



Figure A-47. Trench in midden deposit, showing stone fence 7'2" tall that enclosed Aranama Mission. The deposit at this point is 40 inches deep, with the fence extending 46 inches above. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-15.

From what now remains of the mission, it seems to have originally consisted of a small room, 16 x 10 feet inside, on the north; and a long room, 18 x 55½ feet inside, on the south. There is some evidence indicating that this long room was originally divided into three rooms.

While no other walls of buildings remain, there are heaps of ruins both to the northeast and southeast of the mission proper. These heaps may mark the sites of the original structures for the soldiers and Indians. One to N.E. probably



Figure A-48. Entrance to Aranama (Espíritu Santo) Mission. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-16.

for Indians. To the east of the mission is another heap of ruins. This may have been the “dwelling-quarters for the religious.” To the northwest of the mission was a dug well, which is now filled.

The grounds were enclosed by a thick stone wall or fence, with a gateway near the center of the eastern wall, leading to the entrance of the mission. The fence has fallen down in places, but is still in a fair state of preservation. It has a uniform thickness of 26" and in places is 6 to 7 feet high.

Connecting with the southeast corner of the yard is a low terrace of earth, of breast-work-like appearance, leading in an easterly direction toward the river half a mile away. (River meanders considerably.) The dirt for the “terrace” came from

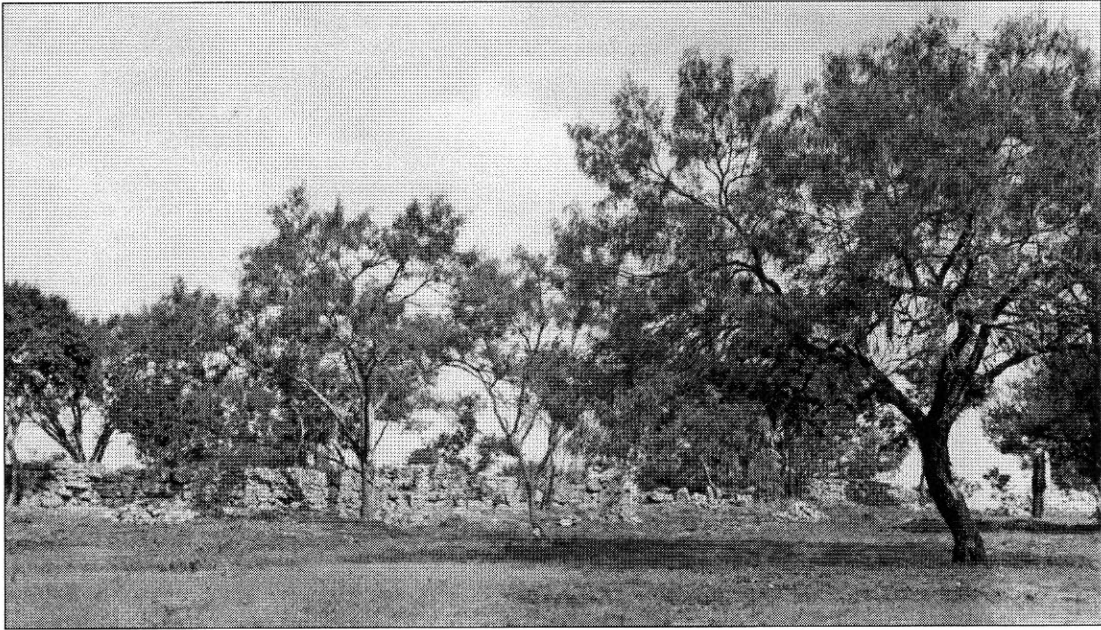


Figure A-49. *Aranama Mission yard, showing part of the remains of the massive stone fence, or enclosing wall.* Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-17.

