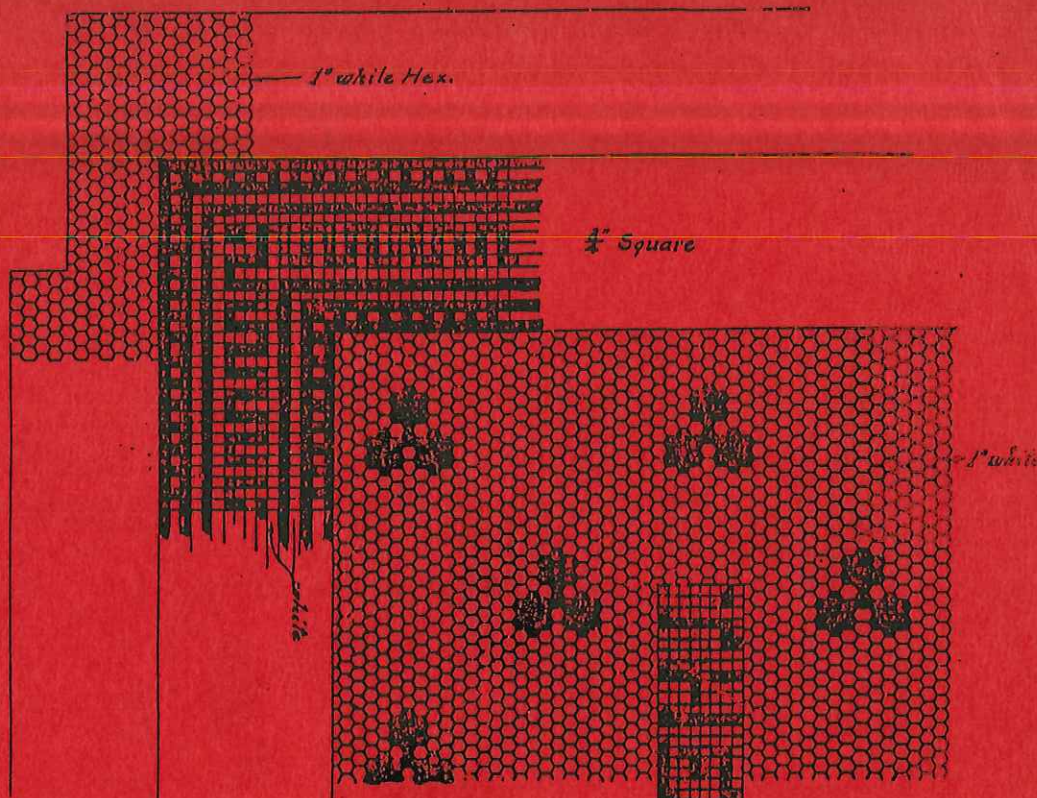




BLOCK 12 SOUTH SIDE
 BUFFALO BAYOU, HOUSTON, TEXAS:
 PHASE I HISTORICAL AND
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

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 Publication Number 1

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ABSTRACT

Harris County, Texas is currently planning to construct its new Criminal Justice Center on Block 12, South Side Buffalo Bayou, Houston, Texas. As part of the planning process for this construction project, it was determined that previous land use and archaeological survey studies should be undertaken. In March, 1989 the County, through Harry Goleman Architects, Inc. awarded a contract for this work to Dr. Kenneth L. Brown, Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Houston, Houston, Texas. This Phase I research was divided into two portions: the previous land use study (directed by Janet Wagner, of J. K. Wagner and Company) and the archaeological survey (directed by Brown). This report summarizes the data derived from these two studies. It demonstrates that much of the archaeological deposits associated with the previous land use (especially prior to 1905), is intact. Thus, these deposits likely contain significant information concerning past human use of the block. Intensive, hand-dug archaeological investigation is recommended for the block.

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The cover picture comes from the construction blueprints for the freight depot of the I. & G.N.R.R. Co.

INTRODUCTION

During December, 1988 the County of Harris Engineering Department, through Mr. Lynn Hanson of Harry Golemon Architects, Inc., sent out a request for proposals for a Phase I historic archival/archaeological survey of Block 12, Houston, Texas. The county government is considering the use of this block for the construction of the proposed Harris County Criminal Justice Center. As part of the planning process, it had already been determined that the property would fall under the Antiquities Code of the State of Texas. Given the overall history of construction projects on publicly held lands within the city of Houston and Harris County, (e.g., the George R. Brown Convention Center, the Wortham Theater and the Houston Fire Department Maintenance Facilities), it was also determined that some preliminary historical/archaeological investigation should be undertaken. Such an investigation, it was felt, should aid in the overall design and planning for the proposed construction project. It was hoped that such an investigation might eliminate "surprises" and delays during the planning and, ultimately, the construction phases of the proposed project.

The "Archaeological Scope of Services" (ASOS) sent out by Harris County, included a request for proposals covering three phases of investigation. The phases included in the scope of services were: "Phase I--The archival study and subsurface testing; Phase II--Testing; and Phase III--Data recovery excavation and/or on-site monitoring during construction" (ASOS:1). Any investigation undertaken in Phases II and III would be directly dependent on Phase I results. Thus, Harris County requested proposals on all three phases, but restricted present funding to a Phase I investigation.

According to the scope of services, Phase I was to include:

Two major tasks: an archival study designed to reveal the nature and sequence of historic land use at the project site, and a field survey to determine empirically the extent and nature of archaeological resources preserved within the site (p. 1).

Each of these tasks had its own defined goals and data requirements. The archival study was to provide chains of title for all properties on Block 12 and to review all possible historical documentation relevant to the site (e.g., maps, newspapers, deed records, among other documents). The goals were to provide "an exhaustive summary" of previous land use on Block 12 and to present this material in such a manner that it could be employed "to

DATA PRESENTATION

Phase IA: The Previous Land Use Study

Introduction

This investigation was undertaken by Janet Wagner, assisted by Rikki Rubenstein, under the nominal direction of the Principal Investigator, Dr. Kenneth L. Brown. It was/is considered essential that this phase be completed before Phase IB (the archaeological field survey). Given the present land use of the block-- asphalt and concrete covered parking lots--the results of this study would aid in the analysis of any recovered artifacts or archaeological features.

