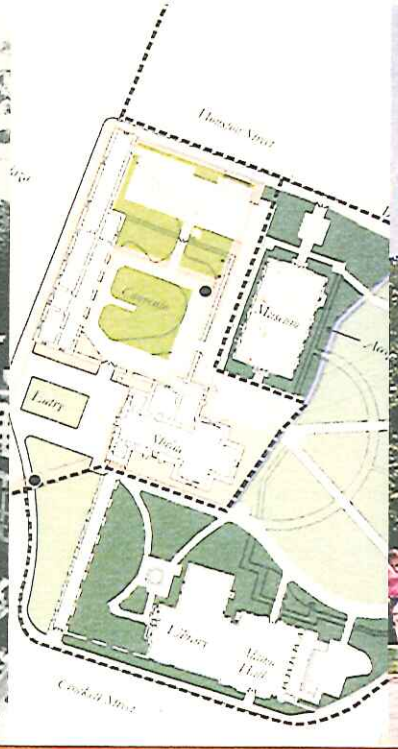

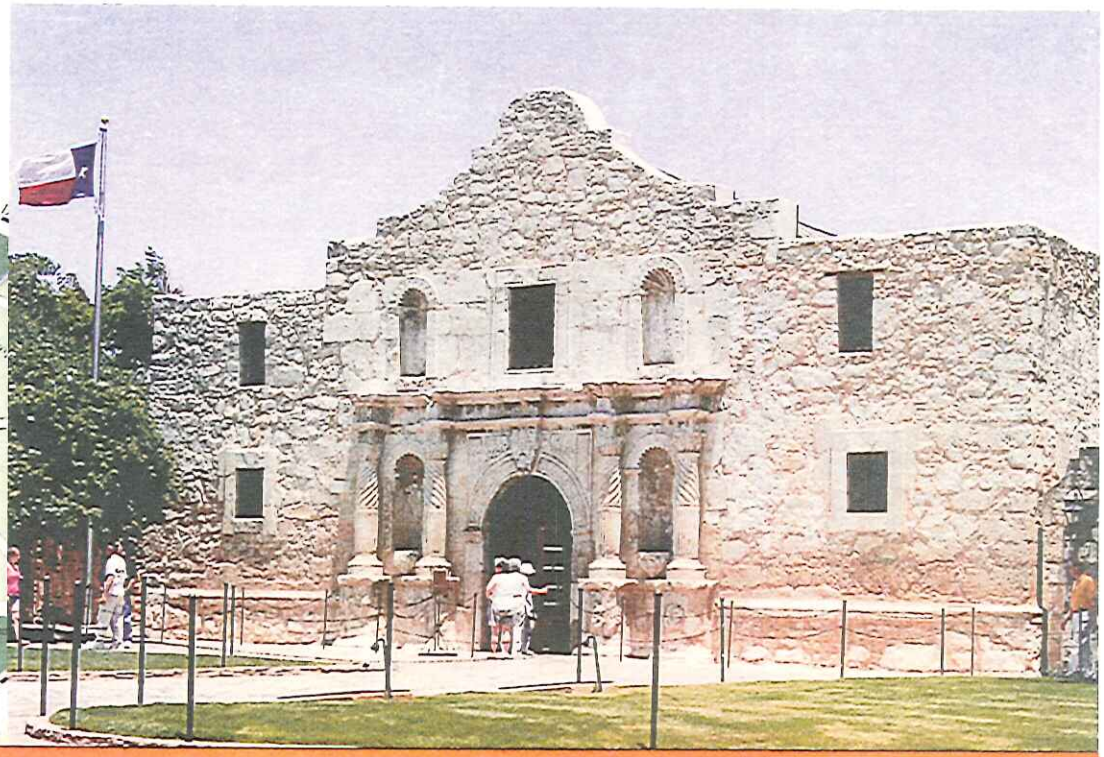

THE ALAMO

MASTER PLAN REPORT

Concept presented and approved by the
DRT Convention, May 19, 2007

Revised May 2011

PREPARED FOR

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

PREPARED BY

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In Association with

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1.0

Executive Summary

1.1 Preface and Acknowledgments

As functions on the Alamo Site are reaching maximum capacity in their present building locations, and as the need for better accommodation and education of visitors becomes more acute, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas commissioned this Report as a study of existing conditions and as a long-range guide for future custodianship of the Alamo and its surrounding Site. With encouragement from the Texas Historical Commission, this vision seeks to acknowledge the importance of the Alamo as an historic and symbolic icon and treat it as such.

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1.2 Executive Summary

This Master Plan responds to the mission of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas as Custodians of the Alamo "To perpetuate the memory of those heroes, to preserve historic documents and to encourage scholarly research in the area of Texas history, as well as to educate the people of Texas about Texas History" by:

- Outlining a long-range program of preservation of buildings and site.
- Scheduling preservation maintenance of the buildings.
- Proposing new ways to improve the visitors' understanding of the buildings and site.
- Proposing revisions to buildings and structures to provide more educational venues about the Alamo and Texas History.
- Proposing new construction to accommodate the present and future spatial needs of the Alamo, and provide additional venues for education.

The ongoing preservation of the Alamo Shrine is of the highest priority. This work includes:

- Cleaning and stabilizing interior walls
- Poulticing to remove salts
- Continued monitoring of salts
- Repointing
- Installing below grade damp-proof material
- Solving the continuing roof leaks.

At the time of this Report, cleaning and poulticing of the interior walls has begun. In addition, the investigation and analysis of the barrel-vaulted roof has been completed, and found to be structurally stable. The roof leaks are being addressed, as well as the structuaral integrity of the flat roof over the Monks' Burial Room and the Sacristy.

Future concerns with the impact of increased visitation are expressed, and options for managing this listed.

Since all of the buildings, and site structures, except the support buildings, are limestone, an ongoing program of inspection and repairs is outlined, and, after some initial work, is part of the preservation maintenance plan, which covers walls, doors and windows, roofs, porches, etc.

The site visitor understanding is a two-pronged approach, involving DRT working with the City of San Antonio in making changes to Alamo Plaza that allow the history of the space to be better understood without deterring from its present use as an urban space. While the DRT cannot make changes to Alamo Plaza, it can recommend the following:

- Installation of a large model in the middle of the Plaza that visitors can enter and orient themselves to the existing and missing walls of the plaza.
- Minimizing or changing the misleading limestone retaining walls, and reconstructing more of the south wall of the compound.
- Installation of cannons in historic locations (the City has four original cannons.)
- Providing more interpretive material.

On the Alamo Grounds:

- Installation of an example of the battle palisade wall, with cannon in its historic location on a line from the southwest corner of the Shrine.
- Installation of cannons in other historic locations on the site (The Alamo has five original cannons)
- Minimizing the confusion about what are significant historic structures and what are historic (by age) commemorative structures by:
- Screening the commemorative structures appropriately.
- Installing paving material at the base of the significant historic structures that identifies them visually.
- Addition of more effective signage.

As funds become available, changes and improvements to existing buildings to provide additional venues for interpretation and education could include:

- The re-addition of a second level to Alamo Hall to house the DRT Library functions.
- Enclosing and adding HVAC and A/V to the Amphitheater for educational programs.
- Creation of a queue location under the Arcade, equipped with misting for comfort, and with educational/interpretive information on panels lining the walkway.
- Improvements to the retail layout and a new exhibit in the Gift Museum.
- Possible re-construction of the north end of the Sacristy in the Shrine to allow re-construction of the Spanish Colonial frescos found on the existing walls. Replication of the decoration on a free-standing panel that can be viewed from the Shrine interior.

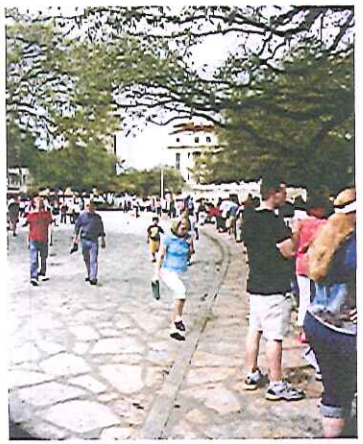
New construction to accommodate the current spatial needs and the anticipated growth is proposed on the northeast edge of the site, pending available funds. In order to locate new facilities without excessive distance from the heart of the Alamo grounds, it is proposed that a small portion of the underutilized right of way off of Houston Street be closed. This would allow the new facilities enough space to be near the Shrine without encroaching. The new facilities would include:

- Auditorium
- Exhibit space
- Restrooms, near the exhibit space and the school children arrival space.
- Texana bookstore
- Education department offices and storage
- Distance learning and a TV studio
- Meeting space and DRT offices
- A basement with storage, staff restrooms, living history costume and prop storage, and changing rooms and lockers for living history actors
- Alamo Collection, Curator's office and Curatorial workspace
- Visitor Orientation Center

It is the intention of this Master Plan and Historic Structures Report to provide a guide to take the Alamo Buildings and Site well into this new century, providing interpretation and education that enhances the understanding of all who visit.

2.0

The Alamo Experience and Interpretation



Typical busy day during spring break week showing line wrapping around plaza to Crockett Street

Long line of visitors waiting to enter Shrine on a typical afternoon during spring break week.

The Alamo experience starts when a decision is made to visit San Antonio, "The Alamo City". Whether visiting friends and family or staying at a hotel, a stop to "see the Alamo" is automatically part of the plan. Once downtown, there are entrances to the site at the cardinal points; however, the best approach to the Shrine is from Alamo Plaza. As one traverses the plaza, the Shrine and Long Barrack form part of the east wall of the space. The direction from which one approaches the Shrine gives oblique, head-on or abrupt views as one comes from the south, west, or north. The eastern entry to the site from Bonham Street produces rear and side views of the building mass as the path to the front is followed.

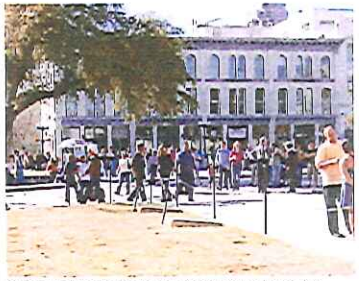
As an urban space, Alamo Plaza is a planner's dream come true. Bustling with people all day and well into the evening, it is the one street level space in downtown San Antonio that retains activity, while most other pedestrian traffic is pulled down to the River Walk. In this people-friendly plaza, an easy, comfortable relationship between visitor and Shrine develops.

The fact that the mission compound/battlefield has evolved into a plaza is historically consistent; the Spanish Colonial mission churches were intended to become parish churches after fulfilling their role of converting and "civilizing" the indigenous people and forming settlements. The open spaces of the compounds were to become the plazas for the new settlements. This process took about ten years in central Mexico and much longer in San Antonio. The space that is Alamo Plaza is the product of this process, so, it would be inappropriate to deny the space its present form. More understanding of the history and evolution of the space is needed for education and enrichment of the "Alamo Experience".

Unfortunately, as one enters the plaza, there is little to explain that this lively urban space was once the mission compound defended during the battle:

- Low limestone retaining walls necessary to keep the grade level around existing trees in the plaza are confusing to the visitor because of their similarity to historic materials.
- The south wall rooms, which have been partially reconstructed as raised limestone walls, are difficult to discern because of their similarity in construction to the non-historic limestone retaining walls.
- Buildings now exist over the locations of the original west and north walls. The acequia and walls are marked in paving, but this is not adequately explained.
- A section of original adobe west wall is displayed under glass. This and the undocumented "wall fragments" at the entrance to the river give some indication of what was there.
- A bronze plaque with the plan of the compound is located along the "south wall".

The façade of the Alamo Shrine has become an icon representing freedom around the world. This famous profile identifies to the visitor that they have arrived at the Alamo, and, before entering the building, many stop



Crowd in Alamo Plaza on a typical weekend day

to have their picture taken in front. The open walks and grass area in front of the façade provide room for the photo activity and a comfortable gathering space before entering. During periods of heavy visitation, a line forms along the south side of this area, and heads south on the sidewalk toward the Menger Hotel. Interpretive bronze plaques, formerly in the Shrine, have been placed along this side of the space. The line causes some blockage of the photo opportunities.

At night, the impact of the surrounding buildings is lessened, and, with lighting, the Shrine and Long Barrack become dominant elements in the plaza. As convention schedules increasingly extend into the evening, fewer attendees are able to do more than see the exterior of the Shrine after evening activities.

Viewing the Alamo façade and touring the Shrine constitute the beginning and culmination of the visit. As a result, many people experience the most visible and architectur-

ally interesting building before knowing much about it and its historical and physical context.

Inside the Shrine, in addition to the building itself, flags of the states and countries represented in the battle, as well as the names of the defenders on bronze plaques can be seen. A model of the Alamo as defended in the battle is located in one of the transepts, and flags of the six nations over Texas are displayed in the apse. Exhibit cases in the north rooms present weapons from the battle period. The Spanish Colonial era frescos that exist on the upper walls of the sacristy are faint and difficult to see, but represent a remnant of that period and the original, religious use of the building.

Presently, upon exiting the Shrine, the visitor can go into the Gift Museum where historic exhibits co-exist with gift shop items; walk along the "Wall of History", a graphic depiction of the history of the Alamo; see a short video about the battle and an exhibit in the Long Barrack entitled "The Alamo, a Story Bigger than Texas"; or attend an outdoor verbal presentation about the battle and surrounding events in the Cavalry Courtyard. The Long Barrack exhibit and the Wall of History give an overview of the events leading up to and after the Battle, placing it in historic context. The former requires about 45 minutes of time, reading all of the information available, while the latter can be absorbed in 10 to 12 minutes. Living history actors on the grounds also depict life in Texas in the 1830's. A trellis providing additional shade is located at the northeast edge of the green space. Vending machines are provided in this area.

Lawn / Garden area behind Shrine

In addition to the interpretive programs, entrance to the Alamo Grounds places one in a quiet garden setting, with large trees, green space, colorful planting, a fountain and a reconstruction of the acequia that flowed through the grounds from Spanish Colonial times to the late 19th century. In contrast to the plaza, the grounds provide a garden oasis in the middle of a bustling city.

The Alamo Curator/Historian, Bruce Winders, PhD, has observed that visitors come to the Shrine and Alamo site with varying goals and expectations, which determine the nature of their experience. Winders has identified at least four main types of visitors:

- The **casual visitor**, who is in town, has heard of the Alamo and can't pass up the chance to see it because it is free. This person may be satisfied with the photo opportunity and a quick trip through the Shrine, unless there is a long line. The casual visitor, once on the site, may seek some interpretive information, but, is probably not willing to spend 45 minutes in an exhibit. This visitor might view the Wall of History and exhibits in the Gift Museum.
- The **pilgrim** has incorporated the Alamo and its values into his or her life, wants quality interpretation, but it is enough just to be on the spot where it happened. This visitor will take the time to absorb information, and may attend special programs and seminars put on by the Alamo.
- The **interested visitor** has heard of the Alamo and is looking for a meaningful experience and useful information. This type of visitor will also spend more time in the exhibits, such as "The Alamo, a Story Bigger than Texas", as will the pilgrim.
- The **student visitor** has needs very different from the general public. The public school children who visit in droves in the late spring come in busses with their teachers, and are essentially a captive audience whose movement around the grounds can be easily directed. Pre-visit information and lesson planning is provided to the teachers by the Alamo education staff. When lunches are brought, the children eat, picnic style, on the grounds or under the trellis. Increasing energy costs and decreasing school budgets may severely cut down on the trips from out of town schools in the future.

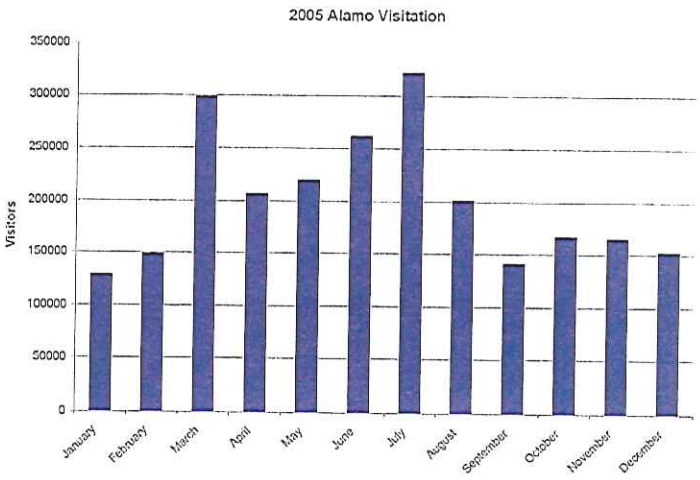
Scholars and genealogy researchers generally visit the site on the way to the DRT Library, which is on the Alamo Grounds. Students of Texas history would be likely to attend seminars sponsored by the Alamo and the DRT Library. They have probably visited the buildings on the site previously and really only need access to the Library.

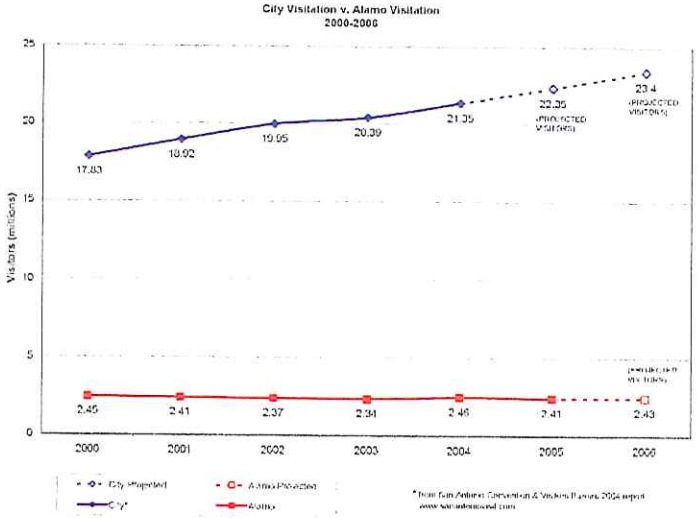
The approach to the Alamo's current interpretation has evolved over the years from a commemorative, traditional telling of the Alamo story that includes the myths, to an additional viewpoint based in facts and context. The traditional interpretation is allowed to remain, but, additionally, instead of being seen as an isolated event of the Texas Revolution, the battle is couched in the overall context of the Mexican Civil War. This expanded, fact-based interpretation has opened the door to a more comprehensive understanding of the Alamo and a richer experience for the visitor.

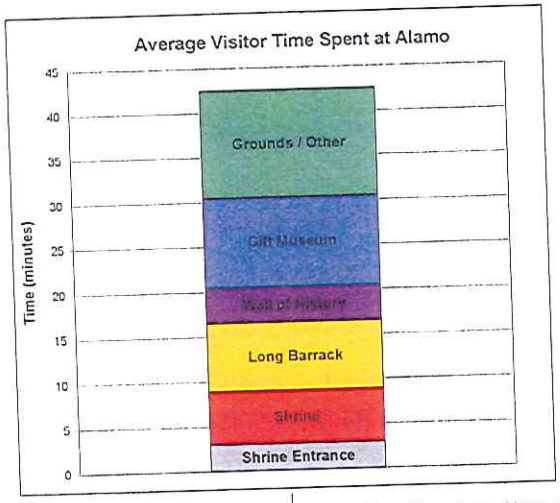
Crowds as an aspect of the "Experience"

Developing an accurate count of the number of visitors to the Alamo is difficult because the site has five points of public access. Moreover, unlike other historical sites and museums that charge admission, the Alamo cannot use ticket sales as an indicator. The number of visitors to the Alamo in 1979 was estimated at about one million. Currently, the number is estimated at a little under two and one half million. These figures are collected by the Alamo's staff and are based on people entering the front door of the Shrine. The number is determined by an infra-red counter which is known to deliver an undercount due to the width of the door that allows several visitors to enter at once. By comparison, the recent yearly visits to Mission San Jose are a little over 300,000. A recent Travel Channel program on Rome revealed that the annual visitorship of the Coliseum was 2.5 million, roughly the same as the Alamo.

Looking at monthly figures for 2006, the daily averages ranged from 4,353 in January to







10,233 in July. August apparently drops off because of school starting, but still averages 6,690 a day for the month. March through July stayed above 7,000, ranging between 7,057 and 10,233 visitors. Though the average daily statistics for November and December are relatively typical for the year, holidays, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, during these times, 10,000 to 15,000 visitors have been experienced. The same spike occurs on Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, and the Spring Break week.

The data shows that the number (2.5m) of yearly visitors to the Alamo has remained fairly static over the last six years, while the number of visitors to the city has steadily increased (refer to graph below). It has been noted that conventions have increasingly become more tightly scheduled, possibly limiting the free time of the attendees.

Observations of the flow of visitors into and through the Shrine show that on days of heavy visitation, a line outside the Shrine forms as visitors wait their turn to enter. July and part of the months before and after, as well as March are consistently the months with the highest number of visitors. In the summer months, visitors must stand in the sun during the hottest part of the year. The sight of the long line, visible from throughout Alamo Plaza, likely causes some people to limit their "Alamo Experience" to the famous façade. Perhaps this is appropriate for the casual visitor. People who want more will persevere.

On a day when there were no large crowds, a random sampling of visitors indicated that the typical visitor spent about 45 minutes on the site, about five to seven minutes of this in the Shrine. It was noted, however, that some visitors casually strolled through, while others immersed themselves more fully, reading and observing carefully. These observations are consistent with the patterns described by Winders.

Within the Shrine on busy days, a line to access the north rooms develops and doubles back toward the apse. It appears that access to the north rooms on these days causes a bottleneck, slowing the flow through the Shrine and causing the visitor to, once again, stand in line. Previous impact on the walls by visitors was addressed in 1997 and described in this report in the section on the Shrine, Section 6.0.

During periods of heavy visitation, the exhibit in the Long Barrack also becomes crowded, with the press of people causing those who want to stop and read the information in the exhibit to move on at a pace faster than they would normally choose.

Recommendations

Plaza Interpretation:
Cooperate with the City of San Antonio to develop interpretation of the Plaza/Fortification/ Mission Compound that clearly informs visitors about the development of the space and the Shrine in the context of the plaza.

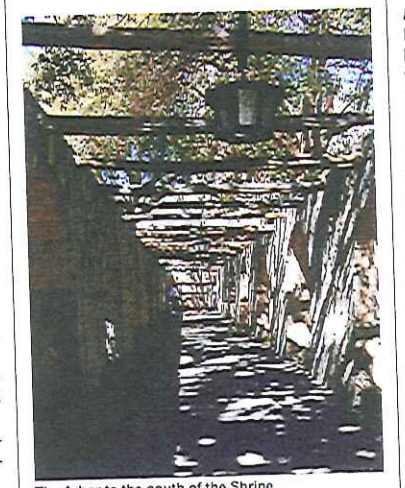
Some of the elements of this work should include:

- Replacement of the misleading retaining walls.
- A more significant and accurate reconstruction of the south wall rooms and gate.
- Placement of original or replica cannons in historically accurate locations.
- Establishment and marking of the southwest corner of the compound.
- Encouragement of business on the west side of the plaza to mark the walls inside their buildings.
- Clarification of the markings in the pavement of the plaza.
- Location of a large scale, big-enough-to-walk-in plan of the fortified mission compound on the plaza to aid in orienting the visitors.
- Night programs on the plaza using light and projections to tell the story.

Optimally, informing the visitor about the Plaza and the Shrine before they are experienced is desirable. Purchase of a building on the west side of the plaza, such as the old Woolworths Building on the southwest corner of Alamo and Houston Streets would provide a venue for exhibits, wall indication, and be a visitors center for both entities. The value of this property as commercial retail places it out of reach financially for this use.

Though the inclination by visitors to enter the Shrine first may never be overcome, there are other options that can be offered;

The Arbor:
Relocate the line waiting to enter the Shrine along the arbor to the south, giving visitors


The Arbor to the south of the Shrine

a shady spot to wait, minimizing the appearance of the line, and clearing the façade for photo-taking. Install a misting system along the top of the arbor to cool the visitors. Locate information systems in this area, including signs and hand-outs, to inform about the historic buildings as well as points of interest and education on the site.

The Library:
Alamo Hall can be expanded by adding a second floor to accommodate the DRT Library and exhibit space.

Amphitheater:
Establish a plan for busy days that takes people from the line under the arbor in groups to other areas on site. For example, visitors could be taken to the amphitheater (retrofitted to serve as a small theatre), where they can view a presentation, either existing or developed in the future, that provides an overview of the Alamo and significance of the historic buildings.

This building can continue to serve this function even on normal days of traffic. It can also serve as the site for special presentations or as an alternative for school children's presentations when many arrive at the site at once.

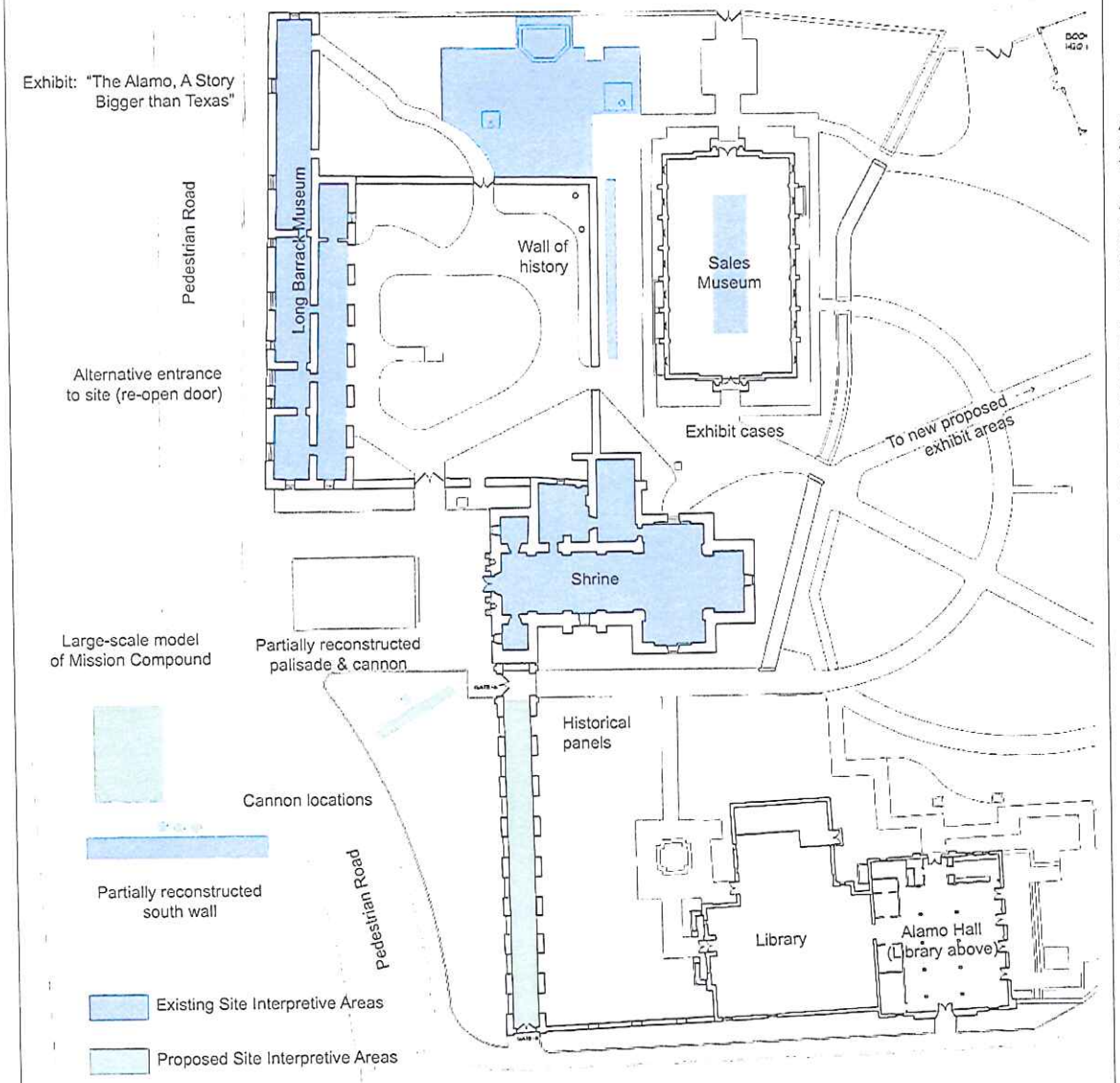
Long Barrack:
Direct access from the plaza to the site could be obtained by opening the original doorway from the compound to the Convento/ Long Barrack. This would lead visitors directly through the existing exhibit which gives a contextual overview. After exiting, the visitors could pass through the Cavalry and Convento Courtyards to access the Alamo façade from the north. This option would require THC approval.

