THC
Executive Committee
Teleconference Meeting

April 25, 2020
10 A.M.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AGENDA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Teleconference Meeting
April 25, 2020
10 a.m.

Pursuant the Governor's executive order to avoid gatherings of more than ten and the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the April 25, 2020 meeting of the THC Executive Committee will be held by telephonic conference call, as authorized under Texas Government Code section 551.125. Members of the public will have access by calling 1-844-721-7241; access code 3560787, toll-free. Digital copies of the agenda and meeting materials are available at www.thc.texas.gov/teleconferences . A recording of the meeting will be available after April 27, 2020. To obtain a recording, please contact Esther Brickley at 512-463-5768.

The members may discuss and/or take action on any of the items listed in the agenda.
Note: The Executive Committee may go into executive session (close its meeting to the public) on any agenda item if appropriate and authorized by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

1. **Call to Order** – *Chairman Nau*
   A. Roll call for committee members
   B. Roll call for other participants
   C. Establish quorum
   D. Recognize and/or excuse absences

2. **Discussion and possible action – Alamo archeological permit application for the Mission San Antonio de Valero/Alamo Burial Exhumation (41BX6) Bexar County submitted by the General Land Office**– *Brad Jones, THC Archeology Division Director with presentation by Steve Tomka, Raba Kistner, Inc.*

3. **Committee Chairman's Report**
   A. Ongoing Projects; and
   B. Updates and Upcoming Events

4. **Adjourn**

TAB 2

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER

March 25, 2020

Mark Wolfe
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mark:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the March 24 and 25 quarterly meeting of the Texas Historical Commission (THC). We understand the THC's decision in following the direction of the Governor's Office, and appreciate the interest in safeguarding Commission members, staff, and guests during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, multiple Alamo-related matters were set to be heard at the March meeting, which has now been postponed. Nevertheless, there is one specific issue that the GLO believes necessitates prompt attention by the THC in light of the scientific and professional views summarized below, and despite the quarterly meeting delay. As you are aware, archaeologists have encountered four intentional interments within excavation units inside of the Alamo Church. Characteristics of these interments led the GLO to file an unverified cemetery application with the Texas Historical Commission, and until the Governor's direction on COVID-19, the GLO and the Alamo Trust, Inc. (ATI) were advised by THC that they file the request to exhume these interments following determination of the unverified cemetery application. Unfortunately, the uncertain effect of COVID-19 on state government operations and timelines now jeopardizes not only the safety and stability of the Alamo Church, but the overall condition of the intentional interments encountered, which essentially remain exposed to the elements unless the attached permit application. For the reasons described herein, the GLO requests the THC grant the attached exhumation permit in thirty (30) days, pursuant to the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding between GLO and THC.

The following information has been provided to GLO by the Raba Kistner, Inc. Principal Investigator, Steve A. Tomka, PhD., and Alamo Archaeologist, Kristi Nichols.

I. Impact of Exposure on Burials Encountered in the Church

Alamo archaeologists have advised preservation of human bone is conditioned on a number of factors, including the age of the deceased individual, whether or not they were initially buried within an encasement, the soil conditions surrounding the burial, and fluctuations in soil moisture and humidity conditions.

Between November and December of 2019, four archaeological excavation units uncovered intentionally interred human bones within the footprint of the Alamo Church:

- Burial number 1 was discovered during exploratory excavations of EU-04 along the south wall of the Nave. The clustered skeletal elements were discovered at 49-cm below datum. The remains

represent a concentration of several small bones that upon in-field preliminary analysis appeared to represent a single infant or young child.

- Burial number 2 was discovered during excavations of EU-05 along the north wall of the Nave. The remains were identified at 83.5 cm below datum. The discovery of nails and a change in soil color defining a noticeable outline within the unit suggests the remains had once been encased.
- Burial number 3, containing a number of bones associated with one adult individual, was discovered during exploratory excavations in EU-06. The elements are tightly bundled together and represent an intentional secondary burial. The remains were identified 109.5 cm below the pavers in the Church.
- Burial number 4 was discovered during exploratory excavations for EU-02 within the South Transept. The sub-adult burial was located approximately 57 cm below datum, adjacent to the southern South Transept wall.

As such, each of the above described interments was discovered in its own unique condition. All other conditions being equal, stable micro-climatic conditions support long-term preservation, while fluctuating conditions encourage rapid decomposition and breakdown of remains. Sudden changes in micro-climatic conditions following prior long-term stable environments also disrupt conditions for the preservation of human remains. Despite the different depths of their intentional interments, each burial is now facing micro-climatic changes as they remain *in situ*.

Because archaeologists believe the outline in EU-05 indicates Burial 2 was at one point encased and kept separate from the surrounding soil, this interment is likely in the most stable condition and the least likely to be impacted under current conditions. The three other burials, currently covered by a layer of soil and lacking evidence of prior encasing, are the most likely to be impacted by the current fluctuations in environmental conditions including humidity, temperature, and mold formation.

