

Appropriate Treatment of Human Remains Encountered During Alamo Complex Investigations

INTRODUCTION

Mission San Antonio de Valero (41BX6), also known as The Alamo, is situated in downtown San Antonio, east of the large bend in the San Antonio River. The most recent site of Mission Valero is the third location of the very first Spanish mission established in the upper reaches of the San Antonio River Basin. Archival research indicates that the mission was moved to this final location in 1724, after a hurricane severely damaged the second location. By 1727, the footprint of the final location was evolving, containing a temporary Church and portions of the Convento completed. Mission San Antonio de Valero continued to expand and change shape until the Mission was secularized in 1793. Due to the stone walls constructed around the mission compound, the location came to be used by Spanish, Mexican, and Texian forces during the military and political struggles of the early 19th century. During the early 1800s, the site became known as the Alamo, in reference to the presence of the Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras (Alamo de Parras) at the site. After Texas gained its independence from Mexico, the site experienced additional changes, serving as a supply depot for the US Army, then an active business center with a mercantile store, saloon, jail, and hay weighing station. During the late 1800s to early 1900s, the Convento and Church structures were purchased by the State of Texas with help from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Visitors to the site today see only a remnant of the mission and battleground.

Previous work and excavations within the footprint of the Mission San Antonio de Valero and Alamo Church have identified the presence of human interments and remains. Based on records of previous encounters with human remains in certain areas, the potential to encounter additional remains throughout the course of the archaeological investigations exists. As work is planned to be undertaken within the Alamo Complex over the next several years, the possibility exists for inadvertent discoveries of human remains and disarticulated remains representing the site's long occupation as a mission as well as its use as a battlefield. Archaeological consultants conducting investigations at the site will need to be aware and respectful of the necessary treatment of human remains that may be encountered. Although the site has ties to the Roman Catholic Church, most of the Colonial Period inhabitants represent various indigenous cultures who had practiced a variety of burial rites prior to their incorporation into the mission institution. Federally Recognized Tribal Nations maintain certain prohibitions relating to death, skeletal remains, funerary objects, burial sites, and burial practices that are incorporated into the following procedures detailing the proper handling and reburial of remains and burial goods.

Site Description

The property that encompasses the historic Alamo Complex footprint consists of private and public lands. The current Alamo Complex includes properties separately owned by the City of San Antonio (COSA) and the State of Texas (Figure 1). The State of Texas owns the Alamo Complex which includes the Church, Long Barrack, and garden areas to the east of the historic structures. In addition, the State owns the historic buildings lining what was once the west wall of Mission Valero and the Alamo fort. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) partners with the Alamo Trust, Inc. (ATI) to manage the daily operations and maintenance on the State -owned properties. The City of San Antonio owns Alamo Plaza, but has entered into a lease with the GLO. Currently, the GLO is leasing a portion of the Plaza that is bound by E. Houston Street on the north, North Alamo Street on the west, the State of Texas property on the east, and the interpreted Low Barrack on the south, curving to follow the closed street to Crockett Street. In addition, the State is leasing the area locally referred to as the “Paseo”, including the alley way behind the historic buildings on the west side of the Plaza. In the future, the lease will expand to include North Alamo Street from Crockett Street to E. Houston Street. All archaeological investigations planned will occur on these properties.