Groups could also be taken from the line under the arbor and led through the Long Barrack exhibit before being given access to the Shrine.

Auditorium/Museum:
Unfortunately, the amphitheatrer is a venue that can accommodate only about 66 visitors at a time, making it inadequate on days when the site receives 10,000 to 15,000 visitors. While utilization of the amphitheater will help, a larger auditorium-type space will be needed to accommodate the crowds. A theatre that can seat 250 people, giving three presentations per hour, can educate 6,000 people in an eight-hour day. A larger facility is also key to the Alamo's future interpretive programming (see Section 3.0).

Possibilities for the location of the Auditorium have been studied:

- Vacant property nearby to the east:
  - The property to the east has just been acquired as part of the entire block where the Crockett Hotel is sited for a large development. Splitting this is not desired by the developer, though future parking for the Alamo may be accommodated on parts of this site.
  - Walking distance to the east parcel is much farther than the northern option.
  - Closure of Bonham Street to reach the east parcel without negotiating traffic is not feasible because it provides access to the Menger Hotel, River Center Mall and the River Center Mall parking garage.
  - The DRT already owns some property on the north.
  - Closing Houston Street to provide proximity and safety of access



Detail of Existing and Proposed Site Interpretaive Areas

to the north parcel would be ideal, however closure of the east end of Houston Street and acquiring adjacent property have not proved to be currently feasible.

Acquisition of a section of Houston Street along the north wall will allow additional area for needed buildings.

A building in this location could include a large exhibit space, restrooms, a Visitor Orientation Center, Texana bookstore, educational functions, vaults for the DRT collections, as well as support function spaces and offices.

An important function to be included in this building is a TV studio, and the ability to produce video seminars and presentations made in the auditorium. This will allow the production of electronic educational materials for dispersal to schools and other educational facilities. Virtual tours presenting the Alamo experience may substitute for field trips to the site by school children, and, if necessary, by the public at large.

The building can also have an entrance on Houston Street. With proper signage, visitors could be directed to this building before entering the site.

The Shrine:
On a 10,000 visitor day, five minutes can be spent in the Shrine, three minutes if there are 15,000 visitors. To facilitate movement through the Shrine, the north rooms should be closed off on busy days. The wall paintings in the Sacristy can be interpreted on a "drop" along the west wall of the Sacristy and viewed through the east door to that room.

Access to the Shrine may have to be limited at some time, making virtual tours through the interior a possibility in one of the venues. Sale of videos and interpretive material about the plaza and Shrine may replace first-person experiences.

Limited access could be provided by pre-scheduled tours that would guide the visitor through the site and interpretive displays.

Free, timed tickets obtained on the plaza and at downtown hotels are another option.

Because it is awkward to tour the Sacristy in an efficient way, the interior of this room might be replicated in another venue, perhaps the current library building. This would allow the public the chance to see the elaborate decoration as it looked in Spanish Colonial times.

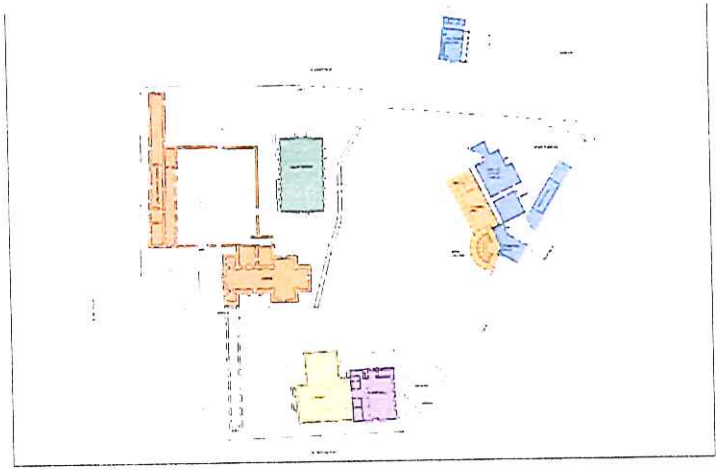
Signage:
As one exits the Shrine, the space between it and the Gift Museum is a major stopping place. It is here that decisions are made about what to do next. Currently, signage in this and other areas is confusing and difficult to see. Other areas needing proper signage are:

- Arcade
- Ampitheatre/Trellis area
- Plaza
- Cavalry Courtyard
- Entrances gates at the north and east

Trellis area:
Cooling, misting systems should be installed. Provision of on-site food for visitors is not recommended for several reasons. The Alamo site is located in the middle of a tourist-oriented downtown with hotel restaurants, a mall food court, street-level restaurants and fast food eateries, and restaurants on the River Walk just a short distance away. Entering into competition with neighboring facilities would be a risky financial venture at best.

3.0

Programming



Existing Site

KEY
- Public Space
- Support Building
- Historic Structures
- Gift Museum
- Alamo Hall
- Library

Background: The Daughters of the Republic of Texas are mandated by the 1905 legislation granting them custodianship of the Alamo to preserve it as a Shrine to those who gave their lives for Texas Independence (See Appendix 8.1). Their custodial mission is to perpetuate the memory of those heroes, to preserve historic documents and to encourage scholarly research in the area of Texas History, as well as to educate the people of Texas about Texas History. For over 100 years, the DRT has conscientiously worked to fulfill this mandate, raising money to support their efforts from individuals, foundations, and proceeds from sales in the gift shop, and reporting their activities to the Governor.

Starting with a few volunteers, these tasks have expanded to require the efforts of a large group of people, currently 102 employees, covering the functioning of the site as well as the education of the public. The current key staff positions are:

- Director of Administration
- Curator/Historian
- Education Coordinator
- Head Librarian
- Shrine Hostess
- Gift Museum Manager
- Horticulturist
- Maintenance Supervisor
- Special events Coordinator
- Accounting Supervisor
- Chief of Security
- Director of Marketing and Development
-

These key staff persons are exceptionally devoted to their areas of responsibility, and to the Alamo. They are intelligent, creative, forward-looking people who are invested in seeing the best outcome for the Alamo Site and the goals associated with it. All of the staff supervisors were interviewed, with current and future functioning as well as projections for improvements and future activities in their area of responsibility discussed. See Appendix for Interview Meeting Notes.

Existing Conditions: By way of clarification, there are two separate collections on the Alamo Grounds:

- The Alamo Collection, managed by the Curator/Historian, is the property of the State of Texas, and includes artifacts and papers.
- The DRT Library Collection, which included books, artifacts and papers, and is the property of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

In reviewing the work done, programs undertaken and growing collections, it is obvious that there is a need for more space to support the activities needed to achieve the goals:

- Curatorial spaces need at least three times the present area allotted for storage of the Alamo Collection.
- Currently, the Collection is stored over the maintenance workshop, a vulnerable location that is somewhat mitigated by the fact that the workshop space is completely open on two sides, providing good ventilation for any volatile products that may be used.
- The Library is bursting at the seams. With the current 85% utilization of storage space, by library standards is considered full. As more and more collections and archives are given, continued growth is projected. In twenty years, over 8,000 total square feet of space will be needed to house the collection. In addition, space for exhibition of collection elements, such as the 19th century paintings of San Antonio by Theodore Gentilz and signed copies of the Texas Declaration of Independence, is required. School children are also brought into the Library and educated about its contents, importance, and use.
- The education supervisor is currently, and inappropriately, housed in the basement of the Gift Museum. There is also no adequate space for Living History participants to prepare for their presentations and change into costumes, and no adequate space for the storage of costumes, now crowded into the Curator/Historian's office.
- The Security staff has grown in response to the expanding concern for violence against symbolic buildings and the safety of visitors, and is also crowded in the existing space. Plans for expansion of site security to include cameras and an intercom system present the need for a video monitoring area. In addition, lockers, supervisory office, break space and

restrooms are needed.

- There is the expanding use of electronic medium for education, and the potential for even more technological advances to emerge. Space for the future is needed.
- The Gift Museum does not work well as a Gift Shop or a Museum. The current layout with flat cases in the middle of the space causes bottlenecks in the flow of visitors. Improvements are needed in the exhibits as well as in the way the merchandise is displayed, and the space is experienced.
- Alamo Hall is severely limited in its potential as a meeting space by the double row of columns in the center of the building. The plaster walls and tile floors also cause a great deal of reverberation in the space, making speech difficult, and requiring over amplification of it.
- A bookstore with a comprehensive and complete stock of Texana is desired.
- Expanded restroom facilities are needed, especially in the spring, when school children arrive in mass.

There are also issues related to the experience of the visitor to the Alamo Site which have been covered in more detail in the Chapter entitled, "The Alamo Experience":

- Understanding of the Site and Alamo Plaza as they were historically before evolving into a downtown Plaza and Garden.
- Delineation of the site to give an understanding of the areas of highest historic significance.
- Comfort for the visitors; alleviation of long lines to the restrooms during periods of high visitation.
- A separate area is needed for first aid, which is now administered in the security office.
- Adequate accommodation of existing and future programs. Note: existing programs are listed at the end of this Chapter. The goal is for the visitor to leave satisfied, feeling that they have seen something significant and have increased their understanding of it.
- Venues for educational programs.
- Measures to insure visitor's safety in times of emergency.

Though the site area is limited, there are compelling reasons that the two largest activities needing space, the DRT Library and the office of the Historian/Curator remain on the site:

- The core of the DRT Library Collection was given with the condition that the materials remain on the Alamo Site. Some are even required to stay in the existing building.
- Locating the Library off-site with some of the materials remaining on site does not support the research basis of the institution.
- The Curator/Historian of the Alamo sets much of the direction for the interpretation of the history and actively participates in programs to determine their effectiveness. Items in the Alamo Collection are made available to view on request to visitors. An off-site location would make this unwieldy.

Recommendations: The Alamo is a world-renown place, and as such, should have proper support for its interpretation and on-going programs.

In order to expand functions as needed, without constricting the site, the ideal solution is to expand the site. Should it become feasible in the future, acquiring additional land to the west of the Gallagher Building site and the east half of Houston Street immediately north of the Alamo Site would allow for significant expansion of the Alamo grounds.

This street property, plus the northeast corner of the existing site, would allow the construction of a new facility. The new construction can enhance the visitor's experience at the Alamo with areas for an Auditorium, Exhibit Space, Visitor Orientation Center, Bookstore, Restrooms, Curatorial and Education Departments, including spaces for living history costumes and changing, the Alamo Collection, additional offices and meeting spaces, and a Basement for back-up storage and mechanical. Security, First Aid, Maintenance, and horticultural could remain at the northeast corner of the site. See Appendix B for proposed support facility drawings.

In response to the limits of lands now available for expansion, current programmatic changes are proposed to re-arrange department functions within existing buildings on-site. First, the Accounting Department will be moved off site.

Second, the DRT Library will remain in its present location and expand into the added upper floor of Alamo Hall.

The Alamo Site is a unique place. In the middle of Downtown San Antonio, it is the central jewel in the necklace of places visited: The Riverwalk, The Missions, La Villita, etc. Many visitors access the site on foot from their downtown hotels, and it is important that their experience be educational and fulfilling. The expanded block that is the Alamo Site, if correctly planned can contain the structures needed to provide space and support for this experience for many years to come.

EXISTING ALAMO PROGRAMS:

1. Library (DRT)
   - •Research - Genealogical; Historic
   - •Collections - Always increasing (DRT)
   - •Research
   - •Preservation of Historic Documents
     - Family Papers
     - Texas Historical Documents
   - •Historic Symposiums
     - DRT History Forum
     - DRT Family History Forum
     - Bi-National Conference (in conjunction with the Alamo)
   - •School Children's Presentations
2. Curator
   - •Interpreting the Site/Buildings
   - •Collection
     - Use of Objects for Exhibits
     - Preservation/Conservation of Objects
     - Proper Storage of Collection
   - •Oversight of Educational/Interpretive Programs
3. Exhibits
   - •Existing Exhibit Space
     - Museum
     - Long Barrack - "The Alamo, a Story Bigger than Texas" Exhibit and Movie
     - Library - Historic Paintings, Cases
     - Wall of History
4. Living History
   - •People Dressed in Costumes of 1836+ on-site showing dress and daily life of the period.
5. Educational
   - •Teach a Child Traveling History Trunks
   - •School Children on-site Visits
   - •Teaching Tools for 4th & 7th Grade Texas History - Written Information
   - •Educational Publications on the Alamo:
     - State Certified Teacher In-Service Program
     - Living History Interpretation
     - First Saturday at the Alamo
     - Military Briefings and Staff Rides on the Alamo
     - After Hours Tours
     - Bi-National Conference (in conjunction with the DRT Library)
     - Public History and History Internships
   - •Cooperative Programs with Institutions of Higher Learning
   - •Children's Summer Camp
6. March Events Commemorating the Fall of the Alamo
7. Children's History Forum
8. Website
9. Audio Tours

FUTURE ALAMO PROGRAMS:

1. Improved Website
   - •Virtual tours of Site
   - •Virtual tours of Shrine
2. More use of Electronics to Educate public about Texas History:
   - •Distance learning
   - •Interactive classrooms
3. TV and Video Capabilities
   - •Recording educational programs
   - •History seminars
4. New Exhibit Space
   - •New Support Building: Lobby, Exhibit Preparation Area
5. Enhanced Training for Existing Staff
6. Cooperation with the City to improve interpretation of Alamo Plaza
7. Visitor Orientation Center
8. Auditorium
   - •History orientation videos
   - •Venue for history seminars, lectures, and educational programs
   - •Site for historic dramatizations

4.0

History

The Alamo: A Brief Summary of Site Development

It is not necessary for the purposes of this master plan to give a full account of the history of Mission San Antonio de Valero, the period of secularization, and the events of the Texas revolution that gave the Alamo its iconic status as the "shrine of Texas liberty." Instead, a brief summary of the period from 1721 through 1836 is provided, followed by a more detailed account of the site's physical evolution from that time to the present. It should be noted that the history of the Alamo site is extensively documented in local and state records and books and articles found in various repositories. Notably, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library houses extensive resources on this subject.

Mission San Antonio de Valero

Mission San Antonio de Valero was established at this site in 1724. This was the mission's third, and final, location. The previous site was nearby in the vicinity of today's St. Joseph's Catholic Church on East Commerce Street. After a hurricane severely damaged the mission in 1724, it was rebuilt on this site a short distance to the north.

Work first began on the convento, acequia and Indian quarters, with the building of the church deferred until materials and skilled laborers were available. During this time a large hut was used for services. Completion of the monastery in 1744 coincided with the laying of the cornerstone for the church, which was never completed during the mission period. Indeed, the bell tower collapsed, damaging the portion that had been finished and the building reconstructed

When control of the missions was transferred from the Queretaran missionaries to the Zacatecans, an inventory was taken that included references and descriptions of the buildings. At that time, the convento was described as surrounding the patio with a 1-story roofed, arched cloister and upper cloisters on the south, west and east that were incomplete.

The church was depicted as having most of the arches for the barrel vault and dome at the transepts in place with the bases of the towers complete. The carvings on the façade were described essentially as they are at the present time. However, reference is made to plans and other carving. This indicates that what was constructed constitutes about two-thirds of what was planned. The completed sacristy was being used for the church, and another room was serving as the sacristy.

The subsequent report of Fray Jose Francisco Lopez in 1789 and the final inventory at the time of secularization in 1793 both depict the status of the church and sacristy as remaining the same as described in 1772. Therefore, as the mission period reached its end, the church remained incomplete.

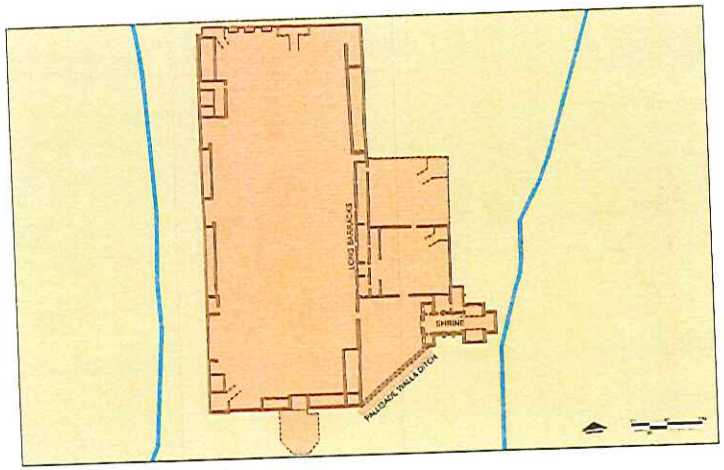
The Alamo: 1793-1836

In 1803, the Second Company of San Carlos de Parras, a mobile cavalry unit from the vicinity of El Alamo in Coahuila, established a post in the abandoned mission buildings. It is speculated that this company was the source of the name, "Alamo."

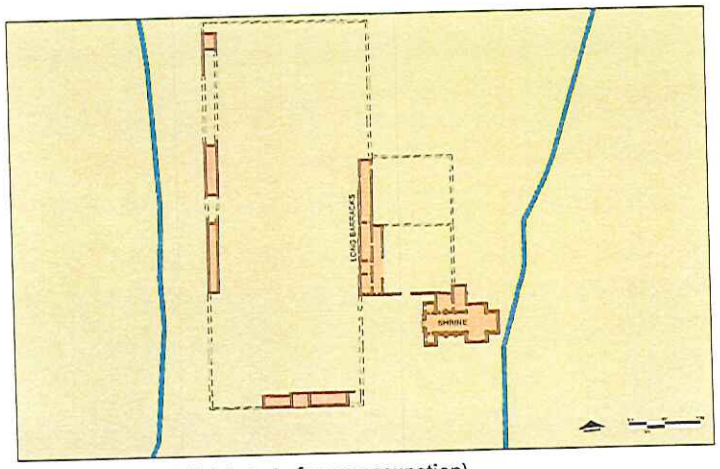
The convento was put into service in 1805 as a hospital and repaired in 1809 when 834-varas of battlements were constructed around the mission compound as part of a defensive plan in case of invasion by the United States government. In 1807, the sacristy was put to use as a parish church for the soldiers and their families.

In 1811, during Mexico's revolt against Spain, rebels occupied the old mission buildings, as did an expedition from Louisiana in 1818. The acting governor ordered repairs in 1814, and these were completed by local residents. After Mexico won its independence in 1821, a large number of Mexican troops were assigned to San Antonio. The mission buildings were used as barracks, receiving little or no modification until General Martin Perfecto de Cos' occupation and subsequent defense in 1835.

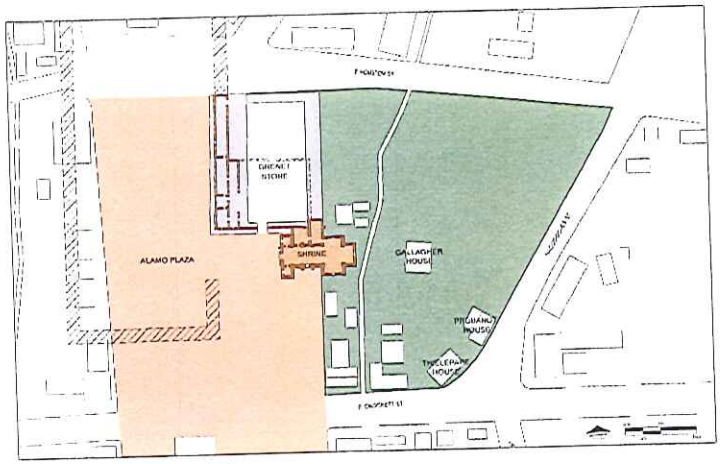
General Cos' fortification effort included the installation of a plank-covered dirt artillery ramp to the apse end wall of the church supporting an "18 pounder" cannon, and the construction of a cedar palisade and fosse from the southwest corner of the church to the south wall of the Alamo compound. Subsequent to the defeat and surrender of General Cos, Sam Houston conveyed orders through James Bowie to Texas troops remaining at the Alamo. The troops were to destroy the Alamo and join Houston, bringing all of the artillery captured from Cos. Instead, the decision was made to remain. The north wall of the compound was strengthened and a well was



The Alamo site in 1836



The Alamo site 1846 (at start of army occupation)



The Alamo site ca. 1880

dug. Generally, however, the Alamo that was defended in 1836 was essentially the same structure that was taken from Cos.

The Alamo: 1836-1849

After the battle of the Alamo, occupying Mexican troops apparently began to re-fortify the site, but received orders to destroy and abandon it. This dismantling included the leveling of all single walls, obliteration of the palisades and fosse and the burning of the wooden planks on the artillery ramp inside the church.

Following the departure of the Mexican army, the site remained unclaimed until, in response to a petition by the Catholic bishop, the Congress of the Republic of Texas acted in 1841 to declare the Alamo property of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Alamo: 1849-1876

The abandoned buildings continued to deteriorate until they were leased in 1849 by the United States government for use as a quartermaster depot. In the course of putting the buildings to use, the west portion of the convento was renovated as a long barrack and its old perimeter walls were re-established to create an enclosed space for quartering horses. The former mission church was finally completed when the side and back walls were raised and a roof was constructed. It was at this time that the now-famous profile of the façade was established.

The occupation and use of the mission by the United States government as a quartermaster's depot extended from 1846 to 1876. The property was surrendered to the Confederacy in 1861, and returned to the United States government in 1865. During the Confederate period, the wooden roof and interior storage structure of the church building burned, causing a portion of the west façade to fall, and necessitating extensive repairs.

The Alamo: 1877-1905

The Alamo and its grounds remained in the ownership of the Catholic Church until the last quarter of the 19th century. Following the completion of Fort Sam Houston in 1876, the United States Army vacated the site. While the Bishop A.D. Pellicer retained ownership of the Alamo chapel, he sold the 2-story convento to merchant Honore Grenet in 1877.[1] Five years later, on May 12, 1883, Pellicer's successor, Bishop John C. Neraz, conveyed the Alamo chapel to the State of Texas.[2] The property south and east of the chapel was later sold to other owners.

Honore Grenet used the convento as a storage facility for his wholesale grocery business. He enveloped the building in a 2-story wooden structure with crenellated parapets and wide galleries. The structure came to be called "Grenet's castle." After Grenet died unexpectedly in 1882, his warehouse was purchased the following year by Hugo and Schmeltzer, another local wholesale and retail grocery company.[3]

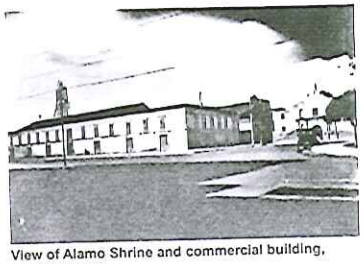
View looking northeast at Hugo-Schmeltzer Store
Courtesy of The Zintgraff Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

There was an emerging awareness of the historic and symbolic significance of the Alamo in the last part of the 19th century. Charles Hugo and Gustav Schmeltzer were therefore well aware of the importance of their building. Preservationist Adina De Zavala approached the men as early as 1892 to secure a verbal promise to give her the opportunity to purchase the property.[4] The Daughters of the Republic of Texas had been founded in 1891, and in 1893, the first San Antonio chapter was organized with De Zavala as its president.

By the turn of the 20th century, San Antonio was recovering from the financial panics of the 1890s and there was renewed interest in real estate investment and development. One major project was a large tourist hotel on the Hugo, Schmeltzer Company property.

Sculptor Pompeo Coppini, who was approached to complete a statue of David Crockett for the hotel, alerted Adina de Zavala about the project. Needing funds to secure an option on the property, Coppini and De Zavala were directed to Clara Driscoll who ultimately contributed her personal funds to assure the purchase.

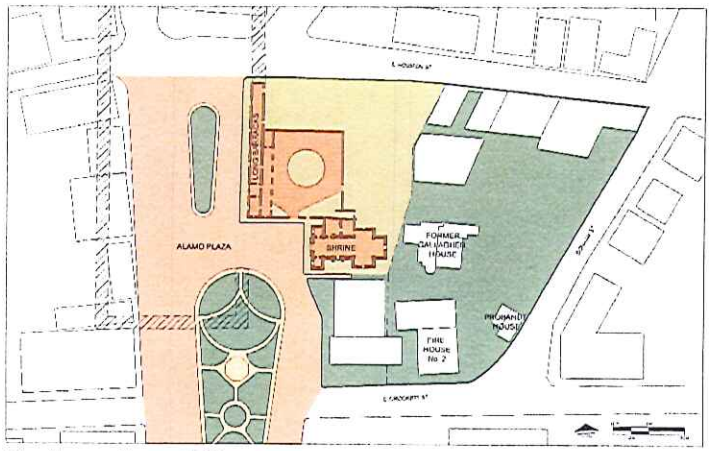
The DRT's acquisition of the convento was finalized in 1905. The property would be "for the use and benefit of the DRT for the purpose of making a park about the Alamo."[5] The convento was deeded to the State of Texas in August 1905, and custodianship of both the chapel and convento was conveyed by the State to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in October of that year.



View of Alamo Shrine and commercial building, ca. 1910-1925
Courtesy of The Zintgraff Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

After the DRT's purchase of the convento, but before its acquisition by the State of Texas, a conflict of opinions developed within the organization regarding the authenticity of the claim that the walls encompassed by the Hugo-Schmeltzer store were indeed those of the original Long Barrack. During this period, the concept that the Shrine (the former mission church), should stand alone in a park-like setting also emerged.

The controversy over the fate of the long barrack walls continued for years, embroiling the Governor of the State and reaching the Texas Supreme Court. Ultimately, the DRT retained custody of both the Shrine and the Long Barrack buildings, and the upper portion of the Long Barrack wall was removed.



The Alamo site ca. 1922

Alamo Park: 1905-1930

The property owned by the State of Texas in 1905-the chapel, convento and surrounding grounds-comprised less than half of the Alamo site as we know it today. The east property line of the two tracts followed the route of the Acequia Madre, the irrigation ditch dug by the Spanish in the 1720s to provide water to Mission San Antonio de Valero and its surrounding fields. The property line angled southwest from Houston Street and came within a few feet of the chapel's east (rear) wall.

