
An Overview of Test Excavations and Documentary Research at 41VT10, the Tonkawa Bank Site, Victoria City Park, Victoria, Texas

V. Kay Hinds, Anne A. Fox, and E. H. Schmiedlin

ABSTRACT

This article presents historical, archival, and artifactual evidence supporting the belief that the Tonkawa Bank site (41VT10), located in the Victoria City Park, Victoria, Texas, is the *second* location of the Mission Espiritu Santo de Zuñiga. This mission, originally founded in 1721 on Garcitas Creek in current-day Jackson County, was relocated to the Guadalupe River sometime prior to 1725. The site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, is significant from a local, areal, regional, and state-wide perspective.

INTRODUCTION

Site 41VT10, known as the Tonkawa Bank site, is currently recognized as a *visita* of the Mission Espiritu Santo de Zuñiga. Located within the Victoria City Park, the site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, also is a

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. The site consists of both a prehistoric and historical component. The historical component consists of the stone foundation footings of a two-room rectangular structure, measuring ca. 25 x 40 feet on the exterior (Figures 1 and 2). The footings are constructed of stream-rolled chert gravels, caliche/

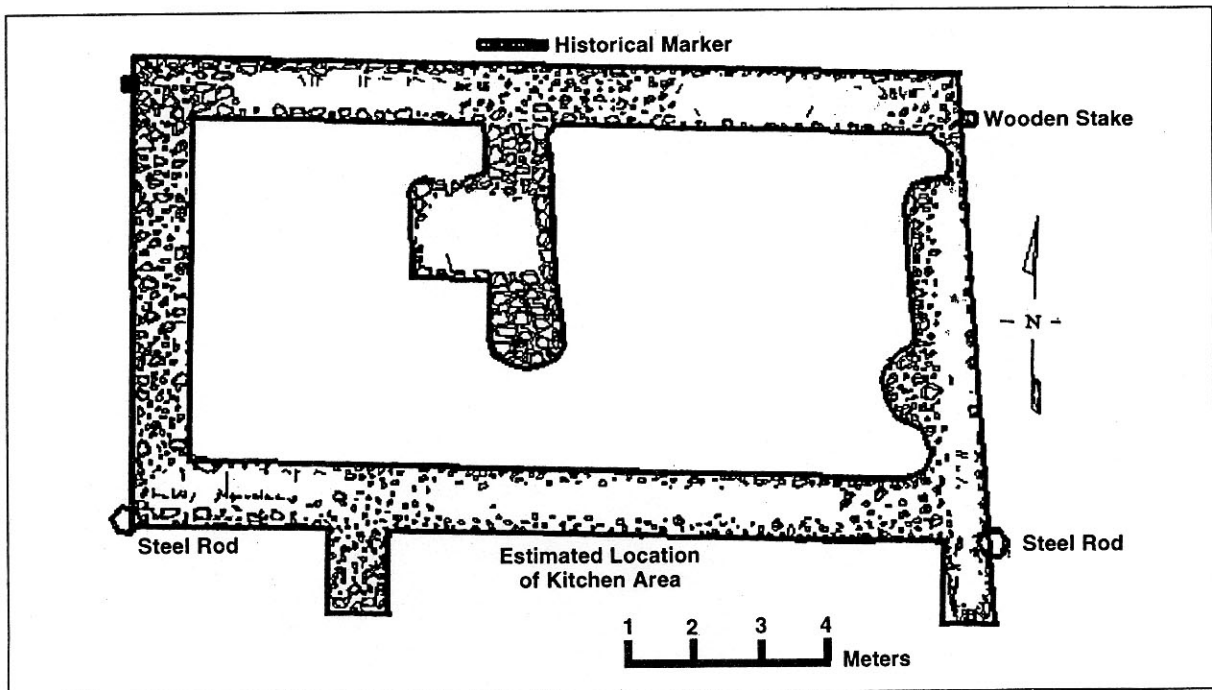


Figure 1. Scaled drawing of building foundations (adapted from 1980 National Register Nomination).



Figure 2. Stone foundations, ca. 1968. Photograph courtesy of Victoria College.

sandstone cobbles and mortar, with an original width of one *vara* (33.3 inches). Surface artifacts on the site cover an area approximately 240 x 300 feet, with concentrations of artifacts located well to the south of the existing foundations.

Archival research (Hindes 1995:8-9, 28) and archeological field work indicates that the site more accurately may be the second location (see Hester 1995:6, Endnote 1) of the Mission Espíritu Santo de Zuñiga, moved from its first location on Garcitas Creek in ca. 1725. This mission and its corresponding Presidio Nuestra Señora del Loreto were originally founded by the Spanish on Garcitas Creek in 1721, although not officially dedicated by Aguayo until 1722 (Patron 1722). The Presidio Nuestra Señora del Loreto was established on the site of La Salle's Ft. St. Louis (Gilmore 1973).

The documentary data regarding an additional location for the Mission Espíritu Santo de Zuñiga was uncovered during historical and archival research conducted in 1994-1995 (Hindes 1994). This research was begun prior to field surveys initiated in 1994 and currently ongoing to locate the first site of the mission. Although the later locations of the mission (as well as the Presidio Nuestra Señora del Loreto) were not of primary interest during the original studies, a review of all aspects of mission development and history was necessary to understand the mission's founding.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The site was a Tonkawa Indian site when Martín de León founded Victoria in 1824 (Jarratt

1932:3). As early as 1883, John Linn, who settled in Victoria in 1829, noted:

The Toncahuas were located at or near Victoria, their field being above the site of the present town. They had a church, which was erected on what is now known as "the Toncagua Bank," the foundation of which is still visible, as it was built of masonry (Linn 1883:333-334).

Linn's information regarding the site may have come from a Tonkawa Indian named "Joe" who lived in Victoria during the time that Linn also resided there (Linn 1883:333-334). According to Linn, the Tonkawa manufactured blankets, cultivated corn and vegetables, and owned cattle and horses (Linn 1883:333-334). However, only a remnant of the tribe was left as of the early to mid-19th century (Linn 1883:333-334).

The first mission on Garcitas Creek had been founded primarily for the Cocos, Curacames, and Cujames (Karankawa) Indians (Patron 1722). The relocated mission was established for the Aranama (Almazan 1726; Bustillo 1726), who had petitioned Governor Alarcón for a mission as early as 1718 (Celiz 1935:67). However, by the early to mid-19th century, at which time Linn had settled in the Victoria area, the Tonkawa resided here.