This portion of the report for the previous land use and archaeological investigations at the site of Block 12, South Side Buffalo Bayou, Houston, Texas was commissioned by Harris County and includes archival document research done for Phase 1A of the project. Block 12 is surrounded by Commerce Street on the north, Caroline Street on the east, Franklin Street on the south, and San Jacinto Street on the west.

Previous Land Use Methodology

The previous land use study included the investigation of a variety of documentary sources. This study covers the period from the founding of Houston in 1836 until the land was taken over by Harris County in 1977 (since that time block 12 has primarily served in the same manner as it does currently -- as a paved parking lot). Unfortunately, settlement connected with the Austin Colony is known to have occurred in Houston and Harris County as early as 1822 (Brown, et al 1985). Therefore, it is possible that earlier Euro-American settlement may be recorded on the Block, but there is no historical documentation of such settlement. Further, no recorded Indian sites are noted within this area of block 12 in Houston, Harris County.

The previous land use study was begun on two "fronts": deed records and maps. The deed records on file at the Harris County Courthouse and in the Texas Room of the Houston Public Library were consulted in order to produce the chains of title for the various properties on the block. The actual chains of title are presented within Appendix I. From this information we have been able to reconstruct owners and some of the improvements to the properties made at various points in their use. We have also looked into any possible legal problems which might be connected with ownership and/or use of the properties. This is especially

Summary of Archival Data:

In analyzing the chain of title for this block, three separate developmental areas are intrinsic to the block (see Land Use Map 1): a residential area comprising Lots 6,7,8,9,12; an industrial area comprising Lots 5,10, 11; and the property belonging to the Catholic Church encompassing Lots 1,2,3,4. Thus, the discussion of the chain of title will be divided in the same manner with each lot in each area and its various owners being listed chronologically. (The chain of title for the lots on block 12 will be included in Appendix I). The transfer of title from the Mexican Grant to Stephen F. Austin, then to John Austin, the Allens and the Houston Town Company will be shown only in the chain for Lots 1 and 2, Block 12. Lots 3-12 of Block 12 will reflect the transfers beginning with the Houston Town Company operators or their representatives, although they were included in the Austin Grant. In addition, the transfers following the purchase and consolidation of Block 12 between 1902 and 1904 by the Houston Oak Lawn and Magnolia Park Railroad and International & Great Northern Railroad will only be shown in the transfers dealing with Lots 1 and 2 since all lots were transferred alike following the railroad acquisition.

According to the deed records, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, including two or more buildings, were sold to the Catholic Church in 1847 by Julia Boucher. This property was for the use of the Vincentian Fathers as a residence. However, further research into the beginning of the Catholic Church in Houston reveals that Vincentian priests began arriving in Texas as early as 1839. They were most likely using at least some of the site as a residence beginning as early as March, 1841. It is at this time that church Baptismal records began to be kept at the St. Vincent de Paul Church of Houston. Father John Mary Odin, a Vincentian priest, noted in a letter in 1841 that he endeavored to not prevail on the "charity of lay people at Galveston, & Houston, Nacogdoches, etc". He felt that the Church should provide him with a house because "every other point where clergymen will have to be stationed a house must be provided for the priest and some means furnished for his maintenance" (Archives of Notre Dame: Letter Odin to Timon, Houston: 16 July 1841). The above information indicates that these cities had donated houses for the visiting priest much earlier than the construction of the church building. Unfortunately, of course, the letter does not state the exact location of this house.

Father John Timon, the Vincentian priest sent to establish the church in Houston, sailed from New Orleans to Houston in December, 1838. He rented a one room cabin from a Protestant lady for Mass (Hegarty, 1967), and there established the first Catholic Church in Houston called St.

eventually receiving the deeds for the Parish House property in Houston in 1847 - Lots 1,2,3,4 of Block 12. (HCDR:L-516)

Besides Fathers John Mary Odin and John Timon, ten other missionaries of Saint Vincent De Paul were sent to serve the church in Houston between the years of 1838 and 1848: Revs. John Brands, Eudald Estany, Michael Calvo, Joseph Paquin, Nicholas Stehle, Richard Hennesy, John Peter Chandy, John Joseph Lynch, Bartholomew Rollando, John Francis Llebaria, and Raymond Lastortas Sala. (Bayard, 1945:v)

The Vincentian missionaries in Houston were followed by the Franciscans. By 1859, Father Odin, now Bishop Odin (the first bishop of the Diocese of Galveston) was appointed to head the diocese in New Orleans and a new Italian Franciscan priest, Father Augustine d'Asti, was appointed to the St. Vincent de Paul church in Houston. The Franciscans were in charge of operating St. Vincent's School on Block 12 from 1859, when Bishop Odin left the Galveston Diocese, until 1866 when Father d'Asti died.

Father Augustine d'Asti, a Franciscan priest from Allegeny, New York, was listed in the 1860 census at the Roman Catholic Church along with Rev. N Felton from France, and Fr. De Cannobio from Italy. Father d'Asti arrived in Houston in 1859 accompanied by three Mexican Terziaries (Frs. Trinidad Torres, M. Felicoe, and Pacifico), one lay Brother (Teobaldo from Novella, Italy), Fr. F. Agostino from St. Damian and the Very Rev. Fr. E. d'S'Azzano, all of whom resided at the Friary House on Lot 1 of Block 12.