At present, the above identified burials remain *in situ*, covered with a clean muslin cloth and thin layer of soil, per the Human Remains Treatment Plan. The covering of all encountered interments with additional soil could potentially aid their long-term preservation, but the addition of soil on top of these human bones also has the potential to disrupt preservation of the remains by altering their micro-conditions. Still, as all four burials face an uncertain timeline for their exhumation and reburial, each remains exposed to new and changing micro-climatic conditions for weeks to months on end, and therefore potentially impairing preservation and increasing deterioration without a determinate plan for their exhumation and preservation.

Though archaeologists might be able to place a protective box or "lid" over the interments to prevent the crushing of the remains by reintroduced soils, such decision would inevitably increase the concern of changing micro-conditions associated with each burial. Specifically, the placement of an artificial "cover" on top of each interment will affect the compactness and moisture conditions within the vicinity of the instrumentation that will be installed by preservation staff to monitor the long-term conditions affecting the foundations of the Church. Thus, the long-term preservation of the remains of those interred within the Alamo Church, as well as preservation of the Church itself, would be negatively affected by using protective boxes to shield the interments.

Following advice of the Alamo archaeologist, and archaeologists employed in the Alamo preservation and restoration plan, the most prudent approach to ensuring the long-term preservation of each burial is the exhumation of each set of remains, ensuring their stability for basic analysis, and planning for their reburial within the Alamo Church at a later date.

II. Stability of the Alamo Church

As briefly described above and in the exhumation permit itself, leaving intentional remains *in situ* within the Alamo Church for an uncertain period of time jeopardizes not only the short-term preservation process, but the long-term stability of the historic structure.

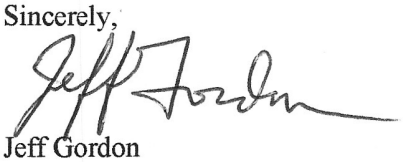
Regarding the short-term preservation process, preservation architects have concluded monitoring sensors must be placed within key locations of the Alamo Church walls in order to carefully determine areas of instability and plan for future necessary restoration and reconstruction of the walls. These sensors were ordered months ago and await installation as of this writing. While preservation architects have already pinpointed proper locations for the sensors in the excavation units lacking intentional interments, out of respect for those buried, the preservation team has avoided attempting to identify such locations in EUs 2, 4, 5 and 6.

Thus, the uncertainty in the short term creates a possible chain reaction even more detrimental to the Alamo Church in the long run. Without these sensors placed throughout the key locations in the entirety of the Alamo Church walls, preservationists are unable to properly proscribe treatment for the long-term preservation of the structure itself, as key information regarding underlying causes of instability will never become available to them. Though certain problem areas of the Alamo Church may be able to be treated topically, the in-depth insight the sensors provide ensures preservationists are not only treating symptoms, but actually identifying, isolating, and extracting or at least stabilizing the core of the problem.

Similarly, the excavation units containing intentional interments are currently the only units lacking a set timeline for backfilling the soil previously extracted. In the short- and long-term, this creates concerns of instability for Alamo Church. Following backfill of the excavation units, these areas will return to status quo, but those containing intentional interments and lacking a set timeline for backfill will remain open indefinitely, and without monitoring sensors, exposing portions of the Church wall to everchanging micro-climates and leaving preservationists with no way to determine the effect of exposure on these areas of the wall, much less the effect of exposure in these specific areas on the entirety of the Alamo Church itself. For the sake of the stability of the Alamo Church, preservationists recommend respectful exhumation of all human remains at this time.

For the reasons described above, the Texas General Land Office requests that the THC rule on this emergency permit request for an excavation permit allowing exhumation of the intentional interments identified within the Alamo Church. The GLO requests the THC grant this permit request within thirty (30) days pursuant to the terms of the MOU between the GLO and THC. The GLO and ATI staff and vendors are available remotely and telephonically to discuss any aspects of this permit request. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, and we thank you for your urgent consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gordon
General Counsel

cc: Douglass McDonald, ATI
Brad Jones, THC
Hector Valle, GLO

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Mission San Antonio de Valero/Alamo Burial Exhumation (41BX6)
County (ies) Bexar
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number San Antonio East
UTM Coordinates Zone 14R E 549892.5 N 3255278
Location Alamo Church
Federal Involvement ☐ Yes ☒ No
Name of Federal Agency
Agency Representative

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Texas General Land Office
Representative Mark Havens Chief Clerk
Address 1700 N. Congress Ave.
City/State/Zip Austin, Tx 78701
Telephone (include area code) 512-463-5001 Email Address mark.havens@glo.tx.gov

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor (same)
Representative
Address
City/State/Zip
Telephone (include area code) Email Address