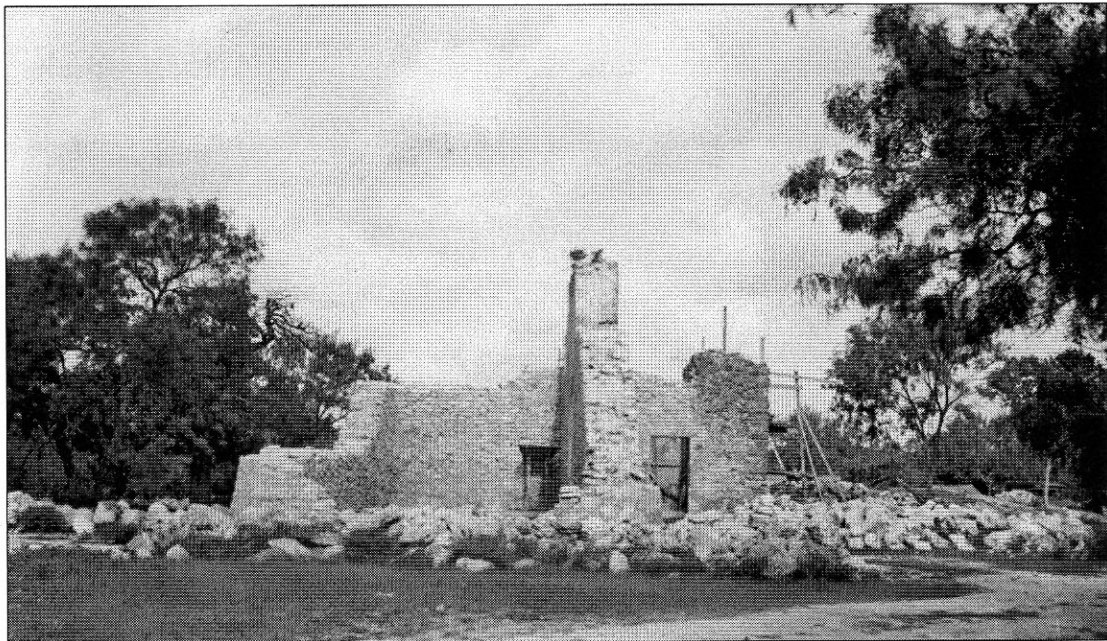


Figure A-50. *Front view of the ruins of Aranama Mission. In process of restoration, July 1933.* Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-19.

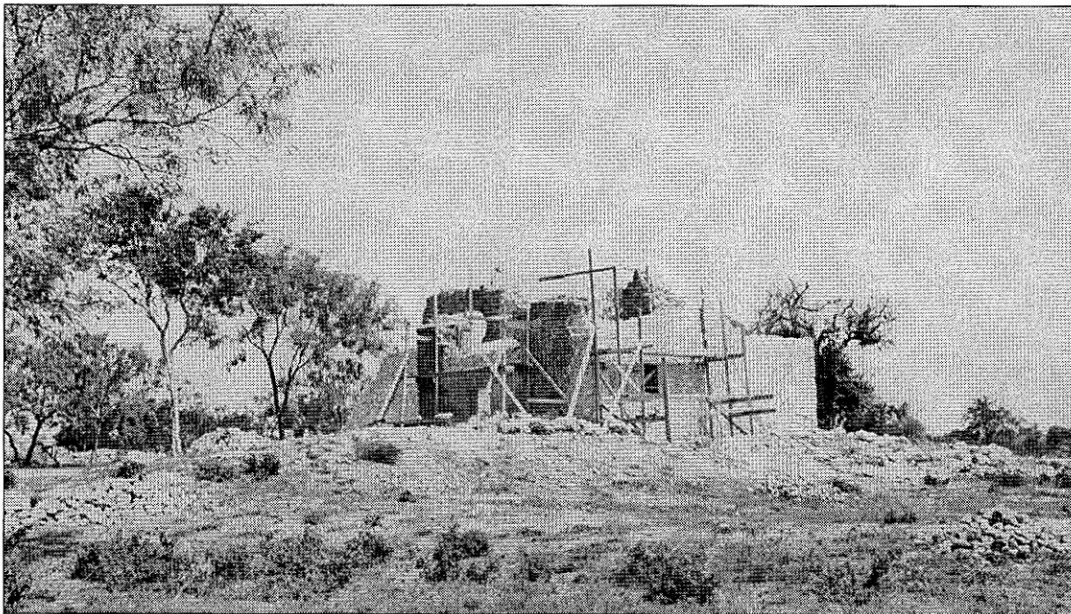


Figure A-51. Rear view of the ruins of Aranama Mission. In process of restoration, July 1933. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-20.