John Jarratt first became aware of the archeological aspects of the site in 1922 when he discovered a human arm bone partly exposed in an area of a mott of trees located on the southern portions of the site (the prehistoric component), as well as chert flakes, shell, and animal bone (Jarratt 1932:1). These deposits had been exposed by soil borrowing activities conducted by "Doc Hiller," the owner of "Hiller's Mott," as the site was then known. The stone ruins were found on top of the thick mesquite and huisache brush-covered ridge (Figure 3) (Jarratt 1932:2). In 1930-1931, Jarratt investigated the "Indian Village" (or burial ground) located ca. 1000 feet south of the stone ruins (Jarratt 1966b:1). He additionally placed a "test hole two feet deep by two feet wide...300 feet from the river and on top of the hill" (Jarratt 1932:3). At this location, Jarratt found a "volcanic rock matate [sic] of Mexican origin" (Jarratt 1932:3). The 1930 excavations revealed the following regarding the historical component:

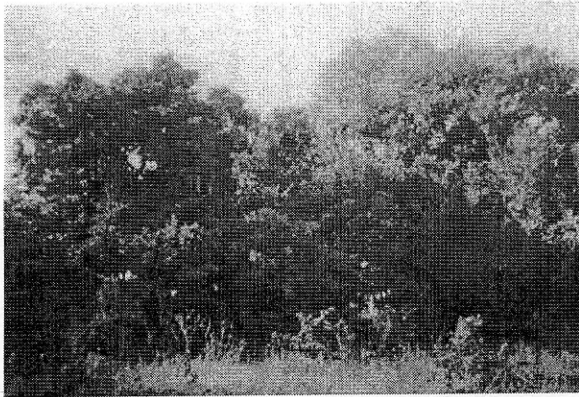


Figure 3. Site 41VT10 prior to bulldozing by city.

Much pottery and various types of flint implements such as manos, points, scrapers, grinders, etc. were found—much of it on the surface among the brush that covered the whole ridge at that time. Here also Spanish artifacts are much in evidence in the form of broken metates and manos of Mal-pie and volcanic materials, and Majolica pottery potsherds.

Tests...on the ridge showed kitchen midden from 8 to 12 inches deep and saturated through with all sorts of potsherds, Indian and Spanish, flint, dart and arrow points, bones, burned rocks, and in some places charcoal to a depth of 2 feet (Jarratt 1966a:4-5).

Jarratt forwarded artifacts, notes, and drawings to the Smithsonian Institution, and on April 24, 1931, Dr. Frank M. Setzler of the Smithsonian traveled to Victoria (Jarratt 1932:11). Both the south slope (and Indian burial ground area), as well as the north slope (in the area of the stone ruins), were inspected (Jarratt 1932:11).

J. E. Pearce of the University of Texas at Austin visited the site in early 1932 (Jarratt 1932:12). Pearce, later that same year, sent A. M. Woolsey of the University of Texas at Austin and some students to conduct investigations at the Tonkawa Bank site as well as at other sites in the Victoria area (Jarratt 1932:12). Woolsey worked two days at the prehistoric component (Woolsey n.d.; Jarratt 1966b). He did not investigate the historical component at the site (Jarratt 1932:12).

In 1965, Jarratt, with a small number of volunteers including George Hobbs, a 15-year-old high

school student, returned to the Tonkawa Bank site, this time concentrating his efforts at the stone ruins (Figure 4a-b). He excavated and mapped what remained of the ruins on the site, which he had observed there originally in 1922, before the City of Victoria bulldozed about two feet off the top of the ridge in 1958. Jarratt maintained that the walls had been standing three feet high as late as 1922 (Jarratt 1966a:6). He found a two-room stone building partially surrounded by a stone wall on the north, east, and south. Artifacts he recovered included majolica and Indian pottery sherds as well as other Spanish artifacts. Mr. Des Hiller, who as a boy played around the old foundations, stated that:

...the large door to the building faced west or toward the river.../and the walls/...were about 5 feet high in places, and had a lot of Windows or what could of been windows, they were very small and looked more like slots left in the wall for some reason... (Jarratt 1966c:6-7).



Figure 4a. Exposed stone foundations, 1968.

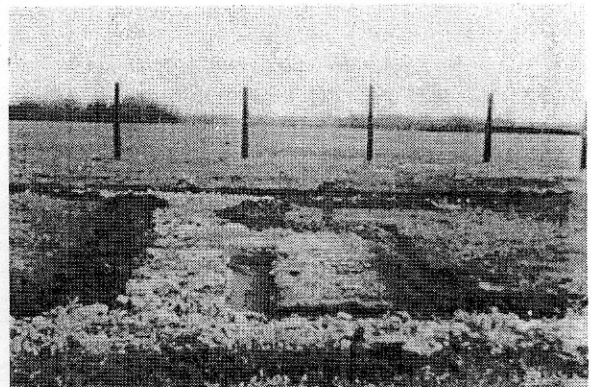


Figure 4b. Exposed stone foundations, 1968.

These openings were probably *troneras* (gunports) commonly found in early structures on the sides of the doors and windows for defensive purposes (Graham 1994:26). Because of the threat of Indian attack, the earliest structures had few if any windows (Juárez 1976:21).

By 1965, the stone ruins were about six inches below the surface (Jarratt 1966b:7-9). The foundations, "made of limestone or sandstone rock, were two feet in width" (Jarratt 1966b:7-9). Jarratt reported that a layer of yellow sand had been placed in a prepared trench that was then filled with river gravel and rock and cemented into a solid mass. The stone ruins measured 40 feet on the north side, 42 feet on the south side, and 25 feet in width. The west end on the south side had an extension of two feet. The main door was located in the west elevation. The building was divided into two rooms by a partition wall, also two feet in width, with a fire place in the front room. Buttresses were noted at each corner (Jarratt 1966b:7-9).

The layer of sand was ca. three inches in depth and placed directly on clay (Jarratt 1966c:6). Once these foundations reached what Jarratt considered the ground surface, the sandstone walls began with "some gravel being used as filling, with the exception of the corners and where the buttress/es/ were located..." (Jarratt 1966c:6). The floor was made of a limestone-caliche while the walls were plastered (Jarratt 1966a:6).

Jarratt also found "the outline traces of other old foundations" near where he encountered three historic burials (Jarratt 1966c:5). Additionally, Jarratt found evidence of a third room attached to the southeast corner of the two-room structure that he believed may have served as a kitchen. Indian pottery, majolica, burned rock, fragments of an old iron pot, animal bones, and shells were found here (Jarratt 1966c:7). To the west of the two-room structure he found a trace of a rock wall with a lot of "burned clay and sand, fragments of baked clay, charcoal...Indian pottery...and some pottery that had been glazed...clam and mussel, shell, and flint chipping..." (Jarratt 1966c:8).

In September 1965, Jarratt located three burials ca. 60 feet south of the stone ruins (Jarratt 1966b:3), or 36 feet southeast from the old foundation wall (Jarratt 1966c:5). All three burials had been exposed by heavy equipment being driven over the area in wet weather (Jarratt 1966a:7), and were "badly crushed and broken" (Jarratt 1966c:7).