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Steve Tomka
Affiliation Raba Kistner, Inc.-Cultural Resources Program Director
Address 12821 W. Golden Lane
City/State/Zip San Antonio, TX 78249
Telephone (include area code) 210-694-3633 Email Address stomka@rkci.com

(OVER)

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ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork April 3, 2020
Requested Permit Duration 10 Years _____ Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) Removal of burials encountered during the work associated with TAC Permit 8713

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility Alamo
Permanent Curatorial Facility UTSA-CAR-Records only

IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Mark Havens, as legal representative of the Land Owner, Texas General Land Office, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be preformed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Owner, Sponsor, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of the permit.
Signature _____ Date 3/25/2020

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, Mark Havens, as legal representative of the Sponsor, Texas General Land Office, do certify that I have review the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Sponsor, Owner, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.
Signature _____ Date 3/25/2020

VI. INVESTIGATOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, Steve Tomka, as Principal Investigator employed by Raba Kistner, Inc. (Investigative Firm), do certify that I will execute this project according to the submitted plans and research design, and will not conduct any work prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Principal Investigator (and the Investigative Firm), as well as the Owner and Sponsor, are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.
Signature _____ Date 03/26/2020

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vita must be on file with the Archeology Division.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reviewer _____ Date Permit Issues _____
Permit Number _____ Permit Expiration Date _____
Type of Permit _____ Date Received for Data Entry _____

Texas Historical Commission
Archeology Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone 512/463-6096
www.thc.state.tx.us
3/3/09

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
The State Agency for Historic Preservation

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PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF HUMAN REMAINS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALAMO CHURCH, SITE 41BX6, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

Produced for:
THE ANTIQUITIES COMMITTEE OF THE
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Produced by:

March 2020

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The original permit application submitted and approved by the THC on January 25, 2019 called for the excavation of up to 32 units associated with the Alamo Church and the Long Barrack (**Table 1**). Because the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and Alamo Trust, Inc. (ATI) assumed human remains might be discovered during these archeological investigations, they established the Alamo Mission Archaeological Advisory Committee (AMAAC), which developed a comprehensive human remains treatment protocol. Upon the discovery of confirmed intentional interments (comprised of fragmented and disarticulated human bone), the GLO and ATI are now formally requesting THC approval to exhume intentional burials that have been and may be encountered within the units currently under excavation inside or outside of the Church. Further, we request approval to conduct basic analysis and re-inter the remains in a central location inside the Alamo Church. If a permit is granted for the removal of human burials, all proposed methods will comply with all appropriate regulations.

After the THC issued TAC Permit 8713, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and the Alamo Trust Inc. (ATI) began archaeology. Three units were excavated along the outside perimeter and five others were to be excavated inside the footprint of the church immediately across from each exterior unit (**Figure 3**).