the north side. This could hardly have been an irrigation ditch, since it does not follow the contour of the land but runs in a direct line. Besides, Solis says no irrigation was practiced at this mission because the banks of the river were too steep (Solis Diary of 1767, page 16). Local tradition has it that this is an embankment or breastwork thrown up by Fannin's men. Some say it was once a brush fence. Along the embankment for some 100 yards from the mission yard are 28 anaque trees. In some spots the bank is almost leveled; for most of its length, however, it has a height of two to three feet, and is from six to nine feet wide at the base.

To the south of this ditch and the mission yard stretches a level, fertile strip of land nearly half a mile square. This presumably was the land cultivated by the Spaniards, with Indian labor. It extends from Aranama Mission to within 100 yards of the channel of San Antonio River.

(When speaking of the river being to the west and south of the mission, one must take into consideration the stream's meanderings.)

See rough sketch of mission and environs [Figure A-53].

Stones for erection of the building and fence are reported to have been secured from an outcrop of sandy limestone along

the bank of the river a few hundred yards N.W. of the mission. Several deep ravines at that place are said to have resulted from removing the soil and quarrying the underlying stone. One site shows evidence of such quarrying [Figures A-54 and A-55]. The mission Indians, of course, did the manual labor connected with such operations.

To the north of the yard, some 20 to 60 feet from the fence, is a depression several feet deep. Although this may be natural, there is at least a possibility that it was dug out either in quarrying stone for the building and fence, or to secure dirt for filling in low spots inside the yard.

Cross Section of the Midden

The first 30 feet at the outer (western) edge of the mound was composed of the same general type of deposit—consisting of brown loam, a small quantity of ash, many animal bones, a few shells (mostly freshwater), some fish bones, fragments of pottery—both Indian and European—pieces of copper and iron of various sizes, square nails rusted into fragments, small pieces of glass, flint chips with a few flint artifacts, a few trade beads, buttons, metal knife and scissor blades, and various other small articles, all intermixed with the soil and a large number of unburnt small limestone rocks.

Beginning about 30 feet inward from the west edge and some 20 feet inward from the south edge, a cross section showed the following:

1" to 9" – Animal bones, few mussel shells, flint chips, pottery of Indian and European manufacture, a few fragments of copper, iron, and other refuse, intermixed with brown loam.

9" to 16" – Ash streak, intermixed with lime plaster in small lumps and a few small stones. No camp refuse or artifacts.

16" to 33" – Brown midden deposit very similar to that from 1" to 9". Chief difference between the two strata is that the one from 16" to 33" contains more fragments of metal.

33" to 45" – Stratum composed of chunks of wall plaster or lime ranging in size from 1" x 1" x 1" to 3" x 6" x 2", intermixed with a certain amount of ash. Like the stratum from 9" to 16", this one contains no camp refuse or artifacts.

45" to 53" – Black midden deposit very similar to stratum from 16" to 33". Glazed pottery, copper and iron found at bottom in association with Indian pottery and flint work. Many animal bones.

54" – Undisturbed earth with limestone just beneath.

At a distance of 32 feet inward from western edge and 30 feet from southern edge, a cross section showed the following:

1" to 8" – Brown stratum consisting of the usual midden material of bones, shell, etc., together with Indian and European pottery, flintwork and metal fragments.

8" to 30" – Sterile stratum of wall plaster, lime and a few small stones intermixed. No camp refuse or artifacts of any kind.