Burial No. 1 was "exposed so much that it was taken up" (Jarratt 1966b:3):

The skull was all broken and crushed as / were/ the other bones of the skeleton, however, a complete Jaw bone with the teeth still intact was in good condition, the burial was all removed as to [sic] much of it was showing above ground, I did not want anyone digging around the area and find/ing/ the other graves, these I want to excavate with an Anthropologist present when they are taken up...In the grave excavated, was found with the skeleton were scraps of old Iron so badly rusted away that nothing could be made of it, also found was a fragment of Braid made of Copper Silver and Brass thread (This I identified as Spanish by comparison with similar braid found at the Espíritu Santo Mission site and at La Bahía at Goliad), and could be off of a Spanish Priest Vestments or from a Spanish Officers Coat of the Early 18th Century. A peace [sic] of lead was also found at this burial, as was a small fragment of Majolica ware...My opinion of this grave yard is that it is Spanish, as the burials face East, and are straight burials, where as the burials that I found in 1930 in the Indian burying ground South of this location /were/ all flexed or bundle burials (Jarratt 1966c:8).

Police Capt. Kenneth Rosenquest, another policeman, and Mr. Herman Fishbeck witnessed the excavation (Jarratt 1966b:3).

On November 24 and December 28, 1965, Jarratt also reported finding "some human bones (ribs) south of rock wall...The remains of an Iron pot 8 in. down...the bones and the pot /were/ left over night inside a fence, but /were/ stolen during the night" (Jarratt 1966b:10). It is not clear if these remains were from the same original three individuals or different burials.

On May 27, 1966, Jarratt began the excavation of the second burial at the site. This burial, fully extended with the hands folded across the breast, faced east (Jarratt 1966b:20-21). Two amber glass beads and approximately three pink "chalk" beads were found near the neck. Based on the presence of fragments of nails and "rusty streaks," Jarratt

believed the body to have been placed in a coffin about two-and-one-half or three feet deep (Jarratt 1966b:20-21). Since evidence of a "fire pit" and Indian ceramic sherds were encountered 12 inches below the burials, Jarratt believed that the burials had been placed within/over an Indian occupation level (Jarratt 1966a:7).

In the spring of 1978, E. H. Schmiedlin excavated a row of 11 auger tests across the site. He recovered additional artifacts similar to those found by Jarratt and the tests suggested that the site continued to the south of the ruins.

At the request of Jack Murphy, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Victoria, archaeologists from the Center for Archaeological Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR-UTSA) monitored test trenching at the park site in November 1978 (Fox 1979). The purpose of the project was to determine the extent of the site so that future park development in the form of a rose garden to the west of the site would be sure not to disturb it. Two narrow perpendicular trenches were machine-excavated across the area directly south of the ruins, as suggested by the results of Schmiedlin's auger tests. All artifacts brought up in the backdirt of the machine were

flagged and mapped in place. The resulting site map depicts the extent of the site (Figure 5). This estimate was reached by mapping the extent of the artifact scatter recorded by these two efforts, in relation to the overall map of the site. Artifacts were concentrated near the crossing of the two trenches, and gradually diminished toward the west, south, and east.

In May 1989, at the request of Parks and Recreation Director Paul Locher, Dan Potter from the CAR-UTSA conducted a survey and shovel testing of the area directly to the east of the colonial site. The area had been the location of the Jaycee Hall and parking lot. The hall had been removed down to the concrete slab, and the area was slated to become a children's playground. Potter found no evidence of archeological sites of any kind within the survey area, which approached to within 25 m of the estimated eastern edge of the colonial site.

In September 1996, limited testing and mapping operations were conducted at the Tonkawa Bank site by the authors under Antiquities Permit No. 1733 issued to Dr. Thomas R. Hester. These investigations extended the testing to the east and south in order to positively confirm the limits of the

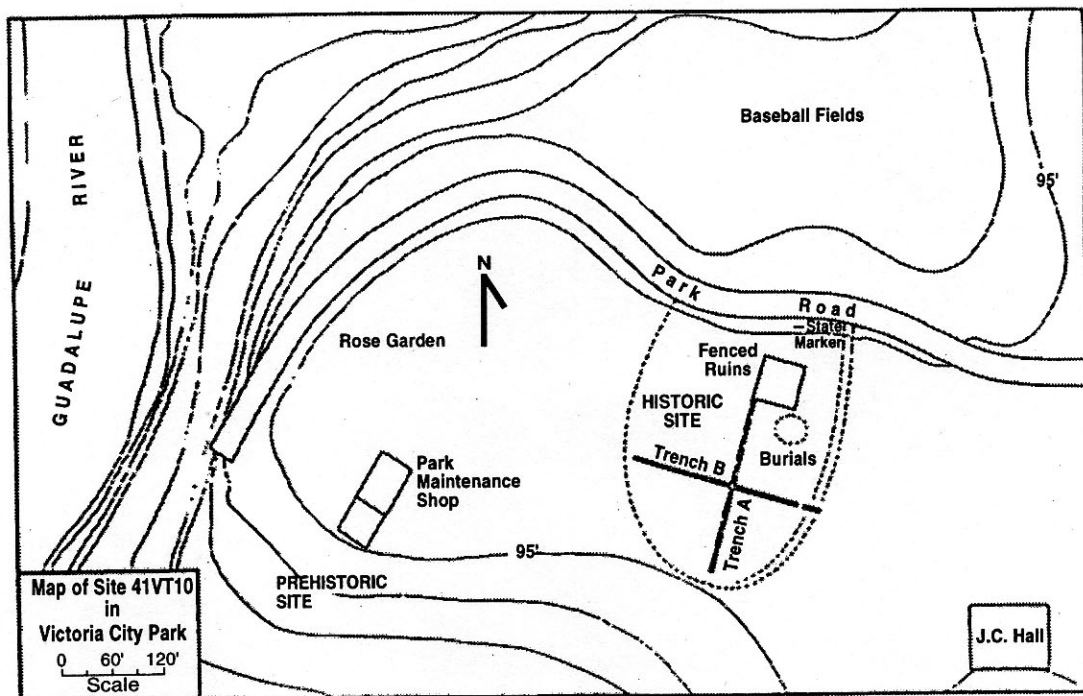


Figure 5. Map of Tonkawa Bank Site showing 1978 work (from Fox 1979) and adjusted site boundaries based on 1996 work.

