

The Discovery of the Francisco Romero House and Presidio-era Soil Mining Pits: Archaeological Testing of Centennial Park, AZ BB:13:756 (ASM), Tucson, Pima County, Arizona



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Technical Report No. 2012-15
Desert Archaeology, Inc.

Cover photo: Artifacts recovered from Centennial Park, AZ BB:13:756 (ASM). Top row: obsidian biface (Catalog No. 2012-460-1) and folded rim jar rim (Catalog No. 2012-460-2). Middle row: Monterey Polychrome majolica sherd (Catalog No. 2012-460-3) and Huejotzingo Green-on-white majolica sherd (Catalog No. 2012-460-4). Bottom row: Tonalá Polychrome mug sherd (Catalog No. 2012-460-5) and a transfer-printed bowl manufactured by the JOHN EDWARDS company of Fenton, England (Catalog No. 2012-460-6).

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Desert Archaeology, Inc.

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COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

Date: 10 January 2013

Report Title: *The Discovery of the Francisco Romero House and Presideo-era Mining Pits: Archaeological Testing of Centennial Park, AZ BB:13:756 (ASM), Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.* Technical Report No. 2012-15. Desert Archaeology, Inc., Tucson.

Client: City of Tucson

Client Project Name: Centennial Park Archaeology, City of Tucson Project #12-14

Compliance Agencies: City of Tucson, Arizona State Museum

Compliance Level: City

Applicable Laws/Regulations: City of Tucson Resolution No. 12443 (1983); City of Tucson Administrative Directive *Protection of Archaeological and Historical Resources in City Projects* (1995, updated 2005)

Applicable Permits: Arizona Antiquities Act Project Specific Permit 12-112A; Arizona State Museum Accession number 2012-640

Tribal Consultation: Not applicable

Project Description: Site identification and National Register of Historic Places eligibility testing

Final Disposition of Project Artifacts, Field Notes, Data, and Records: Arizona State Museum

Location (Land Ownership; City, County, State; Legal Description):

Land Ownership: City of Tucson

City, County, and State: Tucson, Pima County, Arizona

Legal Description: Section 12, Township 14 South, Range 13 East on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Tucson, Ariz. (AZ BB:13 [NW]). The property is Pima County Assessor's parcel 116-19-0760.

Number of Surveyed Acres: N/A

Number of Sites: 1

List of Register-eligible Properties: 1

List of Register-ineligible Properties: N/A

Recommendations: Archaeological testing was conducted within the location of Centennial Park. An American Territorial house foundation associated with Francisco Romero, a prominent resident of Tucson during the American Territorial period, was located and dates to the 1870s. An adobe brick bread oven was found nearby and predates the Romero house, probably constructed in the 1850s or 1860s. Below the foundation, Presidio-era (1775-1856) trash was found in borrow pit features. These features are recommended to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D, due to the significant information they can provide about the historical archaeology of Tucson.

The park construction plans include construction of a retaining wall and railing, new plants, a lighting feature, and the addition of fill dirt to raise the existing ground surface. It is recommended

that the proposed plans be altered slightly so that the foundation trench for the new retaining wall avoid damaging the Romero house foundation or the adjacent adobe brick bread oven. Any ground disturbances greater than 30 cm should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

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THE DISCOVERY OF THE FRANCISCO ROMERO HOUSE AND PRESIDIO-ERA SOIL MINING PITS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING OF CENTENNIAL PARK, AZ BB:13:756 (ASM), TUCSON, PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

Archaeological testing was conducted to determine if subsurface cultural resources are present within the planned Centennial Park. The results of that testing are presented here. The land is located immediately west of the northwestern corner of the Tucson Presidio, and is situated at the edge of the terrace overlooking the Santa Cruz River floodplain. Previous archaeological research, conducted on the block to the south, revealed cultural resources dating to the Prehistoric era, and the Spanish and American Territorial periods.

The parcel is owned by the City of Tucson, and a private organization is partnering with the city to create Centennial Park, raising money through various fundraising endeavors. Archaeological testing was recommended to explore the extent and nature of any surviving cultural deposits within the park area. Two backhoe trenches were cut at the northern and southern ends of the property, revealing four archaeological features, a rock wall, an adobe brick bread oven, and two large soil mining pits. Three control units were excavated, providing additional information about the soil stratigraphy of the park area and exposing a portion of the historic Francisco Romero house foundation. The adobe brick oven was also uncovered and documented.

This report contains a history of the block, pertinent research questions, and the results of testing. The project was conducted under Arizona Antiquities Act Project Specific permit, 12-112A. Project materials will be curated at ASM under Accession Number 2012-640.

Based upon the finds made during testing, it is recommended that any park construction activities that include ground disturbances deeper than 30 cm be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. The foundation of planned retaining walls should be moved to avoid damaging the Romero house foundation or the adobe brick bread oven.

PROJECT AREA LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The project area is located in Pima County in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 12, Township 14 South, Range 13 East on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Tucson, Ariz. (AZ BB:13 [NW]) (Figure 1). The

parcel is Pima County Assessor's parcel 116-19-0760. It is bounded on the east by N. Main Avenue, on the south by Paseo Redondo Drive, on the west by a parking lot, and on the north by a private residence. The area is currently covered with dirt, with volcanic rock walls on the northern and eastern sides, and a small retaining wall on the southern side. It measures 38.3 m in length, north-south, by 8.6 m in width, east-west, totaling 0.08 acres.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING OF THE PROJECT AREA

The project area is located in the bajada zone of the Tucson Basin approximately 0.8 km east of the Santa Cruz River floodplain. The surrounding area is fully developed, although it once supported vegetation typical of the Arizona Uplands subdivision of the Sonoran Desert Scrub series (Hansen 1996). The elevation of the project area is approximately 2,380 ft above sea level, sloping downward to the west. Most of the planned park area is dirt covered, with several trees, including an olive, palo verde, and mesquite, present.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT AREA

The history of the Southwest and of the Tucson Basin is marked by a close relationship between people and the natural environment. Environmental conditions have strongly influenced subsistence practices and social organization, and social and cultural changes have, in turn, made it possible to more efficiently exploit environmental resources. Through time, specialized adaptations to the arid region distinguished people living in the Southwest from those in other areas. Development of cultural and social conventions also became more regionally specific, and by A.D. 650, groups living in the Tucson Basin can be readily differentiated from those living in other areas of the Southwest. Today, the harsh desert climate no longer isolates Tucson and its inhabitants, but life remains closely tied to the unique resources of the Southwest. The chronology of the Tucson Basin is summarized in Table 1.

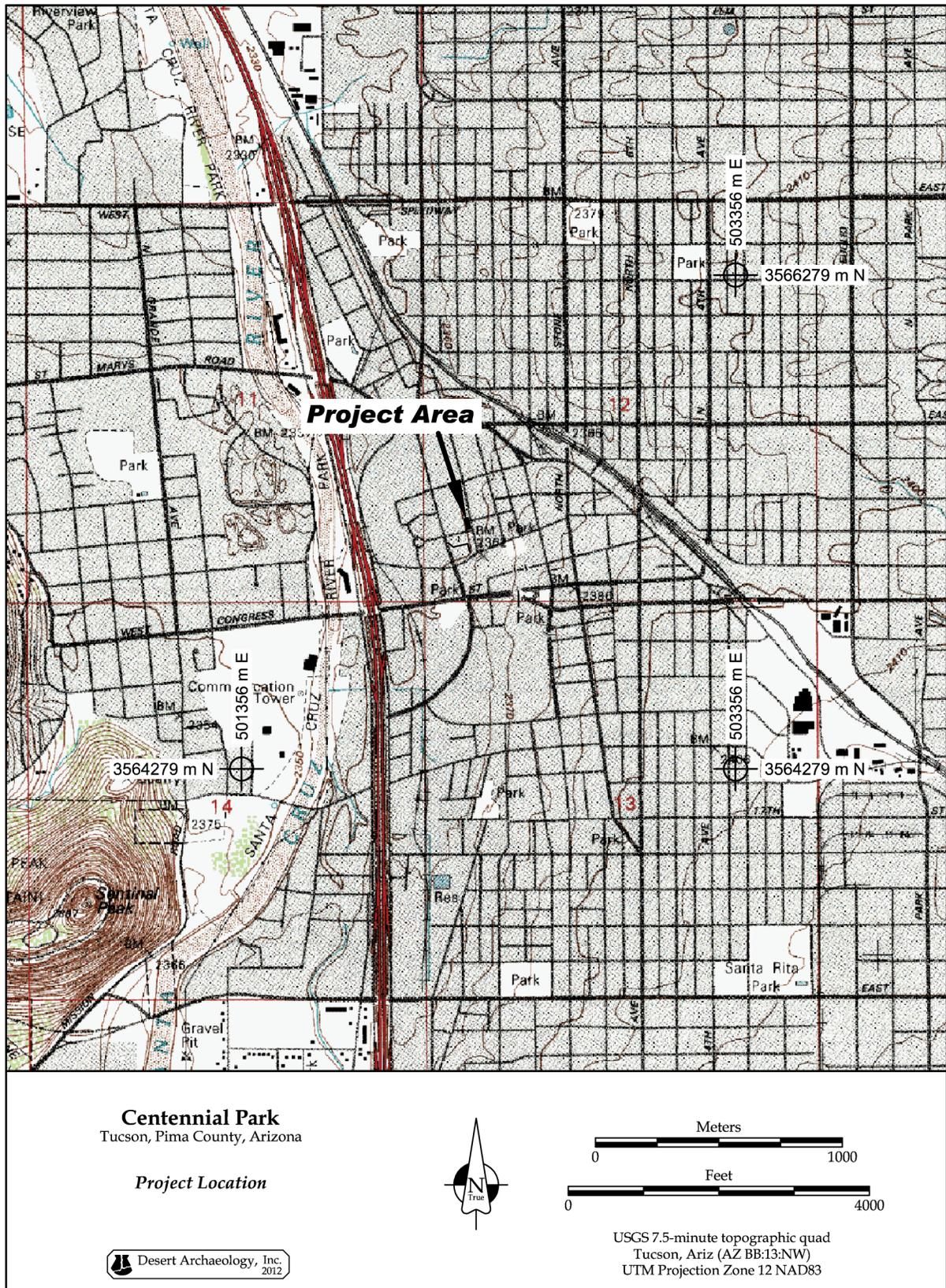


Figure 1. Reproduction of USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Tucson, Ariz. (AZ BB:13 [NW]), showing the location of the proposed Centennial Park.

Table 1. Periods, phases, and chronology of the Santa Cruz Valley-Tucson Basin.

Era/Period	Phase	Date Range
Historic		
American Statehood	-	A.D. 1912-present
American Territorial	-	A.D. 1856-1912
Mexican	-	A.D. 1821-1856
Spanish	-	A.D. 1694-1821
Protohistoric	-	A.D. 1450-1694
Prehistoric		
Hohokam Classic	Tucson	A.D. 1300-1450
	Tanque Verde	A.D. 1150-1300
Hohokam Sedentary	Late Rincon	A.D. 1100-1150
	Middle Rincon	A.D. 1000-1100
	Early Rincon	A.D. 950-1000
Hohokam Colonial	Rillito	A.D. 850-950
	Cañada del Oro	A.D. 750-850
Hohokam Pioneer	Snaketown	A.D. 700-750
	Tortolita	A.D. 500-700
Early Ceramic	Late Agua Caliente	A.D. 350-500
	Early Agua Caliente	A.D. 50-350
Early Agricultural	Late Cienega	400 B.C.-A.D. 50
	Early Cienega	800-400 B.C.
	San Pedro	1200-800 B.C.
	(Unnamed)	2100-1200 B.C.
	Chiricahua	3500-2100 B.C.
Archaic	(Occupation gap?)	6500-3500 B.C.
	Sulphur Springs-Ventana	7500-6500 B.C.
Paleoindian		11,500?-7500 B.C.

Paleoindian Period (11,500?-7500 B.C.)

Archaeological investigations suggest the Tucson Basin was initially occupied some 13,000 years ago, a time much wetter and cooler than today. The Paleoindian period is characterized by small, mobile groups of hunter-gatherers who briefly occupied temporary campsites as they moved across the countryside in search of food and other resources (Cordell 1997:67). The hunting of large mammals, such as mammoth and bison, was a particular focus of the subsistence economy. A Clovis point characteristic of the Paleoindian period (circa 9500 B.C.) was collected from the Valencia site, AZ BB:13:74 (ASM), located along the Santa Cruz River in the southern Tucson Basin (Doelle 1985:183-184). Another Paleoindian point was found in Rattlesnake Pass, in the northern Tucson Basin (Huckell 1982). These rare finds suggest prehistoric use of the Tucson area probably began at this time. Paleoindian use of the Tucson Basin is supported by archaeological investigations in the nearby San Pedro Valley and elsewhere in southern Arizona, where Clovis points have been discovered in association with extinct mammoth and bison remains (Huckell 1993, 1995). However, because Paleoindian sites have yet

to be found in the Tucson Basin, the extent and intensity of this occupation are unknown.

Archaic Period (7500-2100 B.C.)

The transition from the Paleoindian period to the Archaic period was accompanied by marked climatic changes. During this time, the environment came to look much as it does today. Archaic period groups pursued a mixed subsistence strategy, characterized by intensive wild plant gathering and the hunting of small animals. The only early Archaic period (7500-6500 B.C.) site known from the Tucson Basin is found in Ruelas Canyon, south of the Tortolita Mountains (Swartz 1998:24). However, middle Archaic period sites dating between 3500 and 2100 B.C. are known from the bajada zone surrounding Tucson, and, to a lesser extent, from floodplain and mountain areas. Investigations conducted at middle Archaic period sites include excavations along the Santa Cruz River (Gregory 1999), in the northern Tucson Basin (Roth 1989), at the La Paloma development (Dart 1986), and along Ventana Canyon Wash and Sabino Creek (Dart 1984; Douglas and Craig 1986). Archaic period sites in the Santa Cruz floodplain were found to be deeply

buried by alluvial sediments, suggesting more of these sites are present, but undiscovered, due to the lack of surface evidence.