30" to 48" – Stratum similar to that from 8" to 30", except that the one from 30" to 48" also contains a considerable quantity of charcoal and fewer lumps of plaster or lime [lime?]. No camp refuse or artifacts.



Figure A-52. A view in one of the rooms in Aranama Mission. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-21.

48" to 56" – Layer of black midden deposit, containing animal bones, fragments of Indian pottery and a few flint chips and artifacts. No glazed pottery or metal found at this place. (But in other places European articles on bottom.)

57" – Undisturbed earth and limestone.

The finding of no European articles in the bottom layer as indicated above is not considered significant, and is thought to be a mere coincidence, since such articles were repeatedly

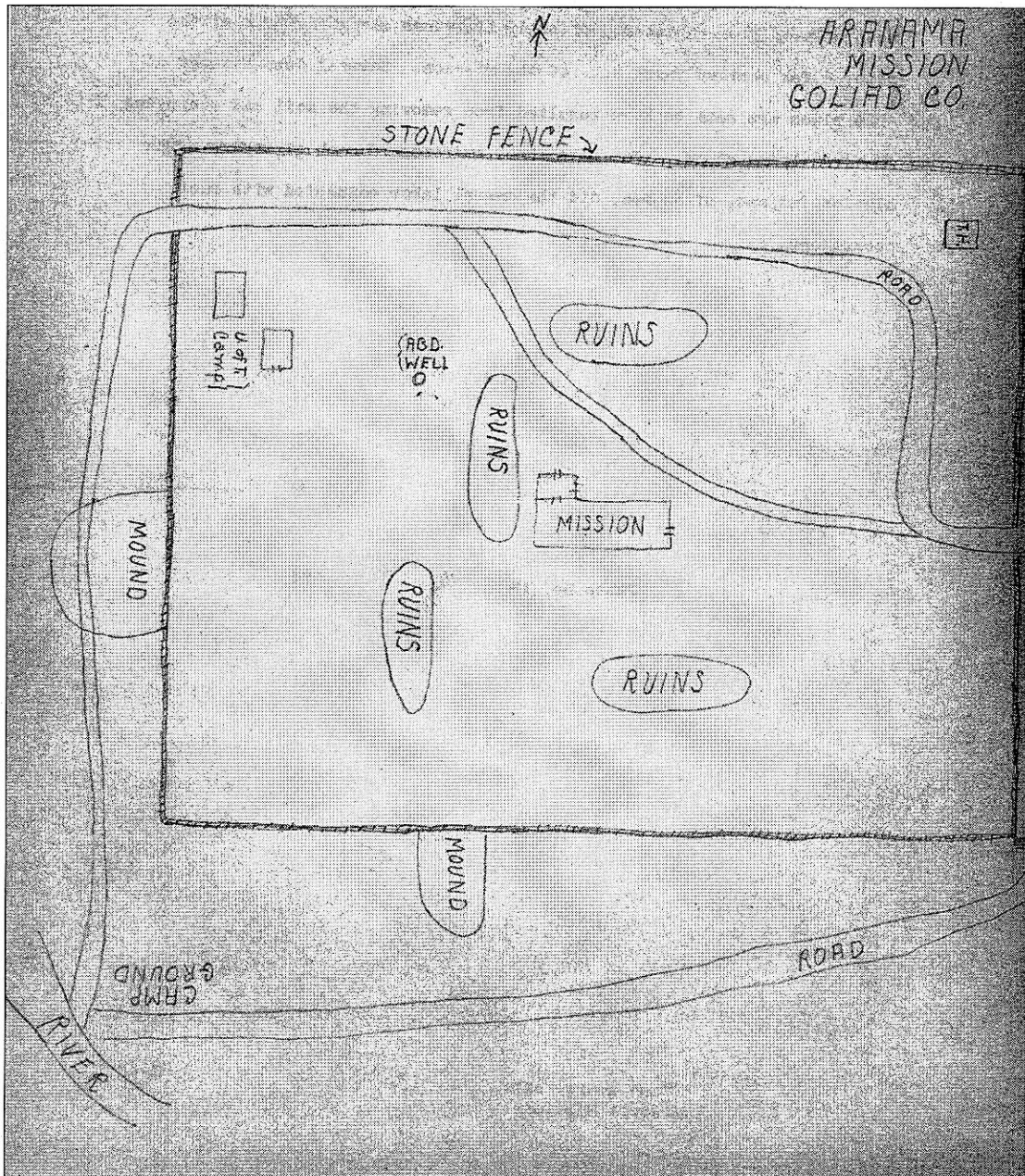


Figure A-53. Sketch of the mission and environs. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin (from original 1933 manuscript).