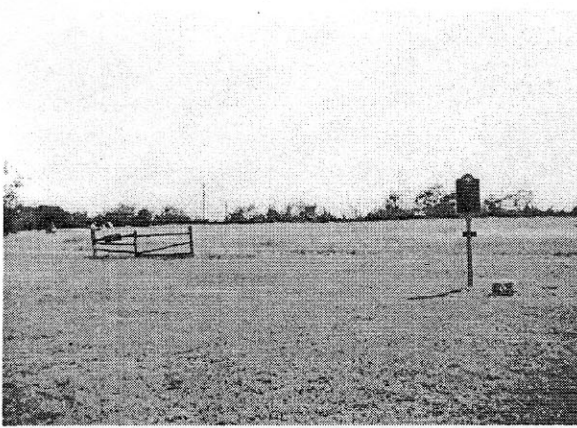


Figure 6a. 1996 testing.



Figure 6b. Testing, 1996, park storage area.

site, in particular, whether the mission site extended beyond the south boundary into the Hiller property (Figure 6a-b).

Test units were placed in selected areas to determine the presence or absence of additional features (particularly in the southern third of the site area where earthmoving activities were believed to not have as severely impacted deposits). A re-analysis of artifacts from the site was also undertaken, and included collections placed at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin (TARL), CAR-UTSA, as

well as a number of private collections.

While the 1978 testing appeared to show the artifact densities decreasing at the east and south ends of the test trenches, neither trench showed totally convincing evidence that sterile soil had been reached beyond where the trenches stopped. Relocating the original trenches was complicated by the numerous changes in the area between 1978 and 1996. The ruins had been completely covered with topsoil and overgrown with grass, so that only an occasional top of a stone could be seen. The fence that had surrounded the ruins had been removed, leaving only the historical marker still in place. The entire area was hip-deep in grass, except for the area immediately around the ruins.

The location of the 1978 test trenches was reestablished, using a transit, from an accurate map of the site done at that time. The east and south extensions of the trenches were staked out, measuring from the point where the trenches had crossed. To the east (Trench B), shovel tests were dug to sterile soil every five feet along the original line, but beyond the point where testing had stopped in 1978. Contrary to the original estimate, artifacts were present more than 30 feet beyond the end of the original trench. Artifacts were found from six inches to 30 inches below the present surface, and there was no sign of a Spanish colonial occupation surface. In order to more closely examine the stratification of the soils in this area, one half of a three-foot-square unit was excavated in six-inch levels, screening all soil removed. The soil was identified as Beaumont Clay, which cracks badly in dry weather, allowing artifacts to fall deeply into the subsoil. Ironically, this condition allowed the limits of the original artifact scatter on the site to be established in spite of the later removal of up to two feet of soil.

To the south of Trench A, approximately 40 feet lay between the end of the trench and the boundary fence at the top of the rise. Shovel tests were placed every ten feet beyond the end of the 1978 trenches. In this area, shovel tests were excavated to sterile soil every five feet, extending 40 feet to the fence and 40 feet beyond. This work clearly established the relationship between the historic site and the prehistoric site on the Hiller land to the south. There was no sign of artifacts of any age in these tests, which extended across the storage lot, across the boundary between this park land and the Hiller property to the south, and several ten foot

intervals into the Hiller property.

To the west of Trench B (see Figure 5), sufficient testing had been done, particularly since the installation of the Rose Garden did not encounter significant evidence of ruins or numerous artifacts, unlike the intersection of the test trenches. To the east of Trench B, the main artifact concentration approached the end of the test trench and additional shovel tests were placed here to determine if any further remains extended in this direction. This was particularly important given the location of the burials observed in the 1960s by Mr. Jarratt farther to the north. These shovel tests, 15 inches in diameter, were executed in the same manner as those done by CAR-UTSA at Mission San Jose in 1993 (Hard et al. 1995). This entailed recording soil changes as they were discovered, changing the levels at each soil change, excavating to sterile soil, screening all soil removed, and bagging the artifacts by provenience for later analysis.

Portions of the foundation footings visible to the eye as well as those located by ground probing with a metal rod were flagged and found to measure approximately 25 x 50 feet. A photographic record of what was visible above the ground was made to complete our investigations.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Abandonment of the first mission and presidio locations on Garcitas Creek was considered as early as April 15, 1725. On April 1, 1726, Juan Antonio Bustillo, Captain of the Presidio, selected and surveyed a site on the Guadalupe River for the new presidio. After a delay of almost a year from the time first considered for the move, Fernando Pérez de Almazan, the Governor of Texas, finally approved the site surveyed earlier by Bustillo. We do not yet know exactly when the mission was moved from Garcitas Creek; however, it was at its new location by April 1, 1726. Two of the three priests assigned to the mission had died by 1725: Fray Ignacio Baena (or Bahena) in 1725 and Fray Diego Zapata in 1723 (Leutenegger and Habig 1973:111). Word of the death of Fray Baena reached Zacatecas in March 1725. In 1729, his remains were taken to Zacatecas and interred in the cemetery at the college (Leutenegger and Habig 1973:111). Only Fray Agustín Patron remained at

the mission, and we can surmise that Patron, afflicted with a "horrible disease of running sores" (Ramsdell 1963:6), was eager to find a more suitable location. He also wanted to find more receptive neophytes. The presidio was not moved until after August 29, 1726.

Bustillo wrote on June 18, 1726 (emphasis the authors')

...I showed him (Almazan) a place on the banks of the Guadalupe River, about *five leagues* from here a little more or less. It is a place that I had previously noted for this purpose on the same river...In the cited mail of September 2nd, I had recommended the site of the ranch; however I had not seen this site, which is of greater extension, ...With the referred to advantages including a *creek at a quarter of a league, where I have built an irrigation outlet for a mission and the Father Missionary there is attending to the planting and is working to recruit Indians from the Jaraname nation...They are a nation that is spread far and wide, so that to gather them together it will be necessary to place another Mission, at the large creek that I reconnoitered on the new road that I opened going to the Rio Grande. This site is located about three leagues from the place selected for the presidio.*

Almazan, who accompanied Bustillo, to inspect the site chosen by Bustillo, wrote on July 4, 1726 (emphasis the authors')

...I went to the presidio and carefully reconnoitered the area. A site was found *six leagues* to the northwest on the bank of the Guadalupe river. It has the advantage of being on high ground... at a distance of less than a league...there is a creek of sweet water...It is sufficient easily for a furrow and a half of water for farming land and to congregate some Indians in a *mission,...whose acequia is already being dug...Later I was given to understand that there has been discovered on this side of the river, at a distance of three leagues, another arroyo with abundant waters and sufficient lands for a copious mission that could*

provide crops to supply the presidio.