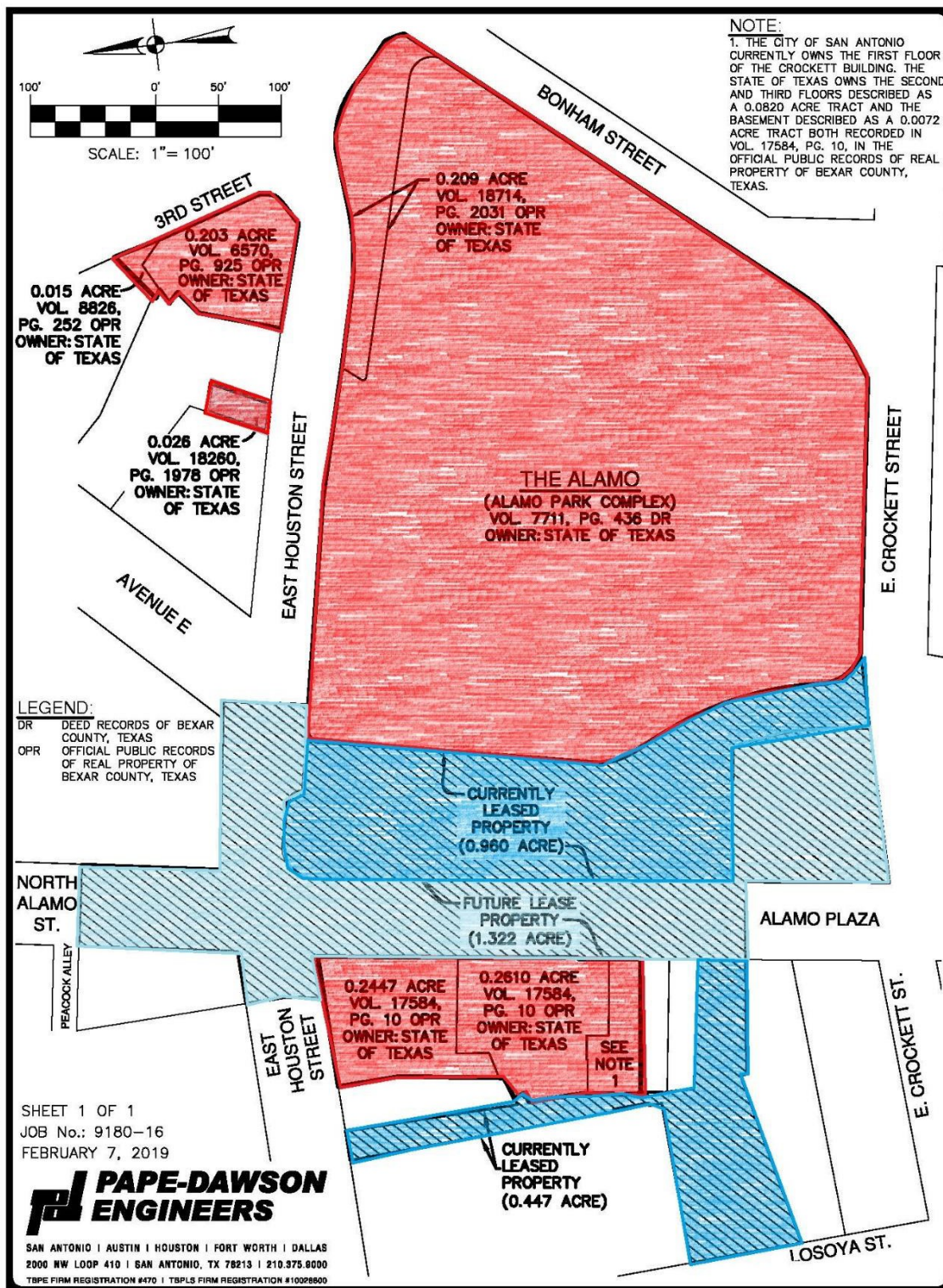


Figure 1. Parcel map of the Alamo Complex showing State-owned properties (red) and properties leased from the City of San Antonio (blue is current lease; light blue is future lease).

Philosophy

The Alamo Archaeologist, and all archaeologists performing investigations within the Alamo Complex, will adhere to the principles, ethics, and conduct codes published by the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), and Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA). All three professional organizations abide by common principles, including:

1. **Stewardship:** Understanding that the archaeological record is irreplaceable, and therefore every care must be taken to responsibly investigate and protect archaeological sites. Archaeologists are both the caretakers and advocates for the archaeological record and must act for the benefit of all people.
2. **Conservation:** Archaeologists should adhere to a judicious approach when investigating sites. The organizations should employ the concept that excavations only impact what is necessary, and to allow for portions of the site to be preserved. Archaeologists should minimize the amount of impact to the intact archaeological record when possible.
3. **Public Outreach:** Archaeological investigations are encouraged to contain a public outreach component that will aim to improve the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the archaeological record. Enlisting the support of the public, explaining archaeological techniques and methods, and communicating the results of the projects should be included in every project. An engaged public is a benefit to the archaeological project.
4. **Reporting and Publications:** Archaeologists have a responsibility to disseminate their findings to the public, as well as the archaeological community. Project reporting should be available in formats accessible to as wide a range of the public as possible.
5. **Respect and Dignity:** Archaeologists must be aware of the public's interest in the work conducted at the archaeological site. Archaeologists should listen to concerns and work in a manner that shows respect to the archaeological record and the communities associated with the history of the site. Archaeologists should treat the sites and their contents with deference and dignity during investigations.
6. **Adherence to Laws:** Archaeologists must follow applicable local, state, and federal laws when conducting investigations. The laws should aid in defining the extent and nature of the archaeological investigations at the site.

CULTURAL RESOURCES LAWS

All archaeological projects conducted within the Alamo Complex will follow the State of Texas cultural resource laws and laws regarding human remains, as defined by the Texas Health and Safety Code. There is no federal land, federal agency, or federal funds involved in the upcoming projects; however, the archaeological projects will follow the guidelines set forth in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) as an aid in informing decisions made throughout the course of the execution of the Alamo Plan. The Alamo Trust, Inc., GLO, and City of San Antonio recognize that although the archaeological investigations will comply with the applicable regulations, the adherence to

NAGPRA protocols as a means of influencing decisions and courses of actions is beneficial to all parties involved and will result in more meaningful and appropriate treatment of encountered human remains. The cultural resource laws that must be abided by include, but are not limited to, the following:

State:

- Chapters 711–715 of the Texas Health and Safety Code
- [Title 9, Chapter 191 of the Texas Natural Resources Code](#)
- Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 22 of the Texas Administrative Code,

Federal

- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations (36CFR800)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-95, 16 U.S.C. 470aa470mm)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, and its implementing regulations (36CFR61)

All work conducted will comply with the Texas Health and Safety Code, as well as follow the guidelines set forth in NAGPRA.