Early Agricultural Period (2100 B.C.-A.D. 50)

The Early Agricultural period (previously identified as the Late Archaic period) was the time when domesticated plant species were first cultivated in the Greater Southwest. The precise timing of the introduction of cultigens from Mexico is not known, although direct radiocarbon dates on maize indicate it was being cultivated in the Tucson Basin and several other parts of the Southwest by 2100 B.C. (Mabry 2008). By at least 400 B.C., groups were living in substantial agricultural settlements in the floodplain of the Santa Cruz River. Recent archaeological investigations suggest canal irrigation also began sometime during this period.

Several Early Agricultural period sites are known from the Tucson Basin and its vicinity (Diehl 1997; Ezzo and Deaver 1998; Freeman 1998; Gregory 2001; Huckell and Huckell 1984; Huckell et al. 1995; Mabry 1998, 2008; Roth 1989). While there is variability among these sites, due to the 2,150 years included in the period, all excavated sites to date contain small, round, or oval semisubterranean pithouses, many with large internal storage pits. At some sites, a larger round structure is also present, which is thought to have been for communal or ritual purposes.

Stylistically distinctive Cienega, Cortaro, and San Pedro type projectile points are common at Early Agricultural sites, as are a range of ground stone and flaked stone tools, ornaments, and shell jewelry (Diehl 1997; Mabry 1998). The fact that shell and some of the material used for stone tools and ornaments were not locally available in the Tucson area suggests trade networks were operating. Agriculture, particularly the cultivation of corn, was important in the diet and increased in importance through time. However, gathered wild plants, such as tansy mustard and amaranth seeds, mesquite seeds and pods, and agave hearts, were also frequently used resources. As in the preceding Archaic period, the hunting of animals, such as deer, cottontail rabbits, and jackrabbits, continued to provide an important source of protein.

Early Ceramic Period (A.D. 50-500)

Although ceramic artifacts, including figurines and crude pottery, were first produced in the Tucson Basin during the Early Agricultural period (Heidke and Ferg 2001; Heidke et al. 1998), the wide-

spread use of ceramic containers marks the transition to the Early Ceramic period (Huckell 1993). Undecorated plain ware pottery was widely used in the Tucson Basin by about A.D. 50, marking the start of the early Agua Caliente phase (A.D. 50-350).

Architectural features became more formalized and substantial during the Early Ceramic period, representing a greater investment of effort in construction, and perhaps more permanent settlement. A number of pithouse styles are present, including small, round, and basin-shaped houses, as well as slightly larger subrectangular structures. As during the Early Agricultural period, a class of significantly larger structures may have functioned in a communal or ritual manner.

Reliance on agricultural crops continued to increase, and a wide variety of cultigens, including maize, beans, squash, cotton, and agave, were an integral part of the subsistence economy. Populations grew as farmers expanded their crop production to floodplain land near permanently flowing streams, and it is assumed that canal irrigation systems also expanded. Evidence from archaeological excavations indicates that trade in shell, turquoise, obsidian, and other materials intensified and that new trade networks developed.

Hohokam Sequence (A.D. 500-1450)

The Hohokam tradition developed in the deserts of central and southern Arizona sometime around A.D. 500, and is characterized by the introduction of red ware and decorated ceramics: red-on-buff wares in the Phoenix Basin and red-on-brown wares in the Tucson Basin (Doyel 1991; Wallace et al. 1995). Red ware pottery was introduced to the ceramic assemblage during the Tortolita phase (A.D. 500-650/700). The addition of a number of new vessel forms suggests that, by this time, ceramics were utilized for a multitude of purposes.

Through time, Hohokam artisans embellished this pottery with highly distinctive geometric figures and life forms, such as birds, humans, and reptiles. The Hohokam diverged from the preceding periods in a number of other important ways: (1) pithouses were clustered into formalized courtyard groups, which, in turn, were organized into larger village segments, each with their own roasting area and cemetery; (2) new burial practices appeared (cremation instead of inhumation) in conjunction with special artifacts associated with death rituals; (3) canal irrigation systems were expanded, and, particularly in the Phoenix Basin, represented huge investments of organized labor and time; and, (4) large communal or ritual features, such as ballcourts and platform mounds, were constructed at many village sites.

The Hohokam sequence is divided into the pre-Classic (A.D. 500-1150) and Classic (A.D. 1150-1450) period. At the start of the pre-Classic, small pithouse hamlets and villages were clustered around the Santa Cruz River. However, beginning about A.D. 750, large, nucleated villages were established along the river or its major tributaries, with smaller settlements in outlying areas serving as seasonal camps for functionally specific tasks, such as hunting, gathering, or limited agriculture (Doelle and Wallace 1991). At this time, large, basin-shaped features with earthen embankments, called ballcourts, were constructed at a number of the riverine villages. Although the exact function of these features is unknown, they probably served as arenas for playing a type of ball game, as well as places for holding religious ceremonies and for bringing different groups together for trade and other communal purposes (Wilcox 1991; Wilcox and Sternberg 1983).

Between A.D. 950 and 1150, Hohokam settlement in the Tucson area became even more dispersed, with people utilizing the extensive bajada zone as well as the valley floor (Doelle and Wallace 1986). An increase in population is apparent, and both functionally specific seasonal sites, as well as more permanent habitations, were now situated away from the river; however, the largest sites were still on the terraces just above the Santa Cruz. There is strong archaeological evidence for increasing specialization in ceramic manufacture at this time, with some village sites producing decorated red-on-brown ceramics for trade throughout the Tucson area (Harry 1995; Heidke 1988, 1996; Huntington 1986).

The Classic period is marked by dramatic changes in settlement patterns and possibly in social organization. Aboveground adobe compound architecture appeared for the first time, supplementing, but not replacing, the traditional semisubterranean pithouse architecture (Haury 1928; Wallace 1995). Although corn agriculture was still the primary subsistence focus, extremely large Classic period rock-pile field systems associated with the cultivation of agave have been found in both the northern and southern portions of the Tucson Basin (Doelle and Wallace 1991; Fish et al. 1992).

Platform mounds were also constructed at several Tucson Basin villages sometime around A.D. 1275-1300 (Gabel 1931). These features are found throughout southern and central Arizona, and consist of a central structure that was deliberately filled to support an elevated room upon a platform. The function of the elevated room is unclear; some were undoubtedly used for habitation, while others may have been primarily ceremonial. Building a platform mound took organized and directed labor, and the mounds are thought to be symbols of a socially dif-

ferentiated society (Doelle et al. 1995; Elson 1998; Fish et al. 1992; Gregory 1987). By the time platform mounds were constructed, most smaller sites had been abandoned, and Tucson Basin settlement was largely concentrated at only a half-dozen large, aggregated communities. Recent research has suggested that aggregation and abandonment in the Tucson area may be related to an increase in conflict and possibly warfare (Wallace and Doelle 1998). By A.D. 1450, the Hohokam tradition, as presently known, disappeared from the archaeological record.

Protohistoric Period (A.D. 1450-1694)

Little is known of the period from A.D. 1450, when the Hohokam disappeared from view, to A.D. 1697, when Father Kino first traveled to the Tucson Basin (Doelle and Wallace 1990). By that time, the Tohono O'odham people were living in the arid desert regions west of the Santa Cruz River, and groups who lived in the San Pedro and Santa Cruz valleys were known as the Sobaipuri (Doelle and Wallace 1990; Masse 1981). Both groups spoke the O'odham language, and, according to historic accounts and archaeological investigations, lived in oval jacal surface dwellings rather than pithouses. One of the larger Sobaipuri communities was located at Bac, where the Spanish Jesuits, and later the Franciscans, constructed the mission of San Xavier del Bac (Huckell 1993; Ravesloot 1987). However, due to the paucity of historic documents and archaeological research, little can be said regarding this currently inadequately understood period.

Spanish and Mexican Periods (A.D. 1694-1856)

Spanish exploration of southern Arizona began at the end of the seventeenth century A.D. Early Spanish explorers in the Southwest noted the presence of Native Americans living in what is now the Tucson area. These groups comprised the largest concentration of population in southern Arizona (Doelle and Wallace 1990). In 1757, Father Bernard Middendorf arrived in the Tucson area, establishing the first local Spanish presence. Fifteen years later, the construction of the San Agustín Mission near a Native American village at the base of A-Mountain was initiated, and by 1773, a church was completed (Dobyns 1976:33).

In 1775, the site for the Presidio of Tucson was selected on the eastern margin of the Santa Cruz River floodplain. In 1776, Spanish soldiers from the older presidio at Tubac moved north to Tucson, and construction of defensive and residential structures

began. The Presidio of Tucson was one of several forts built to counter the threat of Apache raiding groups who had entered the region at about the same time as the Spanish (Thiel et al. 1995; Wilcox 1981). Spanish colonists soon arrived to farm the relatively lush banks of the Santa Cruz River, to mine the surrounding hills, and to graze cattle. Many indigenous settlers were attracted to the area by the availability of Spanish products and the relative safety provided by the Presidio. The Spanish and Native American farmers grew corn, wheat, and vegetables, and cultivated fruit orchards, and the San Agustín Mission was known for its impressive gardens (Williams 1986).

In 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain, and Mexican settlers continued farming, ranching, and mining activities in the Tucson Basin. By 1831, the San Agustín Mission had been abandoned (Elson and Doelle 1987; Hard and Doelle 1978), although settlers continued to seek the protection of the Presidio walls.

American Period (1856-Present)

Through the 1848 settlement of the Mexican-American War and the 1853 Gadsden Purchase, Mexico ceded much of the Greater Southwest to the United States, establishing the international boundary at its present location. The U.S. Army established its first outpost in Tucson in 1856 and, in 1873, founded Fort Lowell at the confluence of the Tanque Verde Creek and Pantano Wash, to guard against continued Apache raiding.

Railroads arrived in Tucson and the surrounding areas in the 1880s, opening the floodgates of Anglo-American settlement. With the surrender of Geronimo in 1886, Apache raiding ended, and settlement in the region boomed. Local industries associated with mining and manufacturing continued to fuel growth, and the railroad supplied the Santa Cruz River valley with the commodities it could not produce locally. Meanwhile, homesteaders established numerous cattle ranches in outlying areas, bringing additional residents and income to the area (Mabry et al. 1994).

By the turn of the twentieth century, municipal improvements to water and sewer service, and the eventual introduction of electricity, made life in southern Arizona more hospitable. New residences and businesses continued to appear within an ever-widening perimeter around Tucson, and city limits stretched to accommodate the growing population. Tourism, the health industry, and activities centered around the University of Arizona and Davis-Mon-

than Air Force Base contributed significantly to growth and development in the Tucson Basin in the twentieth century (Sonnichsen 1982).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT AREA

The project area is situated on the floodplain of the Santa Cruz River, with the edge of the first terrace on the eastern side located along the east side of the project area. During the Spanish, Mexican, and much of the American Territorial periods, this area was used as agricultural fields. The 1862 Field Map suggests Francisco Romero owned the field that includes the project area. The 1862 Map of Tucson has a house at this location, apparently labeled "43;" this was probably Francisco Romero's house (Figure 2).

The Tucson townsite was surveyed in 1872, and at that time, the land was included as the northern portion of Block 185, an irregularly shaped block, which was later called Block 311 or, at other times, Block 711.

Research about Francisco Romero was previously conducted, revealing that the Romero family had lived on the park site. Francisco Romero was born about 4 October 1822, in Tucson, Sonora, Mexico, a son of José Romero and Soledad Saenz [Saiz]; however, another source states his father was Marcelino Romero, which is incorrect.¹ A child named Francisco lived with this couple in 1831, and Francisco inherited land from José Romero.² Francisco was married prior to 1853, to Victoriana Ocoboa. Victoriana was born in 1833-1834, in Tucson, Sonora, Mexico, probably a daughter of Alvino Ocoboa and Dolores Soza. Her brother Tomás was a Presidio soldier who was killed by Indians in May 1848 (Officer 1987:379).

In 1851, Francisco was employed as a scout by the Mexican Army. On one expedition, he traveled to Tres Alamos to escort workers who were cultivating crops there.³ The last roster of soldiers for the Tucson Presidio lists Private Francisco Romero, who was out sick when the list was made in September 1855 (Officer 1987:331). In July 1858, Francisco and Victoriana were godparents to María Bernarda Saenz, daughter of Rafael Saenz and Dolores Orozco.⁴

¹MS 1155 box 40 folder 531 AHS/SAD; Hayden File, AHF/ASU; Pima County Probate Court, file 1521.

²1831 Census, Tucson, page 3, column 3; Francisco Romero file, AHS/SAD.

³Affidavit, Francisco Romero biographical file, AHS/SAD.

⁴Magdalena Catholic Church Records, UAL Microfilm 811, Roll 1.