Bustillo reported the distance of the location chosen for the new presidio to be about five leagues *poco mas o menos* from the old presidio. Almazan stated that the distance was six leagues. The mission location (in relation to the site selected for the presidio), where the Mission fathers had established themselves and begun an *acequia*, is noted in both documents: Bustillo reports 1/4 league while Almazan recorded it as "less than a league." By extrapolation, the second mission location was 5 1/4 leagues (13.80 miles) to less than 7 leagues (18.41 miles) from the first presidio on Garcitas creek.

Father Habig believed the second location of the mission "could not possibly have been the Mission Valley site" (Habig 1969), but rather, was near Bloomington, or "near (or in) Victoria" (Habig 1983). Jarratt believed that the distances mentioned in translations indicated that the priests had settled at the Tonkawa (Toncahua) Bank (Jarratt 1967:10). Jarratt identified eight Spanish colonial sites for the Victoria County Historical Society in 1968. He produced a rough map showing the eight locations (Jarratt 1968). Jarratt's Site No. 3 is identified as the "Second site of Mission Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zuñiga." This site is the Tonkawa Bank site (41VT10) currently identified by an official Texas Historical Marker as the *visita* of the mission. Jarratt also identified the Mission Valley site as the "third location" (Jarratt 1968).

Most importantly, Almazan and Bustillo stated that the location selected for a larger mission (than the one already present on the Guadalupe River) was at a large creek three leagues distant from the site chosen for the presidio. By taking the extrapolated distances for the mission in relation to the site selected for the presidio, one arrives at five and one-fourth leagues (13.80 miles) to less than seven leagues (less than 18.41 miles). This would put the sites in the Victoria area, far short of the Mission Valley location. By adding the three leagues (7.89 miles) that both Bustillo and Almazan tell us was the place then chosen for the larger mission, we get a distance of 21.04-26.30 miles. The distance from 41VT4, the site of the Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto on Garcitas Creek, to the Victoria City Park area is approximately 20.5 miles. The 26.30 miles is fairly close to the approximate distance of 27.8 miles from the Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto on Garcitas Creek to 41VT11 (the Mission Valley

site; see Walter 1997). Additionally, the three leagues (or 7.89 miles) given as the distance between the second (interim) site and the Mission Valley site closely matches the 7.61 miles between Victoria (as measured from the Tonkawa Bank site) and 41VT11.

MATERIAL CULTURE

The following descriptions include the artifacts recovered in test excavations (Table 1) as well as all other known/available collections from the site (Table 2). These come from various sources: the artifacts recovered by Mr. Jarratt, and placed at TARL; the CAR-UTSA 1978 project; and Schmiedlin's collections from the surface and from his auger tests. Due to the irregularity of the sampling used, no attempt will be made to read significance into the numbers or proportions of artifacts recovered, limiting this article to descriptions. Additionally, the following descriptions do not include all artifacts recovered from the site by Mr. Jarratt, including some of those which are curated at TARL. For example, a number of the lithic artifacts as well as the human skeletal remains have not been included in this report. Due to the constraints of the project, only diagnostic artifacts were examined that could contribute to our understanding of the age of the Spanish colonial remains at the site.

Ceramics

Probably the most useful artifacts for identifying and dating a historic site are the ceramic sherds. Fashions in ceramic patterns have changed with some regularity, making them excellent time markers. In addition, we are able to identify locations or cultural groups from which most of the ceramics on Spanish colonial sites came.

Goliad Ware

Unglazed ceramics make up the second largest portion of the ceramic sherds from the Tonkawa Bank site. This is inconsistent with other Spanish colonial sites, in which the unglazed ceramics constitute the highest percentage of ceramic sherds. The majority of the sherds are from bone-tempered, hand-built vessels currently referred to as Goliad

Table 1. Artifacts by Provenience, 1996 Testing

Unit/Trench Shovel Test	Ceramics	Metal	Daub	Shell	Chert	Bone	Total
Unit 1							
0-6"	7				2	2	11
6-12"	12					7	19
12-18"	7	1				16	24
18-24"	14			1		15	30
24-30"	3	2	1		3	4	13
Trench B							
ST-1							
ST-2							
ST-3	5						5
ST-4							
ST-5	1					2	3
ST-6	17				1	8	26
ST-7							
ST-8							
ST-9							
ST-10	10					17	27
ST-11	2						2
ST-12							
ST-13							
ST-14		1					1
ST-15							
ST-16							
ST-17							
Trench D							
S-1	2					2	4
N-1	6					5	11
Unprovenienced	4		2				6
Total	90	4	3	1	6	78	182

ware (Figure 7). Probably made by the Aranama in this case, they are also found on colonial sites elsewhere in the Victoria area, and range as far north as the San Antonio missions as well, where they are thought to have been made by other South Texas Indian groups. The Aranama women "manufactured cloth, and also waterjars used by themselves" (Linn 1883:336). Identical sherds have been excavated from Late Prehistoric sites in South Texas, suggesting a long continuity of this ceramic type (Ivey and Fox 1981:31). Two of the sherds illustrated are portions of vessel handles (see Figure

7f-g), two are rim sherds (see Figure 7b, e), and one is a sherd decorated with asphaltum (see Figure 7c).

Unglazed Sandy Paste Ware

Also present on this site are a smaller number of unglazed, sandy paste sherds (see Figure 7a) that resemble coastal Rockport ware in color and texture, but their average thickness (7-8 mm) is greater than that of Rockport ware (5-6 mm). A number of these sherds also bear traces of what may once have been an immature lead glaze. Most of the sherds contain

Table 2. Artifacts from all Previous Work (through 1996)

Collection	Jarratt	Schmiedlin	1978	1996	Totals
Unglazed Ware	59	32	4	10	105
Burnished Ware	1	6			7
Lead Glazed	33	65	99	69	266
Majolica	24	7	4	11	46
Copper	3	3		2*	8
Daub		11	5	3	19
Beads	5				5
Shell		4	4	1	9
Pipe	1				1
Chert		4	17	6	27
Bone			57	78	135
Total	126	132	190	180	628

Note: Two other metal artifacts were recovered during the 1996 work. These were not Spanish Colonial and are not included in this table.

what appear to be shell inclusions for binder. The uniformity of the paste firing appears to suggest that these sherds may have been fired in some sort of kiln. Similar sherds were excavated by the TAS Field School at 41VT8 in Mission Valley north of Victoria in 1968, and were also documented by Mounger (1959) from the mission site at Goliad, Texas. More study and analysis of this ceramic type is overdue. It does not appear in the San Antonio missions.