Alamo Mission Archaeology Advisory Committee (AMAAC)

The Alamo Trust, Inc. (ATI) established an advisory committee to offer unique knowledge and insight to complement the expertise of the professional consultants and oversight agencies. The Committee serves to make recommendations but has no formal legal authority. ATI contacted federally recognized tribes with an interest in Bexar County prior to the commencement of archaeological projects and invited representatives of these federally recognized Tribal Nations to serve as members of the Alamo Mission Archaeological Advisory Committee prior to fieldwork. The purpose, authority, and procedures of the Committee are outlined in a separate document.

Generalized Project Protocol

Archaeological consultants will guarantee that a physical/forensic anthropologist, bioarchaeologist, or experienced osteologist will be part of, or available to, the archaeological crew to ensure that if skeletal material is encountered, the remains will be quickly evaluated to establish whether they are human or not. In addition to having demonstrable experience, the physical/forensic anthropologist, bioarchaeologist, or osteologist will meet or exceed the Secretary of Interior's professional qualifications and standards for archeology.

Prior to the commencement of each archaeological project, the archaeological consultants will be provided a list of the current contact information for the appropriate project related individuals. The list will include the contact information for the Alamo Trust, Inc. CEO, Alamo Archaeologist, both Property Owners and their designated agents, employees, or representatives, the THC Archaeology Division, and all local contact information that may be relative to the project (i.e. Bexar County Clerk, Bexar County Law Enforcement, Bexar County Medical Examiner, etc.). Should events occur which change the

individuals that are required to be contacted, an updated contact list will be disseminated to the archaeological consultants. The list will include names, phone numbers, and emails, as well as the order in which the entities should be contacted, as well as the method for contact. ATI and COSA will reach out to the Bexar County Medical Examiner prior to the commencement of each archaeological project to make them aware of activities and determine the best method of notifying the Medical Examiner should remains be encountered.

Pursuant to the Alamo Plaza Ground Lease and Management Agreement (the Lease) Sections 7 and 10, COSA and the GLO have agreed to a collaborative effort regarding projects at Alamo Plaza in furtherance of the Alamo Plan. In accordance with the Lease, ATI, the GLO, and COSA will adhere to the communication and decision-making guidelines set forth in the Lease when the Project involves Alamo Plaza.

Generalized Project Statements

- Utmost consideration and respect will be given during discussions and development of documents that contain information concerning encountered human remains. In addition, the physical location, human remains, isolated finds, and funerary objects will also be treated with respect.
- No intrusive or destructive analysis of human remains or disarticulated remains with possible Native American affiliation shall occur without the permission of the affiliated Tribal Nation or the Alamo Mission Archaeological Advisory Committee (AMAAC).
- A Tribal Monitor selected by the AMAAC will be present during excavations.
- Analysis of remains will be limited to skeletal and burial/grave pit measurements, burial arrangements, soil test (if warranted), and macroscopic examination of the skeletal elements.
- Photography of encountered burials will be permitted in cases that hand-drawn depictions are not possible. Photographs should be converted to hand-drawn depictions.
- At no time will photographs of the human remains be presented to the Federally Recognized Tribal Nations and the AMAAC for consultation and report documentation.
- The AMAAC may defer consultations of custody for repatriation as necessary.
- The Human Remains Treatment Plan is a living document and can be amended at any time should the AMAAC recognized changes are needed.

Inadvertent Discovery Procedures

Should human remains or disarticulated remains be encountered, the following procedures should guide the steps and methods. During the initial steps, it will be determined if it is possible to leave the human remains *in situ* and move ground disturbing activities to another location in which there is a less likelihood of encountering additional burials, or if it is necessary to proceed with the process to remove the burial. The Alamo's philosophy is that the most respectful treatment of human remains is to leave them in place, but the potential for further impacts will be noted during the decision-making process. The decision to preserve in place will adhere to the regulations in the Texas Health and Safety Code and the Texas Administrative Code Title 13 Chapter 22 regarding the potential for future improvements over the burial location. The encountered burial/grave could be determined to be preserved in place as long

as there are no plans to construct improvements on the property in a manner that would disturb the grave(s). In cases where construction of improvements on the property would be conducted in a manner that would disturb the grave(s) and cannot be avoided, the grave(s) would be removed in accordance with §711.0105 of the Health and Safety Code. Because the Alamo Complex and Alamo Plaza are not designated cemeteries (abandoned, unknown, or unverified) at this time, the Health and Safety Code's provisions related to removal of a cemetery designation would not apply even if remains are reinterred off site. This document may be revised to address removal of a designation upon discovery and filing of a designation.