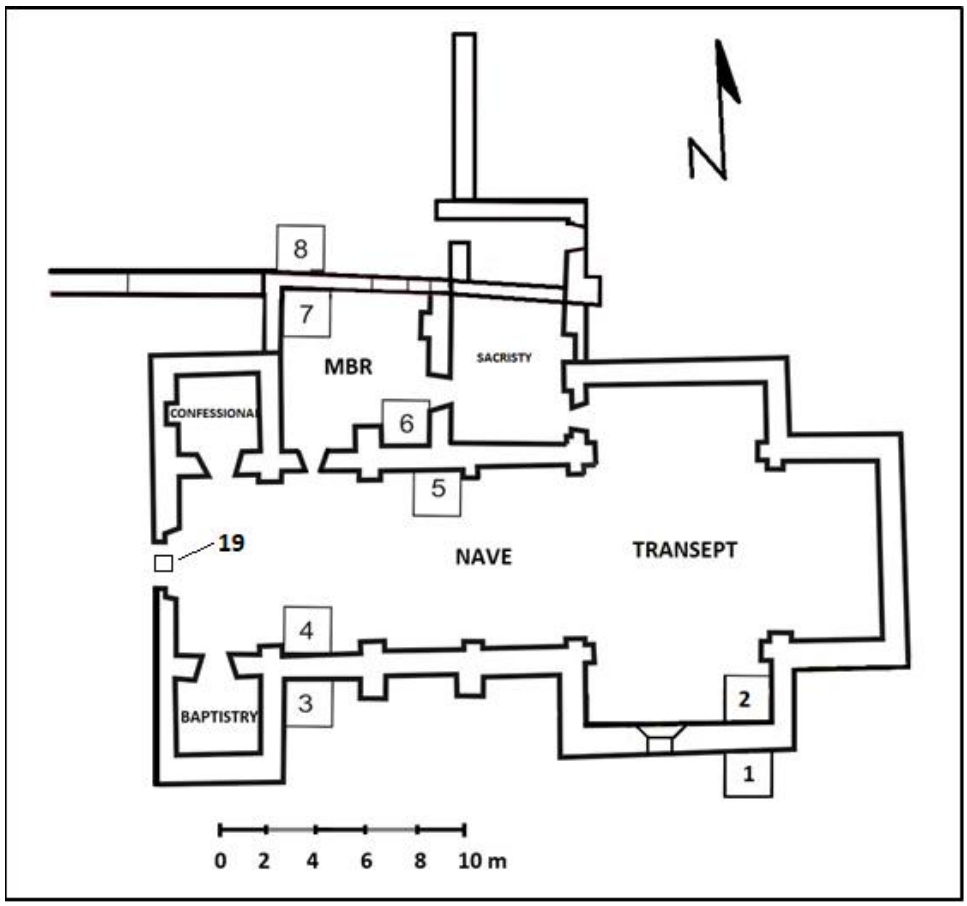

Figure 3. The location of the eight paired units excavated under TAC Permit 8713.

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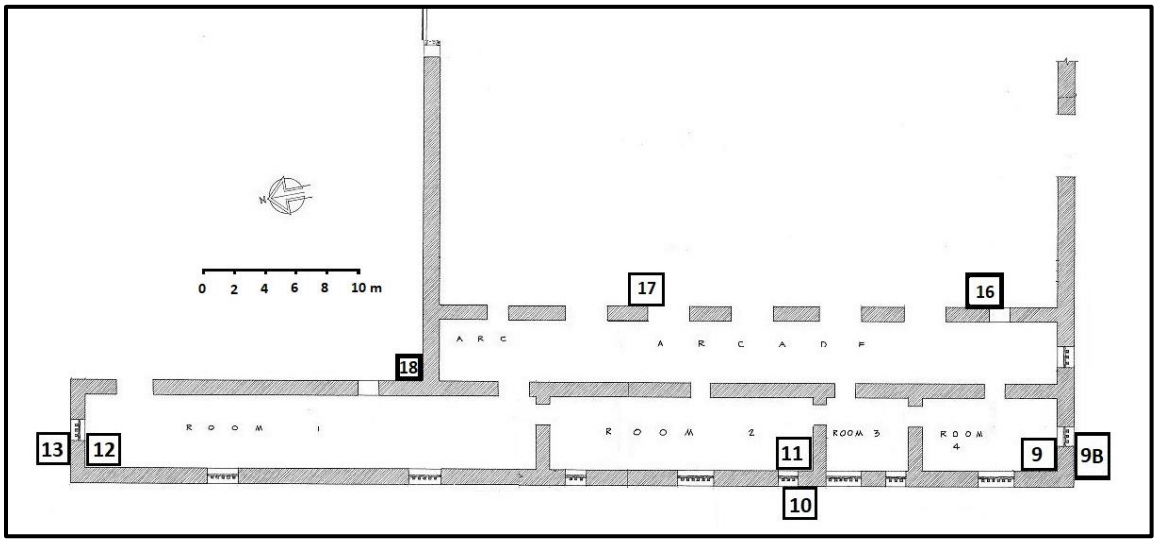

Figure 4. The location of the nine units associated with the Long Barrack.

The excavation of units within and surrounding the Alamo Church commenced during the fall of 2019. To date, four of the five units found inside the Church (EUs 2 [Burial # 4], 4 [Burial # 1], 5 [Burial # 2], and 6 [Burial # 3]) have uncovered evidence of intentional burials comprised of human bone, with none of the four burials containing enough complete bones to constitute an entire human skeleton. Upon establishing each find indeed represented a burial, the exposed fragmented or disarticulated human bones were immediately covered with unbleached cotton muslin and a layer of soil to prevent unnecessary exposure and moisture loss in accordance with the previously established human remains protocol. The excavation unit containing the find was immediately secured, and all excavations in these units were suspended.

Given the positioning of the eight EUs, it is the assessment of the archaeologists and preservationists that the excavation of the units that encountered human remains cannot be suspended, nor could these units be moved to other locations without losing key information needed to develop a comprehensive preservation program for the Church. Permanently suspending the excavation of units with intentional burials will not only result in imminent site endangerment (access, environmental conditions, or indirect effects) to visitors, but also endanger the historic structure and will prevent the team from completing the development of a comprehensive preservation plan for the Alamo Church.

Burial 1

Burial number 1 was discovered during exploratory excavations of EU-04. The clustered elements were discovered at 49-cm below datum. The remains represent a concentration of several small bones that upon in-field preliminary analysis, appeared to represent a single infant or young child. It is unclear whether the cluster represents a disturbed burial, with elements subsequently gathered and reburied.

EUs 3 and 4 were positioned in the corner formed by the east wall of the Baptistry and the south wall of the Nave (Figure 3). These excavations allow the comparison of the below grade conditions present along the South wall of the Alamo Church in contexts associated with the Monel Plate versus that absence of the plate. There is no other setting along the perimeter of the Church that replicates this condition.