found in the bottom level at all parts of the mound—even within six feet of the spot discussed above.

With this single exception, the cross section last given is typical of the central part of the midden mound.

Toward the outer edges of the mound there were more bones and discarded articles and less ashes than in the central part. This suggests that the fires were in the center and scraps were tossed toward the edges of the gradually growing heap.

The presence of distinct layers containing no Indian camp refuse, but with their midden material beneath and above in each case, would suggest periodic replastering of the mission building with consequent dumping of large quantities of old plaster and refuse on the Indian dump heap. Then the Indians resumed their occupation of the slightly higher mound.

Continued Use of Bows and Arrows

The finding of projectile points at all depths in the midden deposit proves that their use was not entirely abandoned at any time in mission days [Figures A-56 and A-57].

In this connection in Solis' diary we read as follows: "The mission probably numbers some 300. Among these are about 65 warriors, 30 of whom are armed with guns and the other 35 with bows and arrows, spears and boomerangs" (Solis Diary of 1767, page 17).

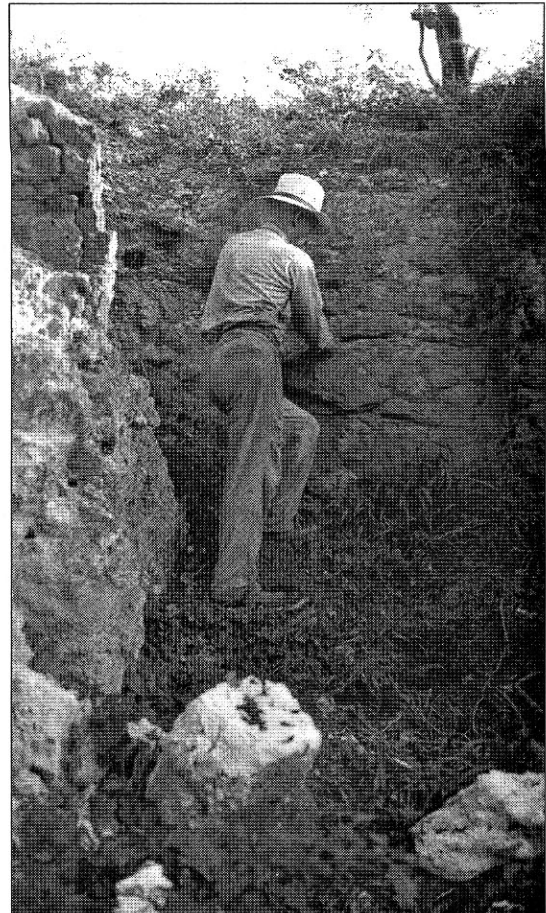


Figure A-54. Stone quarry site, Aranama Mission. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-22.



Figure A-55. Location where stone was quarried for Aranama Mission. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-23.