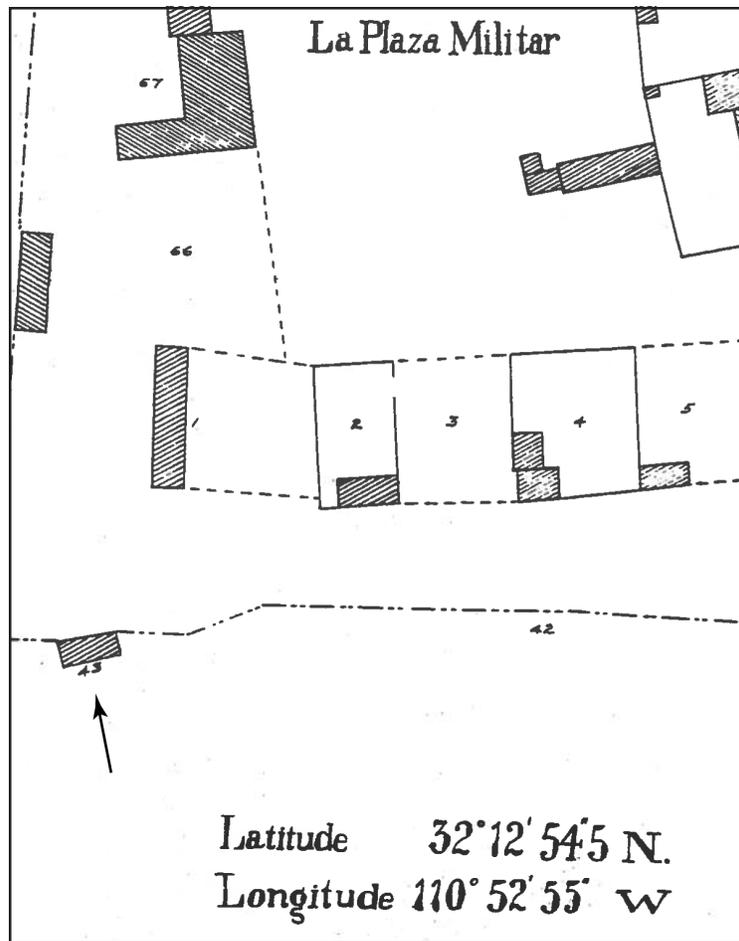


Figure 2. A portion of the 1862 Map of Tucson drafted by John Mills, Jr., with the probable location of the Francisco Romero house (indicated by arrow, pointing east).

On 6 August 1860, Francisco was a farmer with real estate valued at \$100 and personal property valued at \$100. Victoriana's probable sister, Petra Ocoboa de Ramirez, lived next door.⁵ On 18 October 1861, Francisco and Victoriana were godparents for María Amelia Cleco, daughter of Juan Cleco and Concepcion Romero.⁶ On 14 August 1862, Francisco recorded the deed to his land inherited from José Romero. It was

a piece of ground in front of the Old Guard House of the Precedo where... a row of pemengranete trees runs straight toward the north, there... is a small corner belonging to my sister [Mariana Romero?], thence with a small ditch running to the north...⁷

⁵Fco. Romero household, 1860 Census, Arizona [Territory], New Mexico Territory, population schedule, Tucson, page 18, dwelling 171, family 177.

⁶St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:15 no. 130.

⁷Property records, 1862-1864, MS 1072, page 9, no. 17, AHS/SAD.

Two weeks later, on 28 August 1862, Francisco and Victoriana were godparents for María Paula Cordova, daughter of María Jesús Cordova.⁸

On 2 March 1864, Francisco and Victoriana were godparents for Juan Francisco Lopez, son of Juan Lopez and María Rios.⁹ On 23 March 1864, the couple were *padrinos* for María Guadalupe Solano León, daughter of Francisco Solano León and Ramona Elías.¹⁰ In April 1864, the Romeros owned a farm in Tucson valued at \$100 and \$500 in personal possessions.¹¹ On 6 May 1864, the couple were godparents to María Ascencion Pacheco, daughter of Refugio Pacheco and Paula Cruz.¹² In 1865, the Romeros sold their house on Main Street to Don Jesús Redondo in Tucson for the sum of 1,100 pesos in gold or silver.¹³ Francisco, Victoriana, and three children under 10 years old, Limon, Faviano, and Pedro, were living in Tucson in 1866.¹⁴ On 10 February 1867, the couple were godparents to Francisco Romero, son of Fructuoso Romero and Braulia Gonzáles.¹⁵ In March 1867, the Territorial Census taker found Francisco, Victoriana, and their two children, Pablo and Favino, living in Tucson.¹⁶ On 26 April 1868, the couple were godparents to Robert Lee, son of James Lee and María Ramirez¹⁷, and

on 11 February 1869, the couple were godparents to Ramón Sanchez, son of Simón Sanchez and Albina Morales.¹⁸

On 18 June 1870, Francisco farmed in Tucson. He owned real estate valued at \$3,000 and personal property worth \$2,000. He, his wife, and daughter Paula could not read or write.¹⁹ It is obvious that the

⁸St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:16 no. 134.

⁹St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:8 no. 72.

¹⁰St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:11 no. 95.

¹¹1864 Census, Arizona Territory, Pima County, Tucson lines 475-477.

¹²St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:22 no. 94.

¹³Pima County Deed Record Entry 1:179-180.

¹⁴1866 Census, Arizona Territory, Pima County, Tucson lines 60-64.

¹⁵St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:50.

¹⁶1867 Census, Arizona Territory, Pima County, Tucson lines 14-17.

¹⁷St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:71.

¹⁸St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:92.

¹⁹Francisco Romero household, 1870 US census, Pima County, Arizona Territory, page 75, dwelling 832, family 832; NARA microfilm M593, roll 46.

Romeros were quite wealthy during this period. However, this did not last. Between May 1869 and March 1870, Francisco lost horses, mules, and 28 head of cattle (total value \$1,100) to the Apache. He moved to Sonora for a while because he considered the highways and fields unsafe for travel (*Arizona Enterprise* 1892). On 3 September 1870, Francisco and Victoriana were godparents to Juan Bautista Dorame, son of Jesús and Ruperta Dorame.²⁰ Fifteen days later they were godparents to María Angelita Munguia, daughter of Francisco Munguia and Matilda Carillo.²¹

Francisco Romero was a member of the party that left Tucson and traveled to Camp Grant in January 1871. This group massacred many Apache who were receiving rations at the camp from the U.S. government. A number of children survived the attack, and Francisco Romero brought two of them back to Tucson. One of them was a 3-year-old girl named Lucia who was still in his household in May 1872. It is possible that the children were among those returned in 1872, following a peace camp held at Camp Grant (Colwell-Chanthaphonh 2007:69; Officer 1987:403). On 3 September 1872, Francisco purchased a field property from Hiram Stevens and Petra Santa Cruz for \$1,200.²² On 1 July 1873, Francisco and Victoria sold a field property to Anita Orosco for \$500.²³ Francisco purchased three Tucson lots on 1 September 1873, Lot 8 of Block 42, Lot 11 of Block 135, and Lot 8 of Block 82.²⁴

The massacre failed to solve the problems of Tucson ranchers. The Apaches continued to raid, and in March 1874, two mules belonging to Romero were stolen from Heran's ranch. Five men followed the Apache, and one, Simón Sanches, was killed by the Apache (*Arizona Citizen* 1874).

In March 1875, Romero teamed up with William Zeckendorf and prospected for gold and silver on the eastern slopes of the Santa Catalina Mountains. They named their mine the Florencia (*Arizona Citizen* 1875). Romero probably occupied the site now in Catalina State Park called Romero Ruin, AZ BB:9:1 (ASM), at this time. Francisco and Victoriana lived at the site by themselves and were constantly at war with the Apache. They would capture cattle at night, and Francisco would chase after them, armed with a brace of pistols and a rim-fire .44 carbine. This gun was superior to the Apache weapons, and he was reported to have shot many of them. However,

Francisco's grandson, Fabian, Jr., reported that his body bore the scars from the arrows and lances of the Apache.²⁵ It is unlikely that the Romeros lived at the site for long (Swartz and Doelle 1996). They returned to Tucson to live. Also at this time, Romero helped with construction of the St. Augustine church by bringing lumber from nearby areas.²⁶

Francisco was registered to vote in Pima County from 1876 onward.²⁷ Francisco continued farming along the Santa Cruz River, working on the western side of Flowing Wells. Francisco purchased the northwest quarter of Section 27, Township 13 South, Range 13 East from Ramón and Soledad Romero for \$250 on 16 September 1878.²⁸ On 20 May 1879, Francisco sold Lot 8 of Block 82 to the City of Tucson for \$25.²⁹ On 7 June 1879, Francisco purchased the deed for Lot 5 of Block 250 from the City of Tucson for \$25.³⁰

In June 1880, the Romero family lived on Main Street (corner of Main and Paseo Redondo) in Tucson.³¹ Romero joined the Society of Arizona Pioneers in 1884. On 2 December 1887, Francisco and his son Fabian made an agreement about an irrigation ditch.³² In 1889, the *Arizona Daily Star* (1889) complained about the Romero home on Main Street. The Romeros lived across the street from prominent Tucsonans Sam Hughes, Hiram Stevens, and E. N. Fish. A mesquite fence and piles of refuse were blamed for causing sickness among neighborhood residents.

On 24 May 1901, the Romeros satisfied a mortgage.³³ The 1901 and 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps show the Romero House at 184 and 192 (also 219 and 221) N. Main Avenue (Figure 3). The six-room house appears to have been a typical Sonoran rowhouse. It was C-shaped, with four rooms fronting N. Main Avenue and additional rooms attached to the rear of the house at the northern and southern ends. A wooden-roofed porch ran between the rear rooms and also extended off the room at the southwestern corner. Stoves or fireplaces were present in the two southern rooms, marking the location of the kitchen. A smaller wooden structure was located some 24 m west of the house.

²⁵Interview with Fabian Romero, Jr. Donald Page file, AHS.

²⁶Francisco Romero biographical file, AHS/SAD.

²⁷Pima County Great Registers.

²⁸Pima County Deed Record Entry 4:420-423.

²⁹Pima County Deed Record Entry 5:235-237.

³⁰Pima County Deed Record Entry 5:324-326.

³¹Francisco Romero household, 1880 US census, Pima County, Arizona Territory, population schedule, Tucson, ED 5, page 25, dwelling 178, family 255; NARA microfilm T9, roll 36.

³²Pima County Misc. Records 4:117.

³³Pima County Misc. Records 6:384.

²⁰St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:132.

²¹St. Augustine Catholic Church Baptisms, 1:133.

²²Pima County Deed Record Entry 1:734-736.

²³Pima County Deed Record Entry 2:49-51.

²⁴Pima County Deed Record Entry 4:468-470, 4:470-472, 4:472-474.

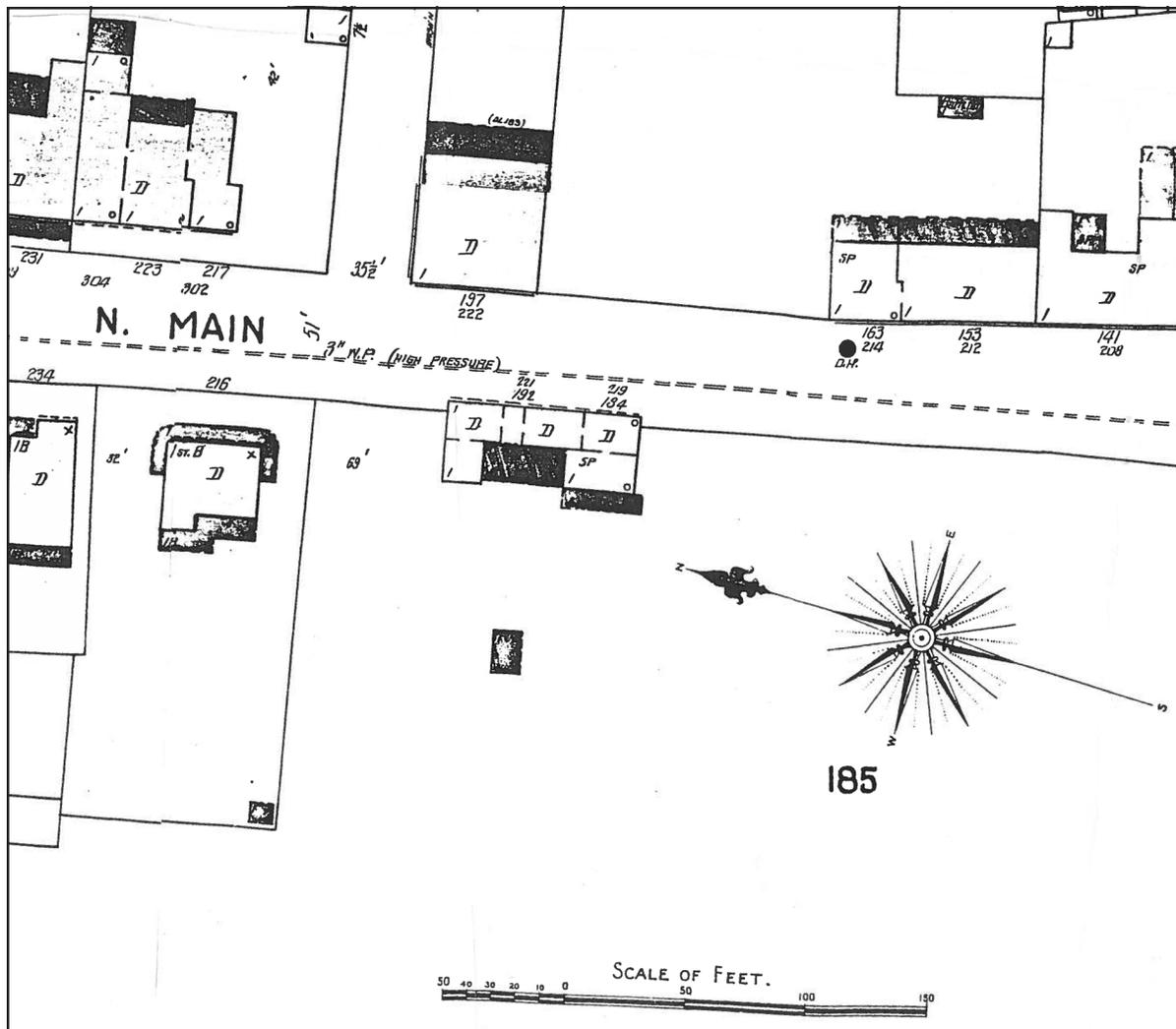


Figure 3. 1901 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, showing the Romero house at 184-192 N. Main Avenue.

Francisco died on 11 September 1905, at his home at 192 N. Main Avenue in Tucson, from chronic nephritis.³⁴ A short obituary was published in the *Tucson Citizen* on 13 September 1905:

Funeral services over the remains of Francisco Romero were held this morning from the Cathedral. Romero was one of the pioneers here. He was 87 years old and was born in Tucson. His father was also born here. At one time he was quite wealthy and owned a great deal of land. Members of the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society attended the funeral.