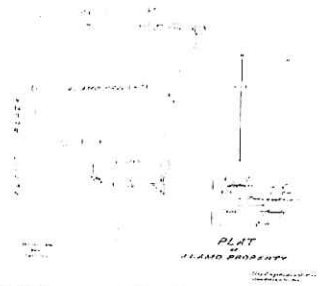
In 1904, the year before the State consolidated ownership of the Alamo site west of the Acequia Madre, the property was illustrated on the Sanborn's fire insurance map. The map showed four small, 1-story structures south of the chapel and west of the acequia. Period photographs also show these structures. North of the chapel, the 1904 map showed Hugh and Schmeltzer's building, warehouse and storage shed. What appear to be utility sheds or open storage facilities followed the line of the acequia.

East of the acequia, the land had been subdivided into several tracts. The northern portion of the site contained a marble works and two small sheds. The Gallagher house (c. 1852 and later) and its outbuildings occupied the center of the site. A 1-story structure adjoined Seffel and Son wagon and blacksmith shop, located in the old Thielepape house. The old Probandt house, a 1-story stone structure, stood at the southeast corner of the site at the intersection of Nacogdoches and Crockett Streets.

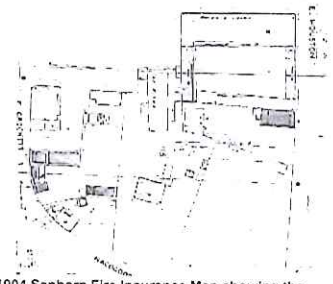
Though the acequia was clearly delineated on the 1904 map, the irrigation ditch no longer functioned and there was a city-wide debate over the closure of this and other ditches. Finally, in 1905, the city ordered the ditch filled.[6] The acequia still defined the western line of properties to the east, and was therefore used as a survey point in deed transactions between the State of Texas and landowners in the 1930s.

It should be noted that the use of the property and standing structures changed very little between the time the 1892 and 1904 Sanborn's fire insurance maps were compiled.

In the decade following 1905, property uses surrounding the Alamo began to change rapidly. The 1-story structures immediately south of the chapel were demolished and replaced by a 2-story building was constructed on the



Plat of Alamo property from 1914
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library



1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the Alamo and surronding properties
Courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library

old marble yard on Houston Street just east of the acequia. To its west, there was now a bowling alley at the southwest corner of Houston and Nacogdoches Streets. The Gallagher, Probandt and Thielepape houses remained standing, though the latter was converted from a blacksmith shop to automobile repair garage in keeping with changes in transportation.

Beautification of the Alamo grounds apparently did not begin until early 1912. On January 16, 1912, the San Antonio Light carried an article noting, "Work of tearing down all modern additions and of cleaning up the premises of the Alamo property started early this morning." A photograph from that period shows a barren, uneven landscape.

The first phase of Alamo Park was bounded on the west by the lower walls of the Long Barrack; on the north by a stone wall, on the east by a stone wall that followed the course of the Acequia Madre; and on the south by the Alamo chapel. It should be noted that the offset seen today in the north perimeter wall is at the point where the acequia separated the east and west portions of the Alamo site.

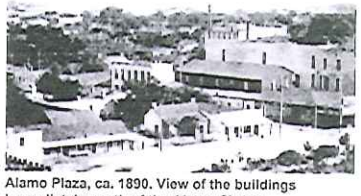
In 1914, Walter Whall, a "landscape gardener," was given the contract for "clearing the grounds of the Alamo property and making them more presentable by planting grass, shrubs, vines and flowers." The park's earliest development was simple, consisting primarily of a walled enclosure east of the Long Barrack. Within this enclosure was a circular planting bed with a star-shaped centerpiece.

The oak tree that now dominates the courtyard was transplanted to the site by Whall in 1914.[7]

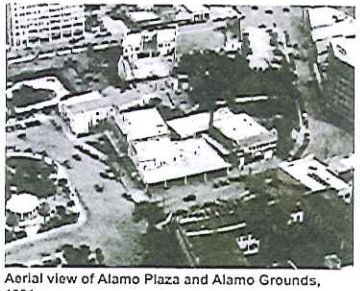
"The tree was brought in from a distance of 12 miles, along Blanco Road. It is so large, four days were required to bring it to town."

By mid-February, 1914, DRT member, Emma Burleson, who was helping with the "clean up and beautification campaign," remarked, "We are now ready to finish the work of planting... and would appreciate cooperation from the citizens in securing shrubbery." It is assumed that planting of the star garden dates to the 1914 period.

Aerial view of the Alamo Grounds showing star garden.
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library



Alamo Plaza, ca. 1890. View of the buildings immediately south of the Alamo Shrine.
Courtesy of The Zintgraff Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures



Aerial view of Alamo Plaza and Alamo Grounds, 1931
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

Ruins of the Long Barrack after removal of the Hugo Schmeltzer building, ca. 1912
Courtesy of The San Antonio Light Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

Alamo Park: 1931-1935

Twenty-six years elapsed before the State of Texas acquired additional land surrounding the Alamo. The two pieces of property south of the chapel were purchased in late 1931 from John B. Herff and Ernest J. Steves using $220,000 in public and private funds.[8] Plans were then formulated to improve the site.

Two plans were submitted to the "Alamo acquisition committee." (It is not clear if this was a city or state committee.) The plans were presented by:

- H.E. Kincaid, resident engineer for Bartholomew and Associates, a city planning firm based in St. Louis, Missouri. The firm had been hired to produce a plan for the City of San Antonio.
- Robert H.H. Hugman, a San Antonio landscape architect.

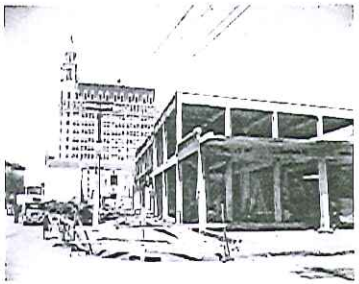
Kincaid's plan assumed acquisition of only the property south of the Alamo chapel, while Hugman's plan called for acquisition of the entire remaining site.

The final project was, not surprisingly, limited by budget and time. The San Antonio Express reported in early August 1931, that the state had only $150,000 in available funds that would revert to the State if not used by November 22, 1931.[9]

"The board faces the problem of deciding whether to purchase options on all the land in the block or purchasing outright sufficient property to make a park of part of the block."

The more conservative approach was chosen-the outright purchase of land immediately south of the chapel. The City of San Antonio adopted Kincaid's plan and adapted it to fit the limited budget.[10] His original plan envisioned closing the street in front of the Alamo that ran between Houston and Crockett Streets. Along Alamo Street, the plaza was to be cut back 18-feet to create a 74-foot wide street.

Kincaid's plan for Alamo Plaza also called for widening Alamo Street and beautifiying all of the ground east of the plaza from Houston to Crockett Street with "...lawns, flowers, shrubbery, fountains and walks." He recommended tearing down the buildings south of the Alamo and constructing a rock wall and arcade "from the Alamo front south to Crockett and from Crockett east to the fire station similar to the wall and arcade surrounding the property just north of the Alamo. Trees grass and flowers would be planted in this enclosure." [11]



The demolition of the Central Tire Company on the south side of the Alamo Shrine to make room for the Alamo Park, ca. 1933
Courtesy of The San Antonio Light Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

At its south end, the plaza was to be cut back 10-feet to widen Crockett Street. Kincaid felt this approach helped with traffic flow and created a large, uninterrupted park space. As the plan evolved, the street in front of the Alamo was slightly reconfigured, but substantial street widening did not take place.

H.E. Kincaid remained in San Antonio and in 1933, became head of the Work Department of the City's Relief Program. He also worked with the Bexar County Board of Welfare and Employment on its relief projects.[12] Because relief workers were used to construct the Alamo park project, Kincaid supervised construction.

Kincaid's final report covered the period from 1934-35.

> "This area was occupied with garages that had long marred the surroundings of the Alamo, and it was the purpose of those interested to replace these buildings with a development of interest and in keeping with the site...A plan was drawn by the City Plan Committee and presented to the custodians of the Alamo, the Daughters of the Republic, and to other civic bodies for approval. With few minor changes, the plan was approved."[13]

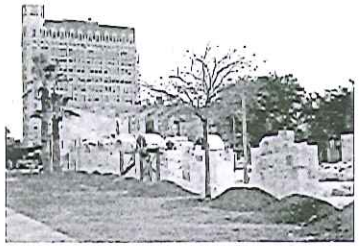
Kincaid reported that "it was impossible to reconstruct anything that had once existed... The area was beyond the enclosed plaza of the Alamo and for protection from enemies, it had been kept entirely free of native growth or obstructions." (Artists including Theodore Gentilz depicted the surrounding area devoid of vegetation.) Kincaid approached his plan as "something new" but "in keeping with the architecture of the building."

The approved plan is best described in Kincaid's own words.

> "The plan presented recommended an enclosed garden, characteristic of Monastic gardens of that period, and a plaza in front of the building to replace a paved street that was formerly congested with traffic. Modern improvements had taken possession of Alamo Plaza and the plan took into consideration these characteristics of the old and the new-bringing the two together in a development that will be of interest and beauty to all who enter this garden planted with the flowers and shrubs native to San Antonio."

The beautification project began on February 2, 1934, under the Civil Works Administration (CWA), but was put on hold when the CWA program ended just eight weeks later on March 30, 1934. The Alamo park project did not resume until May 15, 1934 and was finished using work relief labor.

Work relief projects in Texas were under the direction of the Texas Relief Commission. The main purpose of the commission was to coordinate state and federal funding for rehabilitation and employment of the unemployed and to sell relief bonds to fund projects.[14] The commission became a division of the State Board of Control on September 26, 1934. Correspondence and drawings related to the Alamo project are therefore found in the Texas State Archives in the records of the General Services Commission, Board of Control. A drawing titled "Development of grounds about the Alamo, Texas Relief Commission, Project

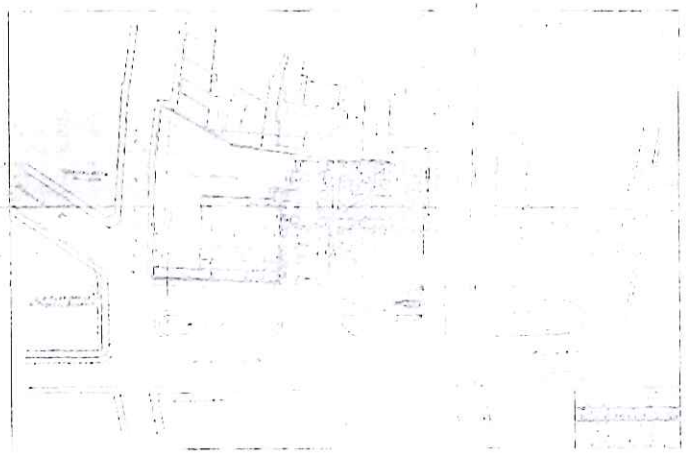


Construction of the arcade by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. September, 1934
Courtesy of The San Antonio Light Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

Frank Pena, stone mason, puts finishing touches to fountain in patio of Alamo grounds. January, 1935.
Courtesy of The San Antonio Light Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

View looking north showing completed arcade and perimeter wall, ca. 1936
Courtesy of The San Antonio Express-News Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

Southwest corner of Alamo grounds showing completed arcade and perimeter wall, ca. 1935
Courtesy of The San Antonio Express-News Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures



Copy of drawing by H.E. Kincaid of "Development of grounds about the Alamo, Texas Relief Commission, project S15-B4-13, January 1935."
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

S15-B4-13, January 1935" is also found in the Board of Control papers. The plan carries the names of H.E. Kincaid, landscape architect and Ernest B. Hays and Joe M. Gomez, architects."

The scope of the project was as follows:

- Demolition of two structures
- Construction of the arcade
- Construction of the garden and fountain
- Repair/construction of walls
- Removal of old street and construction of new street
- Flagstone paving of plaza in front of chapel and walkways
- Installation of lighting

The two buildings demolished for the project were constructed of concrete, brick and steel. Lacking heavy equipment, they were largely dismantled using hand labor. The street in front of the buildings was removed with help from city workers.

Kincaid reported that 10,755 cubic feet of salvaged stone with a "weather-beaten appearance" was used to construct the arcade and walls. The stone was used to build 18 arches in the arcade and ten windows in the garden wall.

Some 8,040 square feet of flagstone was used to pave the plaza in front of the chapel and surrounding walkways. Finally, the old street bed was filled and a new street was paved with asphalt.

H.E. Kincaid's 1935 drawing of these improvements illustrates the north garden with its distinctive star garden and the new rose garden at the southwest corner of the site. The grassy lawn in front of the chapel is also delineated.

Plant material to landscape the new garden was donated by many private individuals according to Kincaid's final report. Donations were as follows:

- 9 Washington palms
- 3 Palmetto palms
- 1 unidentified palm
- 2 Magnolia trees
- 1 Retama tree
- 2 live oak trees
- 2 oleanders
- 12 Magueys (6 small; 6 small)
- 1 Japanese Varnish tree
- 2 date palms
- 1 Spanish dagger (large)
- 6 dozen rose bushes
- 1 pear tree
- Miscellaneous unnamed shrubs
- Miscellaneous cacti

In his final report, Kincaid wrote that "Contrary to much public opinion, work relief has performed a job that is an asset to the community at a reasonable cost."[15] In spite of the constantly changing labor pool, Kincaid indicated that some of the workers were "artists in their trade and the best to be found." Indeed, a photograph in the San Antonio Light collection at the Institute of Texan Cultures shows a stone mason named Frank Pena finishing the fountain that still stands in front of the DRT library. The photograph was published on January 2, 1935.

The "New Alamo Park" was formally opened on March 16, 1935, during the 44th annual meeting of the DRT.[16] Organizational minutes indicate that material salvaged from the demolished buildings was sold and funds were used for lighting, plantings, parking signs and other necessities, "not furnished by the Federal project."

Alamo Park: 1936-1937

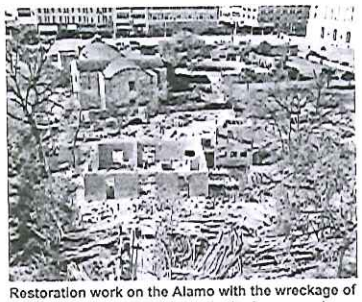
As the State of Texas celebrated its centennial in 1936, the Texas legislature made the commitment to complete Alamo Park. The legislature authorized $250,000 for acquisition of the remaining land around the Alamo and began to negotiate with property owners.

The property east of the acequia had been subdivided in the 19th century and sold to multiple private owners. By 1936, the property east of the Acequia Madre was comprised of four major tracts-three privately owned and one owned by the City of San Antonio. The State of Texas completed acquisition of these tracts between June 1936 and October 1937.

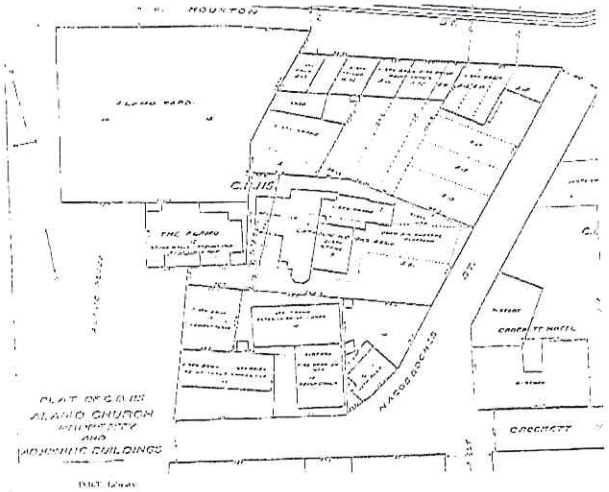
The Gallagher House

The Gallagher House, initially a 1-story, 4-room stone cottage, had been enlarged with a second story and various wings and outbuildings by 1936 when the State of Texas acquired and demolished it to build the Alamo Park. The core of the house was reportedly built by Peter Gallagher in 1852 and had a second story added in 1876.[17]

The house was sold by Gallagher's heirs in 1910 to the San Antonio Club, a local men's organization.[18] During World War I, the club rented the house to the War Department for use as a recreation center. It was sold to the Catholic Women's Association in 1916. The Association, founded that same year, planned to use the house "to establish a home for business girls."[19] The Catholic Women's Association operated their organization from the Gallagher house until 1937 when it was acquired by the State of Texas.



Restoration work on the Alamo with the wreckage of the Peter Gallagher residence in the foreground.
Courtesy of The San Antonio Light Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures



Map showing Alamo property and adjoining tracts of land before they were accquired by the Alamo
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

The Catholic Women's Association initially refused a $65,000 offer and ultimately accepted $75,000 for the property. The Association met on May 29, 1936, and voted to sell its property to the State of Texas. The land was deeded to the State on June 18, 1936, and the group purchased and moved to a new facility at 309 North Alamo Street.[20]

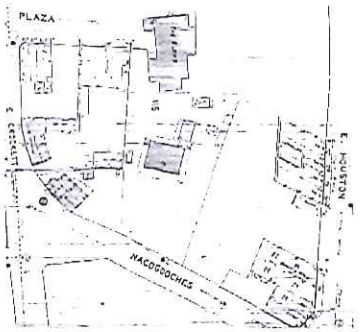
The Probandt House

The 1-story stone house at the corner of Nacogdoches and Crockett Streets had been owned by Reinhold Probandt since 1872. Probandt had purchased the property from Frederick Fresenius who had owned it since 1865. Previous owners were Stephen Danenhauer (1853-65) and Isaac and Elizabeth Henry (c. 1851-1853).[21] It has not been clearly established when or from whom the Henrys purchased the property.

The local press reported, "The major protest will probably be directed against the destruction of the old Probandt house and construction of a new museum."[22] (Opposition to the new museum will be addressed later in this discussion.) Elizabeth Graham, president of the San Antonio Conservation Society protested demolition of the house, saying that "...the house was the home of San Antonio's first mayor and has figured largely in the city's history."

There is no further information to support this claim. A search of the Bexar County deed records indicates that the Henrys acquired property from John Stewart McDonald who was mayor of San Antonio from 1851 to 1852. Unfortunately, this deed cannot be located.[23] Whatever the case, the house was likely built c. 1850 when the land east of the Alamo was platted by Francois Giraud and lots were sold.

Reinhold Probandt died on December 31, 1914, and Felix Probandt, acting on behalf of his father's estate, sold the house to the State of Texas for $25,000 on August 29, 1936.[24]



1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Note location of the Probandt House at corner of Nacogdoches and E. Crockett Streets
Courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library

The Cherokee Realty Tract

The northern portion of the proposed park comprised the largest tract needed for Alamo Park. The property was owned by Cherokee Realty Company which had purchased it at a foreclosure sale in 1934. By mid-1935, when appraisers began to value the land needed for the park, the Pawnee and Cherokee companies were involved in a lawsuit over the sum of $28,000. Cherokee also owed $32,000 in back taxes.[25]

Cherokee Realty, through its president, H.A. Thomson, Jr., sold the tract to the State of Texas in October 1936 for $140,000. The company also sold land to the city for the street right of way at the corner of Houston and Nacogdoches Streets.[26]

The W.C.A. Thielepape House

The Thielepape house faced on Crockett Street and stood between the Probandt house on the east and acequia on the west. Like the Probandt house, it was likely built c. 1850. W.C. A. Thielepape was twice appointed as San Antonio's Reconstruction mayor, serving from 1867-1872.[27] While no deed recording Thielepape's ownership of this house has been located, the house has historically been recognized as his place of residence. Thielepape's friend, Herman Lungkwitz, included the house in his 1852 sketch of Crockett Street looking west.[28]

David Nickels, in *An Archaeological Assessment of the Drainage Improvement Area on the Northeast side of Alamo Hall, and Home of Former Mayor, Wilhelm Thielepape, San Antonio, Texas*, cites the following advertisement and concludes that it refers to the house on Crockett Street. (Crockett and Nacogdoches Streets intersected just east of the Thielepape house. Between the intersection and Alamo Plaza, thoroughfare was apparently known by both names.)

> "Valuable Residence at Auction. On Tuesday, August 27, 1872, we will sell at auction the residence now occupied by Mr. W.C.A. Thielepape, on Nacogdoches Street, near the house of Mr. H. Grenet. The house contains four rooms and a hall, with a good substantial kitchen adjoining; a wall of good water, and elegant shade trees. The lot is large, centrally situated, with an extensive front on Nacogdoches Street. Till day of sale, offers for said place will be entertained. If not sold previously, it will then be sold, absolutely without any reserve or qualification. The owner will be present to execute good and sufficient title to the property."[29]

Reference to the building as "the residence now occupied by W.C.A. Thielepape" would explain why no record of the mayor's ownership has been located. Thielepape apparently never owned the house. W.C.A. Thielepape moved to Chicago in 1874, and remained in there until his death in 1904.[30]

Exterior of the W.C.A. Thielepape house, 101-103 Nacogdoches (later Bonham) Street. 1930.
Courtesy of The San Antonio Light Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

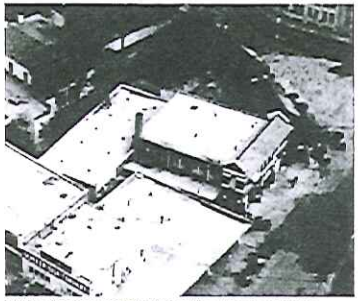
Sanborn's Fire Insurance maps indicate that the house was used as a wagon shop during the 1880s. The 1904 Sanborn's map shows that it was occupied by Stephan Seffel's wagon and blacksmith shop, and a c. 1920 photograph shows it as a tailor shop and lock company.

The Thielepape house was conveyed by Stephan Seffel to his three children in 1902, and in 1921, they sold the house to the City of San Antonio for $35,000.[31] It was on this site that the City built Fire Station No. 2 in 1922.

Fire House No. 2

The State of Texas encountered many difficulties as it acquired parcels for the Alamo Park site, but Fire Station No. 2 was perhaps the most problematic. The firehouse was a relatively new structure and the city was hesitant to sell it until a new site could be purchased and a replacement facility built in the immediate area. Funds for the project were to be provided by voter-approved bonds, and the bond election could not be held until May 11, 1937.[32] The stone perimeter wall and proposed restoration of the acequia near the firehouse were postponed until the bonds could be approved.

On October 1, 1937, the San Antonio Express carried the headline, "City deeds last lot to complete new Alamo park." The deed between the city and state had been finalized after approval of bonds for a new firehouse.



Detail from an aerial view of the Alamo grounds showing the two-story fire house, 19??
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

On October 14, 1937, Mayor C.K. Quin conveyed the firehouse property to the State of Texas "in consideration of use as a public state park in commemoration of the heroes of the Alamo." The City promised to deliver the property to the State on or before October 15, 1938, providing time to build a new fire station.[33]

Construction of Alamo Park

Work on the park was already well underway when the fire house property was acquired in October 1937. The Alamo Committee of the DRT had met with the Centennial Committee of the State Board of Control to secure "formal and final approval of plans for Alamo State Park" which included landscaping and construction of a museum building.[34] The architect for the museum and park was Henry T. Phelps.

Henry Phelps' plan placed the museum north of the chapel and immediately west of the old acequia. The recently-completed courtyard at the southeast corner of the site was preserved. The western portion of the site was connected to the newly-acquired eastern portion by a series of small bridges spanning the restored acequia. Phelps placed a fountain in the middle of the eastern portion of the site, as well as in the northeast corner. Curvilinear walkways branched from paths leading to the northeast corner and around the perimeter of the site.

Plans for the park elicited some strong opposition. As noted earlier in this report, the San Antonio Conservation Society raised opposition over demolition of the Probandt house as well as construction of the new museum building and the perimeter wall around the property. Architect Harvey P. Smith, noted for his restoration of San Jose Mission and the Spanish Governor's Palace, joined the critics, as did Robert H.H. Hugman, architect of San Antonio's river walk and Adina De Zavala's Texas Historical and Landmarks Association.[35]

Opponents argued that the park plan was not in keeping with the original outline of the Alamo and that funds should be spent on restoration of the Alamo shrine. Proponents countered that the Centennial was meant to

Sketch by Henry T. Phelps of proposed park around Alamo from newspaper article
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

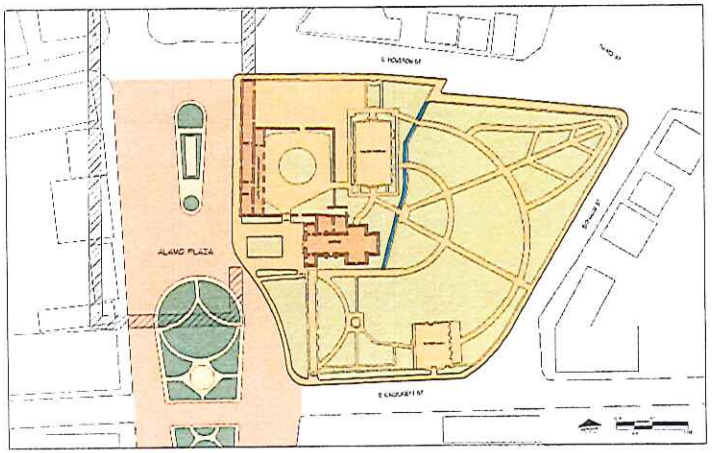
observe Texas independence, not the missionary period.

Opposition did not slow construction plans. Photographs published in the San Antonio Light on December 29, 1936, and January 5 and 7, 1937, indicate that clearing of the eastern portion of the site was already well underway. The wall separating the west and east portions of the site had been demolished and only the Gallagher house walls remained standing. The fire house, still in use at the time, remained intact on the southern edge of the site.

Preparation of the site had begun in advance of letting the contract for museum construction and landscaping. In addition to demolition, reconstruction of the acequia and work on the chapel roof and floor were underway. The well north of the chapel was also being excavated. "Workmen...struck stone bottom about 10-feet down and work of restoring the walls was underway..." [36]

The State Board of Control was "making final inspection of complete plans for the development of Alamo State Park" in mid-January 1937.[37]

The San Antonio Express reported on February 4, 1937, that the low bid of $60,745 for construction of the Alamo museum and



The Alamo site ca. 1940

park had been submitted to the State Board of Control. The bid, which was awarded to Hill and Combs of San Antonio, included "all work on Alamo State Park not now under contract." The contract included the installation of a sprinkler system, landscaping, walkways and fountains, as well as bronze plaques and display cases for the museum.