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Burial 2

Burial number 2 was discovered during excavations of EU-05. The fragmented or disarticulated human bones partially uncovered during the exploratory excavations consist of cranial (n=1) and postcranial (n=4) elements. The remains were identified at 83.5 cm below datum. Archaeologists did not discover an actual, physical coffin, casket, or other type of burial box within the unit, but the burial was defined primarily on the basis of the discovery of nails and a change in color in the unit's soil forming a perimeter around the bones which appeared to archaeologists torepresent a hexagonal encasement that might have contained the bones within the excavation unit. No excavation of the remains found within the interior of the outline has been undertaken.

The location of EUs 5 and 6 inside the footprint of the Church (Figure 3), provides information on wall and foundation conditions for architectural elements that are entirely isolated from exterior conditions. Therefore, this pair of units serves as an important baseline for the condition of architectural elements not impacted by rainfall and daily and seasonal temperature changes. Furthermore, the two EUs provide opportunities to examine both east-to-west (i.e., the Nave wall), as well as north-to-south (i.e. the wall that divides the Monk's Burial Ground [MBG] Room from the Sacristy) oriented foundations. These conditions are not present at any other location within the Alamo Church.

Burial 3

Burial number 3 was discovered during exploratory excavations in EU-06. The elements are tightly bundled together in a manner that appears to represent an intentional possible secondary burial. The bone fragments were identified 119.5 cm below datum or 109.5 cm below the pavers in the church. Based on a preliminary analysis, the elements represent the adult age group, but a Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) and ancestry could not be determined.

The location of EUs 5 and 6 inside the footprint of the Church (Figure 3), provides information on wall and foundation conditions for architectural elements that are entirely isolated from exterior conditions. Therefore, this pair of units serves as an important baseline for the condition of architectural elements not impacted by rainfall and daily and seasonal temperature changes. Furthermore, the two EUs provide opportunities to examine both east-to-west (i.e., the Nave wall), as well as north-to-south (i.e. the wall that divides the Monk's Burial Ground [MBG] Room from the Sacristy) oriented foundations. These conditions are not present at any other location within the Alamo Church.

Burial 4

Burial number 4 was discovered during exploratory excavations for EU-02. The burial was located in the south-central area of the unit at approximately 57 cm below datum, adjacent to the southern South Transept wall. A single subadult individual is represented by the fragmented or disarticulated human bones.

Excavation Units 1 and 2 (EUs 1 and 2) were positioned on the outside and inside of the South Transept, respectively. In 1995, a Monel Plate was inserted into the wall 15-inches below the modern-day ground surface spanning the South Transept. The goal of the plate was to prevent the upward migration of rising damp from the foundation to the wall of the structure, however, because the plate was not positioned at the original ground surface of the Church wall, its existence may actually be negatively affecting the Church. Anecdotal information indicates that the moisture content below the Monel Plate spiked while there was a considerable decrease above the plate. Since one of the principal adverse impacts to the two surviving structures of the site derives from rising damp, the examination of the area surrounding the

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Monel Plate some 24 years after it was installed will provide valuable information regarding its performance and the condition of the foundation below the plate and the wall above. Such information cannot be obtained in any other location. In addition, EUs 1 and 2 will allow the Design Team to study both the southern and eastern walls of the South Transept.

Excavation Methods

The following methods shall be employed while excavating the remains identified above in the four units, as well as for any other remains discovered during further archaeological investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit # 8713. Due to likelihood that additional burials may be encountered during the excavation of the four identified intentional burials, this permit proposes to treat newly encountered burials in the same manner as delineated below.

Additional delineation of the intentional interments will occur via brushing and gentle trowel scraping. The archaeologist will observe the area to determine if there is a visible contrast between burial fill and the surrounding sediments. Once a contrast is defined, the intentional interment will be excavated with the soils from within the burial area and kept separate from the surrounding sediments. If no contrast is observed, artificial units will be created using the outline of the intentional interment.

Excavation of these burials will be done using bamboo skewers, wooden tools specific to the task, and soft brushes to minimize damage to the bones. Archaeologists conducting the excavation shall wear unbleached cotton gloves when handling the remains. All soil excavated from the burial will be screened through a 1/8-inch wire mesh to collect small items such as beads or fragmented bone that may have been missed during the excavation. Extreme care will be taken by archaeologists to ensure that all remains associated with the burial are recorded in situ; the screening of soil associated with the burial will take place to allow for collection of artifacts that were mixed with the soils and not obviously visible. All cultural and human remains will be collected from the screens and catalogued with provenience information. Each burial will be assigned a specific Burial Number, plotted on a site map, and its location will be recorded with a Total Data Station or high-accuracy GPS (no less than three points will be gathered for beginning elevations). It is possible that a burial may intrude on others. In these cases, alphanumeric designations may be used to show relationship to other burials.