The administrator of his estate was J. Knox Corbett. Francisco left behind 30 acres of land along N. Main Avenue, valued at \$20,000. His son Fabian Romero

had mortgaged the land to Albert Steinfeld for \$15,000.³⁵

Victoriana died on 19 January 1908, in Tucson, from "La Grippe."³⁶ Her obituary appeared in the 20 January 1908 issue of the *Tucson Citizen*:

A PIONEER PASSED AWAY. Mrs. Victoriana Romero, Native of Tucson, Died Here Sunday

Funeral services were held this afternoon from the Cathedral over the remains of Mrs. Victoriana Romero, one of the oldest residents of Tucson.

Mrs. Romero was a native of the Old Pueblo and her father and mother were also natives of this city, her family being one of the oldest in Southern Arizona.

³⁴Death Certificate, City of Tucson, 1905 no. 4121.

³⁵Pima County Probate File 1521.

³⁶Death Certificate, City of Tucson, 1908 no. 2331.

Her death was due to an attack of la grippe. She was seized with the malady about a week ago and the illness proved fatal. She passed away Sunday. She is survived by a number of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The Romero estate was quite extensive here and included the greater portion of the valley land, which has now become one of the residence districts of Tucson.

Mrs. Romero was the widow of Francisco Romero, who was one of the Tucson pioneers. A large number of friends attended the funeral. She was 75 years old.

The Romeros were originally buried in the Catholic Cemetery along Court Street. Their bodies were probably moved to Holy Hope Cemetery in 1909.

Francisco Romero and Victoriana Ocoboa were the parents of six children: Paula (circa 1853), Antonio (circa 1857), Jose Zeno (1862), Jose Fabian (1865), Pablo (circa 1866), and Carmen (circa 1870).

The Romero house was torn down after Francisco Romero's death; the 1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance map does not include the house (Figure 4). In 1910, the northwestern corner of W. Paseo Redondo and N. Main Avenue was set aside as a park, with the City of Tucson accepting responsibility for maintaining and improving the grounds (*Tucson Citizen* 1910).

In January 1909, it was reported that: "The brick work on the first story of the residence which W. J. Corbett is erecting in the Paseo Redondo is completed" (*Tucson Citizen* 1909). The Sanborn Fire Insurance map drawn later that year shows the finished home present at 184-194 N. Main Avenue. This address was soon changed to 1 W. Paseo Redondo Drive.

The 1910 census lists William J. and Belle Corbett as living at 1 Paseo Redondo. The house was reported to have hardwood floors, two fireplaces, six bathrooms, and a large patio (James 1965). William was born in March 1853, in Sumter,

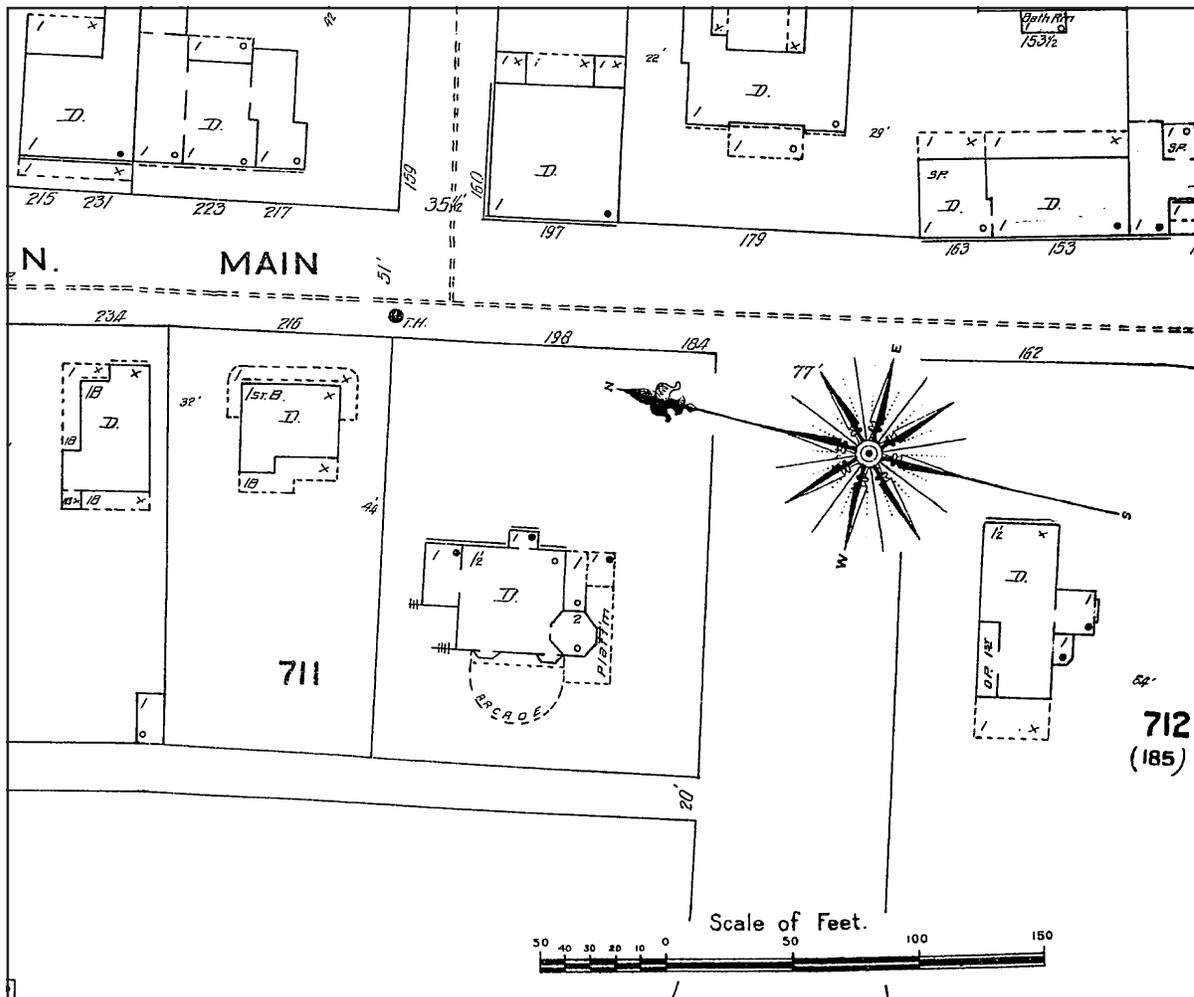


Figure 4. 1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, showing the house and lot at 1 Paseo Redondo Drive listed as 198 N. Main.

Sumter County, South Carolina, son of James Neilson. He was married about 1891, to Belle Creary. Belle was born in April 1865, in Louisiana. They were the parents of two sons, Franklin and James. William was president of the Merchant's Bank and Trust Company and owned the Corbett Hardware Company in Tucson. He died in 1918, and Belle lived in the house for at least a year afterwards. She died in 1922. The Corbetts are buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

The next occupants were Simon and Medeline Heineman, who were in residence in 1922. Simon was born on 16 August 1866, in Seveinfurtt, Germany, son of Carl Heineman. He was married to Madeline Dreyfuss. Madeline was born on 4 November 1882, in Nevada City, Merced County, California. Simon was the president of Bail & Heineman Company, a local wholesale merchant business. The couple was listed as living at 1 Paseo Redondo in the 1920 census. Simon died on 24 July 1924, at home, from acute indigestion, following an earlier stroke. Madeline was known for her interest in music, and in 1927, her future brother-in-law, Alexander Berger, donated the money used to build the Temple of Music and Art in Tucson. Madeline was married in August 1928, to Harry Berger. The couple is listed as living at 1 Paseo Redondo in 1930 and 1940. Madeline died on 5 October 1943, in La Jolla, San Diego County, California. Harry Berger later died in 1953, in Knox County, Indiana.

The home at 1 Paseo Redondo was torn down in May and June of 1965 in an ill-fated developer-driven urban renewal scheme. The Millstone Development Company demolished six mansions in "Snob Hollow," planning to build apartment buildings throughout the area (James 1965).

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Archaeological investigations have been conducted in the downtown Tucson area for more than 50 years. Urban renewal projects in the 1960s raised awareness of the archaeological and historical resources of downtown Tucson after numerous important properties were lost without any documentation. In response, the City of Tucson and Pima County began adopting local historical ordinances. In 1990, Tucson was designated a Certified Local Government by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This status allows the city to assume some of the authority for reviewing projects that affect historical resources. City projects that might not have otherwise been covered under the National Historic Preservation Act or comparable state-level preservation laws now undergo review for impacts to both standing historical properties and

archaeological sites. Consequently, hundreds of cultural resources assessments and surveys have been conducted in Tucson, especially in the downtown area.

City projects that involve minimal ground disturbance, such as utility construction or renewal, are often archaeologically monitored to preserve archaeological information that might otherwise be lost. Larger undertakings can involve more extensive data recovery methods, including testing and excavation. As subsurface features and artifacts are encountered, historic city blocks are assigned ASM site numbers. Data recovered from these sites have been used to study the early history of Tucson, the realities of day-to-day life, patterns of urban development, the interplay of ethnic traditions, socioeconomic forces, and other important themes in the "unwritten" history of Tucson and the region.

Archaeological testing and data recovery was conducted in 2005 on historic Block 185, located immediately south of the proposed Centennial Park, (Thiel, ed. 2008b). This block was the location of prehistoric and historic irrigation canals, assigned site number AZ BB:13:757 (ASM). Non-linear historic features were assigned to site AZ BB:13:756 (ASM). During the Presidio era (1775-1856), soil mining was conducted in the Block 185 area, and the large pits were subsequently filled with washed in dirt and trash. Excavated units yielded a small but interesting set of Presidio-era artifacts, including majolica and Native American ceramics, a religious medal and glass beads, and animal and botanical remains. A sheet trash deposit, as well as the fill in one of the historic canals, yielded artifacts dating to the 1870s to about 1900. Of particular interest were two features containing artifacts discarded by Chinese gardeners, who lived in shanties nearby, according to the 1883 Sanborn Fire Insurance map.

Other archaeological fieldwork has been conducted on the León farmstead, located several hundred meters to the northwest, exposing prehistoric and historic canals, as well as the foundation of the León family house and other associated features (Thiel 2005). Of particular interest for the current project was the rock and lime mortar foundation of the León house, constructed in the 1870s. The Sonoran rowhouse initially had three rooms and was approximately 13.4 m long by 2.4 m wide. The center room was a *zaguán*, or hallway. The kitchen was on one side and the living room/bedroom was on the other side. An addition was later built on the back and was plumbed for water, probably serving as a bathroom in the early twentieth century.

The Siqueiros-Jácome House, located east of the project area on N. Court Avenue on Block 181, has also been explored by archaeologists. This house was built in the 1860s and 1870s, its adobe brick founda-

tions placed directly on the ground surface. It originally featured three rooms, with additional rooms later constructed along the back of the house. Unlike the León farmstead, this dwelling did not have a *zaguan*. Instead, all three rooms were quite large (Thiel, ed. 2008a).

Work has also been conducted in the space between the historic Edward Nye Fish house and the Hiram Stevens house, located southeast of the planned park on the eastern side of N. Main Avenue. Prior to planned construction of a room spanning the space between the two historic homes, Desert Archaeology, Inc., personnel excavated a trench for a drainage pipe, exposing the interior of a Presidio-era home that had been built against the western Presidio wall. The adobe brick foundation of the western Presidio wall is located either beneath the sidewalk adjacent to the historic homes or is beneath N. Main Avenue (Thiel and Mabry 2006).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING

The archaeological testing was intended to determine if intact subsurface features were present within Centennial Park. Subsurface disturbances associated with construction of retaining walls,

planting pits, and a light feature within the park are limited, consisting of shallow trenches and small pits (Figure 5). Thus, testing was limited in extent to preserve as many of the park’s subsurface cultural resources as possible.

Research Issues

The proposed testing was expected to provide information about several research issues. These issues provide guidelines from which to evaluate the eligibility of the cultural resources within the project area for nomination to the National Register.