In 1859 a school was established on the grounds of St. Vincent's on Block 12 called Miss Brown's School for Girls (Hegarty, 1967). Miss Brown was a former Sister invited by the Franciscans to be the headmistress of the school (Agatha: 1961). There were also living on the grounds a lay brother by the name of Teobaldo. He took care of "St. Vincent's Church and priest house, washed, cooked, ironed, mended, made wine, and sacramental bread, and took collections" (Letter to Father Frank, priest of Annunciation Church, 1941).

In Father Frank's records, there is also an account of the expenses for improvement in the property of the Catholic mission, 1860-1866. These accounts include: expenses for building a new Friary for the Franciscans (two-story with a basement), renovating an existing building for a school house and moving and renovating the house of the teacher. Included within these expenses were monies for putting a new floor in the school house and building a gallery in front, for moving the house of the teacher and fixing it, adding a little kitchen, laying bricks in the basement, cement and lead pipes, the cost of digging a cistern, putting in a

teach the children of the parish. He offered them the Friary building and houses on Lots 1 and 2 of Block 12 which had been occupied by the Ursulines. Sister St. Ange was named superior of the new mission and in January, 1869, Mother St. Ange, Sister Clare Malone, and Sister Mary Lefere opened the school listed in the Catholic Directory of 1869 as "The Female School conducted by the Incarnate Word Sisters" (Hegarty:1967:212). Among the other sisters who ran the school and convent for four years from 1869 to 1873, were Sister M. Augustine Davis and Mother M. Joseph (Holworthy, 1945:85).

In 1873, Father Querat appealed to Mother St. Claire of Victoria for Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament to run the convent and school. In April, 1873, Mother M. Gabriel Dillon as superior brought Sister Marie Terese Peronet and Sister M. Lawrence of the Order from Victoria, Texas to operate the girls' school at St. Vincent's. One old building on the church property on Block 12 was converted to a chapel by May 5, 1873, with five more sisters arriving later to help with the school. This was the foundation of the teaching order of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word in Houston, and, again, it is located primarily on Lots 1 and 2 of Block 12.

The property across the street from the school continued to be used as St. Vincent's Church (Block 23) until 1878 when the German Congregation became integrated with Annunciation Parish. The 1877-78 Houston City Directory quotes a "German Catholic School for Girls" (still called St. Vincent's School) on this site. Lay people (Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Smith and Joseph M. Heiser) continued to teach at this school through 1884-1885 when the school was moved across the street into the old church building itself (Agatha:1961).

The old school house (Franciscan Friary on Block 12) was briefly used in 1886 as a boarding house by John Kennedy (City Directory, 1887:335). However, this activity was apparently not particularly successful.

In 1887, Father Thomas Hennessy, pastor of Annunciation Church, invited the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word to open a hospital in Houston utilizing the old buildings on Lots 1 through 4 of Block 12. On March 11, 1887, the Sisters of Charity from Galveston arrived at "Grand Central Station" in Houston. They were met by Father Hennessy who brought them to the site for its use as a hospital. As they approached, they saw:

"3 buildings: the largest a square-looking, box-like structure, 2 stories high, encased by latticed galleries and of no particular

on Lot 4 as a one-story building and may also reflect that the ravine had been filled in and no longer existed.

In 1900, the Basilian fathers established the first site of St. Thomas College (now St. Thomas High School) on the site. During 1902, the building, Friary/school, was moved to the grounds of Sacred Heart Cathedral on the corner of Pierce and Fannin, renovated and used as a combined school and residence for the Dominican Sisters who staffed the Sacred Heart School. It has since been torn down.

Recently characterized as the "center of Catholicism in Houston for sixty years", the buildings on Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 of Block 12 were used as the priest's home for the first Catholic church in Houston from about 1842 until 1861. After this time, the 1860 Friary building was used as a school, a boarding house, the first St. Joseph's Hospital facility, and the first St. Thomas High School facility (1900 - 1902). The old Vincentian Rectory became a school, a Chapel and later, possibly, a residence. In 1902, the property was sold to the International & Great Northern Railroad Co. which removed buildings not moved elsewhere by the former occupants. The railroad began construction of rail lines and a freight depot with office building in 1905, operating continuously until 1968. The office building and depot with rail lines were demolished by 1973. In 1977, Harris County purchased the entire block, vacant by this time, and created the parking lots which still exist today.

Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 were residential properties from the beginning of initial sales on the block in 1837. In the deeds for lot 7, the first described structure is a log house with a fence around it and dating to 1838. However, it appears that by the 1850 census that the residential area is 20% owner-occupied and 80% rentals, each of the lots having at least one structure on it. Lot 12 is occupied, perhaps, by John Andrew, 54, farmer, a wife and two female children. The small house on Land Use Map 1 of Appendix I (lot 6) may be occupied by James Duke, 30, attorney, his wife and one child, born in Texas during the previous year. Lot 7 is the owner-occupied lot-Mrs. Rockwell, 33, and her five children. Lot 8 is occupied by John Michels, 41, laborer, a wife and three children. Lot 9 is occupied by David Andrews, 35, wife, two children, one housekeeper, and two boarders-one a teamster and one a waggoner. Lot 10 is occupied by John Real, 31, tailor, his wife and one child. Behind the house on Lot 8 two Mexican laborers resided.

The 1880 City Directory for Houston lists addresses and based on the Schulte family residence on lot 8, the other residents of lots 6, 7, 8, and 9 were: James Moore, a physician, and his wife (his address is listed as #9 San Jacinto); Charles Wynns, express agent (his address is listed as #9 San Jacinto), and 1 black servant on lot 8. On

occupying lots 1 and 2, from 1868 through 1899 as a residence building. The improvements on lot 12, prior to the purchase by John Pecore in 1851 are used mainly as rent property by successive owners - W. R. Baker and Henry Bland. John Pecore, listed in the deed records as purchasing lot 12 in 1851, did some work for the Franciscans in 1861 on a cistern, kitchen and roof on the church property, lots 1 and 2 of Block 12. John Pecore and wife, Anne, with 3-year old son Alex, reside on 20 acres off the Montgomery road and use the improvements on lots 6 and 12 as their Sunday house. The Schulte family acquires this lot, along with four others on the block, in 1858. Since the W. E. Wood map shows the large two-story house on lot 12 as part of the 1868 Convent property, it appears that the Schulte family leased or donated this land for use by the sisters as their residence house. By 1886, this lot was listed on the Sanborn map as a boarding house belonging to the Schulte family. This family sold all of these lots to the railroad in 1902. The railroad erected a freight depot and office building on lots 1, 6, and 12 with rail lines covering the entire block approximately as shown on the Sanborn map, 1907, with the exception of the angle of the tracks.