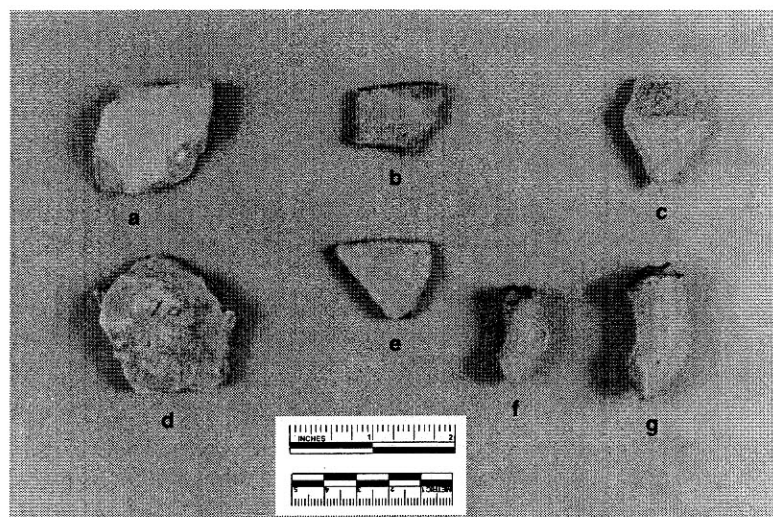


Figure 7. Goliad Ware and Unglazed Sandy Paste Wares: a, unglazed sandy paste ware; b-g, Goliad ware.

Burnished Wares

Two types of unglazed burnished ceramics are customarily found on Texas colonial sites. One has a red paste (Figure 8a) and matte designs on a burnished background (Gilmore 1974:63). The other, with a tan paste has been identified as Tonalá Burnished Ware (Figure 8b) made in Jalisco (Ivey and Fox 1981:31, 34). The illustrated sherd is from the base of a small vessel. A few sherds of these two ceramic types are in the Jarratt and Schmiedlin collections. One sherd can be identified as a fragment of a small novelty figurine produced in Tonalá, Mexico during the 18th century (Deagan 1987:44-46). Also known as Guadalajara Polychrome (Deagan 1987:44-46), bowls, lidded bowls, and the novelty figurines were most popular in the first half of the 18th century (Deagan 1987:46).

Lead Glazed Wares

Lead glazed wares comprise the single largest category of ceramic sherds from the Tonkawa Bank site. A great variety of lead

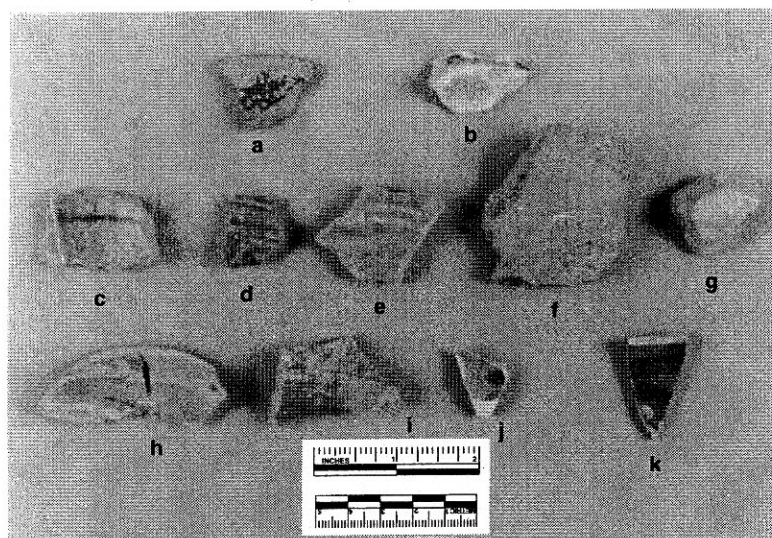


Figure 8. Burnished Wares and Lead Glazed Wares: a, red burnished ware; b, Tonalá ware; c, sandy paste lead glaze with green decoration; d, sandy paste with green lead glaze; e, olive jar; f-g, sandy paste lead glaze; h, unidentified fine paste with lead glaze; i, sandy paste with clear lead glaze; j, lead glaze on creamy beige paste; k, Galera ware.

glazed ceramic sherds has been collected from this site. Most have a sandy paste with glazes varying from clear to yellow to dark green. Several sherds appear to be decorated with green designs (see Figure 8c) and all are wheel-turned. A few of the sherds have incised and/or engraved lines on the exteriors. In comparison with lead glazed wares recovered from slightly later mission sites on the San Antonio River from Goliad to San Antonio (Fox 1974:56), these are more crudely made and often under-fired so that the glaze has failed to completely mature. They vary in thickness from 5-13 mm. Identical sherds were found at 41VT8 in 1968.

Two sherds with a fine-textured, creamy beige paste have a yellow glaze and brown under-glaze decoration (see Fox [1974:58] for a description of similar sherds from Mission Rosario in Goliad). A preliminary analysis of several of these sherds allow us to make some general comments on vessel forms as attributes of size and function. A small number of the sherds are basal sections of flat-bottomed vessels with a slightly flaring to straight-sided bodies (see Figure 8f-g). These appear to represent storage jars or containers, or flat-bottomed bowls. Two sherds (see Figure 8h) of a fine textured paste form the ringed basal portion of a small vessel, probably a jar.

Galera Ware

A few sherds with a fine-textured red orange paste and brown and cream designs under a clear lead glaze (see Figure 8k) represent a type called Galera Ware across the Southwest (Fox 1974:57-58). The interesting point to be made about the presence of these sherds on this site is that the type has been generally accepted as not reaching the Texas frontier until ca. 1750 (Ivey and Fox 1981:34). If this date is accurate, it would appear that the Tonkawa Bank site may have continued in use at least until about the time that the Mission Valley mission and presidio were moved to the San Antonio River in 1749.

Olive Jar

Several sherds of heavy wheel-thrown jars with green glaze (see Figure 8e) represent the only olive jar fragments from this site. Nearly always present on 18th century Texas sites, these storage vessels are indicators of a Spanish presence.

Majolicas

A ceramic type called majolica bears a lead glaze to which tin was added to produce a white background for bright-colored decoration. The sherds recovered from this site are nearly all too small to identify the numerous varieties that are useful to archeologists for dating deposits. However, several sherds from Tonkawa Bank correspond to majolica patterns found at sites in Mission Valley.