- At the time of exposure, the archaeologists and physical anthropologist will document the position and location of the remains. If the area is not already screened off, screening of the area will also occur at this time.
- **Amendment 12/5/2019: After consultation with the Committee and THC, the 50-foot buffer is not a realistic requirement during excavation of units. Excavations will cease in the unit or test pit in which the remains are found until all necessary parties are notified. In the case of large scale, mechanical excavations, the archaeologists will create a sufficient buffer zone to ensure that potential remains in the immediate vicinity are not impacted and work can resume in other areas.**
- All exposed human remains will immediately be covered with unbleached cotton muslin and a thin layer of soil to prevent unnecessary exposure and moisture loss. If moisture loss occurs too rapidly, compromising bone preservation, the osteologist or bioarchaeologist associated with the project will recommend additional methods, but the muslin will act as the initial barrier to separate the human remains from other coverings.
- The discovery site will be secured and protected until final plans are implemented.
- The archaeological consultants will immediately notify the governing offices, which will include, but are not limited to, the Medical Examiner's Office, the THC Archaeology Division, the Property Owners and their designated archaeologists, and the AMAAC.
- The on-site Tribal Monitor will be immediately notified and brought to the location of the discovery, if not already in the immediate vicinity.
- Notification to the AMAAC will occur within 48 hours of encountering human remains for guidance and consultation.
- All parties will avoid interaction with media. Encountering human remains will not be made public knowledge. *Any members of the archaeological crew, ATI staff, or the AMAAC who releases information concerning encountering of human remains to the media or general public will be removed from the project, committee, and/or employment.* A statement will be prepared in consultation with the oversight agencies and the AMAAC should the need arise to address the general public. Only the GLO will release the statement, if necessary. The respective Property Owner will provide written consent to the statement's release. It should be noted that archeologists' discoveries are considered part of the public record and can be subjected to public information requests. Should any group associated with the project receive a request for public information concerning human remains, they will immediately inform the GLO Legal Counsel contact on the project contact list.
- No work in the unit may resume until notification of the appropriate oversight agencies has occurred, and the entities have had the opportunity to assess the discovery.
- Individuals or groups not directly involved with the archaeological investigations will not be

allowed to view, handle, or photograph human remains, except by authorization of the THC, in consultation with the Property Owner. The AMAAC will also be consulted concerning the access of outside entities.

- Within 10 days of the discovery, ATI and the Property Owner will file a Record of Unknown or Abandoned Cemetery with the Bexar County Clerk.
- The archaeological consultant, in consultation with the respective Property Owner's designated archeologist, will file appropriate documentation with the Texas Historical Commission per Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 22 of the Texas Administrative Code requirement regarding cemetery number within 10 days of the discovery of a cemetery.
- All proposed actions follow applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Inadvertent Discovery-Preservation in Place

All protocols noted above will be followed upon encountering human remains during archaeological investigations. Once the discovery is assessed by the governing offices, exploratory excavations around the discovery site may be implemented to determine the extent of the remains, presence of grave shafts, intruding burials, and document previous impacts. Exploratory excavations would determine if additional or intruding burials are in the immediate vicinity, in accordance with the Texas Health and Safety Code. The purpose would be to determine if the remains are representing an *in situ* intact burial, a disarticulated burial, or a singular element aiding in the determination of whether the remains warrant determination as an established and/or organized cemetery or are considered an isolated find. Exploratory excavations in the vicinity of the exposed burial will occur ONLY when appropriate governing offices are notified, and the archaeological consultants are given permission to proceed.

During the documentation portion of the discovery, archaeologists will use soft brushes and tools specific to sensitive artifacts, such as bamboo skewers and hardwood excavation tools, to expose any skeletal elements for appropriate documentation. The human remains will be mapped via plan view sketch maps, and their vertical and horizontal position will be captured with a Total Data Station or high-accuracy GPS. Field notes will be taken to document any identifying attributes of the burial, and the find will be photo documented should mapping not adequately depict the burial. Location data will be tied into permanent datum points as to mark the area for avoidance during future investigations. All funerary objects buried among human remains will be left *in situ*. Preserve-in-place locations will be those in which no future impacts or improvements will occur.

Archaeologists will work with the THC, the Property Owners and their designated archaeologists, and the Alamo Mission Archaeology Advisory Committee during the reburial procedure. The procedure will include covering the exposed remains with muslin cloth and replacement of the soil. The soils removed from the excavation unit should be used to envelop the reburial. A layer of clean sand will be placed above the layer of soil enveloping the burial. A circular metal marker will be placed on top of the burial location mid-way between burial and surface prior to the replacement of the soil to act as an additional measure to safeguard the burial. The location of the burial will be mapped and recorded via total data station or high-accuracy GPS. This will ensure that the accurate location of the burial will be recorded to prevent future impacts to the area. Once the surface cover has been replaced, there should be no visible evidence of the burial site, unless AMAAC decides a visible marker is appropriate.