With the site preparation work, which was valued at $21,000, the total cost of the project was estimated at $81,000.[38]

Project architect, Henry T. Phelps, indicated that construction of the Alamo museum would begin by mid-February 1937. Phelps had already ordered work to begin in mid-January on the perimeter wall and excavation of the acequia.[39]

The Alamo Museum

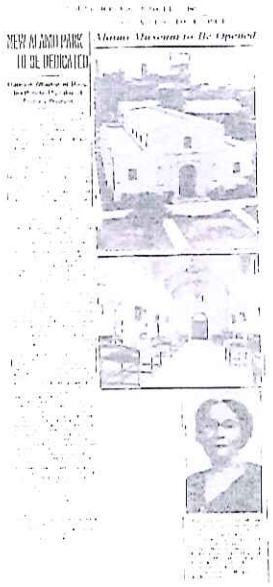
By late March 1937, the museum's foundation was being prepared. Construction continued while opposition to the building continued. The San Antonio Express reported on April 1, 1937, that over 1,000 San Antonians had signed a petition asking Governor James Allred to move the museum to the eastern part of the site. Opponents maintained that the site north of the chapel would obstruct the view of the shrine from Houston Street and that the building was "incongruent architecturally with the Alamo."[40] The State Board of Control took no further action, and construction continued. The building was scheduled for completion by August 15, 1937.[41]

Plans for the Alamo Museum building are located in the Texas State Archives, records of the General Services Commission, Board of Control. Included in these papers are two site plans for the Alamo grounds. Plans for work to be done on the chapel and grounds are also included in this collection. One set of plans includes seven sheets and is dated October 19, 1936 and titled "Plans for work to be done for the preservation of the Alamo, Henry T. Phelps." Sheets 1-6 include plans for the floor and roof of the Alamo, as well as elevations and sections. Sheet 7 is a landscape plan labeled "Scheme B." The second landscape plan is from a set of 13 sheets. The signature block states, "Plans for Development of the Alamo Grounds, Henry T. Phelps, architect; Day P. McNeel, landscape architect." This set of drawings is dated December 21, 1936. The latter plan shows the restored acequia as an irregularly shaped, linear water feature with pools at the north and south ends, rather than the walled, straight channel that was actually constructed.

Plans for the Alamo Museum also include Henry Phelps' designs and arrangement for the building's furnishings including display cases, chairs, tables, file cabinets, waste baskets, hat racks and desks. All of the furnishings were to be constructed of quartered white, tight grain oak and be covered with top grain leather. Phelps specified that the furniture was to be "equal in quality to that manufactured by Highpoint Bending and Chair Company."

The Alamo Museum was completed in August 1937, and opened the following month.[42] However, the museum's formal dedication was not held until October 14, 1938, after the completion of Alamo Park.

The dedication of the museum and park was attended by 500 people representing the state, county, city and DRT. Recognized guests included members of the State Board of Control, San Antonio Centennial Advisory Committee, and the Alamo Committee of the DRT. Texas historian, Clarence Wharton, was the featured speaker. The dedication began at 7 p.m. and was followed by a garden party in the lighted park.[43]


NEW ALAMO PARK TO BE DEDICATED

Alamo Museum to Be Opened

Express News article on the opening of the Alamo Museum, October 9, 1938
Courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library

Alamo Hall/DRT Library

As discussed previously, the State was not able to take possession of Fire House No. 2 until 1938. At that time, Henry Phelps was asked to draw plans to remodel the structure. His plans, dated October 10, 1938, are found in the Texas State Archives, records of the General Services Commission, Board of Control. There are six sheets of plans including elevations, a roof plan, and door and window details.

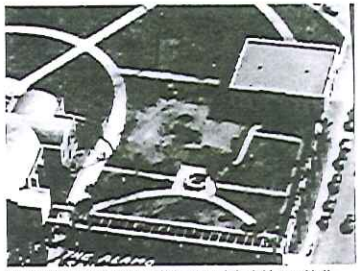
Phelps proposed removal of the structure's second floor to create a 1-story building. A flagstone terrace was attached to the building's east side. The building would include a kitchen, storage area, women's rest room, "men's retiring room and toilet" and caretaker's room. The concrete floor was retained and a 1" X 6" wood base added throughout the building.

In 1943, Texana collector, Dr. William E. Howard, donated his collection of books, manuscripts, documents and paintings to the DRT which established the William E. Howard Library and Collection in Alamo Hall. Two years later, on October 12, 1945, the DRT Library was formally established.[44]

The collection grew quickly, and Mrs. Henry R. Maresh, president general of the DRT, received permission from Governor Beauford Jester to construct a "library wing." This would not be a separate building, but "a room connected by a hallway 10' X 12' in size." [45] When the legislature did not provide funding for this new structure, Sallie Ward Beretta donated $36,000 to fund construction of the library wing in memory of her husband, John King Beretta.[46]

Mrs. Henry R. Wofford, president general of the DRT, wrote to Governor Alan Shivers on November 11, 1949. She told the governor that Alamo Hall had become crowded and was overflowing. The DRT needed a place for its expanding collection of books, manuscripts, pictures, and other items related to the history of Texas. Wofford asked Governor Shivers for help in facilitating approval of the library wing. Architects for the project were Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres.[47] After consultation with the Attorney General's Office, it was determined that approval by the Board of Control was not needed, and that the DRT could build the library wing.[48] The new library opened on December 2, 1950.

As the library's collection continued to grow, new space was added between the library building and Alamo Hall. This area opened on February 6, 1964. Later additions were the north wing, dedicated on April 19, 1971, and the south addition opened on April 11, 1975.



Aerial view detail showing remodeled Alamo Hall, c.1941
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

The DRT Library today

The Perimeter Wall

The Alamo site is surrounded by a perimeter wall that generally dates to four periods:

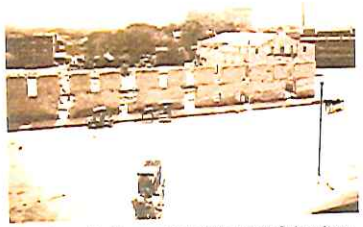
1) The Long Barrack (convento)- c. 1744; extensively altered at various times- As noted, the second floor of the old convento was removed in 1913. While the remaining wall retains original material, openings have been altered through the years to meet changing uses.

Local architect, Harvey L. Page, presented the initial proposal for a wall surrounding the Alamo site after the Hugo-Schmeltzer property was acquired by the State of Texas. Page's concept was that "the property be enclosed, not by an open fence, but by forming a cloister built of the original stones of those portions of the Alamo, which may be uncovered by tearing down of the Hugh-Schmeltzer building and other historic structures which have been demolished in San Antonio." [49]

Page planned to have two decorated entrances with niches to display statues of Alamo heroes. Corner towers would be large enough to accommodate rooms for use by the DRT. At the center of the enclosed courtyard would be a fountain. The garden was to be planted in native Texas shrubs. Page offered that the Alamo hero statues could be displayed within the garden rather than in the wall niches. This would "add to the attractiveness of the interior and following out the Spanish and Italian idea."

The final appearance of the Long Barrack wall and the wall along Houston Street bears little resemblance to Page's plan and it is not known if he was actually involved in the final design.

The lower walls of the Long Barrack were free standing and without a roof until the 1960s. Photographs taken in the 1920s and later show romantic ruins draped in trailing vines. The DRT made the decision to roof the structure and add windows in order to create a museum for the influx of tourists expected to attend San Antonio's World's Fair, HemisFair '68.



Long Barrack after removal of the Hugo-Schmeltzer store, showing the original two story walls of the old Convento. 1911.
Courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library

View of the Long Barrack ruins. 1925-1935
Courtesy of The San Antonio Express-News Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

2) 1914- The western section of the north wall enclosed the Hugo-Schmeltzer property which was purchased by the state in 1905. It is unclear if a portion of the wall dated to the Hugo-Schmeltzer period and was rebuilt and/or extended, or if it was added in its entirety. The wall began at the east corner of the Long Barrack, extended east along Houston Street to the northeast corner of the property, turned south, and followed the course of the acequia before ending at the rear of Alamo chapel. The eastern portion of the wall (between Houston Street and the Alamo chapel) was demolished at the time the Alamo museum was constructed in 1936-37. The height of the wall along Houston Street was raised in the 1970s.

3) 1934-35- Southwest corner wall and arcade- the arcade and fence as the southwest corner of the site was during the second phase of site development.

As discussed earlier in this report, the southwest section of the wall and the arcade were built in 1934-35 by relief labor. All of the materials for this project were donated.

"All the rock used in the construction of the arcade and walls was taken from old buildings that had been demolished and like the walls of the Alamo proper, in time mellowed. There was a total of 10,755 feet of rock laid and cut to form 18 arches in the arcade and 10 windows in the garden wall." [50]

4) 1936-37- The wall surrounding the northeast, east and southeast perimeter of the site was built during the Texas Centennial project to complete Alamo park.

This was the last, and largest, expanse of the wall built to enclose Alamo park. On January 27, 1937, the San Antonio Express, carried a photograph showing stone mason, Louis Chiappardi, building the wall. The caption stated, "Restoration of the Alamo and transformation of the surrounding grounds into a State park are proceeding rapidly. The latest item started was the construction of the stone wall around the newly acquired property." [51]

While some opposed the wall, one of the project's architects, Raymond Phelps, argued that the wall was a practical rather than artistic consideration and was needed to protect the park from vandals.[52] Practicality prevailed and the wall was constructed as planned.

Aerial view of the Alamo grounds, 1940.
Courtesy of The San Antonio Express-News Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

Endnotes

1. BCDR 7:373.

2. BCDR 31:265.

3. San Antonio Herald, January 25, 1878 CHECK; BCDR 48:50.

4. CHECK G. Schmeltzer signed statement, Sept. 24, 1908. De Zavala papers, B 5/57.

5. Bexar County Deed Records 223:261; 238:363.

6. Cox, 69-70.

7. San Antonio Light (?), February 16, 1914, "Tree is planted on Alamo grounds"; San Antonio Light. "Around the Plaza," Renwicke Cary, undated clipping. The tree was donated by Walter Whall and moved by him to the site.

8. BCDR 1281:414, January 5, 1932; BCDR 1281:558, December 15, 1931.

9. San Antonio Express, August 9, 1931, "2 plans wait park decision in Alamo site."

10. San Antonio Express, January 7, 1932, "Alamo Park site dream near true."

11. San Antonio Express, January 7, 1932, "Alamo Park site dream near true."

12. San Antonio Express, November 9, 1933. Kincaid's work with the county included the restoration of San Jose Mission. Ethel Wilson Harris, Conservation Society president (1951-1953) and manager of San Jose (1941-1963), believed that this was the first restoration project in the United States completed by relief labor.

13. Kincaid, "Development of Grounds About the Alamo."

14. Texas State Archives, finding aid, General Services Commission, Board of Control, Relief Commission Division, 87.

15. Kincaid, "Development of Grounds About the Alamo."

16. Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Proceedings of the 44th Annual Meeting, March 15 & 16, 1935, San Antonio.

17. San Antonio Light, undated clipping, Peter Gallagher house, vertical file, DRT Library.

18. BCDR 339:88, May 31, 1910. The house carried the address of 115 Nacogdoches Street.

19. BCDR 498:494, November 1, 1916; San Antonio Light, undated clipping, Peter Gallagher house, vertical file, DRT Library.

20. BCDR 1537:103, June 18, 1936.

21. BCDR 1563:18, August 29, 1936; W2:377, August 28, 1872; T1:415, Aprli 14, 1865; J2:554, March 20, 1853.

22. San Antonio Express, December 4, 1936.

23. Electronic indexing of the Bexar County Deed Records provides a reference that Consolacion Urrutia Henry acquired property from John Stewart McDonald on January 7, 1851(BCDR I2:231). A check of this record does not support the reference.

24. BCDR 1563:18, August 29, 1936; Texas Death Records #23580.

25. [San Antonio Light or Express], July 21, 1935; BCDR 1429:121, June 11, 1934.

26. BCDR 1561:337, October 31, 1936; 1563:186, November 2, 1936. The City paid Cherokee Realty Company $13,166 for the street property.

27. While it is possible that John Stewart McDonald did own the previously discussed Probandt house, it is also possible, though not likely, that Elizabeth Graham confused the history of the Thielepape and Probandt houses.

28. The figure in the door of the house is said to be W.C.A. Thielepape. This figure also appears in the 1857 oil painting of the same scene.

29. Nickels, 6, citing the San Antonio Weekly Herald, August 17, 1872.

30. Tyler, 6:459. Thielepape's son had moved to Chicago in 1873.

31. BCDR 211:503-5, February 4, 1903; 687:336-7, May 31, 1921.

32. San Antonio Express, February 18, 1937.

33. BCDR 1601:609, October 14, 1937. The transfer of the property had been approved by City ordinances passed on September 30 and October 14, 1937. The City donated the land which was valued at $50,000, the amount it cost to build the fire house.

34. San Antonio Express, January 6, 1937. The Alamo chapel was also undergoing repairs at this time. A flagstone floor was laid, window frames were rebuilt, and roof work was completed.

35. San Antonio Express, December 4, 1936; January 13, 1937. The group also submitted a resolution to the Mayor and Commissioners asking for appointment of a 10-member board to approve all issues related to public structures and parks. It is unclear if the Commission ever considered this resolution (undated newspaper clipping).

36. "Alamo plans rest with state board," San Antonio Express, January 13, 1937.

37. Ibid.

38. San Antonio Express, February 4, 1937.

39. "Alamo Contracts to be let February 2," San Antonio Express, January 15, 1937.

40. "Alamo Museum Battle Brewing," San Antonio Express, April 1, 1937.

41. San Antonio Light, June 10, 1937.

42. "New building to house Teas relics," San Antonio Express, August 24, 1937; "Program to open museum building," San Antonio Express, September 17, 1937.

43. "New Alamo Park to be dedicated," San Antonio Express, October 9, 1938.

44. Tyler, 2:518-19.

45. Wofford to Shivers, November 11, 1949.

46. Sallie Ward Beretta was married to J.K. Beretta, a San Antonio banker and member of the Texas Centennial Commission.

47. Ibid; Shivers to the State Board of Control, January 10, 1950.

48. Matthews to Logan, December 13, 1949.

49. San Antonio Light, undated, "Would preserve Spanisn (sic) mission style of architecture in reconstructing."

50. San Antonio Express, February 10, 1935.

51. San Antonio Express, January 27, 1937.

52. San Antonio Express, December 4, 1936.

5.0

Site

Sections and Zones

To analyze and make recommendations for this master plan document, the site was divided into two sections, historic and commemorative, with several zones outlined within each of these sections. The Historic Section includes the Alamo Plaza, the entry, Shrine, Convento courtyard, the Cavalry courtyard, and the acequia zones. The Commemorative Section includes the museum, the library/ arcade, the lawn/ garden, and the edge/ perimeter zones.

When developing a master plan, a period of significance for the site needs to be established initially. A period of significance can encompass the span of time when the property was associated with its important events, activities, persons, groups, or land uses, or when it attained its important physical qualities or characteristics. The period of significance begins with the date of the earliest important land use or activity of which tangible historic characteristics remain today. It ends with the date when the important events, activities, or construction ended. Continuous use or association does not typically justify extending a period of significance beyond the time when the property made its historically important contributions.

The Battle of the Alamo, waged in February and March of 1836, is the established period of significance for this master plan. The manner in which the two sections are clarified will distinguish period elements from more recent additions to the site. The beautification project to commemorate the Alamo began on February 2, 1934, under the Civil Works Administration (CWA). Since that time, there have been several elements added to the site to commemorate the battle.

The goal of this master plan will be to focus attention to the period of significance in 1836. Although the commemoration period is historically significant to the site and has value in its own right, these elements detract from the historic elements relevant to the time of the battle, thus confusing the typical visitor.

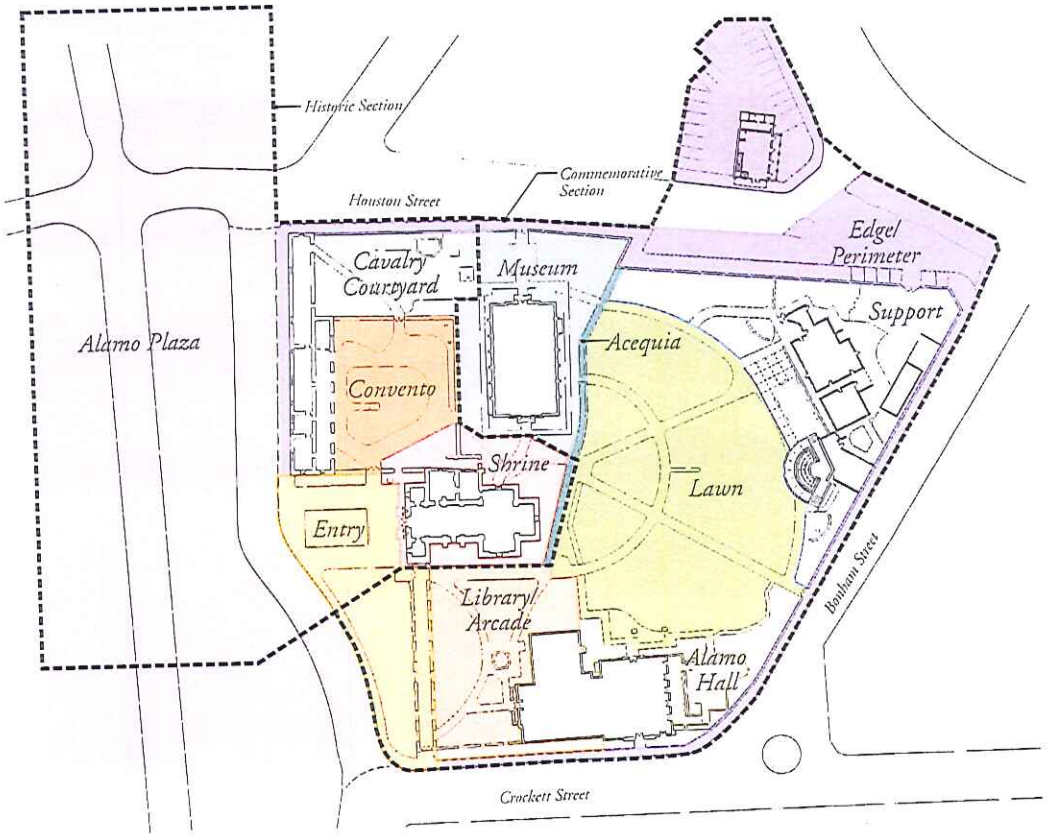
As part of the Historic Section development, a three foot wide gravel strip will be laid adjacent to all walls or structures that are historic to the battle or are located where there were walls in 1836. Where this conflicts with a walkway, the gravel strip would continue as a stabilized concrete base, with the gravel as an aggregate. This will help to eliminate safety hazards, as well as maintenance problems.

All paving in the Historic Section can be replaced with natural soil pavement or stamped concrete, which will resemble compacted dirt. While creating a look more appropriate to the period of significance and facilitating interpretation, it also provides cohesiveness to the Historic Section and the overall site by minimizing the variety of paving materials that exist.

To reduce obstruction of the historic elements, it is recommended that landscape beds in the Historic Section be planted with a native species of a low profile.

Non-historic walls or structures across the site are to be buffered with landscaping to the extent possible. On the exterior stone walls and

Exterior Zoning Plan - Existing Conditions



arcade, creeping fig can be planted in an attempt to screen these features. Vertical vegetation can buffer other buildings, such as the Gift Museum and Alamo Hall, in an attempt to alleviate their misinterpretation.

Signage

Two distinct, but related, signage families are suggested for both the Historic and Commemorative Sections. Considering the success of the existing interpretive panels, it is recommended that the simplicity of those materials be repeated for the Historic Section signage. Within the signage family for each section there should be a minimum of three sign types: interpretive, directional, and regulatory. Each of the sign types can possess a different shape according to their use. In order to establish consistency, the designated forms can be universally utilized, defining signage types in both sections. For example, all directional signs can be oval, whereas the regulatory signs can be rectangular.

Providing a different sign family for each section further facilitates the visitor's ability to distinguish the original compound and what is historic to the site from its commemorative elements.

For further interpretation, a large scale model or hologram element can be installed in Alamo Plaza to give visitors an overall understanding of the compound scale and layout as they enter.

Site Furnishings and Monumentation

In addition to signage, all site furnishings should be consistent for each distinct section. Benches in the Historic Section should be backless so as not to add vertical elements that obstruct views. The style and color of the benches, trash receptacles, and ash trays should be unobtrusive, blending with the historic surroundings as much as possible. The furnishings in the Commemorative Section can also be inconspicuous while possessing a slightly different, but related style to the Historic Section furnishings.

Any additional lighting added to the site in the future should be subtle and placed in the existing trees. There should be no pole lights, bollard lights or lights attached directly to any wall or building. Light levels should be low and limited to one or two foot candles.

Example of monumentation located within the Historic Section

Example of monumentation located within the Historic Section

There are several commemorative monuments and plaques scattered across the site. Monumentation that exists in the Historic Section and is not directly related to the period of significance should be relocated to an established commemorative area perhaps near the library.

5.1 Historic Section

Alamo Plaza

Background: The area that makes up Alamo Plaza was originally enclosed within the walls of Mission San Antonio De Valero. The mission was established at this site in 1724, and work soon began on the convento, the acequia and the Indian quarters. Construction of the Church began in 1744, but was never completed during the mission period.

After Mexico's independence from Spain, Mexican troops occupied the Alamo compound. Little or no alteration was made to the compound until 1835, when a cedar palisade and fosse was constructed from the southwest corner of the church to the south wall of the compound during General Martin Perfecto de Cos's fortification of the site. After General Cos's defeat and surrender, the Texas troops remaining at the Alamo strengthened the north wall and dug a well.

After the Battle of the Alamo, Mexican troops received orders to destroy the site, and the destruction included the leveling of all single walls, obliteration of the palisades and fosse and the burning of the wooded planks on the artillery ramp inside the church.

The abandoned buildings of the compound continued to deteriorate until 1849 when they were leased to the United States government for use as a quartermaster's depot. Drawings and maps by Edward Everett from this period show that when the army took over the site, only the church, the western portion of the convento and sections of buildings along the south and west boundaries of the compound remained.

With the growth of San Antonio, what remained of the west, north and south walls of the original compound were lost to new construction. The only portion of the south wall still standing, known as the "Galera," was demolished by the city in 1871, extending the open space of the Plaza to the south. Alamo Plaza continued to develop with the addition of a street car line in 1878, mesquite wood block paving and sidewalks in 1889 and the construction of a park in the center of the plaza in 1891.

During the beautification of the Alamo site in 1934-1935, the street in front of the Shrine was slightly reconfigured, with the old street bed filled in and a new street paved with asphalt. In 1940, the Cenotaph monument was dedicated and installed.

The plaza park has undergone several changes since the commemorative period, with new sidewalks and the installation of retaining walls around the raised planting beds. Additionally, the street running directly in front of the Shrine has been closed to vehicular traffic, with large planters placed to the north and south.

Existing Conditions: The west, north, and south walls of the original compound, as well as the south gates and the palisade have all been lost to the continued development of San Antonio from the time of the battle to present day. Archeologists have detected a portion of the south entry located within the plaza which currently is not well interpreted. An earthen and log palisade that connected the Shrine with the south wall is defined as a score joint in the paving. This is also known as David Crockett's palisade, as he defended this wall during the battle.

The lack of interpretation of these historic walls creates a misunderstanding of the actual layout of the historic compound, leading the average visitor to believe that the Shrine was the entry to the site. Additionally, there are recent retaining walls located in the plaza that are of a similar material to the historic elements. Visitors are likely to be confused as to whether or not these walls are a portion of the original compound.

The stone pedestrian roadway is depressed, creating a safety hazard for pedestrians who cannot detect the curbs. Currently the roadway is lined with large planters that prohibit vehicular traffic and protects the compound from vehicular damage.

The Cenotaph is a commemorative monument dedicated to the Alamo site. Currently trees surround and partially shield it from the historic elements.

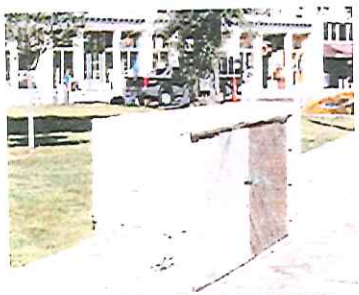
View looking north at Cenotaph monument surrounded by Live Oak trees

View looking northeast towards main entry of Shrine from Alamo Plaza

View looking south from Alamo Plaza showing planters that block vehicular traffic

View looking north from Alamo Plaza towards the Long Barrack. Note score joints in pavement indicating Crockett's Palisade

View looking east from Alamo Plaza, near location of historic south wall entry to site



Non-historic retaining walls and utility box within Alamo Plaza

View looking east from Alamo Plaza showing current interpretation of Crockett's palisade in the paving

Recommendations: One of the most important aspects of this master plan is to allow for better understanding of the overall layout of the compound that will allow visitors to interpret the story of the battle. In the future where possible, adjacent properties within the boundaries of the original compound should be purchased and added to the Alamo property in an attempt to encompass the original mission in its entirety and allow for a full interpretation of the site.

Adjacent property owners located within the 1836 boundary, including the city, should be encouraged as a part of this master plan to interpret the compound walls where they were orininally located within their buildings. In addition, the paving adjacent to their buildings should be filled with the same material recommended within the Historic Section on the Alamo property. This is an interpretive approach that will help mark the boundaries of the mission and provide visitors with a better understanding of the layout and scale of the historic site.

The existing limestone retaining walls, should be replaced with another distinguishing material that sets them apart from the historic structures. If these non-historic walls are not required to retain earth to support trees or utilities, they should be removed entirely.

The north, west, and south walls, as well as the south entry gates, and Crockett's palisade should be partially reconstructed, interpreted in the ground plain, and better described with interpretive signage.

A large scale two-dimensional plan of the compound should be placed in the median in front of the Shrine, in a location that does not interfere with local events. As visitors approach the Shrine, they could walk around this interpretive plan that would deliver a more comprehensive understanding of the scale and layout of the historic mission and a better vision of the way it appeared to participants of the battle. In the future, it is recommended to install a system to project a holographic three dimensional model on this plan that would further aid in the interpretation of the site.

The Cenotaph should remain as a commemorative addition to the site. Vegetation surrounding this monument should be maintained, however, to buffer and separate it to the extent possible from the historic elements.

For visitor safety and to create a continuous connection across the plaza, the pedestrian roadway should be lifted to the level of the entry paving. This will not only reduce the number of accidents that occur in this area, but will act to expand the compound into a continuous plaza area for interpretation and events. All paving, site furnishings, and signage should be a consistent to that used in the Historic Section as described in this master plan.

Entry

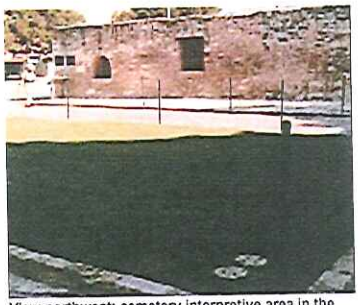
Background: The entry zone, the area directly in front of the Shrine, was originally bordered to the north by the south wall of the convento and to the west by a potion of the compound walls, and served as a cemetery during the mission period. During General Cos's fortification of the Alamo site in 1835, this area was completely enclosed by the addition of the cedar palisade (Crockett's palisade) and fosse that stretched from the southwest corner of the church to the south wall of the compound.

After the Army occupation of the Alamo, this area was incorporated into Alamo Plaza, and later, was used as street space in front of the Shrine. In 1935, as part of the beautification project of Alamo Park, it was paved with flagstone and the rectangular lawn created. As mentioned before, the old street bed was filled and a new street in front of the Shrine was paved with asphalt.

In 1996, several bronze plaques were relocated from the inside the Shrine and placed in the paving outside the Shrine in the entry zone.

Existing Conditions: The cemetery in front of the Shrine is currently not interpreted as a cemetery, but is protected as a sacred area within the roped off rectangular grass lawn. The lawn sets the stage for the entry into the Shrine and gives the feel of "sacred ground". As stated previously, David Crockett's palisade is interpreted with a score joint across the stone paving and is difficult to discern, not being well defined by interpretive signage. Overall, the entry area, excluding the lack

Paving meets the front facade of the Shrine at the main entry



View northwest; cemetery interpretive area in the foreground, with the historic Long Barrack behind

View east to main entry of Shrine

of interpretive elements, is treated well and gives the visitor the first impression that they expect when visiting the Alamo.