Prehistoric Irrigation Agriculture near Downtown Tucson

Prehistoric archaeological features have been documented in the original Tucson townsite since the late 1940s, when a pair of Hohokam ceramic vessels was found on Block 184 (*Arizona Daily Star* 1943). Since that time, at least 76 prehistoric features have been found on Blocks 172, 180, 181, 182, 185, 190, 192, and 254 (the Alameda-Stone Cemetery, also known as the National Cemetery) (Thiel, ed. 2008a). The located features span a long time frame, dating

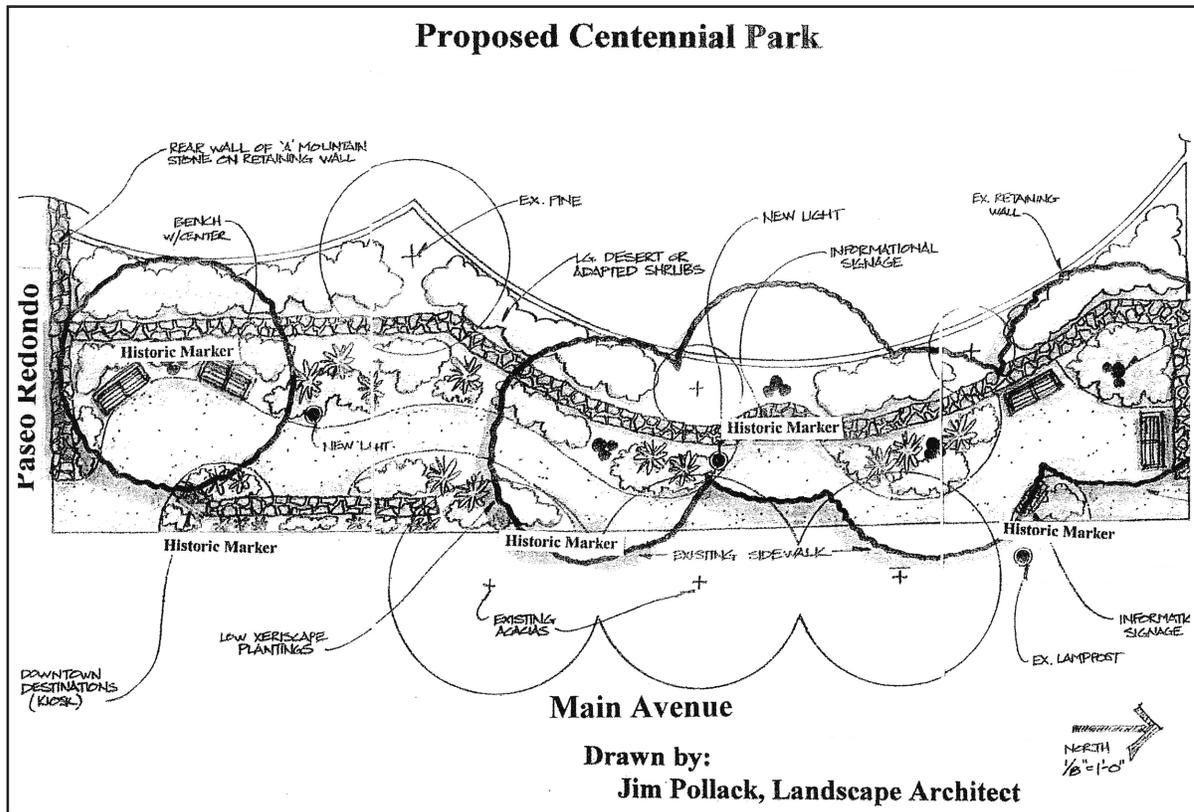


Figure 5. Architect’s plan for the proposed Centennial Park.

to the middle Archaic, Early Agricultural, Early Ceramic, Hohokam Pioneer, Hohokam Colonial, and Hohokam Sedentary periods. Many of the features are undatable, however, due to historic or modern disturbances.

The most likely prehistoric feature that would be located in the current project area is a canal. A small prehistoric canal was located on Block 185, running south to north in the center of the block, about 80 m west of the proposed Centennial Park (Thiel, ed. 2008b). Other prehistoric canals have been documented on the León farmstead, several hundred meters to the west, and at a small prehistoric site just south of St. Mary's Road (Thiel 2005).

In contrast, a large number of prehistoric canals, dating to the Early Agricultural period and extending through to the Protohistoric period, have been located within the floodplain on the western side of the Santa Cruz River (Freeman et al. 1999; Thiel and Mabry 2006). These canals meander across the floodplain from the base of Sentinel Peak north past W. Alameda Street. Periodic floods likely damaged canals, and the segments located to date have ample evidence for repair and replacement. Scattered amid the canals are occasional fieldhouses, structures where people lived while tending their fields. Larger clusters of houses, found at the Clearwater, Mission, and Mission Garden loci of the Clearwater site, AZ BB:13:6 (ASM), indicate the fields were quite productive and could support small communities.

Previous work suggests the eastern side of the Santa Cruz River floodplain was not as extensively modified with irrigation canals as was the western side. Extensive archaeological testing south of Congress Street has failed to locate any prehistoric irrigation canals in that area (Cook 2007; Mabry et al. 1999; Thiel 2008), although a few canals are present north of Congress Street. The piecemeal discovery of canal segments has made it difficult to understand the nature of irrigation on the eastern side; that is, the overall extent and in what time periods irrigation occurred. The location of each additional canal segment provides new data, however, leading to a better understanding of prehistoric irrigation agriculture.

Historic Canals in the Spanish, Mexican, and Territorial Periods

The earliest detailed map of Tucson, drafted in 1862, by John Mills, depicts a canal running along the edge of the terrace adjacent to downtown Tucson. Oral histories recorded in the 1910s and 1920s, indicate this canal dates to at least the Presidio era, with women washing clothes in the *acequia*, guarded by soldiers. The 1883 Sanborn Fire Insurance map

shows an *acequia* at this location; unfortunately, the map does not extend into the current project area.

Archaeological fieldwork on Block 185 located a set of three superimposed canals running along the base of the terrace (Thiel, ed. 2008b). These were assigned site number BB:13:757. The three canals cut into the underlying caliche layer. The surviving portion of each was relatively shallow. One canal contained artifacts thought to date to the 1860s, while the other two had items dating to the 1870s and 1880s. The canals were likely no longer in use after the 1880s.

These canals almost certainly extend northward into the current project area. Documentation of the canals could provide a better understanding of the historic use of water along the edge of the terrace. The recovery of artifact samples from the fill of the canals could also help further delineate when they were abandoned.

Material Culture of the Historic Era

Three excavation units will be placed in the retaining wall alignment. The current surface of the project area contains a variety of small artifacts, including Native American pottery, manufactured ceramics from Europe and the United States, nails, glass bottle fragments, and other items. These artifacts were either washed downhill or discarded over the edge of the terrace by residents living in the homes east of Main Avenue or by the residents of the Tucson Presidio. The artifacts probably represent a mixture of items from different time periods and cannot be clearly associated with particular households or families. These artifacts will have limited interpretative value. However, previous work in similar settings within the Tucson Presidio has resulted in the recovery of museum-quality artifacts.

In contrast, the artifacts likely to be present in the deeper backhoe trenches will have more interpretative value. They will be used to date the deeper deposits and features present in the two trenches.

Archaeological Testing

Archaeological testing was conducted on 17-18 August 2012. The first day, a backhoe excavated a pair of trenches on the northern and southern sides of the park. The second day, three 1-m by 2-m units were excavated; the soil removed from a feature located at the base of the northern trench was screened and stockpiled. Dan Arnit of Innovative Excavating conducted the backhoe work. Homer Thiel, Allen Denoyer, and Tyler Theriot of Desert Archaeology, Inc., conducted the fieldwork. Tyler

Theriot also prepared the maps for the project. Volunteers worked with the archaeologists on the second day, and included Annette Campbell, Bob Freitas, Halley Freitas, Gayle Hartmann, Emmeline Hill, Tom Hill, David Johnson, Lauren Kingston, Flannery Lindeman, Liam Lindeman, Mike Lindeman, Mike Rebro, Diana Rhodes, and Adam Searcy.

Preparation

The work required a project-specific archaeological permit from ASM, in case features were located. After features were located and determined to be part of the previously identified site BB:13:756, an Arizona Antiquities Act Project Specific permit, 12-112a, was obtained. ASM also coordinates consultation under the state law relating to the discovery of human remains on public land (A.R.S. 41-844). An ASM burial agreement was not required for the project, and no human remains were located during fieldwork. Field forms, maps, digital photographs, and artifacts are curated at ASM as Accession Number 2012-640.

Arizona Blue Stake was notified before the excavation to identify existing utility alignments. Two utilities are present within the park area. A natural gas line runs north-south slightly north of the center of the park. A telephone or fiber optic line is present along the northern side of the park, running west to the adjacent M. L. Hill International, Inc., building. A plastic irrigation line is also present, extending north-south through the center of the park.

Fieldwork

A pair of backhoe trenches were excavated, one at the north end of the parcel and one at the south end (Figure 6). The northern and eastern face of each trench was scraped with handtools, and the north profile was drawn for each. Diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the backdirt from each trench.

Trench 101 was located at the south end. It was 7.42 m long and 1.75 m deep at the deepest point (Figure 7). Sterile soil was present at approximately 2 m below the modern ground surface. Four major soil layers were present. The uppermost layer was a loosely compact layer of grayish-brown sandy silt that was deposited after 1905. The second layer was gray brown silty sand with gravel and many adobe chunks. This probably represents the demolition of the Francisco Romero house in the circa 1905-1909 period. The third layer was gray brown silty sand with many chunks of adobe. This layer represents the demolition of an earlier adobe structure. The fourth soil layer was a dark gray brown silty sandy clay that graded to a lighter reddish-brown silty

sandy clay. This layer represents the fill of a Presidio-era borrow pit.

Trench 102 was located at the northern end of the property, and it was 6.28 m long and 2.35 m deep at its deepest point (Figure 8). Metal shoring was installed to allow archaeologists to profile the trench. Three major soil layers were present. At the top was a loosely compacted layer of brown silty clay, ranging from 55 cm to 90 cm in depth, that contained artifacts dating to the early 1900s, including ceramic roofing tile fragments and pieces of concrete, probably discarded during construction of a nearby house (the adjacent Olcott house has a shingle roof; therefore, the tile may have come from the 1907 Corbett house). Below this was a thin layer of reddish-brown silty clay that ranged in depth from 10-50 cm. At the eastern end of the trench was a thin layer of ash and charcoal. Also at the eastern end of the trench was a third layer, reddish-brown consolidated silty sand that contained few artifacts. A Presidio-era soil mining pit, Feature 102, cuts through the third layer.

Three 2-m by 1-m units were excavated in the proposed park on 18 August 2012. Units 101 and 105 were located in the center of the park. Both units came down onto the rock foundation of a structure, Feature 103, described below (Figure 9). The upper fill was loosely compacted brown sandy silt, with a lens of reddish-brown sand below. Beneath that was densely consolidated brown sandy silt with fragments of hand-made fired bricks and white coarse lime mortar, apparently representing construction or demolition debris. The rock foundation, Feature 103, cut into this layer. Excavation of Unit 101 was terminated at this point. Unit 105 was only excavated to uncover the rock foundation.

Unit 103 was excavated to the south, west of the rock foundation. This 2-m by 1-m unit was excavated in three arbitrary levels (Figure 10). At the top was a layer of loosely compacted brown silty sand with a plastic water pipe running through it. Below that was a layer of adobe rubble, probably representing demolition of the adobe brick structure depicted on the 1862 Mills map. Below that was a layer of darker brown sandy silt, which contained adobe chunks and a small number of artifacts, including chopped animal bone and Native American ceramics. Several rodent burrows were present throughout this level. Excavation was terminated at approximately 60 cm below the modern ground surface.

Four archaeological features were located during testing. Feature 101 was a large soil mining pit at the base of the southern trench. The pit cut into the underlying yellowish-brown consolidated silty sand and was filled with dark brown silty sandy clay. A small sample of soil from this feature was screened, and it was found to contain chopped ani-

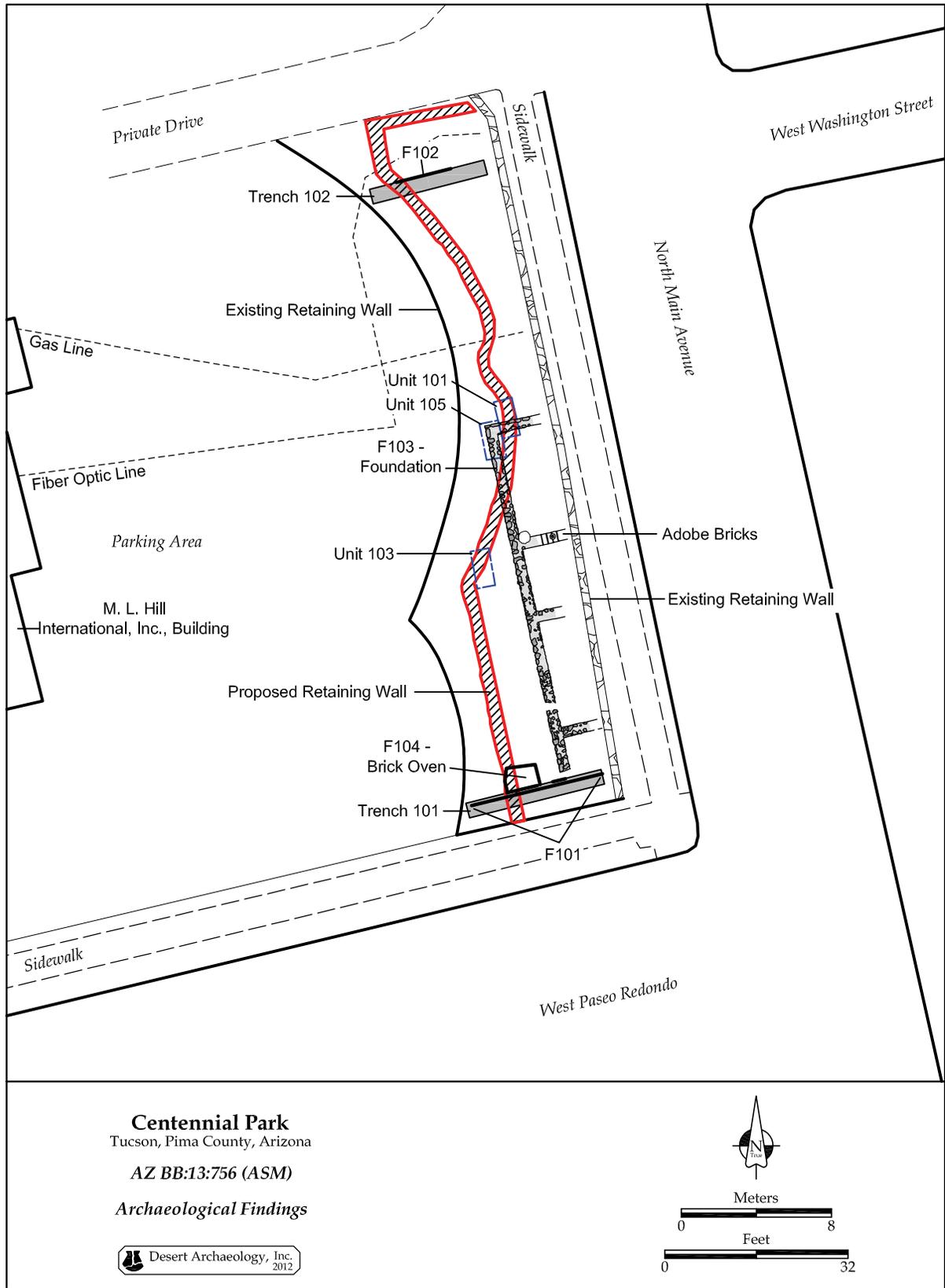


Figure 6. Map showing fieldwork conducted in August 2012, at the proposed Centennial Park.