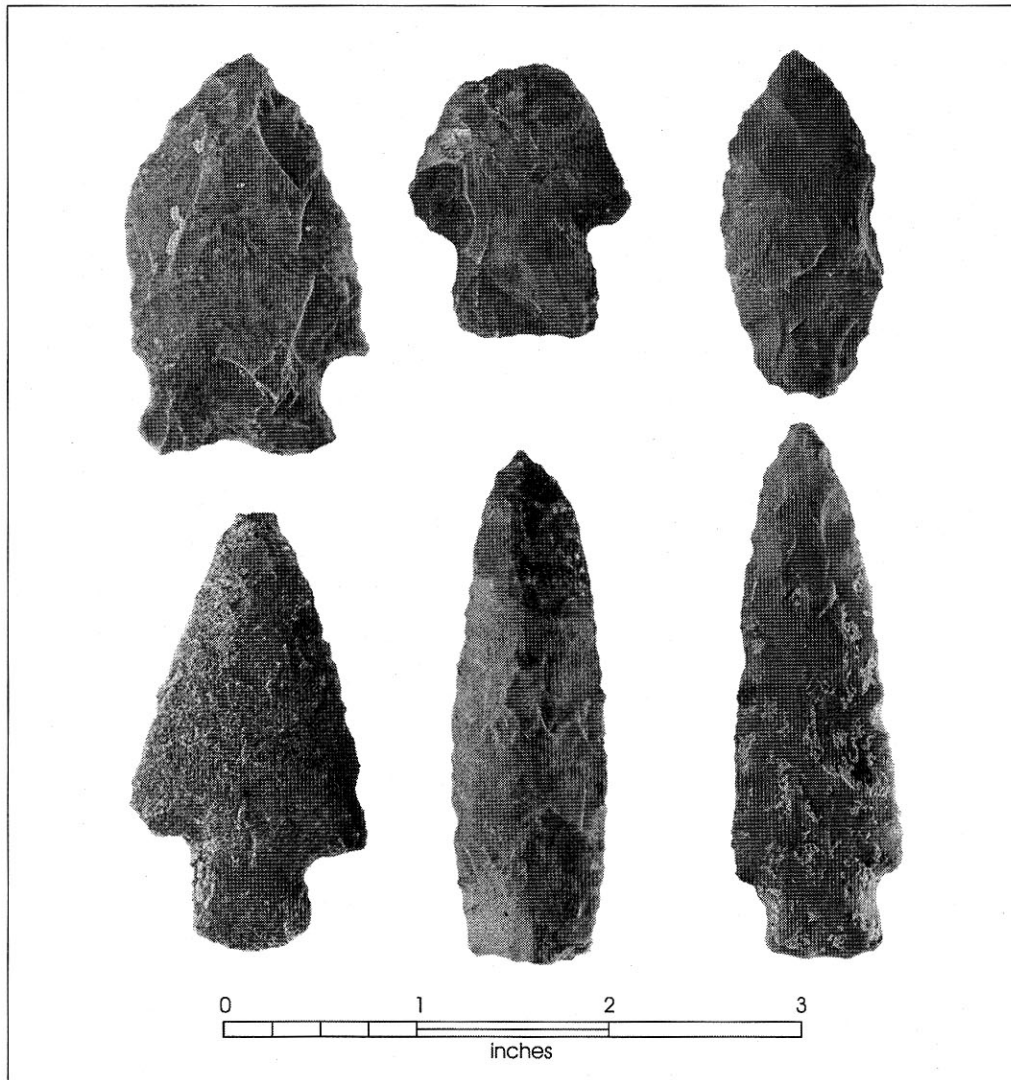


Figure A-56. Large, crudely made projectile points from various depths in the midden deposit. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-63.

Abandonment of Work

It was my plan to completely excavate the large midden mound; and then do a considerable amount of work in several small midden deposits at various points around the enclosing wall or fence and dig in the cemetery at Aranama Mission. But several days before the large midden mound was complete I received orders from Prof. J. E. Pearce, Head of the Anthropology Dept. and Director of Research in Texas

Archeology at Austin, to abandon the work at Goliad and move the crew at once to Polk County, Texas, to test certain sites in the latter region. I worked the crew one day more at Aranama Mission, after receiving orders to move; then abandoned work at the site, in accordance with orders, on August 14, 1933.