Puebla Polychrome (Figure 9a-c), made in Puebla, Mexico, has blue geometric designs interlaced with black cobweb-like lines. It is generally found on sites occupied in the last half of the 17th century and the first quarter of the 18th century (Deagan 1987:82). Seventeen of the identifiable sherds fit this type. This represents 36 percent of the total, by far the majority of the majolica sherds from this site. Carlson's (1994) study of ceramic

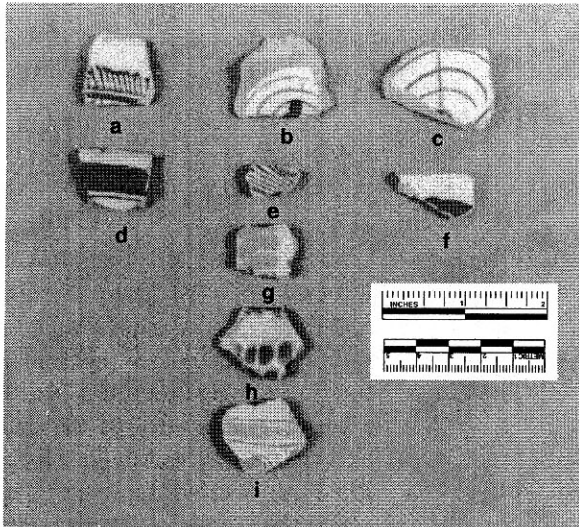


Figure 9. Majolicas: a-c, Puebla Polychrome; d-f, Abó type/Aranama ware; g, Puebla Blue on White; h, Puebla Blue on White II; i, unnamed variant.

assemblages from six 18th century Spanish colonial mission sites in Texas identified only two sherds of Puebla Polychrome ceramics, both of these from Mission Dolores de los Años (41SA25).

Abó Polychrome Type B/Aranama covers a confusing group of patterns that have yet to be sorted out (see Figure 9d-f). These types have an orange band encircling the rim and “gaily painted floral and animal designs in yellow, orange, green-blue, and brown” (Deagan 1987:79). For the moment we are lumping these together even though the combined dating—Abó to the last half of the 17th century and into the early 18th century, and Aranama to the last half of the 18th century—is not in any way helpful. As an example of this confusion, the polychrome sherds from this site all appear to fall into a variety that Ronald May in California has named Quiburi Polychrome (Barnes and May 1972:35) and dated 1770 to 1800, yet in Spanish sites in Texas this type seems to be contemporary with Puebla Polychrome, as it is here. A total of nine sherds from Tonkawa Bank can be typed to this category. This represents 19 percent of the total documented tin-glazed majolicas. Ongoing analysis of collections from two sites known to be associated with Presidio La Bahía (41VT8 and 41GD7) will attempt to help solve this problem, since presidial sites are known to produce

proportionately more majolica than mission sites (Goggin 1968:223; Fontana 1973:12).

Puebla Blue on White (see Figure 9g) consists of one or more shades of blue in a wide rim band, below this a narrower band, and suspended from this is a row of single petals alternating with whole blossoms. In the center is a flower, a long-legged bird, or a deer (Goggin 1968:191). It is contemporary with Puebla Polychrome.

Puebla Blue on White II (see Figure 9h) is a variation of Blue on White whose decoration appears only on the exterior of cups and bowls. The design consists of numerous horizontal parallel light blue lines dotted with darker blue petals (Tunnell 1966:8; Seifert 1977:186). It dates to the last half of the 18th century.

One sherd of an unnamed variety (see Figure 9i) bears a form of decoration seen only in the collections of Presidio La Bahía at Goliad (41GD7). On the larger sherds, pale blue, orange, yellow, and pale green elements are surrounded by very thin brown/black lines with the usual amount of creamy white background exposed, giving a light, airy appearance. Other sherds of this variety include a yellow rim band with one brown/black line above and two below (see Figure 9d), identifying it as a member of the Abó/Aranama family.

Metal

The back half of a compound copper/brass button (Figure 10a) was found at the site by Mr. Jarratt. A loop is brazed to the back, which tends to date the button to the late 18th to early 19th century. This may not be a Spanish colonial button.

Mr. Jarratt also found a 4-inch-long, worm-shaped piece of lead (see Figure 10c), the purpose for which is unknown. An unidentified metal object was also in the Jarratt collection (see Figure 10b), along with a number of fragments of badly rusted iron.

Eight fragments of thin sheet copper came from the site (see Figure 10d-h). All of these appear to have been cut from a larger object, perhaps to repair a cooking pot. Two of the fragments are elongate (see Figure 10d) with shapely pointed and tapered ends. One lug fragment (see Figure 10f) has a rivet hole where the handle would have been attached to the pot. Repaired copper pots

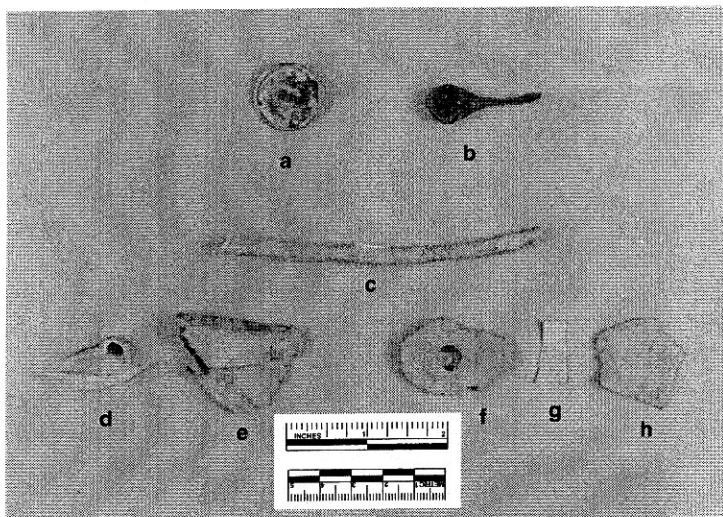


Figure 10. Metal artifacts: a, metal button; b, unidentified; c, worm-shaped lead; d-h, thin sheet copper fragments.

bearing patches cut from other pots are commonly found on colonial sites.

Daub

Nineteen fragments of burned clay daub (Figure 11a-c) are evidence that at least some of the structures on the mission site were typical Spanish *jacals* built of upright poles plastered with clay. In order for the clay to have survived intact, the structures must have been burned. Alternatively, if fires used as a heat source for cooking and warmth were built within the interiors of these structures, the resultant heat from these fires may have served to partially bake the clay. Additionally, a natural source of drying would be the sun, baking the clay much like sun-dried adobe bricks are produced. There were probably many more such burned daub fragments on the surface when Mr. Jarratt first made his collections from the site, but he would not have recognized them as important enough to save.

Shell

Fragments of river mussel shell and other shell species are commonly found on colonial and prehistoric sites in Texas. Here again, Mr. Jarratt would

not have recognized these as worth saving, but the archeologists habitually collect them.

Beads

A bead made from the columella of a conch shell (see Figure 11d) is in the Jarratt collection. Such beads are not uncommon on historic period Indian sites, probably in this case indicating trade between the Aranama and coastal groups.

Three pink clay beads, only two of which remain in the collection (see Figure 11e) were found by Mr. Jarratt near the neck of burial No. 2. The two surviving beads are very small (ca. 5 mm in diameter) and fragile. Clay beads were listed in the inventory of goods acquired for the Mission Santa Cruz de San Saba in 1757 (Hindes et al. 1995:72).