A site monitoring plan will be developed in consultation with the AMAAC, ATI, and THC. The Property Owners will also be included in the site monitoring plan consultation to the extent and in the manner expressed in the Lease. The plan will include information concerning proposed on-going work at the site and indicate how the work will avoid impacting the burial. The plan should also be evaluated from time to time to determine if later site restoration activities could negatively impact the burial.

Inadvertent Discovery-Excavation

Although the archaeological investigations proposed within the Alamo Complex do not aim to exhume human remains, it is possible this could be unavoidable due to extenuating circumstances. In the event the burial or pit cannot be preserved in place and must be excavated, justification shall reflect imminent site endangerment (access, environmental conditions, or indirect effects) or inability to complete site development (activity cannot be redirected or revised for avoidance). If such a situation arises, removal of human remains will only occur once the respective Property Owner(s) and their designated archeologist(s), archaeological consultants, the THC, and the AMAAC have discussed and agreed upon the removal. All proposed methods will be in compliance with the local, state, and federal regulations. The Principal Investigator of the archaeological consultant will work with the THC Archeology Division prior to the exhumation process to ensure that the associated project antiquities permit records any change to the previously agreed upon scope of work.

Excavation Protocol

- Exploratory excavations around the discovery site will be conducted to determine the extent of the remains, presence of grave shafts, intruding burials, and document previous impacts. Exploratory excavations would determine if additional or intruding burials are in the immediate vicinity, in accordance with the Texas Health and Safety Code. The purpose would be to determine if the remains are representing an *in situ* intact burial, a disarticulated burial, or a singular element aiding in the determination of whether the remains warrant determination as an established and/or organized cemetery or are considered an isolated find.
- If the exhumation of the remains is determined to be needed, ATI and/or the respective Property Owner will obtain a court order from the district to remove the remains.
- The archaeological consultant will employ an osteologist, physical/forensic anthropologist, or bioarchaeologist with extensive experience to oversee the excavations. Any member of the archaeological team that assists in the excavation of the human remains will have at least a BA in Anthropology from an accredited institution and have previous experience with human remains.
- Archaeologists conducting the excavation shall wear unbleached cotton gloves when handling the remains.
- All human remains, and the funerary objects associated with their burial, shall be carefully removed by hand by qualified archaeologists and the Tribal Monitor, if the he/she elects to participate.

- The entirety of each burial determined to need exhumation will be removed. Should the burial extend beyond the unit, the unit will be expanded to allow for the removal of the entire interment.
- Soils from 6-inches around the burial will be collected and stored with burial until the time of reinterment.
- The exhumation process will be documented in the field and laboratory in accordance with professional standards for archaeological documentation and human remains treatment, as well as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- Documentation methods will include photography, drawings, recording notes, and geo-referencing with a Total Data Station or high-accuracy GPS.
- No destructive analysis to determine cultural affiliation will occur. Any information gathered concerning cultural affiliation of the remains will be a result of visual analysis.
- The removed remains will be stored in an environmentally controlled, secure location with limited access. The storage location is the Alamo Collections Vault, located in the Alamo Hall Annex.
- Remains will be wrapped in unbleached muslin cloth for transportation, storage, and reburial process.

Excavation Methods

After appropriate approvals have been obtained, delineation of the human remains and grave shaft will occur via brushing and gentle trowel scraping. If there is an extensive amount of overburden in an area, shovel scraping may be used, but halt at approximately 10 centimeters above the depth at which the initial remains were encountered. The archaeologist will observe the area to determine if there is a visible contrast between burial fill and the surrounding sediments. If a contrast is well defined, the burial will be excavated with the soils from within the burial pit kept separate from the surrounding sediments. If no contrast is observed, artificial units will be created using the outline of the remains, such as the presence of coffin wood and/or coffin nails.

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

Each burial will be recorded on a Burial Form, as well as a master burial log. Each Burial Form will include information regarding the vertical and horizontal locations of the remains, the position of the skeleton,

orientation and direction of the cranium, possible post-depositional impacts to the burial, relationship to other burials (if applicable), burial/grave dimensions, and detailed description of the location of the burial in relationship to the historic structures. Photographs, with scale, will be taken of each burial with photograph information recorded on a photolog only if drawings of the burial(s) cannot sufficiently depict the relationship between elements. Should removal of the burial reveal additional elements, plan view maps and records will be updated to include this information. Elevations of newly exposed burial elements will be included on Burial Forms. Additional photographs will be taken to aid in recording the relationship of the elements if plan maps cannot sufficiently record the burial. Photographs of the burials will be converted into depictions.

Should burials extend beyond the footprint of the excavation unit, or intrusive burials are identified, the unit will be extended to remove the entirety of the burial and/or intrusive burial. Additional burials that are encountered beyond the excavation unit expansion, and are not in the path of proposed improvements or construction impacts, will be preserved in place, unless an association with other burials demonstrates the need to be kept together

The location of funerary objects buried among the remains (i.e. projectile points, stone tools, buttons, beads, pendants, buckles, nails, etc.) will also be included on the plan view maps with elevation data. Once mapped, funerary objects will be collected and bagged with provenience information and a unique burial identifier (i.e., Burial Number). Should coffin wood be present, archaeologists will carefully excavate around the planks and remove the items with care as to preserve their intact nature as best as possible. The coffin wood will also be bagged/tagged by provenience and unique burial identifier. All funerary objects associated with the burial will be kept with the burial throughout the course of the project(s), and be reinterred with the designated burial.