Each burial will be recorded on a Burial Form, as well as a master burial log. Each Burial Form will include information regarding the vertical and horizontal locations of the remains, the position of fragmented or disarticulated human bones, orientation and direction of the cranium (if applicable), possible post-depositional impacts to the burial, relationship to other burials (if applicable), burial dimensions, and detailed description of the location of the burial in relationship to the historic structures. Photographs, with scale, will be taken of each burial only if drawings of the burials cannot sufficiently depict the relationship between elements. Should removal of the burial reveal additional elements, plan view maps and records will be updated to include this information. Elevations of newly exposed burial elements will be included on Burial Forms. Additional photographs will be taken only if plan maps cannot sufficiently record and document aspects of the burial. Photographs of the burials will be converted into depictions.

Should burials extend beyond the footprint of the excavation unit, or additional or additional burials are identified as intruding upon the initial interment, the excavations will be extended to remove the entirety of the additional burial and/or intrusive burial. Additional burials that are encountered beyond the excavation unit expansion and not in the path of planned impacts will be preserved in place, unless an association with other burials demonstrates the need to be kept together and both exhumed. Additional burials encountered that will need to be removed in order to place preservation instrumentation will be assigned a burial number and all information recorded on a separate Burial Form.

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The location of any funerary objects buried among the remains (i.e. projectile points, stone tools, buttons, beads, pendants, buckles, nails, etc.) will also be included on the plan view maps with elevation data. Once mapped, funerary objects will be collected and bagged with provenience information and a unique burial identifier (i.e., Burial Number). All funerary objects associated with the burial will be kept with the burial throughout the course of the project(s) and will be reinterred with the designated burial.

All elements of the burial will be stored together in a temporary curation storage container composed of natural, non-synthetic material.

Since the respectful excavation of each burial is expected to take more than a day, at the end of each workday the burial will be covered to prevent additional drying. The covering will also aid in prevention of viewing by the public, although in general excavation areas are already be screened-off per project requirements. The area will be secured each evening and monitored by Alamo Rangers until the return of the archaeologists. At all times, encountered remains will be treated with dignity and respect.

Storage and Curation

The following storage and curation methods shall be employed with respect to the remains identified above in the four units, as well as for any other remains discovered during further archaeological investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit # 8713.

Excavated burials encountered during the course of the projects will be temporarily stored on site, in an environmentally-controlled and secure location. The Alamo Collections Vault, located in Alamo Hall Annex, will be the site of the temporary storage. Lighting will be kept at levels that are not harmful to the human remains. Access to the human remains will be limited and monitored by the Alamo Archaeologist, with the project physical anthropologist or osteologist recommending individuals associated with the project to be allowed into the area. The Alamo Rangers have access to the vault only in cases of emergency. The Alamo Archaeologist will escort the physical anthropologist/osteologist into the collection storage vault.

ATI maintains a database of environmental conditions. Temperatures and humidity are regulated through a dedicated HVAC system and dehumidifiers. Dehumidifiers are stationed within the curatorial storage vault to remove excess water vapor during humid times. ATI strives to keep the temperature at 68 degrees Fahrenheit, with a relative humidity between 50- and 60 percent. HOBO data loggers are positioned within the storage vault, logging the temperature and relative humidity every five minutes. ATI utilizes the Sapphire Suppression System in the event that a fire occurs within the building.

The human remains will be wrapped in unbleached muslin and placed in a temporary curation storage container during storage. Unbleached cotton gloves will be used at all times when handling the remains. The gloves and temporary storage boxes will be destroyed upon completion of the project. The Alamo will arrange for the gloves and storage boxes to be burned. Photographs of the human remains will only be retained in unique circumstances.

Project generated documentation including but not limited to field forms, maps, inventories, and photographs will be curated at a state certified curatorial repository at the completion of the individual projects.

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Osteological and Artifact Analysis

The following analyses shall be employed with respect to the remains identified above in the four units, as well as for any other remains discovered during further archaeological investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit # 8713.

All osteological analysis of human remains will be conducted by the qualified physical/forensic anthropologist, bioarchaeologist, or osteologist and assistant. The human remains will be cleaned using wooden skewers and dry brushing during analysis. Data recorded, if obtainable, will include cranial and postcranial measurements, sex, potential age, dental and/or bone pathologies. Cranial suture fusion and epiphyseal closure, if obtainable, will be used in the determination of age of the individual at time of death. Other indications of age can be seen in the dentition and evidence of osteoarthritis. Ancestry of the remains will also be documented, if possible; however, no destructive analysis to determine ethnicity will occur.

DNA testing performed on any bones uncovered during the course of the Alamo project can only occur in one way – destructive analysis. In some cultures, it is not only disrespectful to destroy human remains but believed to have religious implications as well. Once a bone or bone fragment is destroyed, it cannot be pasted back together. The Alamo site has existed for nearly 300 years and is first and foremost a battleground. However, it was also called home by not only Native Americans and the Spanish founders of the mission, but also those living in Texas when it belonged to Mexico, and settlers arriving from the United States. Because of this, no certain determination can be made of the culture, tribal affiliation, or religion of a dry bone uncovered. Additionally, because nearly 300 years have passed, DNA analysis would not only destroy the bone forever but be unlikely to provide any more certainty about the deceased's existence other than their ethnicity. Accordingly, DNA testing shall not be performed on these remains.

