Association, Austin.