The northern most part of the block, lots 5, 10, and 11 were predominantly commercial buildings. There are improvements on Lots 5 and 10 as early as 1847 according to the deed records.

Lot 5 is improved by John Buehn in the fall of 1840, and, within the year, sells the small building to John Rundell for a town house. Rundell is living in Lynchburg on a farm with 60 head of cattle and 15 negroes. Rundell uses the town house for six years, selling to Sylvia Routh (Ruth) in May of 1847. Routh (Ruth) does not live on the property, but uses it for rental. The two houses on lot 5, as shown on the Wood map (published 1869) appear to be occupied in the 1850 census by a butcher, John Merkle with five children and Adam Smith, wheelwright, his wife, and three children. Smith moved to the north side of Buffalo Bayou in 1852 and died immediately thereafter. By 1859, when lot 5 is transferred to Heli F. Hurd, the property was listed as having a "house and improvements" on it. Heli Hurd has been living in Lynchburg, running a steam sawmill which he had erected with David G. Burnett since before 1850. The 1860 census shows Hurd, his wife, Susan, children, Alex and Meyer, and I.H. Mason (blacksmith) living on lot 5 of Block 12. The 1869 Wood map reflects these improvements also.

The W. E. Wood map (published 1869) also shows the name of "Levy" on lot 11 and "L & S" on lot 10. Levy lived here according to the 1860 and 1870 census. Adeline Guest, 26 years, and Caroline Marseh, are living on lot 11 in 1850. By 1860, Levy, age 25, from Poland, with his wife, Adeline, 36, from Poland also, and their two children, Isaac, age 3,

\$75,000.00 depot, was slightly premature. The clearing away now in progress is for the No-Tsu-Oh Carnival. Before erecting the new building, the ground must be filled and dirt and other materials must be brought to Houston from points along the line of the I & G N." [Houston Daily Post, November 9, 1902]

On January 30, 1905 the Vice President of the I. & G.N. Railroad, L. Trice, came before Houston City Council with his Petition to erect a two-story brick building on Blocks 11 and 12, S.S. B.B. as a Freight and Station office. He also requested to close Caroline Street from Commerce to Franklin. Caroline Street was listed in the report as being 250 feet long and 104 feet wide at this point. Petition was passed by Council (HCCM:O-299, 307). Permission was also given the railroad at this time to lay tracks across the area and raise the grade on Commerce Street opposite Blocks 11 and 12.

The International and Great Northern Railroad built a two-story brick office building on the corner of Franklin and San Jacinto Streets in 1905 with a concrete loading platform on piers running at an angle back to the main line which ran down the center line of Commerce Street from the east. One set of tracks, 5'6" wide, was proposed to the south side of the concrete platform with three to seven sets of tracks same width shown for the north side of the platform (Sanborn, 1907). The 1969 City Engineering Survey of Caroline Street revealed only three sets of 5'6" wide tracks and one single track on the north side only of the concrete loading platform. The angle of the tracks and platform match the rail lines found in place on the San Jacinto sidewalk in 1989. The last occupants of the Railroad office building are listed in the 1965/66 City Directory as No 117 Commerce Street with the Empire Freight Co, the International Exporters Company, the International Forwarding Company, the Lone Star Packing Car Company, the Universal Air Freight, Universal Carloading, and the Universal Transcontinental Companies.

The office building is vacant by 1968 and the property put up for sale. The railroad demolishes the office building, the concrete platform and removes rails from the block in preparation to sell. In 1973 Harris County condemns the block, along with Block 11 to the east, for a parking facility. The Block is then turned into a paved parking lot for county employees and the public, which it remains in 1989.

of major importance for the engineering work). No hand dug units were attempted. There were four major reasons behind the decision not to open any hand dug excavation units. The first reason concerned the use of the block. Neither the county government nor the company leasing the block wanted to stop the use of the parking lot for the duration of this investigation. Negotiations were held on two separate occasions to coordinate the closing of small sections of the parking lot for short periods of time while the coring was conducted. A general closing down of the lots was not acceptable to either the county or the lessee. Therefore, we elected to concentrate solely on the coring because cores can be rapidly pushed, soils analyzed, samples taken, and the small holes refilled. Hand dug units, even small 50cm x 50cm units, would have required several days to excavate. Backhoe trenching and mechanical grading would have required closing the parking lot completely.

The second reason concerns the discovered nature of the soil deposits across the block. The previous land use study suggested that much of the block had been raised with artificial fill by the railroad. As will be discussed below, the archaeological survey revealed that large areas of the block contain three to eight feet of artificial, modern fill before the original pre-1905 surface of the block is encountered. In most cases, this fill is an unconsolidated sand with gravel inclusions. Any small hand dug units would have to have removed very extensive areas in order to safely reach the important archaeological deposits. It was decided that actual excavation should await the closing of the parking lot.

The third reason concerns the information derived from the cores. That is, the push cores recovered not only the soil strata, but artifacts as well. From the previously reported previous land use study, we developed a series of hypotheses concerning the nature of the soil strata and artifact patterning across the block, should the original soils remain. It is clear from the cores that a large portion of the block does, indeed contain original soil strata. These strata appear to have been largely undisturbed by any later (post-1900) construction activities. Thus, we would suggest that small hand dug units would not have added significantly to the information already derived from the far less damaging coring operation. This lack of destruction of the historically important soil strata will continue to be the case until such time as the parking lot is closed and construction begun.

