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ARCHAEOLOGY at the Huebner-Onion Homestead

Results of Northwest Vista College Student Research



This is the inaugural volume of research reports written by students in Archaeology (ANT 2302, Section 003) at Northwest Vista College. The students conducted independent field projects based on the local archaeological site, the Huebner-Onion Homestead of Leon Valley, Texas. The instructions provided to the students for their field projects are detailed in the Preface. The reports included in this publication were prepared during the Spring 2014 semester and edited by Professor Leah McCurdy thereafter.

The research described herein could not have been conducted without the generous help and support of the Leon Valley Historical Society. We would specifically like to acknowledge the generosity of Mr. Darby Riley and Mrs. Carol Poss.

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PREFACE

By Leah McCurdy

I so am proud of my students and the research they conducted. For many of them, this was their first ever research project. Some of them lack confidence in their writing skills. Some of them lack confidence in their scientific abilities and aptitudes. Some of them struggle with procrastination (as many of us do). Despite this, all of them conducted independent archaeological research, produced a report of their work, and made a presentation to the class at the end of our semester with success.

At the beginning of the semester, the students were provided with "Project Guidelines" to guide them through the process of archaeological research. They were given the opportunity to choose a research topic of interest after first visiting the Huebner-Onion Homestead early in the semester. They pursued this topic by formulating a research question, conducting a literature review, collecting relevant data, analyzing that data, developing interpretations, and presenting conclusions about their questions. Each student pursued, read, and incorporated scholarly references into their reports. Each student participated in the sometimes unnerving task of presenting interpretations about archaeological data. The interpretations in these reports are the students' own. The students were also asked to reflect on their experience and incorporate an explicit reflection into their report.

As the students' professor at Northwest Vista College, I provided feedback on drafts of their reports throughout the semester. I have edited the contributions herein with the same perspective as an educator and with the hope that these reports will also be read by interested members of the public. In the following pages, the reports are grouped by similarity of topic wherever possible.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of Frederic Buckholdt, Matthew Cassiano, Priscilla Cooke, and Nathan Inman. They also conducted research during the semester as part of our archaeology class. Their work was not able to be included in this volume.

Future volumes will present additional student research based on the Huebner-Onion Homestead in upcoming semesters. We look forward to sharing this research with the members of the Leon Valley Historical Society and the wider Leon Valley community. We also hope our partnership can grow to expand archaeological investigations at the Huebner-Onion Homestead.

For those new to the Huebner-Onion Homestead and its history, the Friends of Leon Valley Public Library and the Leon Valley Historical Society published *Images of America: Leon Valley* in 2011 wherein they provide great detail on the homestead in the chapter entitled "Saving a Stagecoach Stop." I encourage any newcomer to first take stock of the homestead's history before exploring our archaeological reports.

STUDENT REPORTS

HUEBNER-ONION HOMESTEAD CREEK: AN INVESTIGATION OF NATURAL CHANGES

By Taylor Kiesling

Introduction

This research concerns the natural transformations of the creek that runs through the Huebner-Onion Homestead (HOH) and Natural Area. Natural transformations are recognized by archaeologists as changes to the archaeological record resulting from natural processes and circumstances of environment. My research questions are: how has the HOH landscape changed naturally and what indications are there with respect to the creek? For my data collection, I conducted a surface survey on foot and through satellite imagery. Here I present data and analysis of the cause of the natural transformations identified through survey.

Literature Review

Before understanding the natural transformations, one must understand the several species of flora and the formation of a major feature such as a creek. In Landers (1987), I learned that the area is a mixture of Blackland and Grand Prairie, Rio Grande Plains, and finally Edwards Plateau and Central Basin vegetation regions. It is understood that the Huebner family owned many horses (Friends 2011), therefore we should expect to find many short grasses such as buffalo grass common to areas used for grazing (Landers 1987). Furthermore, a main feature of the homestead is the creek that runs behind the main homestead buildings (Figure 1). To investigate changes in the creek bed, we must understand that the construction of Bandera Road and the residential areas surrounding the homestead could have caused erosion, aggradations, and widening of the channel (Hendrick et. al 2009). Thus, we can then examine the adaptive plant life resulting from



Figure 1: Satellite image of main buildings and creek

the change in stream stability, such as irregular sediment flow (Hendrick et. al 2009). With this information, I can identify what vegetation at HOH, possibly identify irregular growth patterns due to recent construction, and also the natural impacts that resulted from disuse as a grazing pasture.

Data Collection

I conducted a surface survey of the creek running behind the Huebner-Onion Homestead and the Natural Area as well as the surrounding landscape features (Figure 1). The survey was mostly on foot and included walking in the creek itself. The survey was fairly easy to conduct as most of the creek was dry during investigation. This made it easier to inspect the bottom of the creek and its full stratigraphy on the banks. Oftentimes, I found that a higher vantage point on the creek was also helpful. Most data collected was in picture and note form.

Data Analysis

I observed several areas where the banks of the creek were sandy, which is indicative of a flood plain. Also along the bank, many of the trees are larger than the trees farther from the creek. I also found several areas of exposed bedrock often in areas where the creek is deeper. Also, close to the main homestead buildings, there is an area with a few very small "islands" that the creek splits around and then rejoins on the other side.



Figure 2: Possible sinkholes associated with creek

Furthermore, where the creek rejoins, the area is largely flat and not nearly as deep as eastern parts of the creek. Farthest from the main buildings, both east and northwest, there are several areas of disturbed surface soil that resemble sinkholes, along with several small whirlpool like holes (Figure 2). All along the creek there is visible stratigraphy, often with five or more individual strata. However, the northwestern creek bed upstream from the "islands" section looks similar to the sinkhole areas in that it has only one easily identifiable stratum.