Plant species in this zone include:
Zoysia grass *Zoysia japonica 'Emerald'*
Live Oak *Quercus virginiana*
Mexican Fan palm *Washingtonia robusta*
Mexican Olive tree *Cordia boissieri*

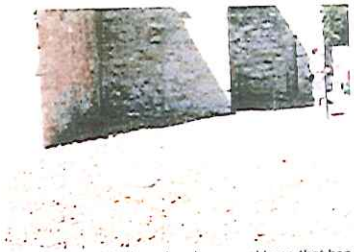
Recommendations: David Crockett's palisade and the wall that connected it to the Long Barrack should be partially reconstructed and, at a minimum, delineated on the ground plane with the aggregate interpretive paving described previously for the Historic Section. This will define and set it apart from the rest of the plaza by indicating that it is of the period of significance. In addition to reconstructing a small portion of the palisade wall, a cannon should also be placed where one was historically located along the wall. Interpretive signage regarding the cemetary and the palisade would give visitors more information about what was previously located and the events that occurred in this zone.

Shrine

Background: The Shrine, along with the first floor of the Long Barrack and a few remnants of the compound walls, are all that remain of the historic structures from the battle. These elements are vitally important, as they reflect the scale and materials of the mission, allowing the visitor to see, experience and understand the history of the site.

Following the recommendations of the 1979 Alamo Master Plan, planting adjacent to the Shrine was removed and the current loose gravel installed along the south, east and north walls.

Existing Conditions: The site around the Shrine has changed substantially since the battle. The addition of loose gravel around the base of the Shrine aids in the interpretation and also protects the building from moisture damage. However, at the front of the Shrine, the paving comes right up to the base.



View of rear of Shrine, showing gravel base that has been added around the exterior

Shrine exit, where pedestrian bottleneck occurs

Exiting the Shrine in the rear, there is a decision making point that creates a pedestrian bottleneck and confusion. A variety of paving materials come together in this location complicating wayfinding. The existing signage is not in a location to be easily seen by visitors.

Recommendations: Continue the use of the gravel around the base of the Shrine to mark it as historic to the site, which coincides with the recommendations across the Historic Section. The gravel can continue across the front of the Shrine to create a full gravel base around this historic structure. This will also work with the architect's recommendations to expose the lower portion of the façade, which is currently covered at the main entry.

The size of the courtyard area between the Shrine and the museum gift shop should be expanded to allow more room at this decision making bottleneck. The paving can be replaced with single material to create a cohesive courtyard area. Refer to the Proposed Site Plan at the end of the Site section for suggested layout.

Convento Courtyard

Background: The 1772 Inventory of the Mission San Antonio de Valero describes the Convento as surrounding a patio 30 varas square with an arched cloister, and "a well with its curbstone and arch surmounted by an artistically carved stone cross."

During the battle, the Convento patio was used as a quarter for horses and, according to George Nelson's depiction of the site in 1836, contained a ramp leading up to a cannon in the northeast corner of the enclosure. After the battle, the north and east walls of the enclosure were destroyed, along with all other single walls on the site, by the Mexican troops.

When the US Army leased the property in 1849 and renovated the Convento as a Long Barrack, the perimeter walls of the enclosure were re-established and the space, once again, used for quartering horses.

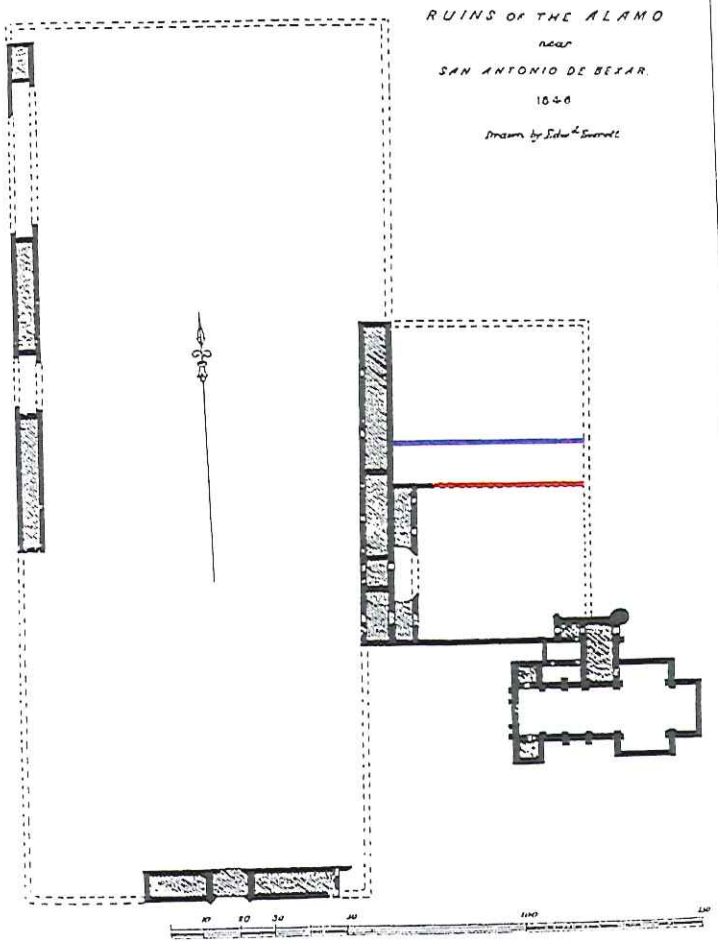
After the Army vacated the site, the two-story Long Barrack was used as a storage facility by merchant Honore Grenet and later, as the Hugo and Schmeltzer store. The walls of the building appear to have been modified during this time, and according to historic photographs of the Long Barrack walls after removal of the store, the old perimeter walls of the enclosure were no longer standing. The Convento Courtyard was once again enclosed by walls after the DRT's acquisition of the Long Barrack in 1905, and a circular planting bed with a star-shaped centerpiece installed in the center of the courtyard. In 1914, the oak tree that now dominates the space was transplanted to the site.

The historical accuracy of the current well in the courtyard is questionable. While a well located in the center of the Convento patio is mentioned in the 1772 Inventory, there is no archeological evidence to verify if the current well is in the same location. The well is not indicated in any of the historical maps from the time of the battle or in any of Edward Everett's maps from the Army occupation. After examining historical photographs, the current well appears to have been installed sometime after the beautification project of the late 1930s.

Existing Conditions: The alignment of the existing walls of the Long Barrack represent for the most part their 1836 layout. However, there is one east-west wall north of the Long Barrack that appears to be inconsistent with an historic plan analysis based on the 1846 drawing by E. Everett seen below. The superimposed red line indicates the historic location of the wall, which is not consistent with the location of the wall as it is currently, indicated in blue.

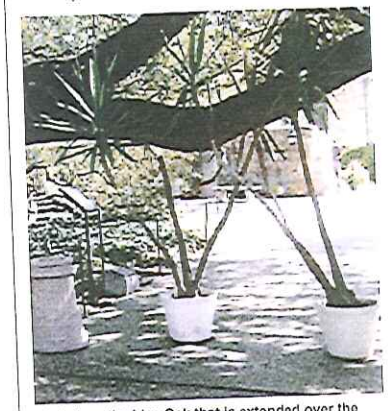
The landscape treatment is dominated by semi-tropical evergreen plantings. Protected by potted plants, the central oak tree has a large limb hanging out over the walkway that has become a safety hazard. Additionally, a series of monuments, plaques and artillery not of the period proliferate this area and extend into the cavalry courtyard.

Plant species in this zone include:
Live oak *Quercus virginiana*
English ivy *Hedera helix*
Ruellia *Ruellia* sp.
Dwf yaupon holly *Ilex vomitoria*
Ashe juniper *Juniperus ashei*
Crape myrtle *Lagerstromeria indica*
Japanese Cherry tree *Prunus serrulata*

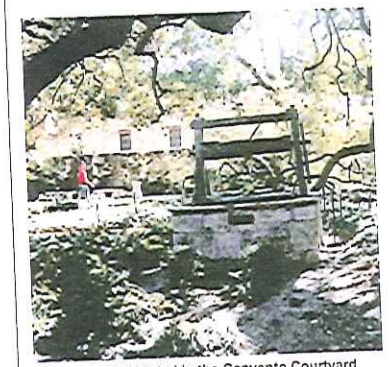


1846 *Ruins of the Alamo near San Antonio De Bexar*, by Edward Everett. *Courtesy of the National Archives* Imposed red line indicates original placement of convento east-west wall and blue line indicates current location.

Central planting area of the Convento Courtyard with the large Live Oak and well



Limb from the Live Oak that is extended over the walkway and is biffered with planters



Well centrally located in the Convento Courtyard

View towards the north in the Convento Courtyard

Texas Pecan tree *Carya illinoiensis*
Texas Sabal palm *Sabal texensis*
Mediterranean Fan palm *Chamerops humilis*

Recommendations: The large oak tree can remain to provide shade for the area and to help screen the view to the Museum. An archaeological study is needed to verify whether the well that exists is of the period and that it was originally installed in its present location.

It is recommended that the location of the east-west wall be verified beyond this preliminary study on the 1846 Everett survey (shown on the previous page). If indeed, the wall is in the non-period location, it should be removed and reconstructed in the correct location.

To be consistent with the Historic Section, where possible, all walls historic to the period should be demarcated by a three foot gravel strip on each side. Where this gravel strip crosses a walkway, the gravel should continue as a stabilized aggregate in concrete to avoid maintenance and safety issues. Refer to the Proposed Site Plan at the end of the Site section for the recommended revised layout.

Site furnishings, such as benches, lighting, and signage in this zone should be consistent with the Historic Section.

Cavalry Courtyard

Background: The Cavalry Courtyard is an extension of the Convento Courtyard, stretching north to the end of the Long Barrack. Historically, the space was enclosed by wood and earthen walls and served as a stock yard for horses and livestock, and it, like the Convento Courtyard, contained a ramp with a cannon in in its northeast corner at the time of the battle. The section of the north perimeter walls that encloses the Cavalry Courtyard was constructed in 1977, when other modifications were made to the existing perimeter walls. A podium and seating for visitors was also installed.

Existing Conditions: There is a podium is used for historic presentations regarding the site and the battle. Monuments, cannons, and plaques have been placed in this courtyard, some of which are non-battle related.

Lush landscaping exists around the perimeter which contains the space, but also blocks the view to some historic features. The view to the Long Barrack is encumbered in this area by dense landscaping and tropical foliage.

Plant species in this zone include:
Asian Jasmine *Trachaelospermum asiaticum*
Texas Redbud *Cercus texensis*
Prairie flameleaf sumac *Rhus lanceolata*
Texas Red Oak *Quercus texensis*
Washington Fan palm *Washingtonia filifera*
Texas Mountain Laurel *Sophora secundiflora*
Agave *Agave Americana*
Sago palm *Cycus revoluta*
Texas Pecan tree *Carya illinoiensis*

View northwest from Cavalry Courtyard showing existing docent podium

Existing benches in Cavalry Courtyard

View west from Cavalry Courtyard showing the obstructed view of the Long Barrack

Recommendations: In keeping with the concept of the Historic Section, all period walls of 1836 should be surrounded by the three foot wide, gravel strip to separate them from the non-historic structures as described previously.

In order to better showcase the Long Barrack, rather than buffer it from view, the landscaping against the building should be minimized, especially vertically. The lush, existing landscaping around this courtyard makes it difficult to interpret the scale and to understand the space.

It is suggested that the docent podium be relocated and centered on the doorway from the Convento. Although the wall behind the podium is in a historic position and a gravel strip should be added, a landscape buffer just behind the podium should also be incorporated in order to detract the audience's view from the Emily Morgan Hotel behind the site. Refer to the Proposed Site Plan at the end of the Site section for the suggested layout.

Relocating the Wall of History panels currently flanking the Museum to the south side of the Cavalry Courtyard incorporates them within the defined Historic Section and refines the interpretive circulation pattern. This will simultaneously abet interpretation of the Historic Section while also serving as a distinctive backdrop for the presentation area.

All site furnishings should be replaced and be consistent with the Historic Section. Additional seating should be added in closer proximity to the podium, which will allow for large audiences for the History Talks.

Acequia

Background: The Acequia Madre was dug in the 1720s as an irrigation ditch to provide water to the mission compound and its surrounding fields. As depicted in historic maps and George Nelson's depiction of the mission, the acequia was known to be surrounded by sparse vegetation and relatively flat topography.

Although the acequia was filled in by the city in 1905, the line of the acequia continued to define the property boundary behind the Alamo. The property line, following the route of the old acequia, angled southwest from Houston Street and came within a few feet of the Shrine's rear wall. The offset seen today in the north perimeter wall near the Gift Museum is at the point where the acequia separated the east and west portions of the site.

The acequia was reconstructed in 1936 as part of the Gift Museum and park construction. Henry T. Phelps' plans for the restored acequia show it as irregularly shaped, with pools at the north and south ends, rather than the straight, walled channel that was actually constructed.

Existing Conditions: To date, the acequia has been interpreted as a concrete lined ditch and lacks the feeling of the period element. Although historically the acequia was an engineered irrigation ditch, it had earthen sides, and may have eroded horizontally in some areas, causing it to not be as straight on the edges as currently constructed. Currently there are planting beds with native grasses and tropical plants along its edges.

Adjacent to the pedestrian crossings, there are two different style railings that were provided for safety. These add a vertical element that detracts from the historic value of the site. Living in the waterway are several Koi fish. There are currently three bridge crossings; one near the entry, another near the exit of the museum, and the third located between the two. The central crossing does not line up symmetrically with any openings on the museum building and is rarely used.

Existing Acequia adjacent to the Gift Museum. One of the two types of metal railings is shown.

Existing planting bed adjacent to the acequia

Example of possible future treatment of acequia

Recommendations: Re-interpret the acequia to better reflect the historic period and nature of this water feature. The acequia can be shallowed to less than 30" in depth, to prevent the use of handrails. The sides should have a natural soil pavement or stamped concrete finish, which will resemble compacted dirt. The edges should meander horizontally to create the look of erosion that naturally occurred along this ditch historically. Refer to the photograph above for an example of how the acequia may have appeared during the period of significance.

The acequia should also be waterproofed to prevent possible seepage into the soil, which may be contributing to rising damp in the Shrine walls.

Plantings along the acequia should be limited to well-maintained turf grasses. To allow for a clear interpretation, no planting beds should exist along its edges. The Koi fish should be removed from the waterway and, perhaps, sold for donations.

5.2 Commemorative Section

Gift Museum

Background: The Gift Museum was constructed in 1937, along with the restoration of the acequia and the extension of the Alamo Park. The walkways around the Museum, along with the three bridges that span the acequia, were constructed at this time as part of an overall plan of curvilinear walkways spreading to the northeast corner and perimeter of the site.

The approach to the north entrance of the Museum was originally constructed with a rectangular lawn that has since been replaced with paving.

Existing Conditions: An attempt has been made to buffer the Museum from the 1836 portions of the site with vertical landscaping. This was done to help deter misinterpretation of the building and its connection with the battle. The east side of the building is still open to view and has a walkway that runs parallel to the acequia, which is rarely used for circulation.

The site entry from the north reveals an open view of the building, which, although attractive, undermines the historical layout of the original mission and confuses visitors' interpretations as they enter from that side.

Plant species within this zone include:
Cedar elm *Ulmus crassifolia*
Ornamental crabapple *Malus ioensis*
Mexican buckeye *Ungnadia speciosa*
Pindo Palm *Butia capitata*
Texas Mountain Laurel *Sophora secundiflora*
Desert willow *Chilopsis linearis*
Japanese maple *Acer palmatum*
Texas Sage *Leucophyllum frutescens*
Liriope L. *muscari* 'big blue'
Asparagus fern *Densiflorus* 'sprengeri' (pots)
Ruellia *ruellia* sp.
Holly Fern *Cyrtomium falcatum*

West wall of Gift Museum, viewing southeast towards Shrine

View from Lawn/Garden zone of the east wall of the Gift Museum, showing the central acequia bridge

Gift Museum south entry, adjacent to the Shrine

Mexican mint marigold *Tagetes lucida*
Turk's Cap *Malvaviscus drummmondii*
Viburnum *V. suspensum* (sandankwa viburnum)
Texas Persimmon *Diospyros texana*
Sago palm *Cycus revoluta*
Mediterranean Fan palm *Chamerops humilis*
Huisache tree *Acacia farnesina*

Recommendations: Both the north-south walkway parallel to the acequia, and the central acequia bridge crossing should be removed. These walks were installed along with an overall circulation plan, of which only portions of the original framework remain (refer to the Lawn/Garden zone). By removing that portion of the walkway, the landscape buffer can continue along the east side of the building. When the visitor is approaching the Shrine from the rear, this will distract the view from the Museum to better focus the visitor on the historic Shrine. As a part of the Commemorative Section, site furnishings should be consistent within this zone.

DRT Library / Arcade

Background: The construction of the garden area that is now in front of the DRT Library was begun in 1934 during the beautification program of the site in preparation for the Texas centennial celebration. At this time, the Library was not yet constructed, and Alamo Hall was not renovated until 1938. H.E. Kincaid's 1935 drawing of the improvements shows the plans for this area, including the fountain and walkways, and the arcade (refer to image in Section 4.0, page 10).

The DRT Library was constructed in 1950 to the west of Alamo Hall, and was subsequently expanded in the 1970s. With these additions, the walkways around the fountain were changed. Like the other gardens on the Alamo grounds, this area has continued to evolve over the last several decades.

Existing Conditions: There are multiple walkways leading to the Library that draw many visitors to its entrance. Although the courtyard and fountain give visitors a unique garden experience, once they approach the front door of the Library, they are turned away by the Library sign stating that it is for research use only.

The arcade is constructed of a similar stone used throughout the site for historic structures. Its material and connection to the Shrine gives the appearance that it is part of the original compound.

Plant species that exist in this zone include:
Ashe Juniper *Juniperus ashei*
Gingko tree *Gingko biloba*
Japanese Yew *Podocarpus macrophyllus*
Live Oak *Quercus virginiana*
Philodendron *Philodendron bipinnatifidum*
English Ivy *Hedera helix*
Dwarf Yaupon holly *Ilex vomitoria*
Pindo Palm *Butia capitata*
Washingtonia Fan palm *Washingtonia filifera*
Anaqua tree *Ehretia anacua*
Sago palm *Cycus revoluta*

Pathway leading south from rear of Shrine to the fountain and Library entrance

Fountain outside Library entrance

View of Arcade from Library entry

Recommendations: The Library, with its surrounding garden and arcade, creates confusion for visitors and leads to misinterpretation of battle related structures. Since the Library is for researchers only and not the general public, it should be disconnected from the primary circulation pattern.

The arcade's material, alignment and connection to the Shrine adds confusion to its significance in interpretation from inside and outside the Historic Section. As part of this master plan, the arcade should be pulled back further from the face of the Shrine, with a

minimum of one bay removed to disassociate it from the Shrine and Historic Section.

The walkways, which were also part of the overall circulation concept that is no longer intact, should be reworked to allow access to the garden and fountain, but to limit access to the front door of the library. The entry walkway to the library should be moved to connect to the arcade and chained off with signage, discouraging visitors from unknowingly wandering into this area. Refer to the Proposed Site Plan at the end of the Site section for the proposed layout.

Lawn / Garden

Background: Shortly after custodianship of the Alamo Shrine and Long Barrack was conveyed to the DRT in 1905, the idea was formed to make a "park about the Alamo." The plans for this area of the Alamo Park were realized after all the properties east of the acequia were acquired by the State of Texas in 1937.

Henry T. Phelps' plans consisted of curvilinear walkways branching from paths leading to

Aerial view of the Alamo grounds, 1940.
Courtesy of The San Antonio Express-News Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

Aerial view of the Alamo grounds, ca.1940.
Courtesy of the DRT Library

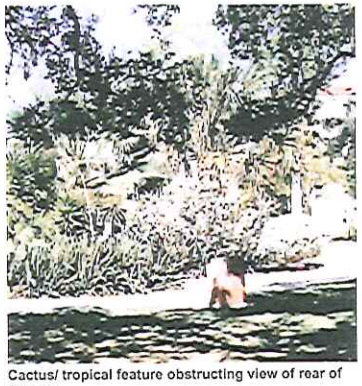
the northeast corner and along the perimeter of the site, as well as fountains in the middle of the eastern portion and the northeast corner of the site.

Since the construction of the Lawn area, the original curvilinear walkways have been disrupted by the addition of the support buildings on the northeast corner of the site and the patio and walkways leading to Alamo Hall.

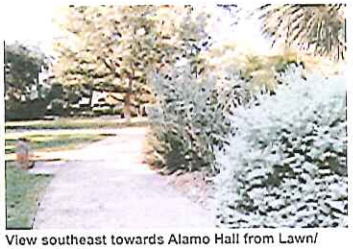
Existing Conditions: The bucolic garden, which is well maintained, is a pleasant space for visitors and acts as a park space for downtown San Antonio; yet this area can be confusing for the casual visitor to the site. The original design of the curvilinear walkways has been compromised over the years due to new construction. Therefore, the remnants that remain of this design are not cohesive or consistent with the rest of the site circulation.

The current landscape treatment consists of a large variety of shade trees including cottonwoods (*Alamo* in Spanish), pecans and live oaks. Plantings vary from evergreens and perennials to cacti and tropicals. Several traditional garden designs are present in this area, including a cactus garden, native grass plantings, and tropical displays. The ground plan is dominated by a turf lawn.

Plant species in this zone include:
Cottonwood tree *Populus deltoids*
Texas Sabal palm *Sabal texensis*
Pomegranite *Punica granatum*
Mexican plum *Prunus Mexicana*
Texas Red Oak *Quercus texensis*
Chinese Tallow *Sapium sebiferum*
Texas Pecan tree *Carya illinoiensis*
Cast Iron plant *Aspidistra elatior*
Yellow Bells *Tecoma stans*
Ruellia *Ruellia* sp.
Mexican Firespike *Odontonema strictum*
Mexican Orchid tree *Bauhinia Mexicana*
Anaqua tree *Ehretia anacua*
Mesquite tree *Prosopsis glandulosa*
Pencil cactus *Opuntia leptocaulis*
Spanish dagger *Yucca treculeana*
Agave *Agave lechuguilla* Windmill Palm *Trachycarpus fortunei*
Fountain grass *Pennisetum setaceum*
Ocotillo *Fouquieria splendens*
Crape myrtle *Lagerstromeria indica*
Anacacho orchid tree *Bauhinia congesta*
Pygmy date palm *Phoenix roebellenii*



Cactus/ tropical feature obstructing view of rear of Shrine



View southeast towards Alamo Hall from Lawn/ Garden area

Existing garden furnishing

View south towards Alamo Hall from existing Lawn/ Garden area

Recommendations: Shrub plantings, especially the cactus/ tropical garden located centrally in this zone, should be relocated to the edges of the site and adjacent to non-period structures for screening. This will open the views to the Shrine and give it an unrestricted appearance and preserving a greater relationship with the 1836 incarnation of the site.

Even though it is believed that there was not turf grass existing at the time of the battle, for today's purpose, the turf grass gives the open feel of this yard as it was historically, while still maintaining a green space for downtown.

The walkways that extend from the acequia to the west, the support area to the east, the exterior wall to the north, and from Alamo Hall to the south, should be reconfigured and simplified in order to better the flow of visitors and reduce confusion. Refer to the Proposed Site Plan at the end of the Site section for the layout.

Benches, site furniture and all signage should be consistent with the Commemorative Section.

Alamo Hall

Background: Development of the design for the courtyard outside Alamo Hall occurred in the 1970s along with the master planning effort at that time. The space is currently used for events and gatherings.

Existing Conditions: The courtyard outside Alamo Hall consists of a covered porch with a paved open space and surrounding landscaping.

Plant species in this zone include:
American Beautyberry *Callicarpa Americana*
Date Palm *Phoenix canariensis*
Xylosma *Xylosma congestum*
Ironwood *Olneya tesota*
Pomegranite *Punica granatum*
Pittosporum *Pittosporum tobira*
Agapanthus *Agapanthus Africans*
Philodendron *Philodendron bipinnatifidum*
Asian Jasmine *Trachaelospermum asiaticum*
Texas Redbud *Cercus texensis*
Ornamental flowering peach *Prunus persica*
Cast Iron plant *Aspidistra elatior*

View east from Alamo Hall courtyard

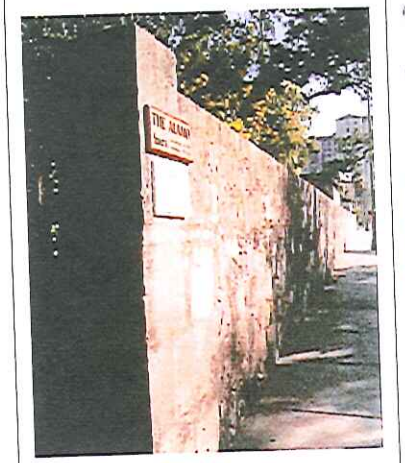
View of Alamo Hall courtyard and patio

Recommedations: As part of the overall circulation reconfiguration of the Lawn/ Garden zone, the walkways that connect the Shrine, the Library, and Alamo Hall should be reworked to create a more cohesive look and to address accessibility issues. Landscaping should be added between the lawn and Alamo Hall to further buffer the area from direct view, so as not to deter the visitor from contemplating the site's most significant structure.

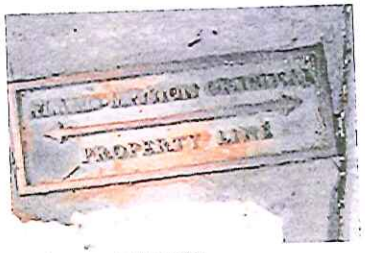
Edge / Perimeter

Background: The perimeter wall was constructed along the exiting property line of the site as part of the Alamo Park in 1937, and was raised two feet in 1977 for security purposes. A small parking lot located inside the Houston Street gate was constructed with the current support buildings.

Existing Conditions: The perimeter wall is constructed of a similar stone to that used across the site for historic and non-historic structures. There are entry points with gates located at various locations around the perimeter, along with some small window-like openings. Metal plaques located in the sidewalk outside the walls indicate where the original property line was located. Across the south side of the wall behind Alamo Hall, lush, colorful landscaping creates interest at the perimeter for passers by.

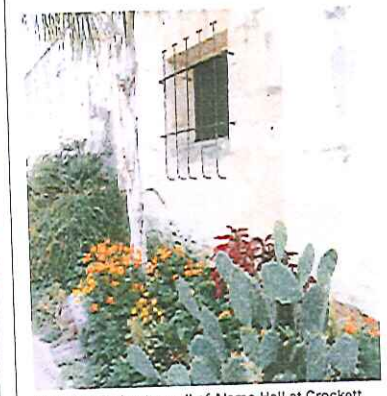


Perimeter wall at Bonham Street



Existing property line marker

Perimeter wall and gated entry at Bonham Street



Exterior / Perimeter wall of Alamo Hall at Crockett Street, with garden feature

A small parking lot exists for employees on the north east corner of the property. It is difficult to maneuver and its capacity is limited. The majority of the exterior wall is not historically accurate, with the exception of the portion by the Cavalry Courtyard. Since it is similar in character to the historic structures, it creates confusion as to the original layout of the compound.