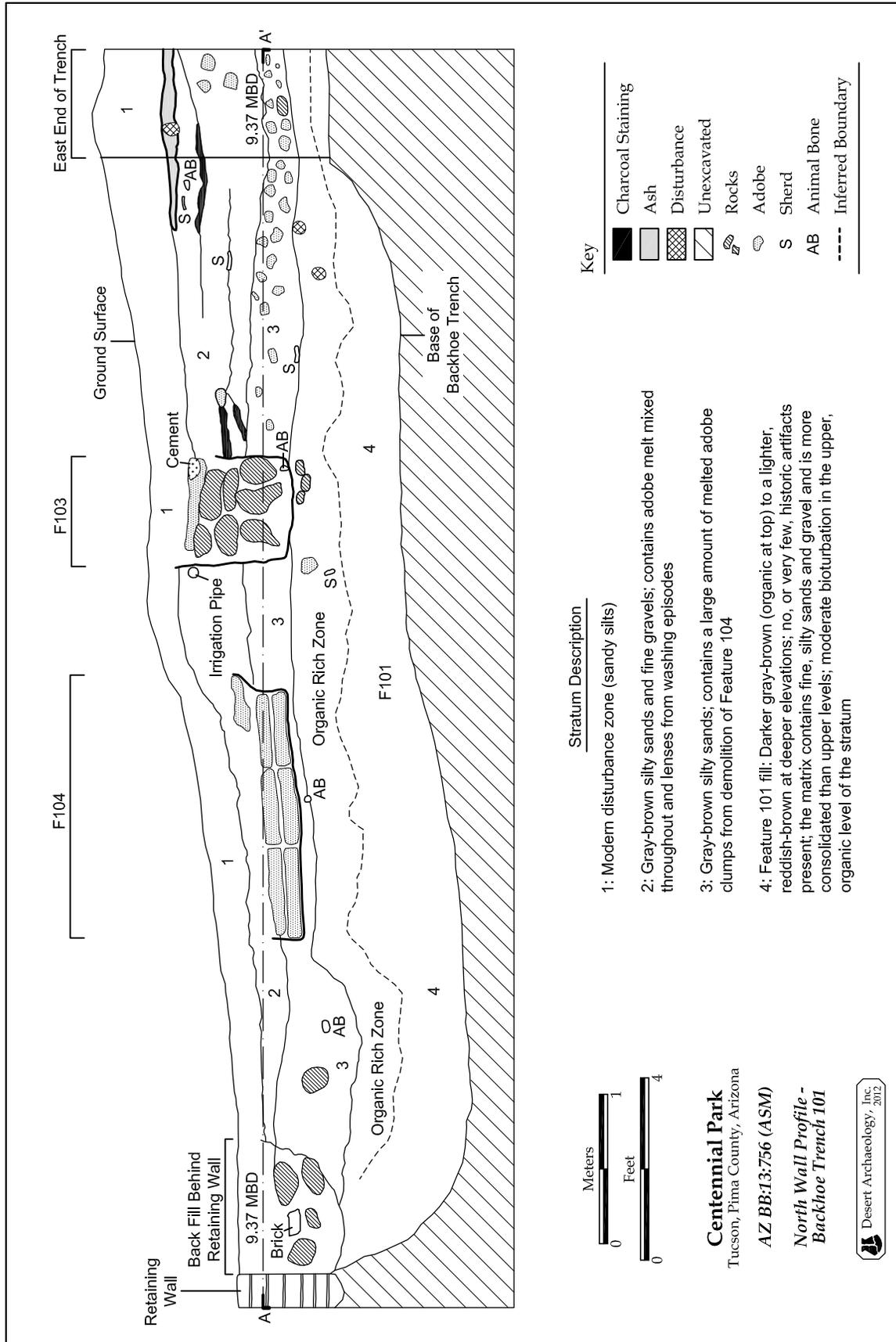


Figure 7. Profile of the northern wall of Trench 101, located at the south end of the proposed Centennial Park.

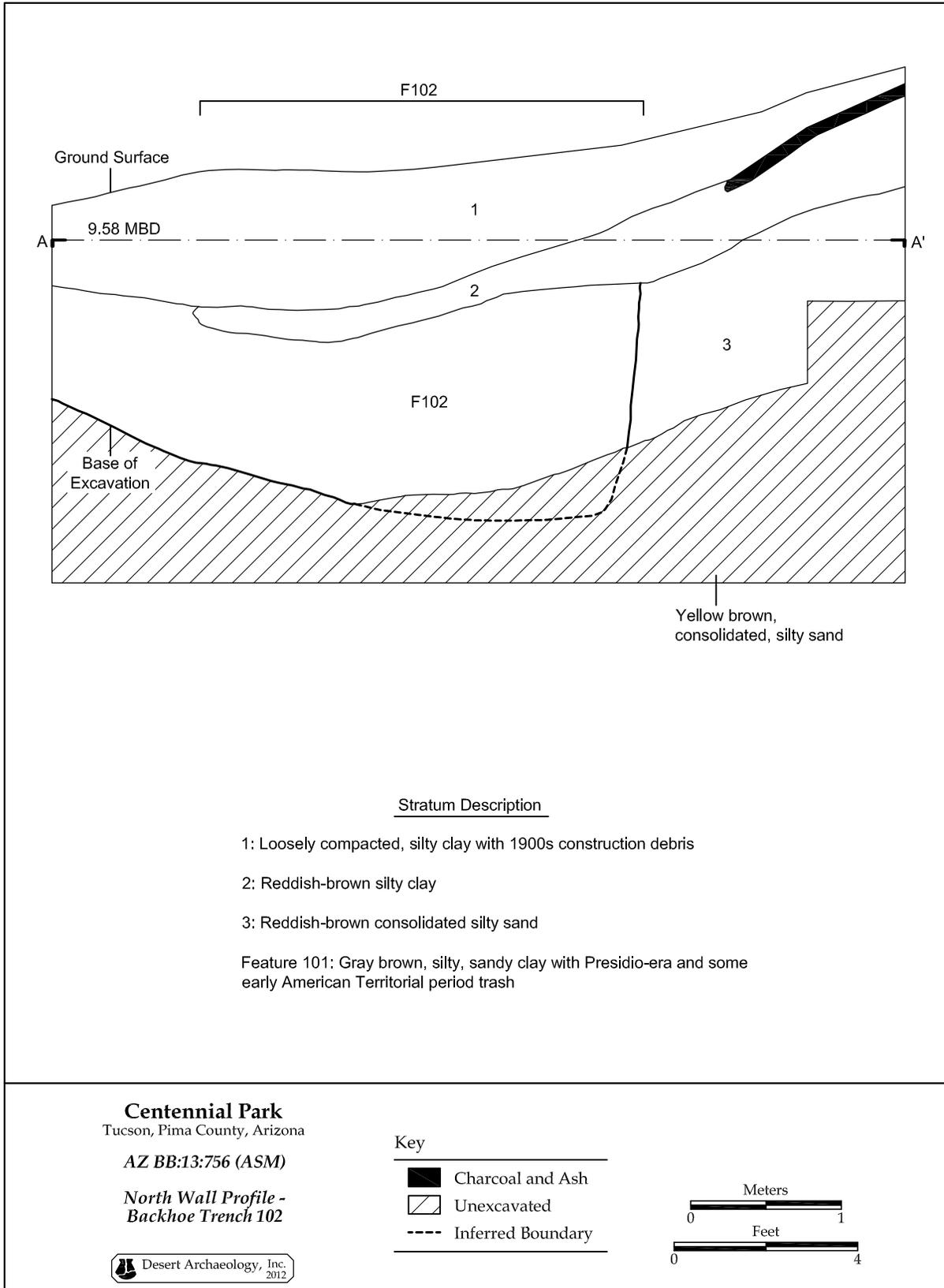


Figure 8. Profile of the northern wall of Trench 102, located at the north end of the proposed Centennial Park.

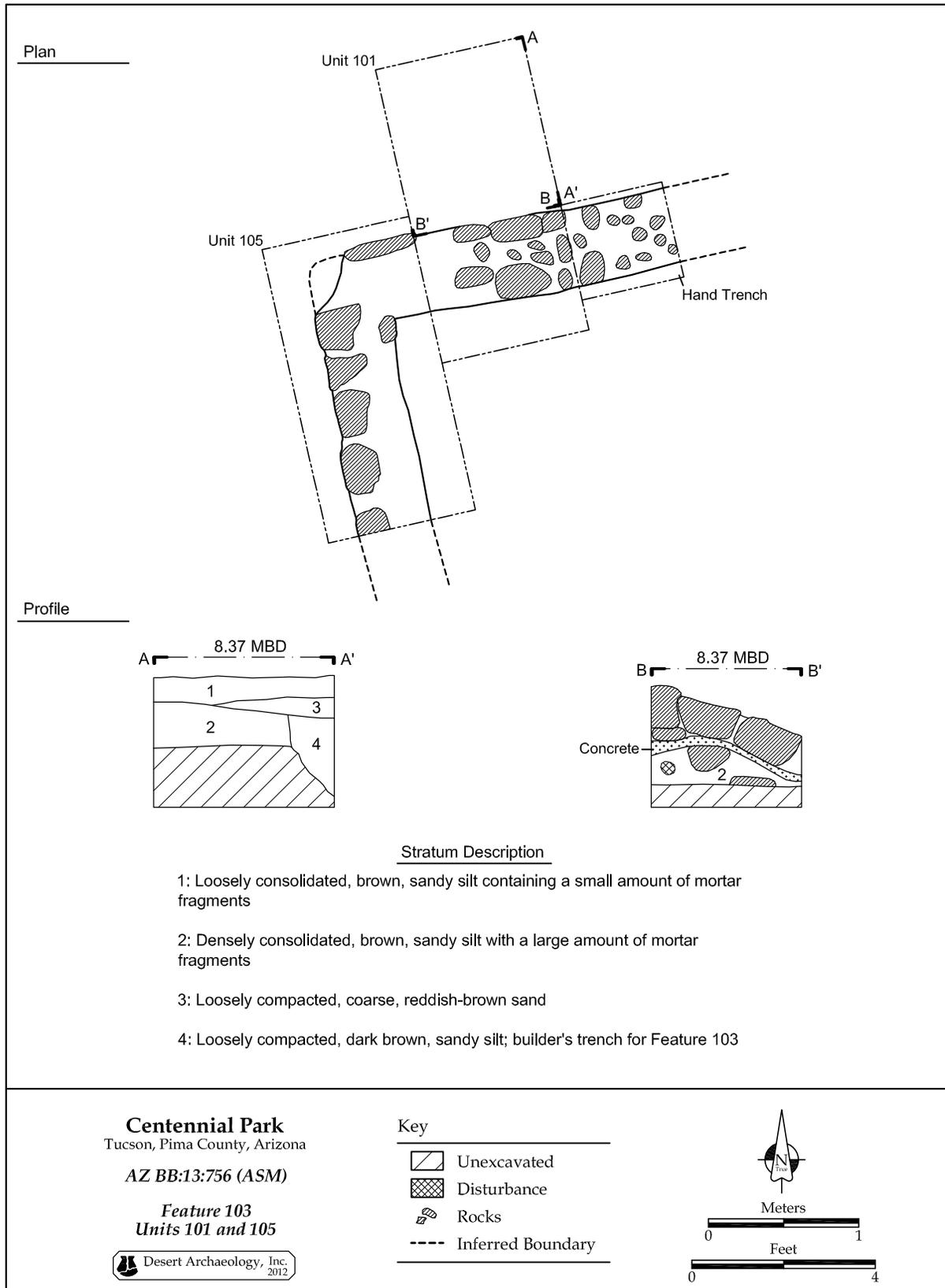


Figure 9. Plan view and profiles of Units 101 and 105, Feature 3, the proposed Centennial Park

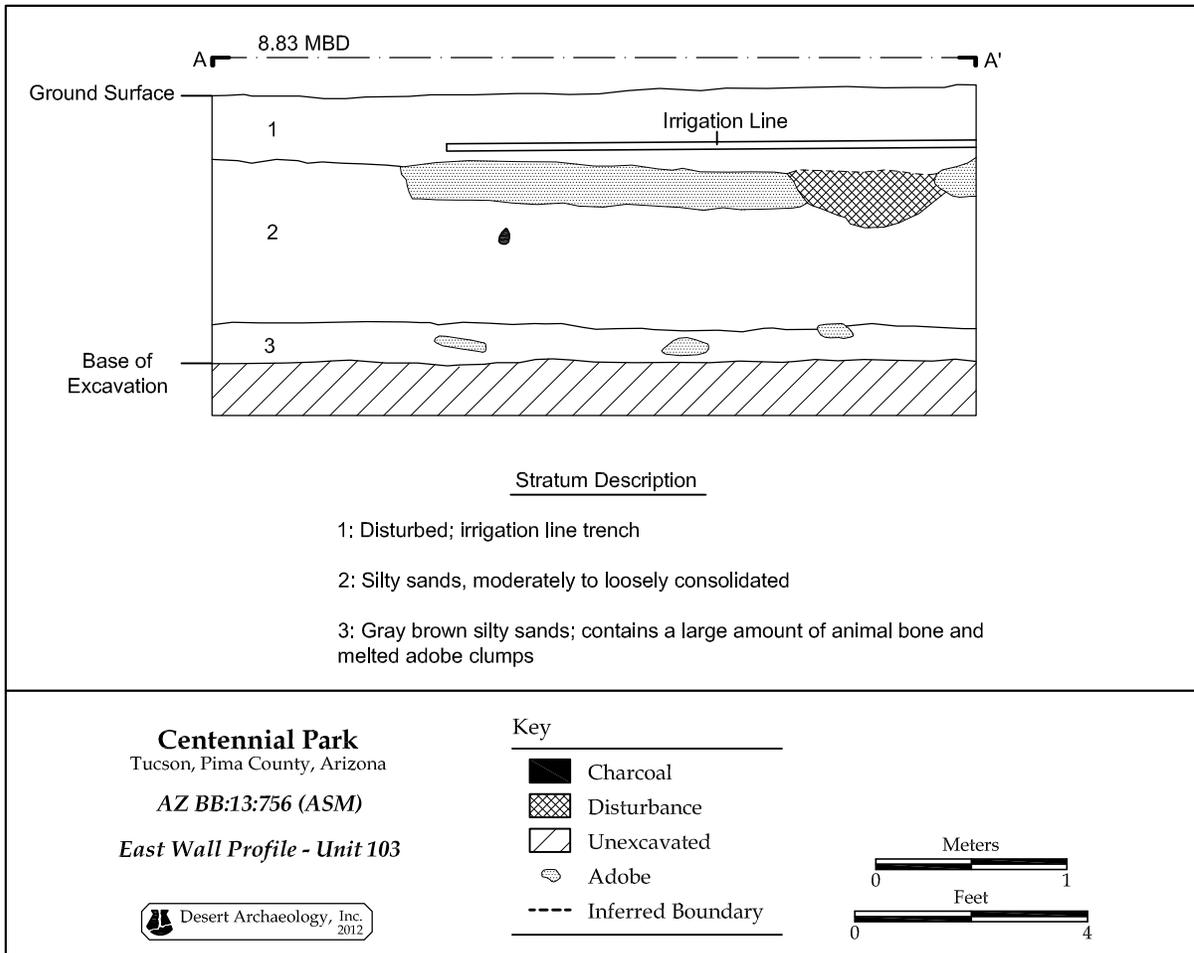


Figure 10. Profile of Unit 103, the proposed Centennial Park.

mal bones, Native American ceramics, and a few pieces of Mexican majolica pottery. The items date to the Presidio era, circa 1775-1856.

