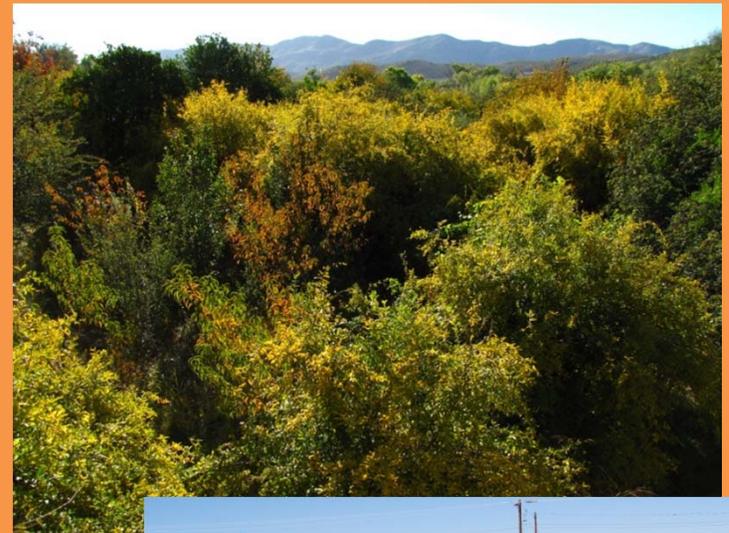


Re-creating Historical Orchards: The Potential Role of a Statewide Network



Jonathan Mabry, Ph.D.
City of Tucson
Historic Preservation Office



LEAF Workshop 9-14-2012

Mission Garden Tucson

Period represented: ca. 1800 – 1840s

Project timeline: Cuttings collected since 2004;
Orchard replanted 2012

Fruit tree varieties: 119 trees, including figs, quinces, pomegranates, pears, plums, apricots, sweet limes, sour oranges; also 24 grape vines

Sources of historical information: 1820s and 1840s Mexican period descriptions; 49'er account; descriptions of mission orchards in Sonora and Baja California.

Sources of funding: Arizona Forestry Division; Friends of Tucson's Birthplace; Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historic Preservation

Project partners: Friends of Tucson's Birthplace; City of Tucson Historic Preservation Office and Parks & Recreation Dept.; Pima County; Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; Desert Survivors Nursery; Lloyd Construction; Cox Masonry; Tucson Adobe



2010



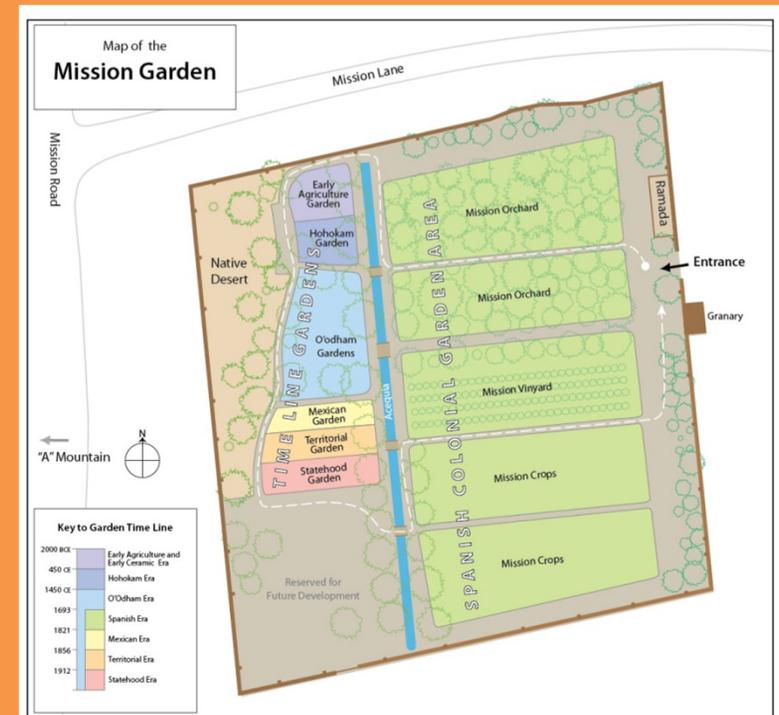
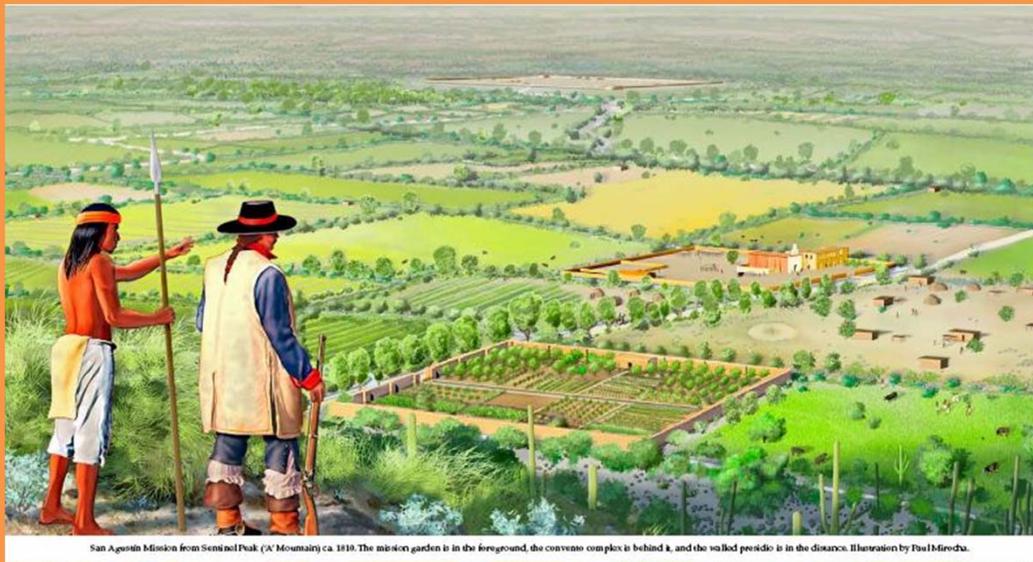
2012

Mission Garden Tucson

Issues encountered/lessons learned: Archaeology; adjacent landfill; heavy and saline soil requiring amendments; site drainage; grasshoppers and weeds; need for low-elevation adapted varieties.