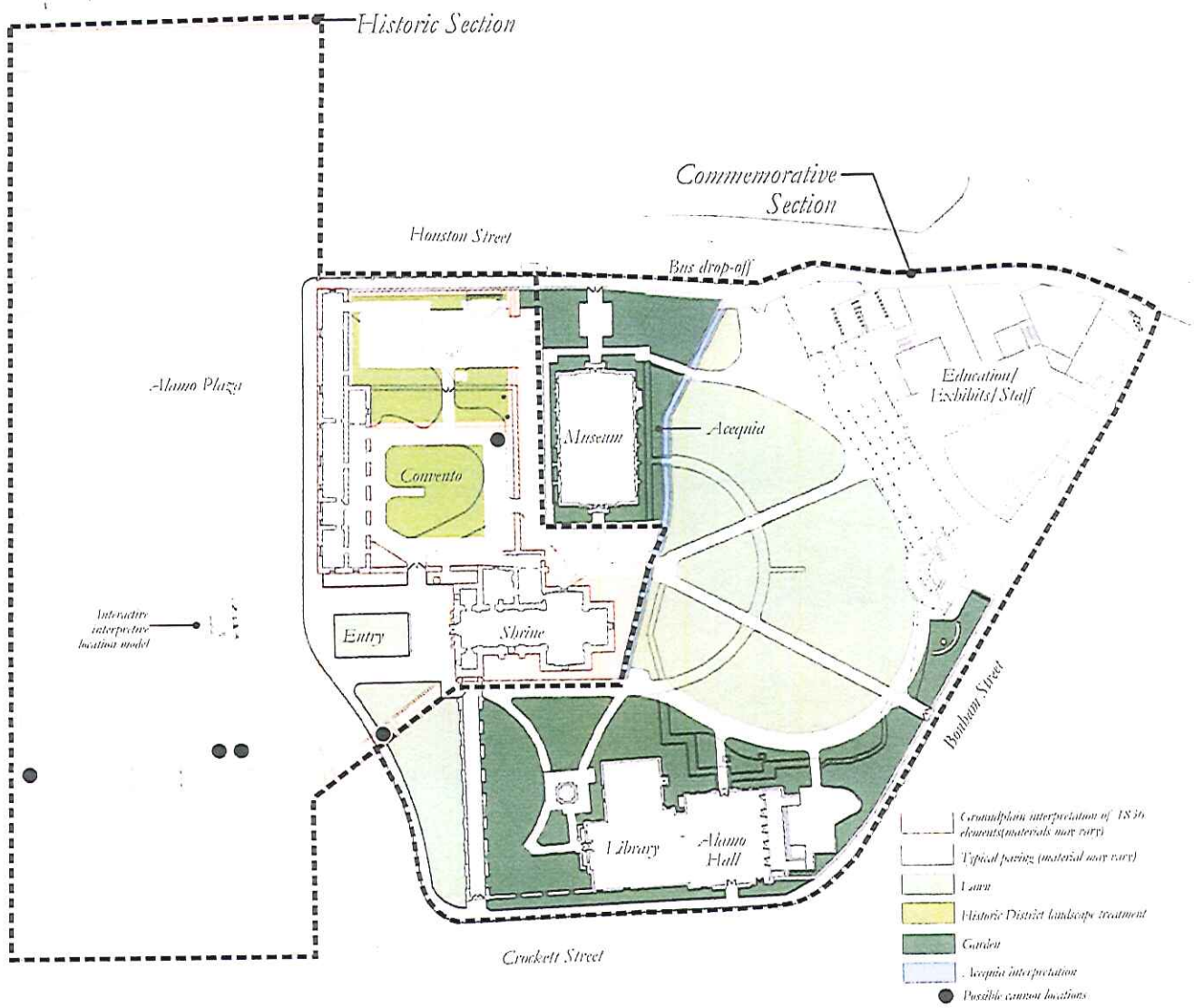
Recommendations: In keeping with the overall concept of this master plan, any structural element which is not historic to 1836 should be screened to the greatest extent possible, in order to help reduce misinterpretation.

5.3 Proposed Site Plan

Master Plan Concept Summary

- Distinguish between Historic and Commemorative Sections
- Interpret the entire 1836 compound to the extent possible on the ground plane, as a minimum
- Minimize the landscaping in the Historic Section to native, low-profile plantings
- Relocate dense garden areas in the Lawn/ Garden zone to the edges of the site to create open lawn and buffer non-period structures
- Re-work the layout of the walkways on the Commemorative Section to be more cohesive and function better with the site
- Relocate monumentation that is currently located across the site to a possible commemorative area to the north of the Library

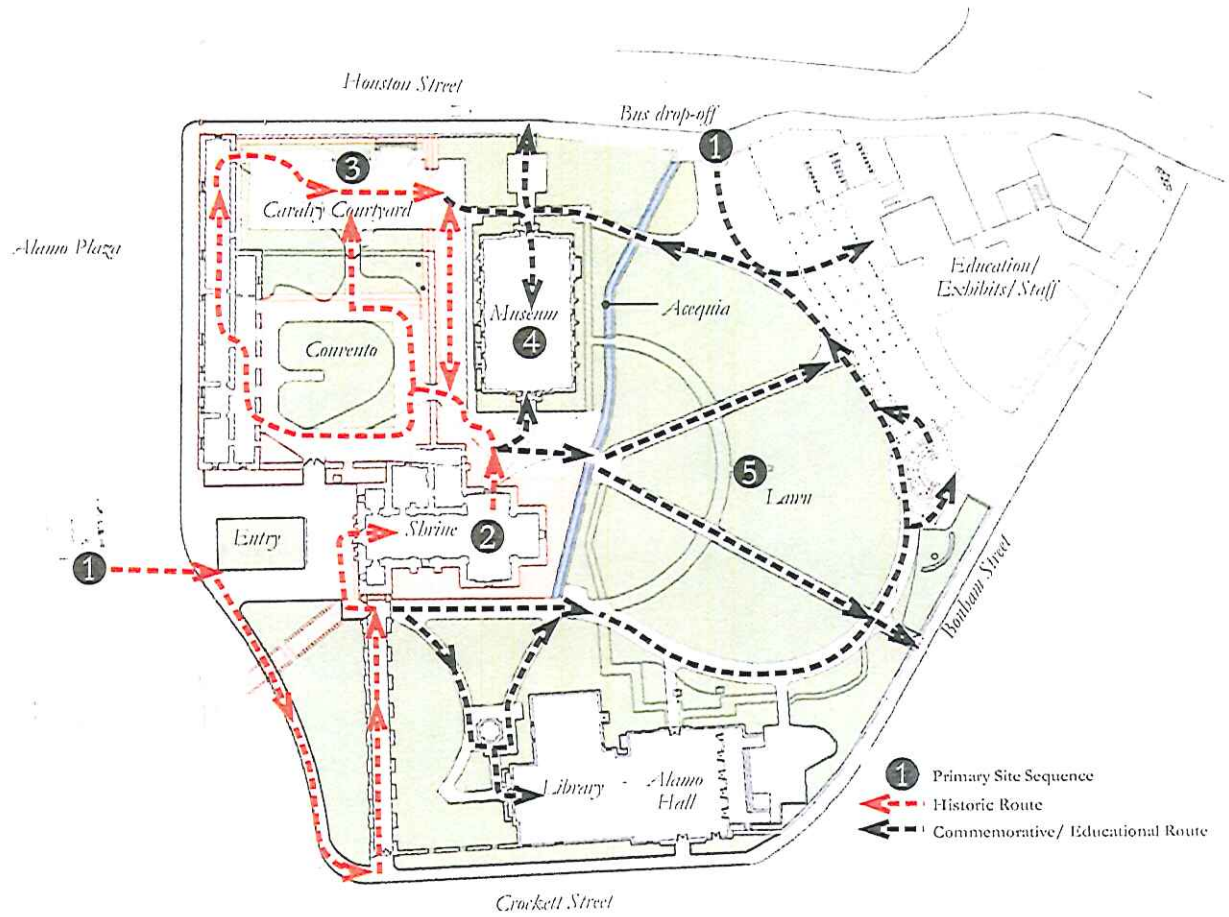
Proposed Site Plan



5.4 Primary Visitor Sequence/ Circulation Plan

This plan presents the primary circulation route and sequence for a typical visit to the site and is not meant to be inclusive of all possible paths. Here, the goal is to contain visitors in the Historic Section while facilitating full interpretation of this area before moving on to the Commemorative Section.

Proposed Circulation Plan



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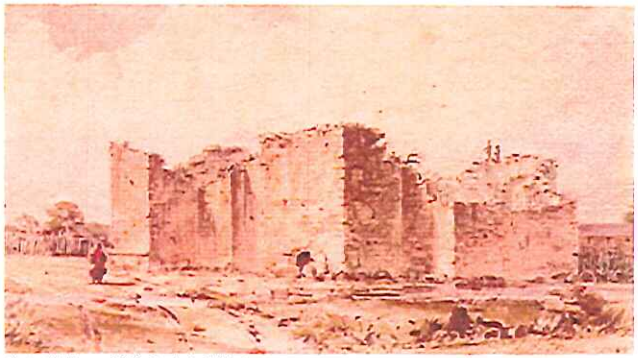


Rear of Alamo, 1849, Capt. Seth Eastman
Courtesy of the Witte Museum

South Wall of the Alamo Shrine

Buildings

Overview of Building Preservation

The campus of buildings and grounds that make up "The Alamo" contains a mixture of building and site features ranging over time from the Spanish Colonial period to late 20th century. Within that time span, changes to the buildings also bear the imprint of various eras:

1. Historic: Spanish Colonial through 1836:
   a. "The Shrine", never completed, was intended to be the mission church:
      1. Original lower walls, facade, 4-part vaults in Sacristy.
      2. Additional stonework, windows, and facade parapet profile, Army occupation, mid 1850's.
      3. Concrete vaulted roof, 1921.
   b. "The Long Barrack," original Convento
      1. Only walls remain of original two-story building.
      2. Roof, windows and doors, 1950's
2. Centennial Commemorative,1936-1937
   a. Gift Museum
   b. Arcade
   c. Perimeter Walls
3. Interpretive/functional
   a. Alamo Hall, converted in 1938
   b. DRT Library, 1952-1953
   c. Trellis Area, 2001
   d. Amphitheater, 2001
   e. Restrooms, late 20th century
4. Support
   a. Security/ Maintenance, late 20th C

Based on these time periods, the preservation of the buildings should be given the following priorities:

1. Historic Period - Highest significance and priority for preservation and interpretation.
2. Centennial Commemorative - Historic, in a secondary tier of significance. Though historic by age and association with the Texas Centennial, each is inconsistent with the interpretation of the Spanish Colonial and Battle periods:
   a. Gift museum competes with the Shrine in size, shape, and location. Visitors are confused, even though the date is prominently shown above the entrance doors.
   b. Arcade, though Spanish in form, does not represent anything from the Historic Period.
   c. Perimeter Walls, while creating a park around the Shrine, give a false idea of the original Alamo compound due to their stone construction.
3. Interpretive/Functional - Moderate significance, can be modified to accomodate needs of the site.
4. Support - Subject to change in response to needs of the site.

Interior View of the Church of the Alamo, 1847 by Edward Everett
Courtesy of the Amon Carter Museum

6.1 Historic (Spanish Colonial)

As of the writing of this Report, the Alamo has an on-site Conservator on staff.

SHRINE

THE ROOF

Background: In 1772, the Inventory of the Mission San Antonio de Valero, in the description of the progress of construction, noted that the roof had not yet been constructed, and only the stone ribs for the barrel vault were in place. An 1847 drawing of the nave of the church by Edward Everett depicts only the spring lines of the ribs remaining.

When the building was occupied by the U.S. Army Quartermaster's Corps as a Depot, its first roof, wood framed, gabled, with a hip at the apse, was installed, prompting the famous silhouette of the upper façade of the Church to be installed to terminate the west end of the gable.

In 1921 the present concrete barrel-vaulted roof was installed by the DRT. The architect for this construction was the Alfred Giles Company, founded by Alfred Giles, who died in 1920.

Apparently, the concrete roof was covered with some sort of composition roofing, which eventually leaked. It was replaced in the late 1930's with a standing seam lead-coated copper roof over the barrel vault and flat seamed lead-coated copper on the flat roofs to the north. Historic aerial photos of the roof show that the barrel-vault roof was originally installed in continuous strips. At some later time, probably when the chandeliers were installed in the Shrine, a batten appeard on the top of the barrel vault roof, possible to enclose the conduit for the chandelier wiring.

In 1996 the existing flat seamed lead-coated copper roof over the north rooms was replaced with a similar roof, attached directly to the concrete deck. The parapets were flashed with flexible heat-applied modified bitumen with a flexible metal cover. This allowed the flashing to be molded to conform to the irregular shapes at the top of the west façade wall. A lead shield was imbedded in caulking at the top of the parapet slope, where the flashing stopped and the plaster started, in order to seal the edge of the flashing.

Shortly after this installation, leaks at the west and north edges of the flat roof over the Monks' Burial Room re-appeared. Later, leaks at the vault intersection also re-appeared. Repeated efforts to repair the leaks and locate the sources have been made.

Description: The present roof over the nave and apse is a concrete barrel vault that intersects the transept vaults at the center of the crossing. The two rooms to the north of the Shrine are roofed with a sloped flat roof, also of concrete. Lead-coated copper covers the concrete roofs, formed with a standing seam on the vault, and flat-seam on the flat area. The perimeter of the roof is edged with a parapet at the top of the wall.

Compressors for the mechanical equipment in the Shrine are placed on the flat roof, and related piping is raised above the roof.

Existing Conditions: Leaks that manifest themselves along the south wall and northwest corner of the northwest room adjacent to the nave, as well as leaks at the intersecting barrel vaults in the nave ceiling, continue. The concrete ceiling is discolored from this activity, and, in the northwest room, sections of reinforcing bar are visible. Cracks have also opened in the concrete in the areas where the leaking is evident. Recent water testing has revealed that the leaks persist, not just in the flat roof, but also in the barrel vault. Plans are in process to waterproof the roof. See Appendix C for recent roof analysis.

View of the Alamo Shrine showing the barrel-vaulted roof. 1937. Note lack of ridge cap.
Courtesy of The San Antonio Light Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

North wall of Shrine showing concrete parapet

The flat roof continues over the Sacristy, where it is above the top of the stone vaulted ceiling of that space. Because of the void between the ceiling and the roof, it is not possible to monitor any moisture at the bottom side of the concrete decking.

The evidence of leaking at the top of the intersecting vaults in this main space is most curious because there is no concentration of water in this location. Farther down at the base of the valley of the vault intersection, the leak manifested there could originate from higher up on the vault, with the water traveling down to the valley. This could also be the case at the edge condition, where the parapet has been sealed. Investigations were based partially on the idea that water could be traveling under the roofing felts from higher up on the roof.

Recommendations:
Thermal photography should be used to locate source of leaks.

Long term consideration should be given to removing the condensing units from the Shrine roof. This would suggest an alternate A/C system, including a geothermal heat source. Investigate joint between concrete parapet and stone wall for leaks.

Possible application of coating to seal both roofs.

Possible replacement of metal roof on barrel vault.

Possible replacement of flat-seamed roof with modified bitumen.

Correction of leaks found in parapets.

Install a hatch in the flat seam roof over the Sacristy giving access to the void so that the concrete deck, as well as the masonry vaults below can be monitored.

EXTERIOR WALLS

Background: During the original construction phase, the walls were never completed; however, the 1772 inventory describes them as being at least as high as the spring line of the stone vault ribs, which were described as being in place. The 1849 Captain Seth Eastman drawing depicts the east, apse wall of the building as somewhat lower than the other walls. A ramp of earth was piled against the inside of this wall in order to place a cannon at that location.

When the U.S. Army occupied the site as a quartermaster's depot, the walls were made level all around in order to accommodate the installation of a roof. At this time, stones were added to the façade to bring the walls each side of the center section up to level, and to raise the height of the center section to receive the gable end of the roof.

Since the east end of the roof was hipped, not requiring this treatment, one must assume that there was more than a practical reason for this modification. The profile of the building, as a result of this rounded cresting, has become an iconic symbol for the quest for freedom.

The Army also added windows along the north, east, and south walls.

When the Army occupation roof was replaced with a concrete barrel vault in 1921, sections of concrete with a rough pebble surface were added on top of the walls to form parapets.

Rising damp

Rising damp is a condition where moisture is absorbed into masonry walls from the surrounding soil and wicked up above grade where it evaporates from the surface of the stone. As this process repeats itself, salts from the soil remain deposited in the stone and allow the stone to hold more moisture, with the result that the moisture rises higher and higher up the wall before it evaporates. As more evaporation occurs, salts are deposited on the surfaces of the stones and their crystallization puts pressure on the stone surface, causing deterioration. The water held by the stones as a result of this action is also a cause of deterioration when there is a frost.

Stones laid in the wall with their bedding planes (the horizontal sedimentary layers as they formed) vertical are more impacted by the rising damp process than stones laid with their bedding planes oriented as they were removed from the ground because the inherent capillary action in the layering of the stones tends to absorb and hold more moisture when vertical, eventually resulting in the flaking off of the stones in their sedimentary layers.

Rising damp is evident all around the building by virtue of discoloration of the stone and deterioration of the surface. In addition, it can be measured on the surface of the stones by means of a moisture meter.

Per the recommendations put forth in the 1979 Alamo Master Plan, trees and grass around the Shrine were removed. Air conditioning equipment in a lean-to at the apse was also removed, and the A/C equipment re-located in the bell towers.

Study by Raba Kistner

In 1984 a study was conducted by Raba Kistner in which cores were taken from the walls and analyzed. Salts were identified as being present, but there was no quantification of the amount of their presence. In addition, piezometers were installed in four locations where soil borings had been made, and the water table was found to be between 17 and 20 feet below grade. Recommendations were to remove the soil around the Shrine and replace it with more neutral soil that does not have an accumulation of salts from fertilizers.

Plate in base of south transept

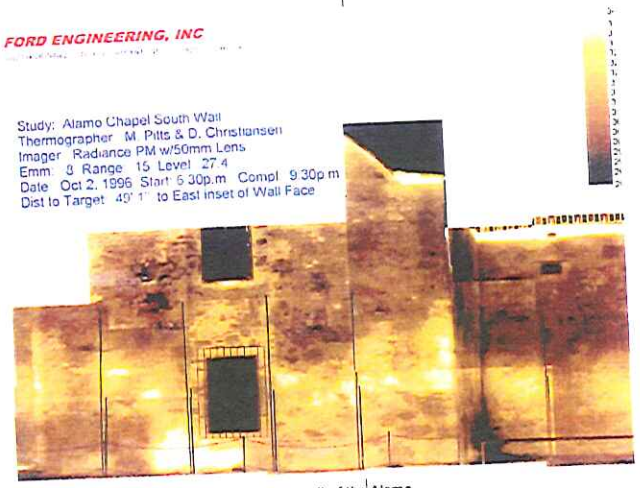
In 1995, as part of stabilization work on the façade, installation of a chemical damp course was proposed along the west wall. Because of the irreversibility of this method, it was suggested that a physical damp course be investigated. Sawing techniques utilizing circular saws did not lend themselves to this application because of the 4' thickness of the walls. A quarry wire-type saw was used to slice the bottom of the east transept, south wall, allowing a ¼" plate of monel to be inserted. A poultice was applied to the interior and exterior wall, up to the rising damp tide line.

Measurements of the salts before and after the poulticing indicated a decrease in the salt content at the surface of the wall.

Initially the wall dried out; however, moisture began to migrate from adjacent walls. Most peculiar was the pattern of moisture from the upper southwest corner of the south wall, down, to the center of the wall. High levels of salts had been noted in the upper part of the west transept wall, and, apparently, these moved down to the drying wall. Refer to heat thermography photo below.

Migration from the east adjacent wall was not so evident.

On the exterior of the transept (south and east wall of transept, south wall of apse), a water barrier was installed below grade against the wall, held in place by the pressure of the soil. The barrier terminated in a plaster drip formed against the stone of the wall to keep water running down the wall from entering between the barrier and the wall.



1996 Heat thermography photo of the south wall of the Alamo

Grade around the transept was given a positive slope, and at the intersection of the transept and apse, were two canales deposit water, flat stones with clay between them were placed under the gravel ground cover to minimize the infiltration of water in this area of concentration.

Description: The walls at their base are 4' thick, coursed rubble limestone, capped with cast concrete parapet sections, except the main façade, which is stone to the top of the wall. The mortar has a pink tint, with wide joints between the irregular stones. The façade is discussed in the following portion of this report section.

Existing Conditions: Generally, the limestone is in satisfactory condition. The mortar, which is modern (possibly 1970's), is in good condition, with slight deterioration. There does not seem to be any evidence that the mortar strength has damaged the stone. The stone walls show evidence of rising damp all around the building, though the deterioration has not impacted the ability of the stones to carry their load. In fact, calculations of the existing load on the walls, even assuming that the strength of the stone has been reduced by half because of below-grade dampness, indicate that the walls, as they exist, are capable of carrying their loads.

The rising damp has caused stones to lose part of their faces at the lower portion of the wall.

There is a possibility of seepage from the nearby acequia.

An irrigation system using re-cycled water was installed on the grounds of the Alamo and its use was started in February of 2002. At that time, SAWS collected soil samples from areas around the site and had them analyzed to establish a baseline. It is interesting to note that the samples had high nitrogen contents, probably fertilizer from feeding the grass. In addition, an analysis of potable vs. recycled water dated August, 1998 was supplied.

The comparison of potable and recycled water revealed sodium levels of 90 and 102 for recycled and 10 for potable water. Chlorides, nitrates and sulfates were also much higher in the recycled water than in potable water.

There is evidence of mortar deterioration around the base of the walls due to salts (South face of apse, west façade).

At the time of this revision, a full-time Conservator has been hired for the Alamo to clean and preserve the walls.

Recommendations: Establish a regular system of monitoring moisture in the walls, using thermal photography and moisture meters.

Inspect mortar yearly, repairing and replacing any damaged or failed areas, slowly changing the mortar composition and color to match what would have been the original mortar. A general re-pointing is not recommended since the existing mortar is performing and apparently not causing damage.

The revisions to the acequia recommended elsewhere in this Report should improve the containment of water from that source.

Set up a system of regular sampling of soils. If there is an increase in the salts in the ground surrounding the Alamo Shrine, steps should be taken to isolate the area around the Shrine from the rest of the compound.

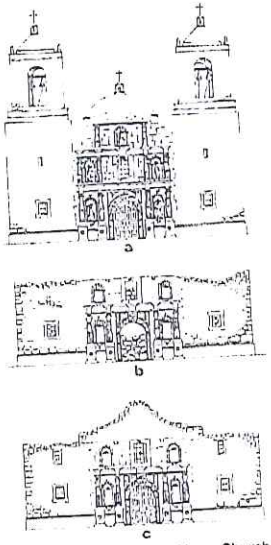
The baseline soil samples nearest to the Shrine were taken south of it, on the south side of the sidewalk. Additional samples should be taken between the Shrine walls and the sidewalk to monitor any migration of salts from the irrigation system.
Set up a program for monitoring stone surface moisture yearly. Where moisture is high, apply poultices to remove some of the salts.

As a first step toward mitigating rising damp, dig down along the exterior of the building to the base of the walls and install a moisture barrier similar to the one at the south transept, incorporating poulticing as part of this process.

Long term, initiate a program of insertion of a physical damp course around the entire perimeter of the building, supported by an ongoing schedule of poulticing for salt removal.

Facade

Background: Just as the Church was never completed in its original intended form, the façade also never achieved its original design. Described in the "Inventory of Mission San Antonio de Valero, 1772: "The principal façade of the entire building is very beautiful and of Tuscan workmanship. According to the plan, it must be 14 1/3 varas at the highest point. At the present time it is 9 varas high with 4 main collateral columns and 4 niches. In 2 of the latter are the statues of our holy Fathers St. Francis and St. Dominic. These statues are very devotional and are more than a vara high. Above the said niches are 2 others, carved but not completed. They still lack the columns and the 2 images of St. Clare and St. Margaret of Cortona. One of them is almost finished, and there are many other parts for the third section, which will be completed with a statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception with a fitting niche according to the designer's plan".



Facade reconstruction of the Alamo Church by Jack Eaton
a. The suggested original elevation of the facade showing the never-completed bell towers and dome.
b. Facade at the time of the battle in1836.
c. Facade following US Army repairs in1850.

Alamo Shrine, ca. 1911.
Rising damp is evident on the lower portion of the facade in the discoloration of the stone.
Courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library

Current (2006) photograph of the Shrine shows marked decrease in the visibility of the rising damp.

The construction of the walls of the carved facade never reached the third level, and the columns intended for the second level were never installed. Notches in the top level of cut stones on the façade appear to be made to receive these columns.

Ultimately, the shape as we know it today was put in place by the US Army as a means to enclose the west end of the gable roof they installed.

Rising damp has been very visible across the façade, from the time of the earliest photograph in 1849.

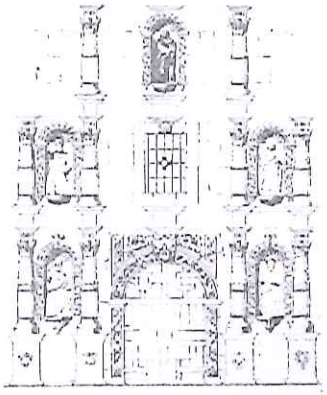
In 1995, work to stabilize the façade included:

- Mold was removed and anti fungal was installed.
- Selected re-pointing on the carved façade.
- Replacement and re-contouring of the plaster wash on the ledge of the cornice to drain water off the straight edges of the cornice, where small stainless steel drips were installed to overcome the tendency for water to run down the face of the cornice.
- Re-facing of severely deteriorated stones.
- Cleaning and stabilization of existing plaster on the façade.
- Replacement of a carved stone in the upper north niche. The loss of this face in recent history was documented photographically.
- Loose stone surfaces were pinned.
- Mortar patching on the stone surfaces was removed and replaced with patches that matched the stone. Erroded stones were filled, keeping the filled surface back from the original stone surface plane.
- Cement from the 1920's roof installation was removed from ledges, stone faces, and the lower belt course.
- The parapet was re-capped, diverting most of the water back on to the roof, and plaster was replaced on the back side of the parapet.

The façade work has performed as intended. The drips at the cornice ledge help the water break away from the stone and fall free to the ground instead of running on the underside of the cornice. Additional antifungal material was applied in 2001 because there was some evidence of the re-appearance of mold.

Description: The major façade of the Alamo Shrine has become an iconic symbol for freedom. Its profile, fixed in its present shape by the US Army, has become a regional graphic, with many buildings, especially from the 1920's and '30's adopting the basic geometry of the profile, while changing the proportions to fit their individual design.

Graffiti immitating the shape of the Alamo Shrine façade on a local train car illustrates the pervasiveness of the Alamo as a regional icon.



Sketch of the intended design for the three-tiered facade of the Alamo Church by Jack Eaton

Typical Spanish Colonial period church outside Guanajuto, Mexico built around the same time as construction of the Alamo Church began.