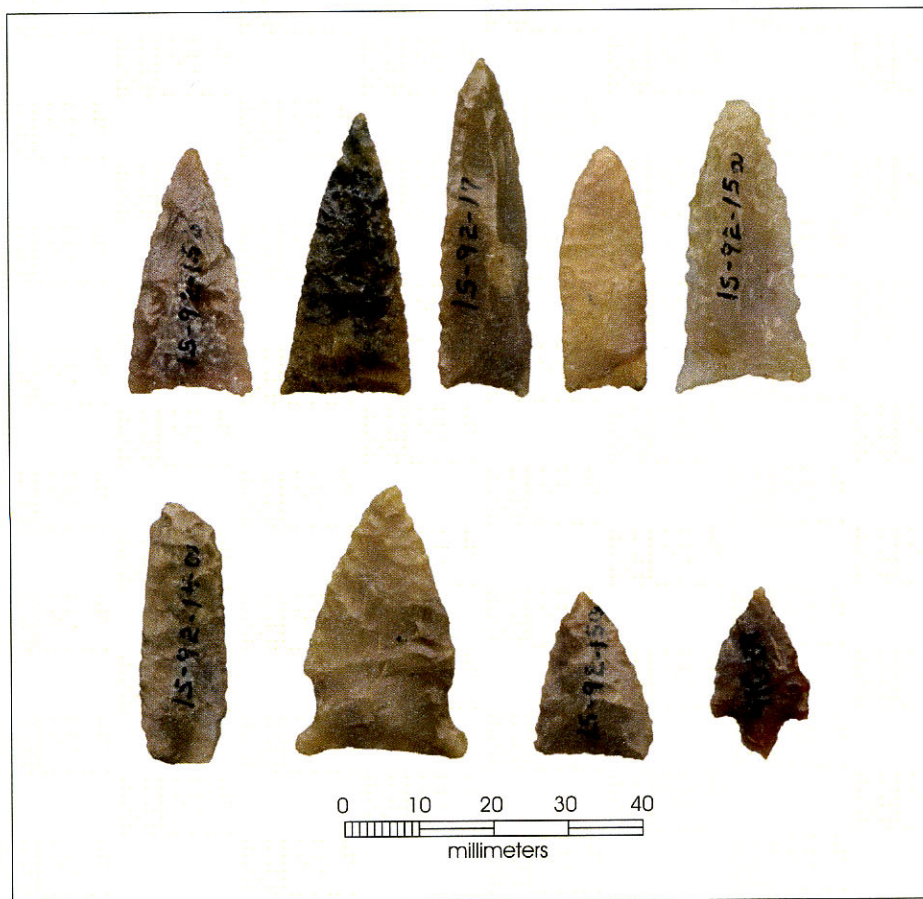


Figure A-57. Small flint arrow points from various depths in the midden deposit. A few of these are slightly suggestive of the small arrow points found in burials in Northeast Texas. But the Goliad specimens are not so thin and well-worked. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, cat. numbers, left to right, (top) 15-92-158(?), -13, -17, -16B, -15A, (bottom) -14A, -2, -15C, -12.

Summary of Finds

Table A-1 presents a summary of the artifacts recovered from the midden deposit at Aranama Mission.

Outstanding Features

Among the outstanding features at Aranama Mission are:

1. Evidence showing extent to which Indians abandoned use of certain aboriginal implements and weapons on securing better ones from Spaniards. There seems to be an open question as to whether

the continued use of stone, bone and shell artifacts was due to more than an inadequate supply of European articles or to slowness on the part of the Indians to abandon their old way of doing things.

2. The midden deposit itself bespeaks a following of the old manner of living.
3. Evidence showing extent to which the Indians mastered certain European arts, such as an attempt at glazing pottery and adoption of European shape of handles.