All elements of the burial will be stored together in a temporary curation storage container composed of natural, non-synthetic material. Should isolated finds be encountered, these will also be carefully removed, placed in paper bags with provenience information, location area designation, excavators' initials, and date. All remains will be temporarily housed in a secure location within the Alamo Complex. Only individuals associated with the project (i.e. Tribal Monitor, Principal Investigator, Project Archaeologist, bioarchaeologist/physical anthropologist, Alamo Archaeologist, archaeology lab technicians, and Committee members or their designated representatives) will have access to the remains. Access to the temporary storage facility is only via magnetic key card in possession of the Alamo Archaeologist. The Alamo Archaeologist will monitor the daily access to the facility.

Should excavations of the burial span longer than a day, at the end of each workday the burial will be covered to prevent additional drying. The covering will also aid in prevention of viewing by the public, although most excavation areas will already be screened-off per project requirements. The area will be secured each evening and monitored by Alamo Rangers until the return of the archaeologists.

Osteological and Artifact Analysis

All osteological analysis of human remains will be conducted by the qualified physical/forensic anthropologist, bioarchaeologist, or osteologist and assistant. The human remains will be cleaned using

wooden skewers and dry brushing during analysis. Persons handling the human remains will wear unbleached cotton gloves. At the completion of the analysis and handling of the human remains, the gloves will be destroyed. All data collected will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet during the analysis process. Data recorded will include: cranial and postcranial measurements, sex, potential age, dental and/or bone pathologies. Cranial suture fusion and epiphyseal closure will be used in the determination of age of the individual at time of death. Other indications of age can be seen in the dentition and evidence of osteoarthritis. Ancestry of the remains will also be documented, if possible; however, no destructive analysis to determine ethnicity will occur. Ancestral affiliation may be determined based on analysis of dentition, morphology of the femora, complexity of cranial sutures, presence/absence of Wormian bones, and characteristics of ascending rami.

Analysis of disarticulated human remains not identified as a burial, as well as isolated finds, will also occur as part of the osteological analysis. As disarticulated remains will be collected by sub-areas as laid out in each of the archaeological project's area of potential effect, the analyst will make a determination of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) that cannot be associated with a specific burial designation. The elements representing each individual will be noted and recorded in the database.

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

Data compiled during the analysis will be presented in the final report of each archaeological report in accordance with the antiquities permit requirements. Once analysis is completed, all burials from each project will be prepared for reinterment. Preparation for interment would include wrapping each individual burial and funerary objects associated with the burial with unbleached muslin. AMAAC will recommend individuals to be present and participate in the preparation and reinterment. Each bundle will best represent individual burials as possible.

Storage and Curation

Human remains encountered during the course of the projects will be temporarily stored on site, in an environmentally-controlled and secure location. The Alamo Collections Vault, located in Alamo Hall Annex, will be the site of the temporary storage. Lighting will be kept at levels that are not harmful to the human remains and as requested by AMAAC. Access to the human remains will be limited and monitored by the Alamo Archaeologist, with the project physical anthropologist or osteologist recommending individuals associated with the project to be allowed into the area. Access to the storage vault is obtained through one door via a magnetic key card programmed only to allow the Alamo Archaeologist, ATI Curators/Historians, and the Conservator (four people total). The Alamo Rangers have access to the vault only in cases of emergency. The Alamo Archaeologist will escort the physical anthropologist/osteologist into the collection storage vault.

The human remains will be wrapped in unbleached muslin and placed in an archival box during temporary storage. Unbleached cotton gloves will be used at all times when handling the remains. The gloves and temporary storage boxes will be destroyed upon completion of the project. The Alamo will arrange for the gloves and storage boxes to be burned, according to the wishes of the AMAAC. The Alamo does not wish for human remains will be curated on a more permanent basis.

The storage location on site will be environmentally controlled, with temperature, humidity, and air quality monitored and regulated. The storage location does not have windows, therefore light levels are low, although a soft light will illuminate the storage location during at all times during which the human remains are temporarily stored prior to reinterment. Additional protection from light is through the use of collapsible storage shelving. An integrated pest management system is employed throughout the Alamo grounds, and includes the curatorial storage vault. ATI maintains a database of environmental conditions. Temperatures and humidity are regulated through a dedicated HVAC system and dehumidifiers. Dehumidifiers are stationed within the curatorial storage vault to remove excess water vapor during humid times. ATI strives to keep the temperature at 68 degrees Fahrenheit, with a relative humidity between 50 and 60%. HOBO data loggers are positioned within the storage vault, logging the temperature and relative humidity every five minutes. ATI utilizes the Sapphire Suppression System in the event that a fire occurs within the building. No food or drink is allowed in the collection storage vault.