Deteriorated faces of two stone plinths on the facade

The Spanish Colonial section of the façade, with its carved central section and carved window surrounds is easily identified. The intended three-tiered central section of the decorative façade would have been late baroque in style, as evidenced by the spiral fluting of the upper column sections and classic cornice, and is similar to many parish churches in Mexico of similar time frames in its horizontal and vertical divisions.

The remainder of the façade is coursed rubble. It is interesting to note that the section of stonework below the carved belt course that runs across the façade is comprised of large, rounded stones, in contrast to the flat surfaced-stones above.

The two upper side windows were added by the US Army, when they repaired the walls and raised them to present height.

Existing Conditions: Rising damp remains an issue and a threat to the façade.

The decorative carving on the faces of the 4 plinths supporting the bottom row of columns has been virtually lost. Vertical orientation of bedding planes in these large stones has contributed to the extent of the deterioration. Moisture and salts in the layers has caused the surface of the decorative carving, as well as the base of the stones, to flake away. Where the carving was placed on the edge-side of the planes, it has survived better than where located on the face of the planes.

The coursed rubble stone, especially at the top of the wall, tends to support mold growth. A section of the north side of the façade above and to the south of the upper window was constructed in a slightly concave manner, holding water and promoting mold growth.

The intersection with the roof and parapet at the top of the south half of the façade is not ideal. The wall and roof come together in an irregular manner, with the roof almost level with the top of the wall. Copper-coated modified bitumen was installed as a flashing here, using heat to conform the material to the roof and wall top.

The carved stone around the central doorway is in need of repair. A cast replacement for stone face on the right jamb is inappropriate in color and texture. Stones in the door surround are damaged, split, and fractured. The surface of the columns on the carved facade appear to have weathered away from the shell fragments visibly protruding above the stone surface.

Recommendations: A long-term plan for conservation of the facade should be developed by a stone conservator that includes any immediate preservative treatments that are needed as well as an ongoig program of periodic inspection and appropriate treatment.

A means to measure and monitor the stone weathering should be developed and implemented.

Anti-fungal application should be scheduled at 5-year intervals.

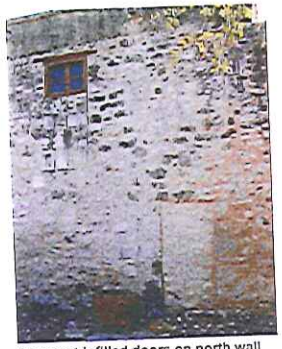
As with the rest of the building, a barrier should be installed against rising damp, pending further study.

Grade at the front of the building should be lowered to allow the base of the wall to breathe and to demonstrate the original level of the compound, allowing all plinth bases to be exposed to the original floor level.

The top and back of the parapet should be inspected for deterioration of the protective plaster and flashing material.
After the moisture barrier has been installed, the lower portion of the façade should be poulticed. This practice should be scheduled to be repeated until most of the salts have been removed.

Repair door surround, removing inappropriate casting and replacing with a "Dutchman" of limestone matching the surrounding stones. Pin, epoxy and fill damage to other stones in the doorway to stabilize and repair it.

Pull the paving at the facade on the exterior away from the front of the building, lowering it down as steps, exposing the base of the facade.



Apparent infilled doors on north wall of "Monks' Burial Room"

Doors, Hardware and Trim

Background: Neither of the doors to the exterior is original. Though the opening on the west major façade remains in its original configuration, the once open transom has been filled with solid wood.

The door to the exterior in the north transept has been added. There would have been no door in this location because an altar would have originally been located across the end of the transept. The time of the creation of this door is unknown. It is reached by means of several steps because grade at this part of the building is higher than in the front.

There is an opening on the north face of the northeast "tower" that has a carved stone surround and threshold that is now enclosed with a pair of French doors, giving the impression that it is a window. On the north wall of the "Monks' Burial Room" there are indications of two doors that have been infilled, one at grade, and one above, leading one to speculate if that room was on two levels, connecting with, or intending to connect with, the upper level of the Convento. Such is the same with the tower door, which may have been meant to connect to the choir loft through the upper part of the Convento, since there is no evidence of stair construction in the Shrine.

The Sacristy is described in the 1773 Inventory as having ".....two carved stone doors. One as its entrance way and the other leads into the transept of the new church". The doorway to the "Monks' Burial Room" is not carved, and does not appear on the Everett drawings for the U.S. Army. There is another opening in the ruined west wall of the Sacristy that was most likely the entranceway from the Convento Courtyard.

The Everett maps also do not show any doorway between the nave and the "Monks' Burial Room". It appears to have been accessed through a small room that also accessed the Sacristy.

There is an opening at the upper level on the east wall of the south "tower" that also appears to be a door. The sash is wood, divided into three panels by raised trim.

Opening on upper level of east wall of the "south" tower

Doors of main west entry to Shrine

Exit doors from Shrine at the north transept

Description: The front and rear doors are double, paneled, solid wood. The north transept doors are in an opening framed by a wood lintel. The front doors are in an arched opening, and the opening has been filled with a solid, paneled wood transom. Brass push plates have been added to the rear doors.

Existing Conditions: The doors receive a great deal of wear and tear with literally thousands of people going through them daily. They appear to be well maintained.

Recommendations: Continue maintenance of the doors.

Consider replacing solid transom over entry doors with one matching the earliest documentation, which would be in our period of significance. The evidence suggests an open fan pattern, which could be accomplished with glass and wood.

As the north end of the Sacristy is reconstructed, the location of the entrance door must be verified. Archaeology has been conducted in this area (Greer, 1966-67), and should be used as a basis of reference.

Additional research should be conducted to determine the authenticity of the filled door at grade on the north wall, in conjunction with the entrance to the Sacristy. With the necessity of closing off the north rooms to mitigate congestion in the Shrine, the clarification and reconstruction of these rooms, with access from the Courtyard could offer another way for all to experience these areas.

The windows with cut stone surronds are original to the facade

Windows, Hardware and Trim

Background: On the major façade of the Shrine, the two first floor windows with cut stone surrounds and the upper window in the center of the façade were the only windows origninally in the building. Nineteenth century paintings of the building confirm this, and it is consistent with Spanish Colonial buildings of this period. If the dome had been constructed over the intersection of the transepts and nave, openings for light would have been included around the supporting dome drum.

A rough shell has been constructed with stones forming the interior header of the central window on the upper level of the façade. It was, no doubt, meant to be plastered,

A small, high window on the north wall most likely installed by the Army

achieving a final, more precise form. The shell is a motif used in Spanish Colonial buildings of this period representing re-birth through baptism, and can be seen over Sacristy doorways in Mission San Jose.

All of the other windows existing in the building appear to have been installed by the U.S. Army in order to let light into the building. Of particular interest are the small, high windows on the north, east, and south that were most likely for the upper floor that was inserted into the Shrine at this time. The upper and lower windows in the north and south transept walls are located behind what would have been altars that filled these walls to the ceiling.

The 1772 description of the Sacristy notes that it had two windows.

Description: The structural support to span the original Spanish Colonial window openings is provided by stone arches in the walls.

The army-period windows have thick wood lintels spanning the openings.

The windows are all painted wood, multi-lite. Larger windows have two 4-lite casements, smaller have one sash with three lites, and, on the upper main façade, the small single sashes have 2 lites. The windows that were apparently added by the Army to provide light into the second level of the Shrine that they installed are small, single lite windows.

Existing Conditions: All of the windows appear to be in good condition.

Recommendations: Continue maintenance.

Interior Walls

Background: As described with the exterior walls, in 1772, the interior walls were constructed up to the spring line of the planned vault, with ribs for the vault in place. Based on drawings around the time of the Battle, the walls were in a state of deterioration, with uneven wall tops and rough edges. As fortification, a ramp up to the nave was installed inside the Shrine, atop which was placed a cannon.

The walls were leveled by the U.S. Army when the first roof was installed. As part of the adaptation for use as a Quartermaster's Depot, a second floor was installed with supporting joists anchored into the walls of the building. Because the Shrine did not receive a roof until used by the US Army, the interior walls of the nave and transepts were not plastered during the Spanish Colonial Period. The Army, however, made liberal use of whitewash. Early photos of the interior of the Shrine as a Museum still retaining the Army Period roof indicate that at least the lower part of the Shrine received this treatment. Fragments of whitewash remain on the walls today.

An image from 1999 shows fragments of whitewash still visible on interior wall

Interior of Alamo Shrine in the 1930s. The patched joist pockets from the removed upper floor are visible. *Courtesy the San Antonio Express-News Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures*

Locations in the walls where the joist pockets were patched after the removal of the second floor also telegraph a contrast of what appears to be natural stone against the lower whitewash. The patched joist pockets remain visible today, and are especially noticeable where the cut stone pilasters were notched to receive joists.

When the concrete barrel vault was installed, sections of the interior wall were completed with concrete.

In 1996, it was noted that several conditions were impacting the walls:

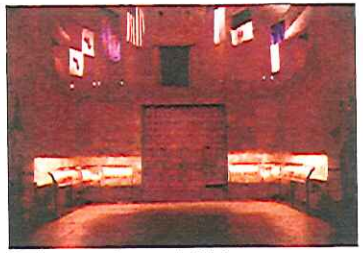
- Rising damp was causing deterioration of the walls, and the salts corroded anchors holding bronze plaques on the walls and pilasters.
- Museum cases, arranged around the interior of the Shrine, against the walls, resulted in visitors touching the walls and propping their feet against them. As a result of this, cracked stones were knocked loose, and the walls accumulated grime.

In response to this, the following was accomplished:

- A physical damp course was installed in the south wall of the south transept.
- The south transept wall was poulticed on the interior and exterior to remove salts on or near the surface. Measurements confirmed that this was successful.
- Museum cases were removed from the Shrine, and flags of the countries and states that were represented at the battle of the Alamo were moved to line the walls of the Shrine.
- Stanchions were installed in areas of heavy traffic to protect the walls where the flags were not placed.
- A program of regular vacuuming of the wall was instituted.
- The bronze plaques honoring the heroes were removed from the pilasters and located in the apse area on free-standing metal frames with lights. Other information plaques were located outside in front of the Shrine.
- The information booth was cut back, removing three feet of its projection into the middle of the nave space.
- The sign-in book was re-located from the information booth to near the exit to relieve congestion at the entrance.
- An on-site Conservator has been hired by the Alamo.

Poulticing on the exterior wall of the south transept

Flags lining the interior walls



Display cases at apse end of shrine

Visitor sign-in book located near exit from Shrine

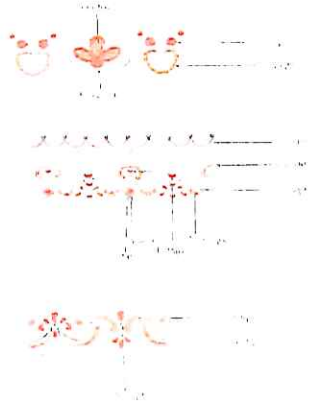
North Rooms

Sacristy: Because the ceiling was complete in the Sacristy and adjacent room, the plaster remaining on the walls has been determined by investigation to be original. In the sacristy, multiple layers of whitewash have been removed to reveal remnants of Spanish Colonial decoration in the plaster, forming a wainscot, banding around the upper walls, decorative elements on the end wall, and decorations at the intersection of the vaults and walls. The removal of whitewash and stabilization of the original plaster was accomplished by a conservator of architectural finishes, Restorations Incorporated. The high level of ornament in this room is due to its use as a sanctuary during the never-completed construction of the main church.

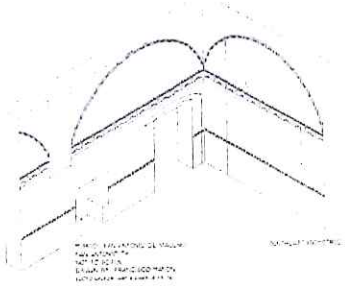
The north wall of this room is not in its original location, and the existing wall appears to have been constructed during the U.S. Army occupation. Maps of the Alamo made by the Army at the time they took possession of the site indicate that the room was intact and intended to be used for ordinance storage. For some reason that has remained unknown, the north end of the room's vaulted ceiling is missing. Ruins of walls outside the enclosed area of the building appear to be located where the original walls should be.

"Monk's Burial Room:" This room most likely served as a sacristy for the temporary sanctuary during the Spanish Colonial Period. The appearance of the plaster differs from that remaining in the adjacent room, and its origin has not been determined.

Detail of pomegranate motif in Spanish Colonial period decoration on Sacristy wall



Drawings of painting details uncovered by Restorations Incorporated. Note pomegranate motif in top row, also pictured above.
Courtesy of Lloyd Walker & Associates, Inc.



Isometric drawing of what the sacristy wall decoration of would have looked like originally, based on work uncovered by Restorations Inc.
Courtesy of Lloyd Walker & Associates, Inc.

Description:
The interior walls of the nave, apse and transepts are coursed limestone, with cut stone pilasters, transitioning to concrete at the base of the vaulted roof. Cyma recta moldings at the tops of the pilasters turn back to the walls and continue horizontally as moldings at that height on the walls. The bases of the pilasters are larger than the pilasters and the size transition is achieved with decorative moldings. Since the existing floor is higher than the original floor, not all of the base is visible.

Existing Conditions: The existing walls and pilasters:

- Discoloration of the walls and measurements indicate the presence of salts and rising damp all around the building. On the south Sacristy wall, where a fragment of Colonial decoration has been found, there is concern that the salts in the wall will cause additional deterioration to this fragment.
- There is grime on the walls around areas of human interface.
- Though loose and cracked areas of stone were anchored back to the walls in 1996, there is evidence of additional stone deterioration, possibly due to rising damp. In one area, the now-corroded stainless steel anchor pin is exposed where a fragment of stone has flaked off, apparently from the action of salts.
- The surface of one cut stone pilasters has been chipped, as if it was hacked with a sharp object.
- The walls, especially at their base, have splatters of concrete on the surfaces. This material appears to be the result of spillage when the concrete vault was installed on the building in the 1920's. Similar deposits were found on the façade of the building in 1995 and removed.
- There are areas where in-appropriate mortar has been used to repoint the interior walls. This mortar has also been applied in a way that covers the face of stones adjacent to the joints.
- At the south transept, west wall, cement mortar has been spread on the surface of the stone and whitewash. In the 1996 work, attempts were made to remove this, but it was found that its removal damaged the stone. It was also noted at this time that the level of rising damp in the southwest corner of the transept was very high and the height of moisture in the wall rose to a height several feet above the general "tide line" of the rising damp.
- There are cylindrical holes in the walls where samples of the stones were taken for analysis

Area of inappropriate mortar to the right of the pilastor. The surface of the pilaster is chipped in some places as well (1999).

Recommendations:

- Clean grime from the walls using a poultice material that minimizes introduction of water into the process.*
- Remove cement from the walls using gentle vibration, taking care not to damage the existing stone.
- Remove and replace inappropriate mortar.
- Test area of cement slurry to determine its response to low-impact abrasive cleaning, such as walnut shells or glass beads.
- Repair chips in cut stone pilaster surface
- Poultice stones to remove salts. This should be accompanied by a non-invasive program of measuring the salts on the wall surface. Poultices should continue to be applied until the salt measurements are significantly diminished. Periodic measuring of surface salts, yearly, to track additional salts should be done.
- Continue practice of vacuuming walls and floors. No water should be introduced to clean the floors.
- Based on archaeological and historical information, reconstruct the north end of the Sacristy.
- Based on the found fragments of ornament, decorate the north end of the reconstructed room with an example of how the original room would have appeared. For days when access cannot be allowed due to heavy visitation, construct a panel opposite the door to the Sacristy in the north transept that allows visitors to look in and see an example of the room's original decoration.
- Repair/fill and patch holes in walls where core drilled samples were removed.

* A program to clean grime and discoloration from the interior walls was completed between June and August 2008. Polticing to remove salts from the interior walls was begun in 2008, but has not yet been completed.

Interior Floors

Background: As to be expected, the existing floor is not original, and is raised from the original floor elevation. Data from the 1995 excavations, in conjunction with the installation of the damp course at the base of the south wall of the south transept, indicates that the original floor was 17.72 inches below the existing floor in that area. Earlier excavations at the front of the Shrine also indicate the earliest exterior level was at a similar depth.

It was somewhat suprising to find any sort of indication of early flooring in the south transept because of the incomplete nature of the building. Packed caliche has been found to be the flooring used at other Spanish Colonial buildings in the area, and the layer found appeared to be consistent with this.

The excavation for the damp course extended about 6 inches below the original floor level, and, it is almost certain that burials exist just below this level, which is only about two feet below the existing floor.

Flagstone flooring in the Shrine

Historic photographs of the interior of the Shrine in the early 1900's and in 1930 show what appears to be a hard surface floor; however, the material of the floor is impossible to determine. The present flagstone floor was installed in 1936.

The 1995 excavation report indicates that below the flagstone is a layer of sand (app.1") and a concrete layer, about 4" thick, over "sediment."

Description: The existing floor consists of large polygonal flagstones, laid in a random pattern. This type of paving extends out of the front door of the Shrine to the paving in front of the building.

Existing Conditions: The flagstone is in good condition. It has developed a patina over years of wear, and is generally dark in color.

A maintenance policy has been adopted that minimizes the use of water on the floor to avoid introducing water into the walls.

Aesthetically, the large pattern of mortar joints and irregular shapes of the flagstones are not consistent with the original intent of the building. The smooth floor that seems to exist in the early photos appears to be more appropriate. Interestingly, flagstone flooring has also been installed at Mission Concepcion and Mission San Jose, and was, apparently, the flooring of choice for historic buildings in the mid thirties in San Antonio.

Any return to an earlier floor poses problems:

- The shallow depth of suspected burials preclude a return to original floor level.
- An authentic early floor of packed earth would be impractical.
- A smooth surface, such a concrete would not convey a historic quality.

There is a section of threshold at the door from the east transept to the Sacristy that is open to show the stone threshold below existing floor level.

Recommendations:
Continue to maintain the existing floor.

Extend the lowered floor at the Sacristy doorway around to the adjacent corner pilaster to reveal the original floor level in this area and provide interpretive signage.

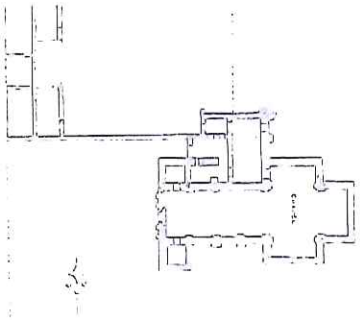
Investigate the possibility of removing a band of stone flooring and subflooring around the perimeter of the walls that would allow any moisture in the ground below the floor to evaporate instead of migrating up the walls.

Interior Ceilings

Background: Though the roof of the nave of the Shrine was never completed during the Colonial period, the two rooms north of the nave were roofed. The 1772 "Inventory of the Mission San Antonio de Valero", as translated by Benedict Leutenegger, O.F.M., describes the room as having "cross vaults", and being "well-plastered and white-washed". It goes on to mention that another room served as a temporary sacristy, since the vaulted room was being used temporarily as the Church.

At some point, part of the northern most vault and north wall in the Sacristy were lost and a wall was installed to close in the remaining part of the room. The room is shown roofed, in its complete form, with a round corner at the northeast on the 1840s Edward Everett maps showing the "Ruins of the Alamo near San Antonio de Bexar" and "Plan of the U.S. Depot at the Alamo, San Antonio de Bexar."

The U.S. Depot plan assigns the function of "Ordinance Store Room" to the Sacristy, so, it seems plausible that a misfortune occurred causing the loss of the north wall and part of the ceiling/roof.



Detail of the 1846 Edward Everett map of the "Ruins of the Alamo near San Antonio." Note the indication of the roofed sacristy
Courtesy of the National Archives

With the first roof being installed on the Shrine nave by the U.S. Army in the 1850's, the ceilings in the nave of the building were two-fold; because an intermediate floor was placed in the building the first floor "ceiling" consisted of the underside of the decking for the upper floor. The upper floor was open to the wood framing of the gable and hipped roof.

In 1921, a ribbed, "vaulted" concrete roof, that is not a true barrel vault in profile, was installed over the Shrine nave and transepts. This ceiling deviates from what would have been placed on the building in that, (1) the vault would have been half of a circle in profile, and (2) the "vaults" simply intersect at the transepts. Historically, an eighteenth century church would have had a dome sitting on a drum at the intersection of the nave and transepts, with squinches or pendentives making the transition from square to circle in plan below the drum. This can be seen at Missions San Jose and Concepcion in San Antonio, and was, no doubt, the intention for the completed roof of the Alamo Shrine.

The rooms at the north were roofed with a 4" thick concrete slab. This slab is visible as the ceiling in the northwest room. The stone intersecting barrel vaults are visible in the ceiling of the Sacristy, and the concrete roof is apparently above the slab.

Because the Sacristy, and possibly the adjacent north room, was roofed, plaster on the walls was preserved, at least above the rising damp tide line. The vaults show little or no plaster; however, the walls retain fragments of Spanish Colonial decoration, dating, no doubt, from the use of the space as a Church.

Existing Conditions: In general, the ceiling of the nave and transepts appears to be in good condition. There are stains at the top of the vault intersections and at the northwest and southwest corners of the base of the intersected vaults.

There is marked staining indicating leaking along the flat ceiling and west and south wall intersections in the north/west room, as well as indications of leaking along the north wall. See Structural photos following.

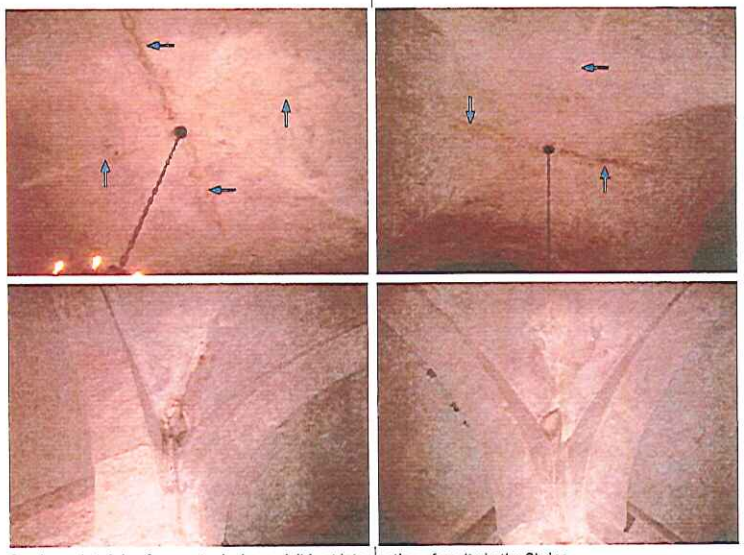
The exposed masonry of the vaulted ceiling of the Sacristy is very rough. It appears that before the concrete roof was installed, whatever roof protection existed was not maintained and water penetrated the stone, causing it and the mortar to deteriorate.

The flat roof over the north rooms is approximately 5 feet above the top of the stone vaults. Any leaks in the metal roof cannot be seen directly in this space.

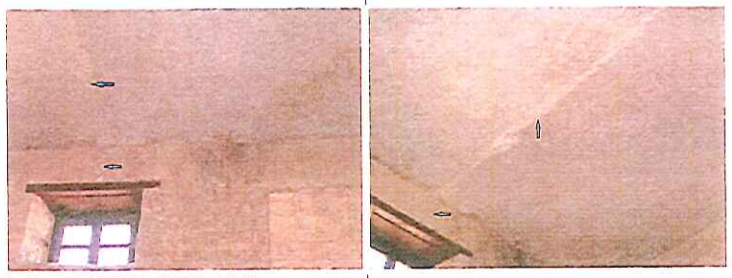
Recommendations: In the nave and north room, after the roof leaks are stopped, repair the damaged concrete, matching the repairs to the surrounding finish.

In the Sacristy, conserve the stone ceiling by stabilizing any fragile stones, and repointing, matching original mortar.

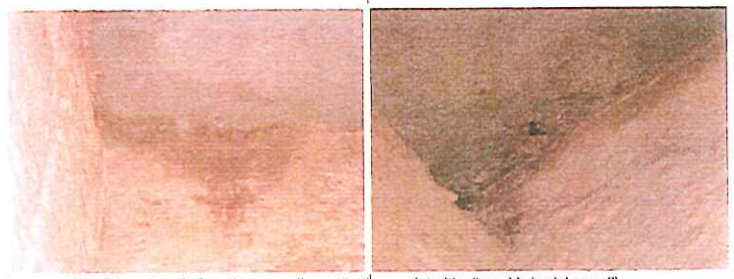
Conduct archaeological and research studies to gather information about the Sacristy as it existed before the north wall and most of the north vaulted ceiling was lost. If enough information is obtained, consider reconstructing the lost portion of the room, including the adjacent room where an entrance from the Courtyard apparently existed. This reconstructed area would allow the frescos on the walls to also be reconstructed as an example of the earlier, Spanish Colonial, decoration. The additional doorway from the Courtyard would allow this area to be accessed from outside the Shrine.



Cracks and staining from water leakage visible at intersection of vaults in the Shrine.



Cracks and staining at roof of sacristy.



Cracks and staining at roof of north room adjacent to the sacristy (the "monk's burial room").

Monitor the ceiling for signs of leaks from the metal clad concrete roof above. Install a roof hatch above the Sacristy to allow access to the void between the vaults and the flat roof. Reconstruction of the missing section of sacristy ceiling and walls will necessitate a reconfiguring of the roof.

Structural

Background/Description: The Shrine is constructed of load bearing limestone walls and a cast-in-place thin shell concrete roof. The roof was constructed around 1920, and is clad with lead-coated copper. Datum Engineers was informed that the concrete thickness is about 4", which is thin by today's standards. Datum did not perform calculations to determine the capacity of the existing roof structure. Some of the side-gallery rooms have flat roofs of undetermined thickness.

Existing Conditions: Cracks are visible at the point where the barrel vault of the transept intersects with the barrel vault of the nave-the crossing point of the cruciform. The cracks are at the high point of the arches, and cross at the center. Water has seeped through the cracks and stained the ceiling, indicating that the cracks are through the full thickness of the slab.

More staining from leaking water is evident at the corners of this area. This indicates the likelihood of cracking in these zones as well, although no cracks are visible to the unaided eye from the ground level.

Often the crack pattern and the geometry of the structure can yield some clues as to the causes of the cracking. The location of these cracks at the very center of the span between supports is consistent with "flexural" cracking. Flexural cracks occur when a structural element deforms under gravity loads, creating tensile forces that cause the concrete to split. Another possibility is that the cracks formed in response to changes in temperature. The massive walls of the shrine act as a restraint when the roof expands or contracts as the temperature rises or falls. This restraint can create zones of tension when the roof is contracting, and when the tension is high enough, the concrete will split. The exact mechanism

of formation of these cracks is not readily apparent.

There is some concern that whatever steel reinforcing is present in the roof may corrode, since it is exposed to air and water and no longer protected by the concrete at the location of the crack.

In the flat-roofed north rooms of the shrine, there is also evidence of water penetration. Staining is evident, and in the sacristy a crack is visible, beginning above the window and extending along the roof perpendicular to the wall.

Recommendations: The cracks in the roof of the Shrine are a concern and warrant further investigation. A finite element computer analysis should be done in order to predict the capacity of the roof in its current, cracked condition. This is not a trivial analysis and is outside the scope of this report.