Table A-1. Summary of Finds

Earthenware Bowls		
Restorable	1	
Non-restorable	4	
Total	5	
Earthenware Ladle		1
Pipes		
Clay (broken)	7	
Stone	1	
Total	8	
Trade Pipe Stems (fragments)		3
Discs (not drilled)		
Pottery	19	
Stone	5	
Total	24	
Pot Knob of Clay, plain		1
Pottery Vessel Rest (part gone)		1
Potsherds Patched with Asphalt		4
Pot Handles		
Clay	57	
Copper	3	
Iron	1	
Total	61	
Pot Hooks, Copper		7
"Marbles" or Game Pieces		
Clay	1	
Stone	2	
Total	3	
Spearheads		
Flint	5	
Copper	1	
Total	6	
Arrowpoints		
Flint	28	
Copper	5	
Gar Scale	5	
Iron or Steel	4	
Glass	2	
Total	44	
Knives		
Flint	17	
Flint Flake	8	
Steel	9	
Petrified Wood	1	
Total	35	

Flint Scrapers		
Side	152	
End	104	
Total	256	
Bone Crushers		
Flint	26	
Petrified Wood	1	
Total	27	
Flint Spoke Shaves or "Drawing Knives"		5
Flint War Club Spikes		7
Axes		
Flint Fist (coup de poing)	8	
Flint (for hafting)	2	
Steel, small	1	
Copper(?), small	1	
Total	12	
Gunflints		12
Gouges		
Flint	5	
Copper	2	
Petrified Wood	1	
Iron	1	
Total	9	
Awls		
Bone	6	
Steel or Iron	3	
Square Nails (worked)	3	
Copper	2	
Flint	1	
Total	15	
Flaking Tools		
Deer Bone	9	
Deer Antler	4	
Total	13	
Abrading Stone, small		1
Hammerstones		3
Manos		
Indian	14	
Mexican	5	
Total	19	
Metates		
Indian	3	
Mexican	1	
Total	4	

Table A-1. continued...

Round Pebbles	6
Polished Pebbles (not round)	2
Ocher	
Red	15
Yellow	1
Total	16
Mussel Shell Implements	
Hoe (not pierced)	3
Spoon	1
Pierced Shell	1
Total	5
Metal Spoon	1
Large Square Nails	2
Scissors	
Complete	2
Fragmentary	7
Total	9
Brass Thimble	1
Metal Saw Fragment	1
Iron Staple, large	1
Iron Pins	3
Iron Band, hole at each end	1
Chain Fragments	2
Iron Hooks or Latches	3
Iron Bars with Hole at End	2
Brass Gun Decoration	1
Trigger Guard	1
Spurs	
Rowels	2
Fragmentary	1
Total	3
Brass Buckles	2
Iron Buckles	1
Iron Keys	3
Iron Lock	1
Watch Case (fragment)	1
Bottoms of Copper and Brass Vessels	2
Copper Container, tiny	1
Iron Pot Fragment	1
Brass Vessels, small	2
Brass Vessel Fragment	1
"Tear Cup" of Spanish Pottery	1
Sheet Copper	4

Copper Wire	1
Brass Celt or Gouge	1
Bottom of China Cup	1
Glass "Hat Pin" Knob	1
Brass Letter "H"	1
Jet Set	1
Brass Finger Rings	5
Brass Pendants and Breast Pins with Glass Sets	6
Glass Pendant	1
Crucifix	1
Brass Bugle Insignia	2
Metal Badge or Medal	1
Lead Medallion bearing coat of arms	1
Jew's Harp	1
Strips of Metal Cloth	4
Silver Coin	1
Leather Boot Heel	1
Beads	
Glass	387
Bone	9
Shell	8
Total	404
Buttons	
Brass	24
Gold Plated	3
Copper	2
Lead	2
Pearl	1
Porcelain	1
Total	33
Wall Plaster (fragments), painted red	40
Lumps of Gypsum	12
Fragments of Mica	2
Lump of Sulphur, small	1
Fragment of Slate	1
Grand Total	1189

Recapitulation	
European Articles	611
Articles of Indian Origin	578
Total	1189

4. Illustration of Indians' fondness for beads and cheap jewelry, as indicated by such European articles in midden.
5. Abandonment (by force perhaps) of old manner of burial in camp refuse.
6. Decadence of their native arts, even when they continued to practice them.
7. Evidence of work Indians were forced to do, quarrying stone, etc.

[Signed *A. T. Jackson* at bottom of page.]