Project generated documentation including but not limited to field forms, maps, inventories, and photographs will be curated at a state certified curatorial repository at the completion of the individual projects. Photographs of the human remains will only be retained in instances that the THC and the AMAAC have agreed due to unique circumstances. Other photographs of the human remains will be destroyed before final curation. Copies of the project documentation will be provided to the AMAAC.

Reburial

The removed human remains and funerary objects will be wrapped in unbleached cotton muslin cloth tied with natural fiber string, with each cotton bundle representing an individual burial, or burial location (in the case that remains may have been previously disarticulated), and will contain the human remains and funerary objects associated with that burial. Each muslin-wrapped bundle will be placed in an archival cardboard container and stored until reburial. Should there need to be burning of incense during the bundling process, ATI will set up an area outside, secluded from general public. Due to environmental controls in the storage facility, no burning of incense is allowed inside. An area for reinterments will be determined based on the absence of human remains and architectural features, and the least likely place to be affected by future restoration or preservation projects.

Reinterment will occur at the completion of the fieldwork and analysis of each project associated with the execution of the Alamo Plan. All human remains recovered during an individual project will be reinterred at one time after the completion of the project. The Alamo Mission Archaeology Advisory Committee will determine the appropriate ceremonial procedure for reinterment, based on determined cultural affiliation. On the recommendation of the Alamo Mission Archaeology Advisory Committee, the Alamo Archaeologist will extend invitations to the appropriate parties to be present during the reburial

ceremony. If cultural affiliation is undetermined, the AMAAC will aid in the development of a ceremony that reflects the varied cultural heritage of the site. If requested, separate ceremonies can be conducted to reflect cultural heritage of the remains with identified cultural heritages. The cotton-wrapped bundles will be placed in the earth and covered with the collected soils during the course of the ceremony. Unless the AMAAC decides otherwise, the reinterment process will be limited to those invited and not publicized.

Reburial Protocol

- The exhumed remains and corresponding funerary objects will be reburied in an appropriate location determined in consultation with the AMAAC, ATI, THC, and the Property Owner(s). The designated location(s) will serve as the reburial location for all subsequent remains encountered during archaeological excavations during the execution of the Alamo Plan, if possible.
- The archaeological consultants, respective Property Owners and their designated archaeologists (when applicable), the THC, and the AMAAC will ensure that the location determined for the reburial will be in accordance with the Texas Health and Safety Code, and all other applicable local, state and federal regulations. The reinterment location will also follow the guidelines as set forth by the AMAAC related to line of sight, accessibility, site monitoring capabilities, and preservation.
- Selected site will be prepared for reinterment by an archaeological consultant via traditional archaeological excavation methods.
- Area will be screened from public during preparation and reinterment ceremony to insure privacy. If requested, ATI and the Property Owner(s) will assist the participating Tribal Nation(s) to prevent interference from outside noises and visitors during the reinterment ceremony. This could potentially be facilitated by conducting the reinterment ceremony during less crowded times.
- The burial pits will be excavated to an appropriate depth per current regulations. The width and length of the burial pit will be in relation to the number of reinterments, as to be wide enough to avoid overcrowding. The final dimensions will be determined once the archaeological project has concluded, and the total number of reinterments is known. The AMAAC will offer guidance as to the preferred dimensions.
- The AMAAC will determine the objects to be placed with the reinterments.
- The soil collected from the previous burial location shall be used to envelop the muslin bundle. Soils from the new location will be used to fill the remainder of the pit.
- To prevent soils from creating a visible depression, untreated wood planks or board should be placed between the interment and surface, when possible.
- After the completion of the reinterment, the surface should be made to look like the surrounding area, or as it was prior to the excavation. There should be no visible evidence of the reinterment, unless the AMAAC determines a sign is necessary.
- A site monitoring plan will be developed to address long-term protection to the reburial location.

- The AMAAC will determine who should be invited to and participate in the reburial process. The AMAAC will decide who will lead the reburial ceremony/customs.

Definitions

“Alamo Complex” means the property owned by the State of Texas, entrusted to GLO pursuant to Texas Natural Resources Code Chapter 31, which sits between E. Houston Street and E. Crockett Street to its north and south, and Alamo Plaza and Bowie Street to its west and east, and all historic and 20th Century Structures built thereon.

“Alamo Plaza” means the Property owned by the City of San Antonio, leased to the GLO, which sits between E. Houston to the north and abuts E. Crockett to the South, and Alamo Street and the Alamo Complex to the west and east, and originally comprised the battlefield area during the Texas Revolution, and mission yards and dwellings during the 1700s.

“AMAAC” means the Alamo Mission Archaeology Advisory Committee established to offer unique knowledge and insight to complement the expertise of the professional consultants and oversight agencies with regard to handling of human remains and isolated finds, in accordance with the goals expressed in the committee’s governing document.