(Note: At the time of this revision to the Report, a structural analysis on the barrel vaulted roof has been completed. This analysis indicates that the concrete ceilings of the main Shrine area are sound. See Appendix C for full analysis)

Remedial action is under consideration to address the issue of rising damp in the walls of the Alamo Shrine. We recommend that the method used in 1995 to install a damp course in the transept walls on the south side of the shrine be used for the remaining walls as well. The process involves sawing through the walls horizontally below grade and installing a special metal plate the full width of the wall. To provide resistance to the thrust forces from the barrel vault roof, the shrine walls which are oriented north-south should be cut in a notched or "sawtooth" pattern. The walls at the extreme ends of the shrine need not be notched.

The Alamo and Long Barrack during the Army occupation, 1868
Courtesy of the San Antonio Light Collection, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

Hugo Schmeltzer store ca. 1880s
Courtesy of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

Reconstructed Long Barrack, ca. 1939
Courtesy of UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures

The Long Barrack with its current roof

Long Barrack

The Roof

Background: Though the first Spanish Colonial roof of the then two-story Convento was undoubtedly flat with parapets, a gabled roof was installed by the US Army during their occupation of the Site, starting in the later 1840's. The configuration of the roof when the building was enveloped into the Hugo-Schmeltzer Store was hidden by wooden "battlements". A 1907 photograph, with some of the fake "battlements" near the Shrine remaining in place, reveals the core limestone structure with wood framing for two hipped roofs of different slopes. The building was essentially demolished in the early 20th century, after the store that surrounded the original structure was removed. Re-constructed as a ruin, the building walls remained unroofed from about 1919 until 1965, when the building was enclosed as a one story structure with a flat roof hidden by a parapet.

Description: The existing roof is flat, supported by sawn 4"x6" nom. wooden beams with v-jointed, 3" nom. wooden decking.

Existing Conditions: Jack White, local roofing consultant who oversaw the installation of other new roofs on the site, reports that this roof is deteriorating rapidly. Repairs were made in the recent past, date not known, however, no reports of leaks have been received.

Recommendations: Installation of a new modified bitumen roof on the existing building should be scheduled.

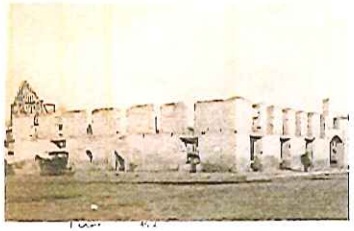
Walls

Background: Originally constructed as a two story Convento, the building's limestone walls have undergone many changes in their history, so all modifications may not be known. However, it is known that during its occupation, starting in the late 1840's, the US Army installed a gable roof on the building and added exterior stairways to the upper floors.

When the walls of the Convento were incorporated into the Grenet, later Hugo Schmeltzer, Store, they were apparently modified. Most of the Store was constructed of wood, and a historic photograph of the interior courtyard seems to show that the interior walls were wood. No stone arches are visible in the photo of the courtyard, except the flattened arch over the main gate, which is part of the outside wall, so it is possible that some of the Convento was demolished at the time of the construction of the Store.

The upper portion of the remaining exterior wall was torn down in 1913, during the debate over the interpretation of the Alamo Site.

Interior couryard during demolition of Hugo Schmeltzer store, ca.1911
Courtesy of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

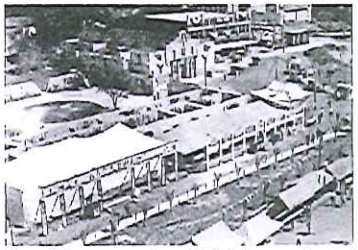


Exterior wall of the Long Barrack after demolition of Hugo Schmeltzer store, ca. 1911
Courtesy of The San Antonio Public Library

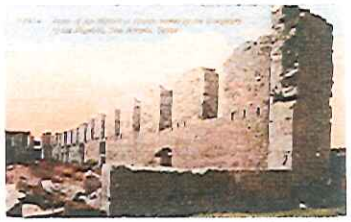
At this point, a mystery arises. Photos from three years later, 1916, show the interior wall and the arched wall of the arcade in place, apparently re-constructed shortly after they were demolished. Over the years, the walls remained in this condition, with no roof, as a ruin.

When the one-story walls were roofed to create an area for exhibits, a space at the top of the east wall of the enclosed portion of the building was created to encapsulate an air conditioning duct, which functions today.

The configuration of openings on the west façade has also changed, though the number of large openings, both arched and squared is consistent in most drawings of the building until the conversion to the store. Before and after the demolition of the store, photographs of the west wall indicate that the former, almost solid, upper façade was changed to incorporate a regular number of openings at the upper level.



View of Alamo grounds ca. 1916. Note reconstructed arched arcade of Long Barracks
Courtesty of UTSA's Insitute of Texan Cultures



Inside wall of Long Barrack after demolition of Hugo Schmeltzer store, looking south, ca. 1912
Courtesy of Center for American History, UT-Austin Print & Photographs Collection (CN No. 09225)

The large opening on the south wall of the Convento remains. However, the cut stone arch that framed the opening is gone.

A current archaeological investigation at the interior southwest corner of the Convento/ Long Barrack is being conducted to investigate the above-grade and below grade walls. So far, the excavations have confirmed that the re-constructed interior wall of the arcade is on top of the original foundations.

Description: The existing walls are rubble masonry, app. 2' thick, one story high. There are arched and rectangular openings on the west façade, some with scored mortar joints indicating that the openings, now windows, were once doorways.

Because the west wall is original and the two inner walls were re-constructed between 1913 and 1916, it can be assumed that the walls all bear directly on the ground. A recent archaeological investigation at the southwest corner of the building confirmed that the inner wall is constructed on the historic foundation.

The stones in the north end of the building include some large, square-cut stones whose appearance is consistent with those of the 19th century. These stones are similar to those in a 1912 photo of this section of the wall after the store was demolished. The precise tooling of the stones in this area seems to indicate they framed a large window or raised opening associated with the store.

The tops of the walls are capped with a cement wash.

Courtyard walls inside the portico have wooden lintels over the doorways.

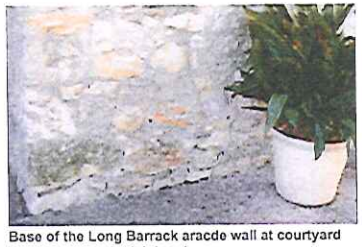
Existing Conditions: The masonry walls are generally in good condition. The mortar in the walls is hard, with high cement content.

There is deterioration of the limestone at the base of the wall in the courtyard, apparently due to rising damp. The masonry floor on the inside of the arcade and the concrete paving of the adjacent sidewalk abut the base of the wall, leaving the wall as the only path for moisture in the ground to escape. Potted plants have been placed at the sections of wall between the arches, and it appears that water from the potted plants is entering the bottom of the wall and being soaked up into the wall. This moisture has caused the face of stones to flake off, leaving the harder mortar out at the original wall surface.

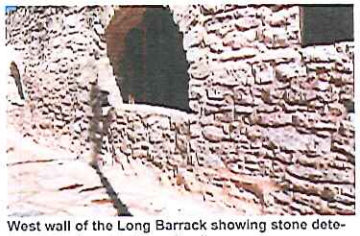
The base of the west wall also shows evidence of similar deterioration, though this has been repaired. In addition, there is a low band of discoloration, from just above the sidewalk to about 4' to 5' high on the wall. This discoloration could be the result of rising damp, but in addition, it appears to be partially made up of an encrustation of soot and oily dirt, probably from automobile and bus exhausts.

The south wall of the Long Barrack, and the wall that extends eastward to the carved stone entry to the courtyard also show deterioration at their base. One of the stones at the west side of the courtyard entry is severely deteriorated, having lost about one inch of its face surface.

Discoloration along the west wall



Base of the Long Barrack aracde wall at courtyard shows evidence of rising damp



West wall of the Long Barrack showing stone deterioration along bottom of wall

Paving up to the base of the walls on all sides tends to force moisture up the walls to evaporate - the classic rising damp pattern.

Hard cement mortar has been applied to the sills of the window openings in the west wall. This material has cracked, allowing water to enter and remain under the wash. Since the vertical wood bars at these windows are set in this wash, the retention of water may eventually lead to their deterioration.

Recommendations: Remove hard mortar, inside and outside, and repoint with a mortar more consistent with the strength of the stone.

Clean and treat the mold on the upper exterior walls using an architectural biocide.

Clean the discoloration on the lower portion of the west, and possibly south walls, with the appropriate emulsifying agent to remove the oily soot. Architectural biocide may also be needed here to address any mold.

Remove potted plants from proximity to wall.

Remove paving from base of walls and replace with gravel to allow below-grade moisture to escape.

Repair deteriorated stones at the base of the walls:

- Deeply eroded stones should be cut back to sound material and refaced.
- Where the deterioration is less, repair with a compatible patch material.
- Remove cement wash at sills of west windows, replacing with stones.

Continue archaeology to verify configuration of interior of Convento, spacing of arches, etc.

Conduct archaeology to verify location and configuration, where possible, of openings in the west wall.

Re-configure openings on west wall to conform to period of significance.

Set up a program on examination and cleaning for mold every 5 years.

Doors, Hardware and Trim

Background: Because the building was modified a number of times for various uses, the doorway openings at grade have also been changed:

- Drawings from the Spanish Colonial period depict several arched openings on the west façade. With the building opening into a colonnaded courtyard to the east, there would have been doors opening into the courtyard as well.
- The arched and square openings on the west façade are consistent with depictions by George Nelson of both the Spanish Colonial and Battle periods. The 1845 drawing of the west façade by Lt. Edward Blake also shows the openings in roughly the same locations as they are today, with five doors and three arched windows.
- The Hugo-Schmeltzer Store configuration consisted of regularly spaced rectangular openings. These openings are visible in photographs of the wall after the store was removed in 1911. The in-filled arched windows and the arch of one of the doorways are visible in these photographs as well.
- Arched openings appear again on the west wall when the inner walls were reconstructed between 1912 and 1916. These openings consisted of the original configuration of five doors and three windows.
- Since the re-construction of the Long Barrack in 1965, all the openings on the west wall are windows, though, obviously, the remaining doorways were in-filled to create them.

With the building being left in a ruined state for over 40 years, no original or later replacement wood doors exist in the building.

Description: All doors into the Long Barrack are now located on the east wall, which faces the interior of the Alamo complex. They were installed as part of the 1965 work, and are constructed of wood. Their design features an eight-panel motif, either in the form of a molded panel or glass. Originally sand-blasted and stained, they are now painted gray.

At the north end of the building the eight-lite wooden door is placed inside a large arched opening. It is flanked on each side by a wood, four-lite fixed glass panel and above with a fixed solid wood transom. This door, which is the exit door for the exhibit in the Long Barrack, is also secured by a two-leaf iron gate, which is open during visiting hours. The swing on this door has been changed from (inside view) right-hand swinging to left-hand swinging.

The interlocking "eye" bolts mounted into the door jamb and stile to replicate Spanish Colonial hardware have been supplemented with "L" – shaped surface mounted iron strap hinges. Some of the 1965 iron handles remain. Others have been replaced with simple pulls.

1845 drawing of the Alamo ruins by Lt. Edward Blake
Courtesy of the National Archives

Existing Conditions: The doors all appear to be in good condition.

Recommendations: More historic research is needed to verify the early door locations. Once this is determined, openings facing Alamo Plaza that were doors should be re-installed as doors, with solid wood doors appropriate to the period.

Windows, Hardware and Trim

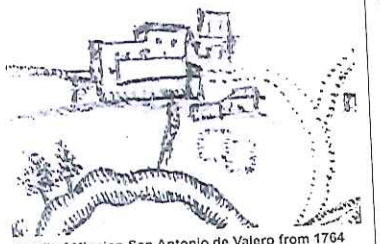
Background: Information about the number and configuration of the earliest windows during the Mission Period is sketchy, at best. The Manchaca map of 1764, which is the only depiction found, shows a two-story portion at the southwest corner of the Convento with two west upper windows, and various small windows at the lower level.

Sketches of the building in 1836 also show upper windows in various locations on the west façade.

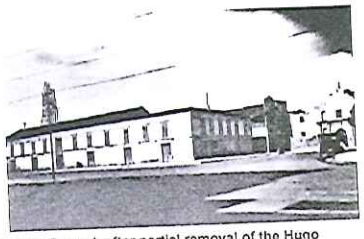
The 1845 drawing by Lt. Edward Blake also shows two windows in this location, as well as two windows on the south side of the two-story corner volume.

Photos of the building during the US Army occupation indicate that windows and doors with stairways were added to the west façade.

When incorporated into the Hugo-Schmeltzer Store, many, regularly spaced, doorways opening on to a wooden balcony, were cut into the walls. Upon its demolition, these upper doorways were removed.



Detail of Mission San Antonio de Valero from 1764 map of San Antonio by Capt. Luis Manchaca



Long Barrack after partial removal of the Hugo Schmeltzer store porches, 1911.
Courtesy of UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, The San Antonio Express-News Collection

West wall of Long Barrack showing multiple types of window openings

Between 1913 and 1919, with the re-construction of the interior walls, windows were created along the west wall. One hopes they were accurately placed, as they and some doors in-filled to be windows remain today.

Description: All windows are wood frame, multi-lite casement windows that are recessed back in the openings close to the inside of the wall. Rough hewn vertical wood posts have been placed across the window openings to the outside. On the west wall, there are two arched, twelve-lite windows; three smaller, arched, six-light windows; one semi-circular twelve-lite window; and two rectangular, six-lite windows topped with large wooden lintels. All windows are painted in the same grey color as the doors.

On the inside of the Long Barrack, in the area occupied by the exhibit, the window openings have been filled in with panels of paintings depicting life at the time of the Battle.

Existing Conditions: The windows appear to be in good condition. In some areas, the stain has come off.

Recommendations: Establish and continue a program of maintenance.

For changes to sills, see Exterior Walls.

Interior Floors

Background: Based on archaeological findings in and in front of the Shrine, the ground floor of the Convento was packed lime and fine gravel over a smoothed caliche base. This floor material, no doubt, changed with every subsequent use of the building. Left in ruins for 46 years, the current stone floor was installed in 1965, when the building was roofed for use as a Museum.

Description: The floor is masonry, and consists of large polygonal flagstones on both the arcaded porch and the interior.

Existing Conditions: The floors appear to be in good condition and capable of withstanding much foot traffic.

Recommendations: The floors should be checked for irregularities in the edges of the flagstone that exceed the ADA standards, and that could be tripping hazards.

Interior Ceilings

Background: No original ceilings survived the Hugo-Schmeltzer occupation and subsequent demolition of upper and interior walls. The existing ceilings were installed as part of the restoration of the building in the 1960's by Rufus Walker and architect Harvey P. Smith.

Description: The ceilings are exposed wood 4x6 joists with 3"nom. V-jointed decking above. The rooms are lit with track lighting.

Existing Conditions: The ceilings appear to be in good condition.

Structural

Background/Description: The Long Barrack was originally constructed of load-bearing limestone. Historical photographs indicate that the two easternmost walls were demolished in the early 1900's, and only the western (outermost) wall remained intact, which at the time was still two stories tall. However, all three walls are visible in photographs from 1916; the inner two walls were apparently reconstructed. In these same photographs, the western wall is only one story high, the upper story having been removed. This configuration of three one-story walls is what we see on site today. In the earliest photographs, the openings in the western wall are rectangular, but in 1916 era photographs the openings are framed with arches. It is not clear whether the western wall was rebuilt entirely or if only the openings were remodeled. In the 1960's a roof was added to the walls to create a museum. The roof is framed with 4x6 cedar beams (vigas) spaced 30" on center and 1x4 tongue and groove cedar decking. A trench was cut in the center wall for an air conditioning duct.

Existing Conditions and Recommendations: Datum did not observe any conditions to report during our survey of the structure.

6.2 Commemorative

Gift Museum

Roof

Background: With the building's construction in 1936, the roof structure and coating is of modern materials.

No modifications appear to have been made to it over the years.

A modified bitumen roofing system was installed in 2000.

Description: The central section of the Gift Museum is covered with a flat vaulted roof, surrounded by parapets, and the lower adjacent sections are flat with parapets. The roof decking, curved and flat, is concrete.

Existing Conditions: The roof is in good condition.

Recommendations: Periodic inspection should be carried out per the roofing maintenance schedule.

Exterior Walls

Background:The Alamo Museum was designed by architect Henry Phelps, and completed in 1937 as part of the Texas Centennial Celebration. It has remained with little alteration since that time.

Description: The exterior walls are of polygonal limestone with cast stone ornaments decorating the north and south facades. A

View of the Gift Museum and acequia bridge from the cactus garden

cast stone string course, approximately three feet from the ground, wraps around the north and south facades and each end bay of the east and west walls. The parapet is topped with a simple cast stone cap.

The exterior walls are of random ashlar limestone with cast stone ornaments decorating the north and south facades. A cast stone string course, approximately three feet from the ground, wraps around the north and south facades and each end bay of the east and west walls. The parapet is topped with a simple cast stone cap.

The entrance on the north façade is surrounded by a cast stone ornamental portal, with the doors flanked by two Corinthian columns supporting an entablature with a relief of the battle of the Alamo. This scene is divided into two friezes by a cast plaque with the year 1936, the year of the building's construction. The entablature has two sea shells, one on each end, located directly above the columns, and is capped by a cornice with two urns that are also in-line with the columns below. A central window surrounded by cast stone floral ornament is the crowning element of the portal, which is also flanked by two empty cast concrete niches with scalloped tops.

North facade of Gift Museum

The south façade is almost identical to the north façade, except at the central portal where the flanking niches of the north façade are replace here with slender windows.

On the east and west walls, the seven bays of the interior are articulated by five simple rectangular buttresses that extend about two feet from the wall surface. There are no buttresses located at the corners of the exterior. The stringcourse of the facades runs continues onto the corner bays. Wooden canales are located about 2-3 feet above each window. There are also metal downspouts at the corner of each wall.

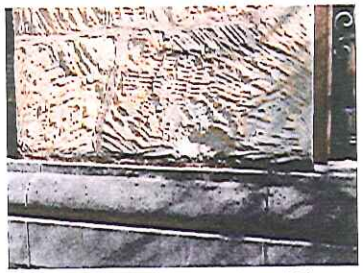
Existing Conditions: The building structure is concrete frame on piers, with masonry infill and stone veneer exterior walls. This system of construction keeps the limestone wall material away from the ground, minimizing any possibility of moisture wicking up.

There is a problem with the basement. In 1992, a basement was constructed under the building to increase storage for the Gift Shop merchandise. A tunnel was dug to the sidewalk outside the wall where a hatchway allows merchandise to be unloaded and moved to the building basement. The plans for the basement work show that a French drain was added on the east, south (partially) and west sides of the building.

Since the time of this construction, there have been problems with leaks in the basement. Some of this water infiltration is apparently caused by clogged drains in the basement areaways. The existence of a French drain minimizes the possibility of water infiltrating through the walls.

The stonework appears to be in good condition; however, there are some problems:

- There is a great deal of mold on the surface of the stone, both on the stone faces, especially toward the top of the building, and just above the belt course. At the belt course, it appears that water is wicking up from the top of the course into the bottoms of the stones immediately above the belt course. There is a thick mortar joint between the belt course and the stones immediately above that partially cover the face of the stones. The concern with this condition is because the mold rootlets contribute to the eventual decay of the limestone.
- Though the mortar joints on the building are generally in fair condition, in a number of areas, there is separation between the mortar joints and the adjacent stones. This allows water to infiltrate the interior of the wall.



Mold on belt course and stone surfaces of Gift Museum wall

Separation between mortar joints and stones in wall

The decorative cast stone on the primary facades appears to be in good condition, however, the cornice above the doorway is heavily covered with mold on its underside, indicating that water does not drain adequately off the edge and runs back under the molding, held in place by surface tension. Ultimately, this may be the source of deterioration to the decorative scene directly below, as the cornice breaks down from this condition.

West wall of Gift Museum. Discoloration caused by mold is visible on the stone surfaces.

Detail of north facade. Note the mold covering the underside of the cornice.

Recommendations: Clean exterior walls and apply architectural biocide. Establish a 5-year program of re-application to prevent re-growth.

Clean the exterior of the building.

Repoint approximately 30% of the exterior of the building, and establish a program of 5-year inspection for identification and repair of additional mortar deterioration.

Remove horizontal mortar joint at top of belt course, treat the bottom of the stones immediately above the belt course and the belt course with a breathable sealant, and install a soft joint just above the belt course, sanding the surface of the sealant material.

Resolve basement leaking. Clean and test areaway drains.

The cast stone of the ornamental facades should be monitored periodically for signs of deterioration, with appropriate repairs by a qualified conservator as necessary.

The cornice above the ornamental cast stone on the primary facades should be cleaned and treated for mold, with a breathable sealant applied. In addition, the slope of the surface on the top of the cornice should be made adequate for drainage and small stainless steel drips should be installed to insure that the water falls away from the edge of the cornice.

Clean the cast stone wall caps. Treat them with architectural biocide and coat with breathable sealant.

Doors, Hardware and Trim

Background: The doors appear to be original to the building.

Description: The entrance doors are solid paneled wood topped by an arch-shaped, sixteen-lite, transom window. The paneling is in a geometric pattern. Three smaller fifteen-panel wooden doors, one on the east wall and two on the west wall, are located inside the south entrance vestibule.

Existing Conditions: With millions of visitors going through these doors yearly, their survival is a tribute to their stout construction

Recommendations: Continued monitoring and maintenance.

If replaced, duplicate wood and panel pattern.

Windows, Hardware and Trim

Background: The windows appear to be the original windows from the date of construction.

Description: The windows on the east and west walls are double hung, 1/1 lite, wood window sash and frame, topped with a trapezoidal wood lintel. Metal bars have been installed on the outside of the windows.

On the north façade, a one over one-lite window covered by an iron grill is located at the side aisles and a four-lite window covered by an iron grille is located above the door. The windows are surrounded by simple cast concrete surrounds.

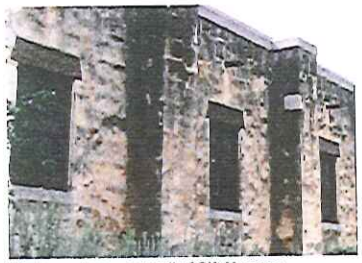
On the south façade, slender, one over one-lite windows with wood lintels flank the door and are covered with wrought iron grilles. The right side-aisle has a central one over one, double hung window that rests on the string course and is covered with an iron grill.

Existing Conditions: The windows generally appear to be in good condition. One upper pane on the northeast corner of the lower section of the building is missing.

As with the other buildings on the site, these windows have been painted brown. The historic and commemorative building windows and doors painted similar colors adds to the ease with which the two are confused.

Recommendations: Institute a program of regular inspection and maintenance.

Repair any damage and replace missing glass.



Windows along west wall of Gift Museum

Perform paint research to document the paint schemes on the windows and paint the windows and lintels appropriate colors.

Interior Walls

Background: The interior walls appear to have been modified little over the life of the building. A wooden wall was added at the end of the east "aisle", and in 1992, an elevator was constructed in the resulting space. The restroom occupying the southeast corner room on the main floor was demolished and this room was converted into an office, also in 1992.

There is a stone relief sculpture against the south wall of the west side aisle.

Description: The interior walls are plaster with an off-white paint finish. The main space is 24' high, defined by columns supporting arched ribs with sections of wall above the ribs up to the flat curve of the plaster ceiling. Arches spring between the columns, and the sections of end walls and upper walls are characterized by a "skip-dash" plaster modeling suggesting irregular wall substrate. The side aisle ceilings are lower and are four-part vaults. Both the central space ceiling and the side aisle ceilings are plaster. The upper ceiling plaster may be applied directly to the roof shell, however, the lower vaulted sections are probably suspended.

Existing Conditions: The walls appear to be in good condition. The lightness of the wall color tends to flatten out the dramatic quality of the high central space and the vaulted side aisles.

The rough cedar wall at the north end of the east side aisle is too much in contrast to the original walls. One doesn't have to go that far to distinguish the new from the original materials.

Recommendations: Perform historic color testing on interior walls, ceiling and columns to determine history of colors used in this interior. Return interior color to original paint scheme.

Repair plaster as necessary.

Interior Floors

Background: Terrazzo floors were very popular in the mid-1930's. As an alternative to encaustic tile, they provided a colorful-yet-substantial surface for use in areas receiving heavy foot traffic, as in public buildings. The encaustic tile in the first floor of the Texas Capitol was removed and replaced with terrazzo as part of the Centennial Celebration, the same event that sponsored the construction of this building.

Description: Floors throughout the building, and extending onto the north and south porches, are made of alternating red and yellow square terrazzo sections with a green terrazzo border at the walls, and a green band between the columns. The terrazzo sections are separated by bands of brass, app.1/4" wide. The scale of these squares is appropriate to the building and this dash of color adds warmth.

Existing Conditions: The terrazzo floor is in very good condition. There are a few cracks, one at the southwest end, and one toward the center at the south. A few small depressions in the surface also exist. The surface of the floor shows some wear, but this only adds to the appeal of the material.

Recommendations: The floor should be adequately protected from future damage by wear.

The cracks and divots can be patched, but care must be taken to match the existing material. This is not easy because many of the aggregates used in 1937 are not available currently, and the cements used have changed in color. A bad patch is worse than no patch in this situation.

Terrazzo floor of Gift Museum

Interior Ceilings

Background: The design of this commerative building was criticized when constructed in 1936 by local historic groups because its vaulted central space too closely resembled the Shrine, and because of its placement on the site so close to the Shrine and Convento Courtyard.

The building is framed in concrete, with masonry veneer and infill.

Description: The barrel vault of the central space is characterized by wide, flat ribs springing from the square columns below. The ceilings of each bay in the two aisles are groin vaults. The ceilings are finished in the same plaster and white paint as the walls. Other ceilings in the more utilitarian spaces in the building are flat, furred plaster.

Existing Conditions: The ceilings appear to be in good condition.

The light color of the ceilings in the main and side vaulted spaces, as well as the lighting, tends to flatten out the ceiling contours.

Recommendations: Paint research to determine historic colors and install them. Hopefully, they will be darker than existing.

Structural

Background/Description: The Gift Museum is a reinforced conrete frame structure. It has a full basement, as well as an underground tunnel constructed more recently to handle street-side deliveries. The structure is mostly hidden from view by architectural finishes, making direct observation impossible.

Existing Conditions: In the basement areas, the soffit of the slab was exposed to view. Some areas showed slight staining due to corrosion of the reinforcing steel. Many of these stains were probably created by rust on the reinforcing steel at the time of construction, which stained the slab soffit when concrete was placed. We did not see evidence of advanced or ongoing corrosion of the reinforcement, such as spalling of concrete.

The maintenance staff reported several instances of leaks in the basement. In one case, it was reported that a basement window by a light well had leaked. The drain in the light well may have become clogged, leading to ponding of enough water to reach the level of the window sill and begin leaking into the room. Other leaks and their locations were also reported, but not signs of structural deterioration in those areas where observed.

Recommendations: The Museum Gift Shop appears to be in good condition and well maintained. The building has the capacity, structurally, to support the loads associated with its current use.

The light wells in the basement should be cleaned out regularly and the drains checked to prevent clogging.

A light well of the Gift Museum