Ancestral affiliation may be determined based on analysis of dentition, morphology of the femora, complexity of cranial sutures, presence/absence of Wormian bones, and characteristics of ascending rami. All data collected will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet during the analysis process.

Analysis of fragmented or disarticulated human bones, as well as isolated finds, will also occur as part of the osteological analysis unit, and the analyst will make a determination of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) that cannot be associated with a specific burial designation if possible. The elements representing each individual will be noted and recorded in the database. All protocols required by the Texas Health and Safety Code will be followed.

Recovered funerary materials will be analyzed by archaeologists with extensive expertise in specific artifact types (i.e. ceramics, lithics, etc.). Each object will be catalogued, and attributes recorded. The funerary items will be kept with the remains, and a catalogue designation will reflect the specific burial designation. If the manufacture date or temporal affiliation of the item can be assigned, the archaeologist and lab technician will record this information in the catalogue.

Reburial

The following reburial methods shall be employed with respect to the remains identified above in the four units, as well as for any other remains discovered during further archaeological investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit # 8713.

Reinterments of all burials and disarticulated remains or bone fragments will occur at one time, following the completion of the fieldwork and analysis of the project associated with the execution of the Alamo

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Plan. Every effort will be made to follow the reburial process as laid out by the previously established human remains protocol. Following consultation with the Alamo Mission Archaeological Advisory Committee, the reinterment process will be limited to a small number of invited individuals. Any public statements or notices regarding the reinternment process shall be managed by the GLO.

The excavated human remains and funerary objects will be wrapped in unbleached cotton muslin cloth tied with natural fiber string, with each cotton bundle representing an individual burial, or burial location (in the case that remains may have been previously disarticulated), and will contain the human remains and funerary objects associated with that burial. An area for reinterments will be determined based on the absence of human remains and architectural features, and the least likelihood of future disturbances.

The areas containing intentional interments will be excavated to an appropriate depth per current regulations. The size of the excavation area will be sufficient to avoid overcrowding of burial bundles. The final dimensions will be determined once the archaeological project has concluded, and the total number of reinterments is known. The soil collected from the previous burial location shall be used to envelop the muslin bundle. Soils from the new location will be used to fill the remainder of the excavated area.

To prevent soils from creating a visible depression, untreated wood planks or board may be placed between the interment and surface. After the completion of the reinterment, the surface should be made to look like the surrounding area, or as it was prior to the excavation. A site monitoring plan will be developed to address long-term protection to the reburial location.

Reburial Location

The currently proposed reburial location for all remains discovered under Texas Antiquities Permit # 8713, as well as additional remains encountered during the exhumation process laid out in this scope of work, is the room of the Church labeled as the Monk's Burial Ground. This location is within the confines of the Church, and therefore historic mission cemetery footprint, ensuring that the reburial location is within the line-of-site of the original location. Currently there are two archaeological excavation units within the Monk's Burial Ground that may be able to act as the reburial locations. The Monk's Burial Ground would be considered an optimal reburial location as it remains within the footprint and is steps away from the original interment locations.

As this is the first phase of the studies to determine the state of the walls and foundation of the Church, it is possible that a second phase will be needed to perform necessary repairs. It would be best to consider not reinterring the remains from these four Church units until all potential subsurface impacts within the Church have been completed. The fewer times a burial would need to be impacted the best, and in this case if there is the possibility that there will be additional impacts inside the Church, it would be better to reinter only after all the activities have been completed.

Alamo Mission and Fort Background

The Alamo, the former site of Mission San Antonio de Valero (41BX6), is situated in downtown San Antonio, on the east bank of the San Antonio River. The original northern limits of the site extend roughly 60-feet north of Houston Street (**Figure 1**), under the Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