Feature 102 was a Presidio-era soil mining pit located in the northern trench. It contained grayish-brown silty sandy clay and was at least 1.55 m deep, with the base of the pit cutting into culturally sterile consolidated reddish-brown silty sand. Five backhoe scoops of soil were removed from the pit base and stockpiled for screening. Animal bone, primarily cattle, with at least one sheep bone, Native American ceramics, and a few pieces of majolica were recovered.

Features 101 and 102 may represent portions of the same large soil mining pit. They contain similar fill and similar artifacts.

Feature 103 was the rock foundation of the Francisco Romero house. The foundation was found in the walls of Trench 1 and in Units 2 and 3. The entire western wall and portions of the north, south, and three interior walls were subsequently uncovered (Figures 11-12).

The foundation was roughly 70 cm wide and was at least 75 cm tall. The wall was constructed by cutting a shallow builder's trench and then stacking rocks inside the trench, with some adobe mortar used to hold rocks together. The top of the wall was coated with a crude lime mortar. The vesicular basalt rocks appear to have been collected from the sides of Sentinel Peak. The house was at least 22.14 m long, north-south, and the overall width of the house could not be determined, because the eastern wall lies beneath the modern rock wall of the adjacent sidewalk. The measurable portion was 2.79 m wide, east-west.

Adobe bricks were originally set on the foundation. They survived on one of the interior walls and measured 53 cm in length and 24 cm in width.

Four rooms were present. The northern room was 5.8 m long; the room immediately to the south was 3.4 m long, and the third room was 5.7 m long. The southern room was approximately 3.0 m long. No internal features or intact artifacts were present in the area explored. The structure foundations

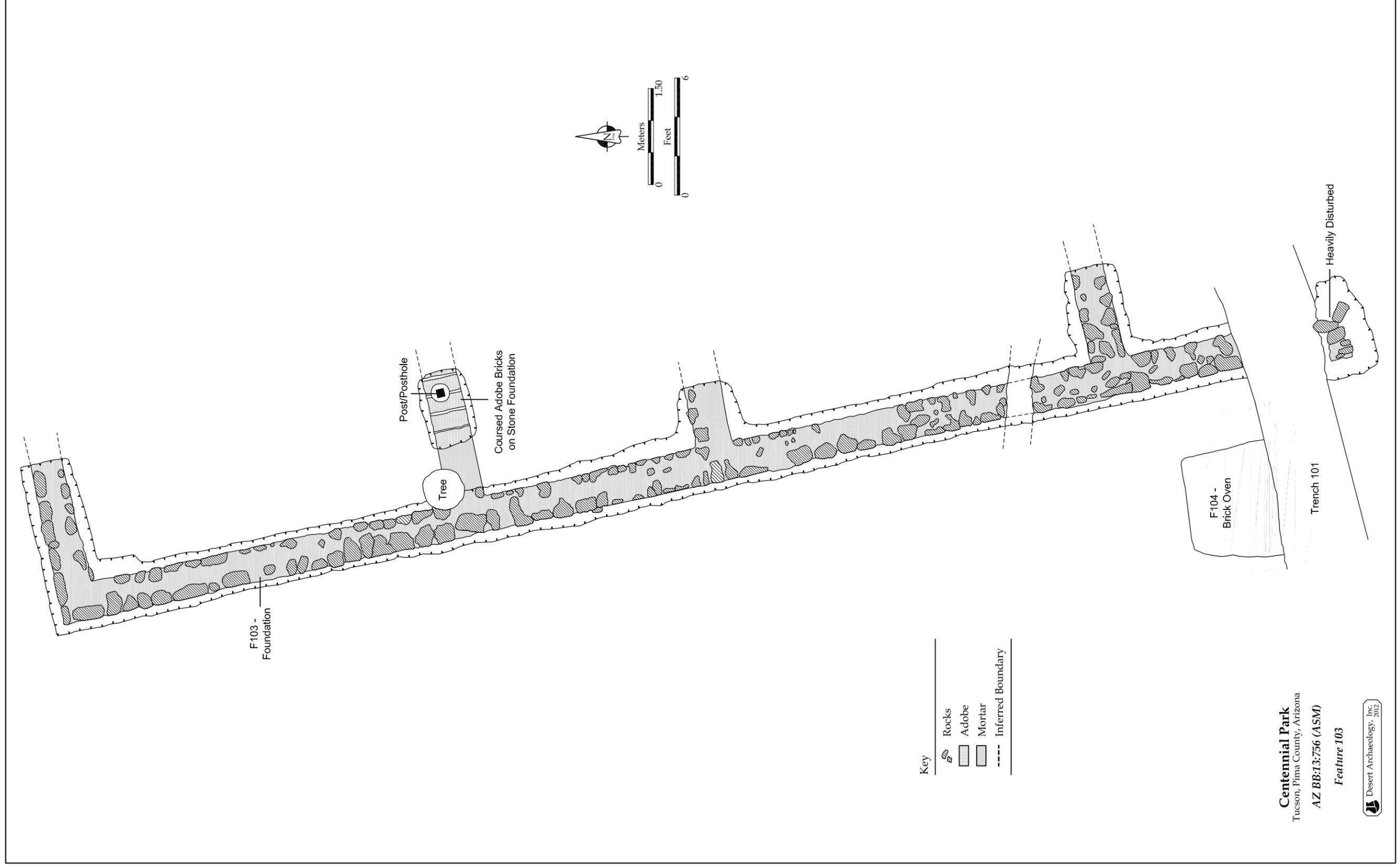


Figure 11. Plan view map of Feature 103, the rock foundation of the Romero house, the proposed Centennial Park.



Figure 12. A photograph of Feature 103, the rock foundation of the Romero house, the proposed Centennial Park, looking northeast.

appear to have been truncated, and the original floor level has been removed. When first built, the building probably had a hard-packed earthen floor, which would later have been replaced by a wooden floor placed over brick floor joists (at least this is what occurred for contemporary homes in Tucson, such as the León farmstead, the Charles O. Brown house, the Fish house, the Stevens house, and the Siqueiros-Jácome House).

Feature 104 was initially identified as a set of adobe bricks, which were found in the northern wall of Trench 101. Two courses of adobe bricks, three bricks wide, were located. Individual bricks measured roughly 48 cm in length and 9 cm in height. This brick size was used during the Spanish, Mexican, and American Territorial periods (Thiel et al. 1995:220-221).

The overburden over the bricks was subsequently removed, revealing that the feature was an adobe brick bread oven (Figures 13-14). The oven was 1.65 m long, east-west, by at least 1.30 m wide, north-south. It consisted of a bricked pad area five bricks long, north-south, by three bricks wide, east-west. The pad was two courses deep, and a dark brown mortar was used to hold the pinkish-brown adobe bricks together. The long axis of the bricks ran east-west. Portions of the oven survived to the height of three courses of adobe bricks along the eastern side. The oven likely had an opening to the west, with adobe bricks used on the northern, eastern, and southern walls to form a dome. The central portion of the pad was heavily burned, the adobe bricks having been reddened from the heat. The oven was demolished by smashing the top of the oven and spreading the brick fragments around the sur-

rounding area. This likely took place in the 1870s, when the stone foundation of the Romero house was constructed.

At least four historic bread ovens have been located in Tucson. Two were found one block east of the current project on Block 193, on the Art Museum Block, during the Tucson Urban Renewal Project. Unfortunately, the report noting them provides no information about the two ovens, other than suggesting they were circular and made from adobe (Barnes 1983). Another pair of bread ovens was located on Block 136 in the Barrio Libre. These ovens date to the American Territorial period, probably from the 1890s to the early 1910s (Thiel and Dutt 2002:28-29).

Artifacts

A few diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the two backhoe trenches and the three excavation units (six of the recovered artifacts are illustrated on the report cover). In all, 48 fragments of non-Native American ceramics were found. Unit 101 yielded one piece of Huejotzingo Green-on-white majolica, three pieces of undecorated whiteware, and a piece of blue transfer-print whiteware. Unit 103 contained one undecorated white majolica fragment, a Huejotzingo Blue-on-white majolica sherd, a large piece from a Tonalá polychrome mug, two pieces of plain whiteware, a piece from a purple transfer-print bowl, a piece from a brown transfer-print pitcher handle, a fragment from a flow blue bowl or saucer, a piece of undecorated porcelain, a green sponge-stamped dish, another piece from a blue sponge-stamped whiteware vessel, and a rim sherd with a green annular line on the inside rim. The pieces from Units 101 and 103 came from disturbed contexts and have little interpretative value.

Fragments from Trench 102 included a green transfer-print cup rim with flowers and foliage, a brown transfer-print bowl with foliage and a partial maker's mark, EDWARDS FENTON ENGLAND Td. 12064, a whiteware basin rim with molded leaves, a brown stoneware vessel base, a decal-printed vessel base with blue flowers, a green Mexican terracotta cooking bowl, and a green floor tile.

Two majolica sherds were found in Feature 101, a cup with a small area of blue paint and a Monterey Polychrome rim sherd. The screened dirt from Feature 102 included 2 plain whiteware sherds, 2 pieces of blue transfer-print whiteware, 1 green

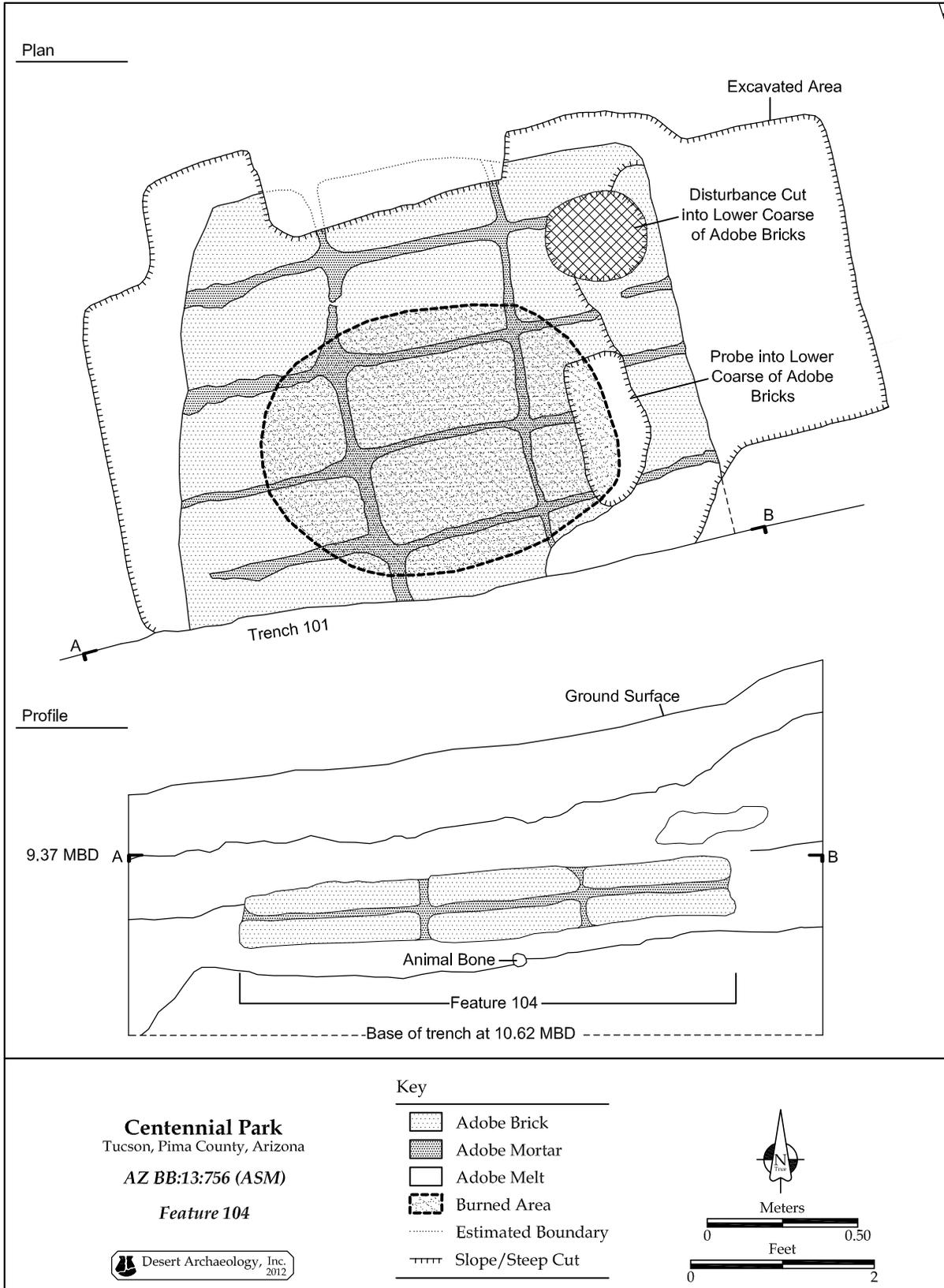


Figure 13. Plan view map of Feature 104, an adobe brick bread oven, the proposed Centennial Park.