Two yellow-colored wire wound glass trade beads are also in the Jarratt collection (see Figure 11f). These beads, ca. 7 mm in diameter, contain eight facets, and were also found near the neck of burial No. 2. Marvered beads such as these are commonly found on Spanish sites dating to the 18th century (i.e., Schuetz 1980), and in particular between 1700-1750/1775 (Deagan 1987:178). Most

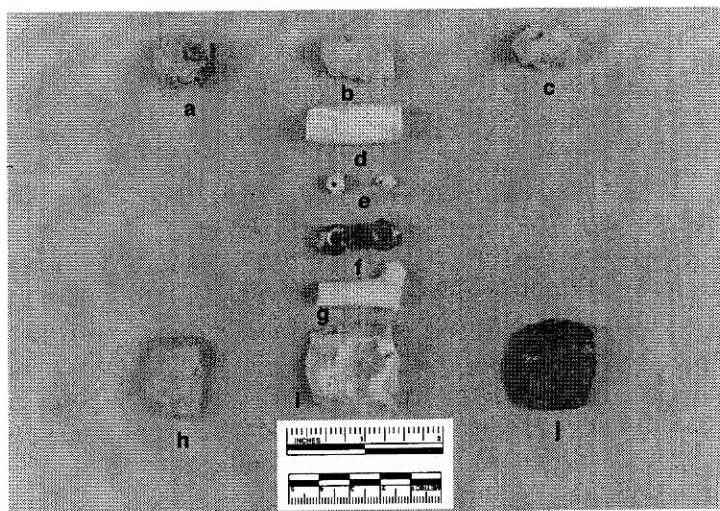


Figure 11. Miscellaneous artifacts: a-c, daub; d, conch shell, columella bead; e, clay beads; f, glass beads; g, pipe-stem fragment; h-j, gun flints.

contain eight to ten irregular facets (Deagan 1987:178-179). They most commonly represent rosary beads (Deagan 1987:159).

Pipe

A white clay pipe stem fragment (see Figure 11g) of probable European origin is among the Jarratt artifacts. Similar fragments have been found at Mission Concepcion (Krueger and Meskill 1992:23) in 19th century deposits. Although such pipes were made as early as the 18th century, pipe smoking did not come into fashion in Texas until the arrival of the Anglo-Americans and Germans in the early 19th century.

Chert

Of the 27 chert fragments recovered during the excavations, three are identifiable as gun flints (see Figure 11h-j). They are quite different in shape and are made from three distinctly different colors of chert. All appear to be locally made.

Animal Bone

The fragments of bone recovered from the two excavation projects were nearly all splinters and fragments too small to identify as to species.

Other

The Jarratt collection at TARL also includes "a fragment of Braid made of Copper Silver and Brass thread" (Jarratt n.d.:8). This fragment was found in association with burial No. 1. Due to the fragile condition of this artifact, it was not removed for analysis.

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Tonkawa Bank site contains the remains of stone ruins and other features dating to the Spanish colonial period. Although a tremendous amount of modification activities have taken place at the site within the last 40 years, "the fact that Jarratt could still locate wall footings suggests that there are probably more structural remains present even

where topsoil removal was most severe" (Fox 1979:6). Infrared photographs taken of the site in 1997 appear to show several distinct anomalies in the southeastern portions of the site where our shovel tests were located; these may represent *jacals*. If so, some subsurface evidence of these structures must exist or be intact enough to be detected by remote sensing techniques.

The 1996 investigations at Tonkawa Bank revealed that the site limits originally proposed by the 1978 work were substantially valid. The eastern site limits extended approximately 30 feet past the 1978 margins. Testing to the south of the original limits of the site showed that the site does not extend into the city storage area or into the Hiller property. Revised estimates of the site limits based on a surface and subsurface artifactual scatter of approximately 240 feet by 300 feet is consistent with other known and documented mission sites.

Based on the statistically significant presence of certain tin-glazed ceramic sherds, of which the largest majority (36 percent) are Puebla Polychrome (e.g., Deagan 1987:29, 82), an initial occupation date of 1725 (or earlier) can be established for the Tonkawa Bank site. This date corresponds *directly* with the archival data, supporting the hypothesis that this site is the second site of Mission Espíritu Santo de Zuñiga. Based on distances given in the archival records, the second location of the mission could not have been the Mission Valley site (41VT11). The exact date for the removal of the mission from the Garcitas Creek location is not currently known, but it is clear that the mission had already relocated prior to the official permission of the Spanish authorities, and before the relocation of the presidio. The site remained in use throughout the first half of the 18th century. We do not yet know when, or if, the Tonkawa Bank site ceased to exist as a "formal" mission after the construction of the third and larger mission site (41VT11), but archival data supports a contemporary occupation. The date of the relocation and reburial of Father Baena to Zacatecas may help to clarify this increasingly complex series of removals and relocations. Thus, based on material culture as well as retranslations and reanalysis of primary source documents, the site appears to represent a much more substantial mission location than that of a *visita* (Fox 1979) or an interim location (Hindes 1995).

The artifactual material and its similarity to the ceramics from the mission and presidio sites at Mission Valley indicate that the sites were all occupied during the same time period. An important conclusion that is suggested by the analysis of ceramics at the Victoria Park site is that this site must have continued in use right up to the time that site 41VT11 (the Mission Valley site) and 41VT8 (the presidio site) were moved to the San Antonio River in 1749. This is based on the presence of Galera Ware, which did not appear in Texas until the mid-18th century, and Puebla Blue on White II majolica, also thought to date to the last half of the 18th century. Indeed, artifactual material located in several collections (not included in this article) found over a large area of Tonkawa Bank, but away from the main Spanish colonial occupation, suggests an historical occupation dating from ca. 1725 to the mid-19th century.

To recapitulate, archival documents consulted so far, then, suggest that the mission was removed from Garcitas Creek sometime prior to 1725 to the Victoria City Park area, and was actively occupied by the mission fathers prior to the removal of the presidio from Garcitas Creek. Because of the great numbers of Aranama Indians, a third mission site was selected at the Mission Valley location and was also established and occupied contemporaneously with the Tonkawa Bank site for a period of time. Artifactual material correlates with the archival documentation and suggests that the site was definitely occupied through the first half of the 18th century, or until the time that both the missions and presidios were removed to the San Antonio River at current Goliad, Texas.

Documentary evidence and material culture remains thus point to four mission sites. The first site on Garcitas Creek is yet unlocated (Hindes and Mallouf n.d.). The second site was apparently in the immediate area of present-day Victoria at the Tonkawa Bank site. The next location was at 41VT11, where the University of Texas at Austin field school conducted investigations in 1996 and the 1997 and 1998 TAS Field School was held, and the fourth and final site is at Goliad.

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