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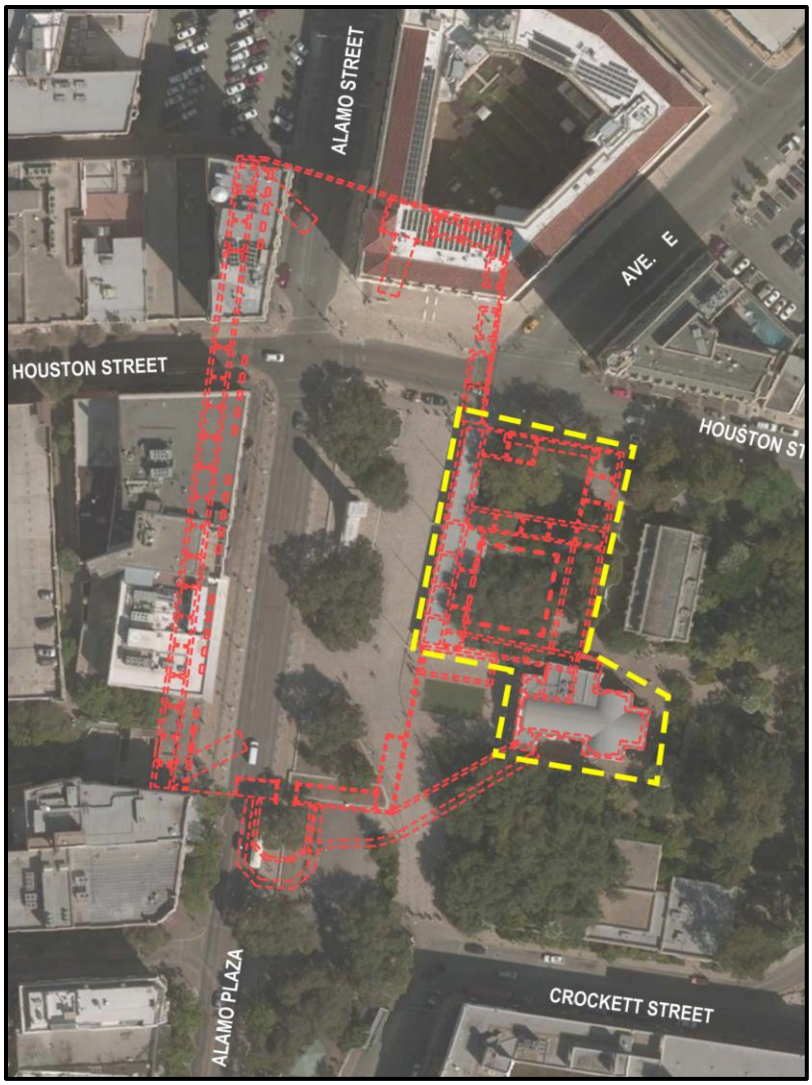

Figure 1. Site boundaries on aerial image of downtown San Antonio. Yellow outline depicts the Area of Potential Effect of the current Project.

Since July 17, 2019, the archaeological staff of Raba Kistner Inc., has carried out archaeological excavations at the site of the Alamo (41BX6) under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 8713, issued in January, 2019 to Dr. Steve A. Tomka, Principal Investigator. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the project is depicted on the aerial image of downtown (Figure 1) and on the San Antonio East 7.5-minute USGS Quadrangle map (**Figure 2**).

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Figure 2. The Alamo Area of Potential Effect on the San Antonio East USGS 7.5-minute Quad Sheet.

Since the mid-18th century, the Church and the Long Barrack have been exposed to environmental and anthropogenic factors that are impacting the long-term survival of these treasures of Texas and national history. The construction of the Alamo Church began in 1744 and services were being performed inside the Sacristy by 1762, even as the rest of the Church remained un-roofed. The structure was not roofed at the time of Santa Anna's siege of the Alamo, allowing the positioning of cannons high above the floor of the Church. It was not until 1850, five years after the arrival of the US Army that the building was roofed and acquired the now iconic *campanulate* or bell-shaped façade. The Long Barrack, which served as the Convento, was constructed in 1729 and served as the Friary until 1793, the secularization of the Mission San Antonio de Valero. Thereafter, the structure served as Officer's Quarters (1803), military hosial (1805-06), pharmacy (1807), and mercantile store (1878-1908).

A multitude of factors are impacting the above- and below-grade condition of the Alamo Church and Long Barrack, not the least of which is rising damp which over the years has led to large quantities of limestone literally peeling and spalling off the walls. Such loss of material weakens the structural integrity of the buildings and also results in the loss of interior mortar within the Alamo Church. Patches of remaining mortar within the Church exhibit painted motifs executed in the original mission-period colors. Similarly, the mortar and limestone blocks retain numerous historic battle-scars that are dramatic

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reminders of the Siege of the Alamo. These remnants of the historic past of the Alamo Church and Long Barrack are endangered by the slow degradation of the buildings.

Currently, members of a multi-disciplinary team of civil engineers, historic preservation specialists, conservators, and architectural historians are engaged in the collection of data that will form the basis of future actions to address the stabilization and conservation of these historic treasures. These data collection steps include the installation of highly sensitive sensors from the base of the foundation to the top of the roof. The sensors will gather and transmit daily information on the conditions experienced by these structures. Among the specific information recorded will be oscillations in moisture levels, humidity, and temperature.

The below-grade installation of instrumentation and the examination of foundations requires excavations by trained professional archaeologists who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (36 CFR Appendix A to Part 61- Professional Qualifications Standards). The aforementioned archaeological investigations have been conducted in support of efforts to establish the current condition of the Alamo Church and Long Barrack.