Figure 14. Photograph of Feature 104, an adobe brick bread oven, the proposed Centennial Park.

Mexican terracotta vessel base, 1 Mexican green glazed vessel body fragment, 1 Tumacacori Polychrome majolica sherd, 1 Huetjotzingo Blue majolica rim sherd, 2 pieces of Monterey Polychrome majolica, and 4 plain white majolica fragments. These pieces mostly date to the Presidio era, from 1775-1856, although the few whiteware sherds may represent later artifacts intrusive into the earlier borrow pit, or items that were pressed into the surface of the pit.

Glass bottle fragments were also recovered from Trench 102, primarily from the top layer containing post-1900 trash. These included a pumpkin-seed flask, a small bottle wrapped by tinned metal, a FRED FLEISHMAN DRUGGIST TUCSON prescription medicine bottle, a clear medicine bottle marked –EY'S HONEY AND TAR –OLEY& CO. [Chi]CAGO, U.S.A., a clear pickle or olive bottle, a bottle base marked J. HEINZ & CO. PIT[sburg]H, U.S.A., a blue beer bottle base marked A. B. CO. J 4, and a brown bottle base marked –D BROTHERS & – – NEW YORK. All of the bottles date to the American Territorial period.

James Heidke examined the Native American decorated and rim sherds from Features 101 and 102. He noted that both folded rim and Papago Plain sherds were present, and manure tempering was uncommon. He suggested the features likely dated to between 1800 and 1850.

A small number of flaked stone artifacts were found. Jane Sliva analyzed an obsidian (volcanic glass) artifact found in the disturbed upper sediments of Unit 101. She reported that the obsidian artifact from Centennial Park is of an unclear type. It is finely bifacially worked through pressure flaking,

with serrated edges and an end that tapers abruptly to a sharp point. The other end appears to have been ground on both sides during the Historic era with a mechanical wheel, possibly to remove sharp edges resulting from the piece being broken. The shape is somewhat reminiscent of serrated obsidian projectile points illustrated from a site north of Guaymas, Mexico (Holzkamper 1956:Figure 4a-h), but such an identification must be considered questionable.

Faunal bone was almost all cattle, with at least one sheep element present. Many of the cattle bones had been chopped into cuts using an ax or cleaver, a technique used during the Presidio era to butcher carcasses. No sawn elements,

a technique introduced to Tucson during the American Territorial period, were present in the bone from the soil mining pits. Many of the bones had been further smashed into small pieces. These were likely boiled to recover fat, another technique primarily used during the Presidio era (Thiel and Mabry 2006).

Interpretation

Features 101 and 102 are soil mining pits, possibly representing a single feature, dating to the Presidio era, from sometime between 1775 and 1856. Similar soil mining pits were located across the street to the south during work on the parking lot adjacent to the Tucson Water building (Thiel, ed. 2008b). The walls and structures of the Tucson Presidio required large numbers of adobe bricks, as well as soil for mortar, repairs, and mud plaster. Soldiers, civilians, and Native Americans constructed the fort, mining the soil to make the bricks and poured-in-place segments of the wall from exterior of the fort and from the adjacent floodplain. The fort was completed in 1783, but underwent periodic repair. Further, new structures were built as the population of the fortress increased (Thiel et al. 1995).

Feature 104 is an adobe wall for a structure, perhaps the one depicted on the 1862 map of Tucson. The structure was built directly on the ground surface, typical of Spanish, Mexican, and early American Territorial period dwellings in Tucson. This adobe structure was, in turn, replaced by an adobe brick structure with a stone foundation, Feature 103. This form of construction became popu-

lar during the American Territorial period, when lime mortar was more commonly used. The narrow width and long length of the structure is typical of a Sonoran rowhouse. The structure was likely divided into a series of interconnected rooms, with doors and windows opening onto Main Street, similar to the Fish and Stevens homes to the southeast.

A comparable foundation was located during a 1999 excavation, a few hundred meters to the west. The León farmstead house dates to about 1873, and it measured 13.2 m in length by 4.3 m in width (Thiel 2005). The second house was assigned street address 192 N. Main Avenue. Francisco Romero died at this address in 1905. The home was torn down before drawing of the 1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, the first to depict the project area.

Research Questions

Two of the three proposed research questions dealt with prehistoric and historic irrigation canals. The historic period canal found on the block to the south was expected to extend into the proposed park. It is apparent now, however, that the canal must turn westward, because it was not located in either backhoe trench. The canal may be located under the parking lot west of Centennial Park.

It proved difficult to examine the third question, *Material Culture of the Historic Era*. Few artifacts were recovered from the three excavated units. The upper fill within Centennial Park contains modern fill dirt, including construction debris. The layer beneath the 1870s Romero house foundation contains fill dirt and debris from the demolition of the earlier adobe brick Romero house.

A few artifacts were recovered from screened dirt from the Presidio-era soil mining pit, including Native American and Mexican ceramics, in addition to chopped cattle and sheep bones.

During the Spanish and Mexican period, residents of the Tucson Presidio used Native American vessels for cooking and for storing food and water. Metal pots and tortilla griddles (*comals*) were difficult to acquire, and local O'odham and Piman potters provided bean pots and flat, circular *comals*, as well as *chocolatero* mugs, used to make a popular chocolate drink, and decorated serving bowls. A handful of Zuni and Hopi ceramics have been found in the presidio, either brought back by soldiers who visited the distant pueblos or traded into the area by Native Americans (Thiel, ed. 2008a; Thiel and Mabry 2006).

Residents of the presidio imported majolica ceramics manufactured in the Mexico City area, carried for hundreds of miles in freight wagons and horse or mule pack trains. These vessels were

symbolically important to the families of the fortress, helping to create and reinforce their identities as Spaniards and, later, Mexicans. The most common vessel type recovered in Tucson are bowls, likely used to serve the stews and soups prepared in Native American bean pots.

Fragile Chinese ceramics, mostly cups, are occasionally found in Tucson. These were imported from factories located in China, carried to the Philippines and then to the west coast of Mexico on ships, and finally, north by wagon or pack train. These ceramics likely served as status markers, because they were probably very expensive.

Few metal artifacts are found in Presidio-era features. Years of work within the Tucson Presidio has yielded a couple of gun parts, lead musket balls, a few buttons and buckles, some nails, and a few religious metals. The presidio blacksmith shop was located a few hundred feet south of Centennial Park, within the lawn west of the modern Tucson City Hall (Thiel 2004). Prehistoric ground stone tools found on the shop floor had traces of copper smashed into their surface. The scarcity of iron, copper, and brass artifacts within presidio features is likely the result of the careful recycling of metal items. When something broke or wore out, presidio residents probably took the metal item to the blacksmith shop, and the blacksmith subsequently reused the metal to craft or repair other items.

Analysis of food remains recovered from the fortress—faunal bone, charred plant fragments, and plant pollen—have shown that beef was the primary meat consumed, with smaller quantities of mutton, pork, chicken, and wild game. Animal bones were routinely smashed into small pieces and boiled to recover tallow. This fat was used in cooking and for industrial purposes, such as greasing wagon axles. Wheat and corn are the most common plant remains identified. These crops were grown in fields along the Santa Cruz River by civilian farmers and by soldiers, who were expected to grow crops along with their soldiering duties.

The planned use of the current project area as a park will help preserve the Presidio-era pit features documented in the two trenches. The historic and modern development of many portions of the Presidio and adjacent areas has left relatively few undisturbed areas with features dating to the Spanish and Mexican periods.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) is the nation's inventory of his-

toric sites. It was established after the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to promote preservation and study of historic and archaeological resources. Most projects involving federal agencies, federal land, or federal funds require evaluation and mitigation of their impacts on properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Additionally, many state and local laws, ordinances, and regulations require similar evaluations.

For a property to be listed in the National Register, it must meet requirements for age, significance, and integrity. Properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years are not considered eligible unless they are of exceptional importance. Significance is evaluated first by establishing appropriate historic contexts and/or research issues that apply to the property.

Using these contexts/issues, four significance criteria are applied to the property: (A) association with a significant historical event or pattern of events; (B) association with significant person(s); (C) design or construction value; and, (D) potential to yield significant information important about history or prehistory (Table 2). Properties that meet one or more significance criteria are then evaluated for integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and/or association). The aspects of integrity that are necessary for any given property to be determined eligible are dependent on the criteria under which it is considered significant.

Significance of the Centennial Park Parcel

The Centennial Park parcel contains significant subsurface cultural resources left behind by the past occupants of the area. Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places must be eligible under one or more of four criteria (see Table 2) and must retain integrity.

Archaeological testing has located an 1870s house foundation and a circa 1850s-1860s bread oven associated with the locally prominent Francisco Romero family. Romero was born in the Tucson Presidio during the Mexican period, served as a soldier in the Mexican military, and worked as a farmer and cattle rancher afterward. He was one of the leaders of Tucson's Mexican-American community in the last half of the nineteenth century. His wife, Victoriana, raised a family of six children, and was very active in the Catholic Church, serving as godmother to many children.

The two features associated with the Romero occupation are recommended to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D, due to the significant information that they could provide about the American Territorial period in Tucson. Tucson's Urban Renewal Project of the 1960s and 1970s, destroyed much of the oldest portions of downtown Tucson. Only a few houses constructed in the 1870s remain. The Romero house foundation is a rare example of an 1870s house foundation. The associated bread oven is extremely rare. Four adobe brick bread ovens have been documented in Tucson, but two were subsequently destroyed by development and two others, located beneath the Tucson Museum of Art's parking lot, may not survive. Additional features associated with the Romero family are likely present in the unexplored portions of the park. This could include remnants of the adobe house depicted on the 1862 Field Map of Tucson.

The two Spanish and/or Mexican period soil mining pits detected in the backhoe trenches are also eligible for inclusion under Criterion D, due to the significant information that can be recovered from the artifacts, animal bones, and plant materials contained in the pits. Previous archaeological work within the Tucson Presidio has shown that residents of the fort typically discarded trash onto the ground, as sheet middens, or in small pits (Thiel and Mabry 2006). The large, soil min-

Table 2. National Register eligibility criteria (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60).

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history; or
 - B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
 - C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
 - D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
-

ing pits, located around the periphery of the fort, contain the large, well-preserved assemblages of artifacts, which have not been extensively trampled. Archaeological excavations beneath the parking lot on the southern side of Paseo Redondo Drive located several Presidio-era soil mining pits (Thiel 2008b).

Analysis of the artifacts and food remains found in the excavated portions of the pits provided information about the diets and material culture of the soldiers and civilians who lived inside the fortress between 1776 and 1856. A unique find was a necklace with a religious medal and glass beads. A sample of the pits was excavated, and the area is now slated for development. Other likely locations for Presidio-era soil mining pits have been destroyed by modern development activities. The pits located beneath Centennial Park will be preserved in place, deep beneath the park surface. In the future, with the development of new analytical techniques, the artifacts and food remains contained within these pits could provide valuable information about life in the Tucson Presidio.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Work within the project area and on the modern city block to the south have located a prehistoric canal, Presidio-era soil mining pits, two historic canal alignments, and the physical remnants of three homes, one built in the 1870s, and torn down between 1905 and 1909, and two other houses built in the early 1900s, and torn down in the 1960s. Landscaping features were found associated with one of the latter homes, while a bread oven found during the current project probably dates to an earlier home that stood on the property (Figure 15).

Together, the two projects provide a clearer idea about how the eastern edge of the Santa Cruz River floodplain, in the area adjacent to the Presidio San Agustín del Tucson, was used during the Span-

ish, Mexican, and American Territorial periods. This was the location of agricultural fields during the Prehistoric and Presidio eras. The historic canal found on the block to the south must turn westward, away from the terrace edge, somewhere south of the current project area. This may be a result of the large soil mining pits within the current project area, although these were also present on the block to the south. These pits provided soil to manufacture adobe bricks for the Presidio walls and interior structures. Afterward, they filled with trash thrown down or washed over the terrace edge. These pits contain important assemblages of Presidio-era artifacts and food remains.

Francisco Romero constructed an adobe house on the project area by 1862. A nearby bread oven was used to bake foods. By the early 1870s, these were torn down and a new house, with a massive stone foundation, was built. The four-roomed structure may have housed Francisco and his wife, as well as the family of one of his children. The house was demolished sometime between 1905 and 1909, as the area became more upscale. Four mansions were constructed on Paseo Redondo and were the homes of prominent families. These were ultimately torn down in the 1960s, during the (ill fated) Tucson Urban Renewal Project.

Archaeological testing of Centennial Park has suggested that National Register-eligible archaeological features are present within the park. It is recommended that ground disturbances be kept to a minimum during park construction. The upper 30 cm of fill present within the park contains fill and few diagnostic artifacts. Any excavations deeper than one 30 cm below the modern ground surface should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist, who can collect diagnostic artifacts, draw soil profiles, and collect other information to mitigate disturbances. The rock foundation of the Romero house is present just below the modern ground surface, and the adobe brick bread oven is approximately 30 cm below the modern ground surface. Efforts should be made to leave these features intact and undisturbed. This could be accomplished through slight modifications of the proposed park plans.

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