Future phases: More water harvesting; planting additional varieties; tree nursery; garden; understory plants; more shade ramadas!

Contact info: Roger Pfeuffer rogerp1315@cox.net



Tumacacori National Historical Park/Landmark Santa Cruz County

Period represented: ca. 1780 - 1820

Project timeline: Cuttings collected 2004;
Orchard replanted 2007

Fruit tree varieties: 65 trees, including figs, quinces, pomegranates

Sources of historical information: Descriptions of mission orchards in Sonora; 49'ers accounts of untended orchard mention apples, pears, peaches, poms, grapes; 1930s maps showing peaches, poms, pears, and figs growing along still-flowing acequia.

Sources of funding: NPS, Desert SW Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit (NPS/UA)

Project partners: UA (Desert Southwest CESU); Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; Native Seed/SEARCH; Desert Survivors Nursery

The Orchard: A Mission Essential

Tumacacori National Historical Park
Department of the Interior



"In various places they planted a considerable number of these trees and produced pomegranates, peaches, apricots, quinces, figs, lemons and oranges. These fruits are superior in size, juiciness, sweetness and flavor to those which are grown in Europe." Ignaz Pfefferkorn 1725



Regional map of Mission Era settlement

A large fruit orchard and garden were planted on this site to help supply the mission's food. Far from cities and regular commerce, the mission community needed to be nearly self-sufficient. Raising domestic animals and planting extensive gardens and orchards were essential to survival.

With the arrival of Europeans, new species of fruit trees from the Mediterranean, Asia and Europe were brought to New Spain. Missionaries carried these trees to missions in Sonora, and eventually here to Tumacacori.

The original 4.6 acre orchard was surrounded by a high adobe wall to protect trees and crops from hungry animals, both domestic and wild. Water was brought from the Santa Cruz River by an *acequia* (irrigation ditch) which connected to the stream one and one-half miles to the south.

The orchard produced fruits such as peaches, apricots, plums, pears, quince, pomegranates, figs, olives, sour oranges and *limas* (another type of citrus). Gardens of beans, squash and other vegetables were planted in the shade beneath the orchard trees, protected from the hot desert sun. While mission *padres* took pride in the orchard's productivity, mission residents adapted the nutritious, tasty, new fruit to their needs.



Ripening peaches, San Ignacio, Sonora



Pomegranates, Patagonia, Arizona



Lima fruit, Magdalena, Sonora



Mission figs ripening at the Fremont-Soza-Carrillo House, Tucson, Arizona



Quince fruit, Oracle, Arizona

Tumacacori National Historical Park/Landmark Santa Cruz County

Issues encountered/lessons learned: Need robust and knowledgeable volunteer base; staff to manage volunteers; irrigation system needs constant monitoring; vulnerability to freezes at 3200' elevation; grasshoppers and weeds; poor soil quality required amendments; gophers!

Future phases: Focus on success of existing trees; planting plums and peaches; moving figs to locations near walls, "where they can hear people talk."

Contact info: Jason Welborn, jason_welborn@nps.gov



2007



2008



2012

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site Ganado

Period represented: ca. 1905 – 1930s

Project timeline: Orchard replanted in 2008

Fruit tree varieties: Heirloom apples, apricots, peaches

Sources of historical information: Business and personal correspondence files at NPS library at Hubbell NHS and Hubbell's nursery and seed catalogs University of Arizona Special Collections

Sources of funding: Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit grant (NPS/NAU)

Project partners: NAU Center for Sustainable Environments, NPS, Navajo farmers from nearby Dine communities

Contact info: Mick Castillo, Mick_Castillo@nps.gov



La Posada Winslow

Period represented: ca. 1929 – 1950s

Project timeline: Orchard not planted because of Depression;
planted in 2001 according to original plans

Fruit tree varieties: Heirloom apples, peaches, plums, pears,
cherries, quinces

Sources of historical information: Original plans from 1929

Sources of funding: Revenue from hotel

Project Partners: Flagstaff FoodLink

Contact info: Pat Pynes, Patrick.Pynes@nau.edu



Slide Rock State Park Sedona

Period represented: 1912 – today

Project timeline: Purchased by Arizona State Parks in 1985; designated Pendley Homestead Historic District in 1991

Fruit tree varieties: 300 apple trees

Sources of historical information: Continuously cultivated

Sources of funding: Arizona State Parks, Friends of Slide Rock State Park

Project partners: Friends of Slide Rock State Park

Contact info: Steve Pace, pace@azstateparks.gov



Potentials of a Statewide LEAF Network for re-creating historical orchards:

- Conservation & dissemination
- Heritage preservation
- Research
- Increasing food security and sustainability
- More edible trees in urban landscapes and public lands
- Information sharing
- Public awareness and education
- Agritourism & heritage tourism
- ???