The fourth reason concerns the finds from the coring operation. That is, the coring data, as well as the archival data appears to support a recommendation for a major, systematic testing of the block. This would require closing the parking lot and removing the asphalt or concrete

Joseph (Land Use Map #5). The core revealed that the asphalt was approximately an inch thick (as was typical for this parking lot). Directly beneath the asphalt was a deposit of sand to clayey sand with gravel. This soil was a very pale brown color, reading 10YR7/4 to 6/4 on the Munsell soil color chart. Mixed with the gravel we encountered small brick and shell fragments. The gravel-brick-shell inclusions grade out of the soil zone by 24 to 30 inches. However, the soil type continues to approximately 66 inches, although with a slight increase in the amount of clay. This zone did not appear to be a natural soil, and it has been classified as an artificial fill which was deposited, apparently in a single depositional episode.

At 66 inches and continuing to 74 inches the core encountered a mottled dark gray-brown (10YR4/2) sandy or loamy clay. This soil zone contained a number of interesting artifacts. These artifacts included oyster shells, dark red brick fragments and several small pieces of badly rusted metal. The condition and size of the metal artifacts prohibited identification of the artifact(s) they came from. The soil contains a high concentration of phosphorus and some humus. It would appear to be a natural soil depositional unit and likely represents the block's original ground surface at some point during its history. Below this zone is a gray-brown mottled sandy-clay which appears sterile. This zone grades into a sterile red-yellow-green-gray mottled clay. Both of these lower zones appear to be natural.

Core #2: As with cores number 1, 3, and 17, this core was placed into lot 1 of the block. Based upon the historical research, the location of this core was within the yard of the "Catholic area" of Block 12 until the train station facilities were constructed. No known buildings were ever constructed within this location of the block. As with the other cores placed into lot 1, this core was intended to encounter a portion of the yard of the "Catholic Area" of the block in order to assess its integrity as a potential site. This core was essentially identical to core 1. That is, we encountered the asphalt and sand to clayey-sand fill with gravel, brick and crushed shell inclusions. This basic soil type continues to a depth of approximately 70 inches, with the only change being a decrease in the gravel inclusions. Again all evidence would suggest that this soil lens was a single artificial depositional unit.

At approximately 70 inches and continuing to 78 inches the core encountered a mottled dark gray-brown sandy to loamy-sandy-clay. This zone is identical to that discovered in core 1, although in this instance no artifacts were recovered other than a small piece of shell and flakes of rusty metal. This soil zone is slightly deeper in core 2 than in core 1, but that can be explained entirely by the

size), so that we could better assess its historical importance.

Once beneath the asphalt we encountered the tan clayey-sand with gravel and crushed brick and shell inclusions. At a depth of 22 inches the core pushed through a crumbly yellow brick and then hit a pale brown (10YR6/3) sand. This sand, with crushed brick and pebble inclusions continued to a depth of 123 inches. At this depth the soil shifted to a mottled yellow/tan clay. This continued to a depth of 144 inches where the core was terminated.

All of these upper soil zones appeared to be "artificial" although the clay below 123 inches may well be a natural zone. The crushed brick (primarily the more modern yellow brick) suggests construction activities associated with the basement and building. The core was likely located just east of the basement, possibly in the hole excavated for the construction of this feature. Evidence might suggest a post 1905 construction date, supporting the idea that this structure and fill is associated with the railroad station.

Core #5: This core was placed into lot 12 of the block. After the discoveries of core #4 and Ulrich Boring 1, we wished to place a core between the apparently undisturbed east and the heavily disturbed western portions of this south end of the block. This location was expected to be near the western edge of the "Catholic Area" compound, and would, therefore, also provide additional data on the condition of the site of the historic Catholic land use and residential area.

Once beneath the asphalt and a brown sandy-clay we encountered a sticky, greasy very dark gray clay (10YR3/2). This zone appears at approximately 6 inches and continues to a depth of 13 inches. Ash, coal and gravel were contained within the soil matrix. Below this, to a depth of approximately 67 inches, was the brown sand to clayey-sand (10YR5/3) with gravel that appears to blanket this south side of the block. Toward the base of this zone the soil becomes increasingly more clayey.

At approximately 67 inches a brown to gray-brown sandy-clay (10YR5/2 to 4/2) soil zone was encountered. Artifacts (including shell and a piece of window glass) were recovered from this soil zone. At 72 inches the soil becomes somewhat mottled and possibly a bit more sandy in texture. No artifacts were found, and the only inclusions within this lower soil zone are ferrous concretions. Despite the color and texture of these soil zones, it is possible that they represent natural soils which may have been deposited during some flooding episode of Buffalo Bayou. However, historical records (1861-1863) suggest that the Catholic occupants may

only be observed during the augering out of the core hole. However, the presence of some type of hard clay surface is supported by the extreme wetness of the upper sand and the far dryer nature of the lower light yellow-brown bedded sands (10YR6/4). This lower natural sand continues to a depth of 144 inches where the core was terminated.

While certainly not conclusive, there may well be evidence of the old activity surface (e.g., the ground cover below the cabin floor area) in this core. That is, the lens of sandy-clay to clay around 72 inches may be related to the original use of this portion of the block. It is certainly at the same general depth as the other "top soil" surfaces. Further, as this type of soil zone was noted in several other cores, we would point out that this zone is identical to sub-pier and beam foundation soil noted elsewhere in Houston (Brown, et al 1985). The clay soil was placed below the houses to aid in foundation strength and drainage. Unfortunately, no artifacts were recovered, so we lack any really conclusive evidence.