“Articulated” means the remains are attached at joints so that the relative position of the bones which existed in life is preserved.

“ATI” means the Alamo Trust, Inc., the Texas non-profit under contract with GLO for management and daily operations of the Alamo Complex, pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Natural Resources Code, and similar management of Alamo Plaza.

"Burials" mean marked and unmarked locales set aside for a human burial or burials purposes. Burials may contain the remains of one or more individuals located in a common grave in a locale. The site area encompasses the human remains present and may contain gravestones, markers, containers, coverings, garments, vessels, tools, and other grave objects which may be present, or could be evidenced by the presence of depressions, pit feature stains, or other archeological evidence.

"Cemetery" means a place that is used or intended to be used for interment, and includes a graveyard, burial park, mausoleum, or any other area containing one or more graves in accordance With Texas Health and Safety Code § 711.001(4).

"Cemetery organization", in accordance With Texas Health and Safety Code § 711.001(1), means:

- a) an unincorporated association of plot owners not operated for profit that is authorized by its articles of association to conduct a business for cemetery purposes; or
- b) a corporation, as defined by Section Health and Safety Code Section [712.001\(b\)\(3\)](#), that is authorized by its certificate of formation or its registration to conduct a business for cemetery purposes.

“COSA” means the City of San Antonio, owner of Alamo Plaza and lessor of the Plaza to GLO, and owner and operator of municipal streets, sidewalks, and parks surrounding the Alamo Complex and Alamo Plaza.

“Court Order” means an order issued by the District Court in accordance With Texas Health and Safety Code § 711.001(11).

“Cremated remains” or “cremains” means the bone fragments remaining after the cremation process, which may include the residue of any foreign materials that were cremated with the human remains.

“Disarticulated” means the human remains are not connected to adjoining elements, and do not represent the relative position of which the bones existed in life.

"Funerary objects" means physical objects associated with a burial, such as a casket, whether whole or deteriorated into pieces, personal effects, ceremonial objects, and any other objects interred with human remains.

“GLO” means the Texas General Land Office, owner of the site and structures comprising the Alamo Complex, pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, and lessee of the adjoining Alamo Plaza.

“Grave” means a space of ground that contains interred human remains or is in a burial park and that is used or intended to be used for interment of human remains in the ground, in accordance With Texas Health and Safety Code § 711.001(19).

"Human remains" means the body of a decedent, in accordance With Texas Health and Safety Code § 711.001(20).

“Improvement” means a building, structure, erection, alteration, demolition, or excavation on, connected with, or beneath the surface of real property; and the act of clearing, grading, filling, or landscaping real property, including constructing a driveway or roadway or furnishing trees or shrubbery, in accordance with Texas Property Code § 28.001.

"Interment" means the permanent disposition of remains by entombment, burial, or placement in a niche.

“Isolated Find” means up to five (5) unassociated human remain elements within a 50 cm radius that cannot be associated with an articulated or disarticulated burial.

“Lease” means the Alamo Plaza Ground Lease and Management Agreement, entered into by and between the Texas General Land Office and the City of San Antonio in November of 2018.

“Property Owner” means the GLO, where human remains and/or isolated finds are or have the potential to be located on Alamo Complex property, and COSA, where human remains and/or isolated finds are or have the potential to be located on Alamo Plaza property.

“Unmarked grave" means, in accordance With Texas Health and Safety Code § 711.001(27), the immediate area where one or more human interments are found that:

- a) is not in a recognized and maintained cemetery;
- b) is not owned or operated by a cemetery organization;
- c) is not marked by a tomb, monument, gravestone, or other structure or thing placed or designated as a memorial of the dead; or
- d) is located on land designated as agricultural, timber, recreational, park, or scenic land under Chapter [23](#), Tax Code.

Burial Record 41BX6

Project Name: _____ Project Number: _____

Date: _____ Excavators: _____

Site No.: _____

Burial Record No.: _____ Catalog No.: _____

Unit(s): _____ Level(s): _____ Depth: _____ FS: _____

Datum No.: _____ Datum Location: _____ Datum Elevation: _____

Grave Shaft Dimensions: _____ Grave Shaft Orientation: _____

Grave Shaft Fill Matrix (Color/Texture/Inclusions/Mottles): _____

Matrix into Which Grave Shaft Was Dug (Color/Texture/Inclusions/Mottles): _____

Relation to Other Burials: _____

Burial Type: _____

Condition/Preservation: _____

Position of Skeleton: _____

Orientation of Skeleton: _____ Direction of Skull: _____ Facing: _____

Burial Elevation Range: _____

Skull Orientation: _____ Top Elevation: _____ Bottom Elevation: _____

Pelvis Orientation: _____ Top Elevation: _____ Bottom Elevation: _____

Evidence of Intrusions: _____

Posthumous Shifting of Bones: _____

Skeletal Elements Absent/Present: _____

(continued on back).