Core #8: This core was placed into the extreme northern portion of the "Catholic Area." In fact, we may have placed this core into an area below the small chapel noted on the block in the 1880's and 1890's. Again, as with cores 1-3 and 5, this core was pushed in order to determine the extent and nature of the "Catholic Area" deposits.

As with all of the cores placed into the southern end of the block, the upper zones consisted of asphalt and brown sand with gravel, crushed brick, and crushed shell. However, at approximately 18 inches in this core, this zone terminates and a thick lens of mottled brown (7.5YR5/6) to yellow brown (10YR5/8) clay was found. By 24 inches the clay zone grades into a similarly mottled sandy-clay with some gravel inclusions. At 36 inches the soil becomes a more uniform yellow brown (10YR5/6-5/8) sandy-clay, but lacks any gravel. At 47 inches the soil becomes a sand to clayey sand which is pale brown (10YR6/3) in color. All of this appears to be an artificial fill not unlike the fill brought in to raise the block in 1905 by the railroad. However, in this area the fill strata are, for some reason, more complex.

At some point above 72 inches a thin clay lens was encountered and then the soil shifted back to a mottled sand. This clay lens, like that found in core 7 was noted on the auger and not in the push core. The sand above and below would not stay in the push core so that it could be extracted from the ground and examined once extracted from the tube (At that time a sand spoon core was not available). The clay was a yellow-orange-gray mottled clay. The sand below this lens is a very pale brown (10YR7/3-7/4). The sand shows some mottling, but by 108 inches there is clear

1800's negro tenement structure. We hoped to determine if any of the original block surface associated with this structure could be located intact.

At approximately 5 inches the core encountered another concrete "slab." This "slab" continued to a depth of approximately 12 inches. This concrete was placed over a brown sand zone which contained crushed brick (both yellow and red brick), shell and coarse gravel. At approximately 36 inches the soil changed sharply to a mottled gray-red-yellow clay which continued to a depth of approximately 50 inches. At this point there was a sharp break in terms of texture, soil type and color. That is, a mottled very pale brown (10YR7/3) was encountered. This soil type continued to 85 inches where a brown sand (7.5YR5/4) was noted. At approximately 144 inches the base mottled clay was encountered.

It is not totally clear in this core, but the soil above 50 inches is artificial fill. It is likely that the clay lens from 36 to 50 inches may represent the construction base for the two-story, pier-and-beam negro tenement house. Clearly this is an artificial soil zone, but we encountered no artifacts, so it is not possible to date its deposition. The soil zones below this lens are naturally deposited sands. This discovery may help to explain the thickness of the hypothesized clay construction pad. A two-story building constructed on sand would not have had a great deal of support. The clay would have given the necessary support.

Core #11: This core was placed into lot 9 in an effort to further determine the nature of the deposit in this portion of the block. We had hoped to place this core into the yard area of a house lot, but parked cars prevented this to some extent.

The upper 33 inches of this core were identical to core #10, including the thick concrete pad. At 33 inches we encountered a mottled red-yellow-gray clay. As with other core holes, this lens was found on the auger because the soil above and below was too sandy to extract in the tube. From 37 inches to 69 inches a mottled yellow-red natural sand was encountered. This is followed to a depth of 84 inches by a very pale brown natural sand. Below this level, obviously, the soils are natural.

As with core 10, the thin clay lens (33-37 inches in this core) likely represents a construction pad. In this case, we appear to have cored under a single story extension on a house which dates to the 1850's which may help to explain why it is so much thinner than the clay lens in core 10. Unfortunately no artifacts were discovered.

evidence of a yard supports the idea that cores 10-12 also have original occupation surfaces in them. The presence of natural sands and clays in cores 10-13 at very high elevations would support an hypothesis that an old erosion channel may have existed across the central (east to west) portion of this block. The erosion channel we were attempting to define on the east side of the block may have been a historically documented portion of this earlier channel.

Core #14: This core was placed into the western side of lot 11. We had wanted to place the core into lot 9's northeast corner, but were prevented from doing so by parked cars. As a result, this core was intended to test the yard area west of a residential/commercial complex built on lots 5, 4 and 11.

The soil deposition within this core was radically different from the sequences found in cores 10-13. The upper approximately 30 inches consisted of the asphalt and the usual brown clayey-sand fill with gravel and crushed brick inclusion. At 30 inches this fill type shifts to a clean greenish-gray (5GY5/1) sand fill to a depth of 68 inches. At approximately 72 inches a thin mottled yellow-red-green clay lens was noted on the auger. Below this natural yellow-brown sand grading to clay (at 139 inches) was found. Unfortunately, the thin clay lens could not be brought up in the core and was only located on the auger. No artifacts were found in association.

During the coring of this hole we utilized the sand spoon core. Thus, if the clay lens was actually present through the core, it should have been removed by this device. The crew working the coring rig stated that the clay likely came from the edge of the core rather than through it. It was, therefore determined that another core should be dug to try to locate this clay lens if it existed. While it made the most sense to core to the west (toward the buildings associated with the negro tenements), this was not possible due to the cars.

Core #15: This core was located approximately 8 feet east of core 14. As noted above, the core was intended to attempt to confirm or disconfirm the presence of a clay lens/construction pad.

The soil coring was identical to that of core 14 for the upper 54 to 60 inches. A thin layer of sandy clay with, apparently gravel, was discovered by the auger at approximately 60 inches. Again, this could not be collected in the tube. This grayish-brown (10YR5/2) soil and the gravel appear to be different from the soil removed from the core, but they too could be materials from the side of the core hole. Given the depth of both the clay pad in core 10

floor of the basement by measuring down from the hypothesized yard surface. In all likelihood, artifacts within the basement fill date to the filling in 1905. Although it is likely that some in situ artifacts may well be uncovered on the floor.

Core #18: As with core 17, this one was placed into the Sheriff's Department parking lot. Prior to the construction of the jail, this area had been part of lot 4 of block 12. This core was intended to try again to locate the erosion channel historically defined in this area of the block.

In this core the concrete for the parking lot was almost 10 inches thick. Below this the fill was a relatively uniform greenish-gray (5BG5/1) sand to sandy-clay to a depth of 12 feet. Unfortunately we could go no deeper because of the equipment and the use of the area. All of this appears to be artificial fill. Thus, again we have located a deep trench of some kind. However, no artifacts were recovered to suggest its function or age. More work must be done in the area since we were informed that a large number of bottles were found within 15 feet of this core hole when the jail was constructed.

Ulrich Borings: Since Ulrich Engineers, Inc. are producing their own report on their four borings, we will only attempt a brief summary of their results from an archaeological point of view. Three of their borings produced clear evidence concerning archaeological deposits. In the fourth (their No. 4) the data suggests that nothing remains of the archaeological deposit. However, their techniques were not the same as those employed for our 18 cores, so it is possible that the deposits were there. In the cases of the other three cores, the data is straight forward.

Boring 1 in the southwest portion of the block cored through a basement. This basement may have extended to a depth of 8 feet or more. It may also have been covered by a brick floor. Certainly the basement was filled, at least in this area, and a number of items possibly related to the railroad station were recovered in the core (including a lead 36 pound weight!).

Boring 2 was placed into the yard of the "Catholic Area." Brick, shell and mortar fragments were recovered in this area. This would certainly support our cores in the same general area.

Boring 3 was placed in an attempt to locate the old erosion channel on lot 4. As with our attempts, no conclusive evidence was discovered in their boring. However, they did record a soil lens at approximately 3.8

6 and 7 (as noted above), all of these areas may be relatively intact. That is, the archaeological coring and soil borings have uniformly yielded either artifact bearing strata, or artifactual (e.g., human produced) deposits or features. In the later category we would include both the Friary/school/infirmiry basement and the clay foundation supports. Also discovered was the area of the blacksmith's/carriage shop's work place on lot 5.

Clearly much more testing is necessary before any definitive statement can be made concerning the archaeological deposits on Block 12. However, it is equally clear that these deposits will be extensive across the block. In two major cases, the deposits are likely to be of major significance once additional testing is conducted (in Phase II). These areas would be the so-called "Catholic area" (lots 1-4) and, possibly 12), and the blacksmith/carriage shop (lots 5, 10, 11). To date no excavation within Houston has dealt with either of these types of features. As for the "Catholic area", its importance for understanding religious activities cannot, likely, be understated at this point. The so-called yard deposits around the compound may contain information concerning the wide variety of uses to which the various structures were put. To date, for example, little is known of the archaeology of medical practices within Texas. The same can be stated for early educational institutions--public or private. Yet both of these may well be studied through the excavation of these deposits should additional testing substantiate the findings of the eight cores placed into this area (cores 1-3, 5, 8, 17, 18), and Ulrich Boring 2).

The same type of comments can be made concerning lots 5 and 11. Deposits of commercial/manufacturing activities has, as yet, never been scientifically investigated in Houston. The cores into these lots, especially coring #16, demonstrate the apparent richness of the deposit. This core yielded the largest amount of evidence for past use of any of these cores. The square nail fragment even looks like a horseshoeing nail.

The remaining lots had a primarily residential history. In all cases, the cores placed in or very near the projected location of buildings, yielded evidence of construction activities. In all cases this evidence was in the form of clay lenses, or pads, generally placed below pier and beam houses in nineteenth century Houston. If these indications of constructional clay pads prove to be verified in testing, then these lots are also likely to be substantially intact.

In summary, neither the previous land use study nor the archaeological coring survey would have meant very much by itself. The previous land use study provided a "best

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Lots 1, 2, 3, 4LOTS 1 and 2

July 20, 1824
B-129

Republic of Texas to John Austin
(See End of Appendix I)

March 18, 1834
B-10

Elizabeth E. Parrott and J.F.L. Parrott
to Thomas F. McKinney for benefit of her
late husband's father, John P. Austin,
one sitio of land on Buffalo Bayou.

August 25, 1836
A-156

Thomas F. McKinney to William T. Austin
(same land as in B-10 above)

August 24, 1836
A-161

William T. Austin to A.C. & J. K. Allen
(west league of above)

August 26, 1836
A-157

Elizabeth E. Parrott and T.F. L. Parrott
to A.C. & J. K. Allen (south 1/2 of
lower league granted to her late
husband John Austin)

June 21, 1837
A-131

J. K. Allen for A.C. & J. K. Allen to
J.S. Holman, (Agency to sell lots)

December 11, 1837
A-231

J. Holman for A.C. & J. K. Allen to
Angus McNeil (\$80,000) Property near
Buffalo Bayou and town of Houston - all
lands purchased by A C. & J.K. Allen of
T.F.L. Parrott and wife and William T.
Austin except lots already sold or
contracted to be sold (inserted schedule
of property previous to sale to Thomas
F. McKinney - November 1837)

December 12, 1837
A-228

Angus McNeil to J.S. Holman (\$16,000)
2/10 interest in land purchased from
Allens

December 13, 1837
A-227

Angus McNeil to A.C. Allen (\$4800)
6/10 of land as above

December 13, 1837
A-230

Angus McNeil to Robert Wilson (\$8000)
8/10 of land as above

August 27, 1836
2-576

A.C. & J. K. Allen of Nacogdoches convey
to Robert Wilson for \$1000 (1/10
interest in league bought from William
T. Austin and including 1/10 interest
in 1/2 league bought from Parrotts and
will convey to Mrs. Sarah Wilson a
square or block of Houston as soon as it
is laid off - Wilson can select. If
Wilson wants to sell land will give

May 9, 1902
127-277 Release: Right Rev. N.A. Gallagher
Rev. Victor Maryon of Toronto, Canada,
Community of St. Basil--Lots 1,2,3,4 as
200 ft. on Caroline, 100 ft. on Franklin

May 9, 1902
127-278 V. Rev. Victor Maryon of York County,
Toronto, Canada, Community of St. Basil
to Houston Oak Lawn and Magnolia Park RR
Company. \$25,000.00

19-- Houston Oak Lawn & Magnolia Prk RR to
International & Great Northern RR

July 15, 1977 Judgement: I & G N RR (Missouri
Pacific) to Harris County

LOTS 3 and 4

Lot 3:
June 7, 1839 HR & SL Allen Lot 3 to Mary
F-237 McDonald
\$400.00

April 27, 1840 Mary McDonald to E.C. Reynolds
F-237 \$400.00

April , 1844 E.C. Reynolds to Julia Boucher
G-364 \$45.00

Lot 4:
June 14, 1839 HR & SL Allen Lot 4 to William
D-366 Wirtz \$350.00

March 23, 1850 W. Wirtz, of New Orleans to John Odin,
P-63 Bishop of Catholic Church \$15.00

The Catholic Church owns these 4 lots until the RR buys them
in 1902.

Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 12

LOT 6

August 5, 1841 H.R. & S.L. Allen to L. Abbott \$400.
G-364

September 25, 1841 Indenture: Thomas Bailey for
G-368 \$1841.00

February 14, 1847 Thomas Bailey to Oscar Wolff
L-359 \$100.00

November 9, 1847 Oscar Wolff to James McIntee
M-280 \$115.00 with cut timber on lot

August 12, 1848 N-13	W. R. Baker, tax collector, acquires from Gazley to J.F. Rockwell \$250.00 with a note due in one year
December 21, 1848 N-155	Indenture: John Rockwell to Ralph Sowters for Lots 6 and 7, \$1000.00
January 7, 1852 O-622	John F. Rockwell to James B. Hogan Sheriff to W.R. Baker, \$318.75
July 8, 1853 Q-503	John Forrester to James H. Stevens with all improvements (Forrester from J.M. Reynolds and W.R. Baker. Price Lot 8 also. \$1200.00
December 17, 1858 U-581	J.H. Stevenson (Stevens) Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12 to Henry Schultze \$3000.00 + promissory note of \$5000.00 and conveys property to E.A. Palmer, trustee
December 17, 1858 U-532	Henry Schulte declares E.A. Palmer trustee of property until \$10. note paid
December 2, 1867 S-508	Henry Schulte Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 to Gerhard Schulte with house and other impvts. \$9500.00 + 2 notes \$3250.00 ea
March 27, 1875 14-64	Gerhard Schulte 1/2 Lot 7, Lot 8 to J. J. Moore with improvements \$4000.00
December 5, 1878 19-323	Gerhard Schulte 1/2 Lot 7, and all 6, 9, 12 to Ernestine Schulte
August 7, 1883 28-41	E. Schulte, by sheriff, Lots 6 and 7 (can only be 1/2) to W.A. Carrington \$40.00 (She is now called Ernestine Schulte Augusta Peters)
December 14, 1883 28-618	J.J. Moore 1/2 Lot 7 and Lot 8 to Jacob Hornberger \$4000.00
March 7, 1902 139-212	Jacob Hornberger 1/2 Lot 7 and Lot 8 to Houston Oak Lawn and Magnolia Park Railway Co. \$14000.00
<u>LOT 8</u>	
March 3, 1837 A-32, 34	A.C. Allen Lots 8 & 9 to William Porter \$1600.00

April 13, 1854 R-132	B. J. Buckner to James H. Stevens with improvements \$200.00
December 17, 1858 U-581	J.H. Stevens Lots 6,7,8,9, 12 to Henry Schulte \$3000.00 + promissory note \$5000.00 (E.A. Palmer, trustee)
April 3, 1902 139-367	The Schulte family retains this lot until it is sold with their other lots to the railroad \$50,000.00

LOT 12

March 28, 1845 J-263	Sheriff Sale: A. C. Allen to W. R. Baker Lot 12, along with Lots 4,8,9 are sold at a tax sale for non-payment of 1842 taxes
February 15, 1851 P-118	Henry Bland to John Pecore \$75.00
February 15, 1855 P-506	John Pecore Lots 6 & 12 to James H. Stevens with improvements on both lots \$800.00
December 17, 1858 U-581	J. H. Stevenson (Stevens) Lots 6, 7,8,9,12 to Henry Schultze \$3000.00 + promissory note of \$5000.00 (E.A. Palmer, trustee)
December 2, 1867 S-508	Henry Schulte all 5 lots to Gerhard Schulte with house and other improvements \$9500.00 + 2 notes of \$3250.00 each
April 4, 1902 139-367	Ernestine Schulte all her property to railroad \$50,000.00

Lots, 5, 10, 11LOT 5

September 2, 1840 F-449	H.R. & S.L. Allen to John Buehn \$750.00
December 10, 1841 G-443	John Buehn to John Rundell \$325.00

November 17, 1886 36-60	Martin Curtin, note E. Schulte \$2000.00
April 3, 1902 139-367	E. Schulte all her lots to railroad \$50,000.00
<u>LOT 11</u> March 30, 1837 A-462	A.C. Allen to T.J. Gazley \$500.00 with a lien
June 7, 1845	T.J. Gazley, of Bastrop, to T.M. League \$20.00
April 1, 1854 R-115	J. M. Reynolds, owner, to tax collector, to John Riordan with improvements \$3.09
November 30, 1866 3-661	John Riordan to Annie Wood (He bought it at a tax sale, then returns it to Annie Wood for \$1.00
March 3, 1887 37-186	H.M. Curtin to H.F. Hurd
January 24, 1888 40-48	M. Curtin Lots 5 & 11 to H.F. Hurd and wife, Susan
May 26, 1900 120-342	Susan Hurd, widow Lots 5 & 11 to Joseph F. Meyer \$6000.00
March 1902 139-367	Purchase by I. & G. N. Railroad