I processed my data by referencing the appearance of other similar creeks and the information provided in the Hendricks et al (2009) case study on altered stream channels. From these, I can further understand how the creek functions when it is full and what it may have looked like in the past. I recognized a pattern that the trees bordering the creek and most of the natural area were larger than inland ones, indicating that the bordering trees are older and most likely existed before the pasture started to become full of shrubbery and tall grasses. The "islands" in the creek directly behind the main homestead buildings are consistent with areas in other creeks where rapids are located. Also, the area to the west of the assumed rapids that is extremely shallow and mostly flat may be due to the construction of a large commercial hotel that presides on one bank. Sinkholes are also a very possible explanation for the holes towards the east and northwest of the main homestead buildings. Sinkholes are caused by acidic rain. With the construction of an

extremely busy road and city around the creek, high levels of acidic rain are not unlikely. Acidic rain often causes segments of surface soils to collapse as sink holes. This is a significant natural transformation that can disturb the archaeological record.

Interpretations and Conclusions

It is known that the current Natural Area is only a portion of the original property owned by the Huebner family for pasturing horses (Friends 2011), so it can be assumed that the smaller trees and long grasses did not exist or were maintained when the land was initially in use. This is confirmed by other mature trees bordering sections of the Natural Area that may have been original boundaries. The older trees bordering the natural area can also be indicative of a natural “fence”, indicating the land that was owned by the household.



Figure 3: Dry creek bed

Also, it can be inferred that the flat area of the creek behind the rapids was originally smaller, acting as a slower flowing section, but widened after construction of and off of Bandera Road. This can be understood as stream widening, as the rest of the creek is not as wide as and much deeper than this flat area. Sudden flooding or redirecting of water flow (Figure 3) most often widens a creek and does little to deepen it, as Hendricks et al. (2009) explains. The “island” area in the creek that would produce rapids with sufficient water was likely significant to the establishment of the homestead. The main structures may have been built directly in front of this strong water flow as the most effective and safe location on the creek to collect potable water. Future investigations of the creek and its stratigraphy could provide evidence as to when this “islands” area formed.

The changes occurring to the creek and Natural Area are split between having either wholly natural changes, or cultural changes that eventually lead to natural impacts. The development of small islands from rapids, tall grass, small trees, and exposed bedrock are all natural changes that occurred due to succession

of plants or erosion and weathering over a long period of time. Alternatively, the sinkholes and the wider, flatter part of the creek were caused by natural reactions to cultural change such as development of land and general pollution. If I am able to continue this research in the future and acquire access to expertise and equipment, I would test the whirlpools or sinkholes to identify whether they were caused by acidic rain. I would also focus attention to the age of the creek and any events visible through its stratigraphy. Connecting these geological events to cultural occupations at the site would allow us to expand our understanding of the homestead's ancient inhabitants.

Reflections

My experience with this research was relatively easy and enjoyable. I learned the basics of survey and how to connect what I see to what I have learned either in class or from my literature review. The part I enjoyed the most was also the survey, because I felt like I was actually accomplishing something rather than just reading and typing thoughts and answers. If I had the chance to collect more data, I would involve a more scientific approach. I would take samples of the stratigraphy in the creek and analyze them to track events in the creek's lifetime, and see how the construction changed it. What I learned from this in general is that the things you observe in everyday life have a reason and a purpose. Whatever I see I could most likely research and understand the why behind it, and therefore come to a more complete understanding of the processes that impact the world around me.

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ARCHITECTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS: THE COLLAPSE OF THE BEHEMOTH

By Adrian Lopez

Research Question

A group of masons constructed a sound structure known as the main house of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. For this they meticulously calculated where each capstone was to be placed, every stone to be laid, and every inch covered with mortar. Although these competent masons built a structurally sound house to counter the harsh effects of weather, they overlooked some things. They overlooked the disrespect of recent generations and the effects of time. Smoke from fires scars the trusses of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Graffiti dyes and erodes the original interiors. Carving literally chips away at the exterior walls ruining the façade. Wild insects and animals nest within the cracks of the walls. At a quick glance one can see the wear and tear on the house, but what is the damage? What has it left behind? This paper will describe the physical changes of the Huebner-Onion Homestead architecture due to factors such as time, nature, and human interaction and thus provide information about both natural and cultural transformations. Data will be collected through an analytical survey to observe specific impacts and determine causes.

Literature Review

I consulted sources relevant to the preservation and deterioration of historic materials. Wood is a very malleable substance and with age it begins to deteriorate at a faster rate than other materials, such as stone. It can deteriorate for multiple reasons, but the main reason would be the lack of preserving chemicals. Darrell D. Nicholas (1973) discusses that if wood is to be preserved, it needs to be below a moisture level of 20% in relation to the wood structure and size. He declares that wooden structures that are not sprayed or placed structurally in water usually have a moisture level ranging from 8 to 15% due to water vapor in the air.

Degradation resulting from burning is caused by the conversion of wooden material into carbon. Nicholas (1973) mentions that there are three reasons why wood can be affected by fire. First, wood can be heated to a decomposition point. Second, wood can decompose into flammable gases. Lastly, flames are propagated by flammable gasses. Each of these circumstances causes damage to wood.

Siegfried (2011) indicates that a good deal of damage to historic masonry buildings can be understood as “mechanical”. This does not refer to damage caused by physical interaction. It is damage that is caused when an object cannot withstand any more stress beyond its resistance level. There is much evidence of mechanical damage in the main house of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. I will use this information to make interpretations about both natural and cultural transformations of this structure.

Data Collection

As a form of archaeological data collection, a survey of the main house and its immediate surroundings was conducted. I documented the transformations to the original building fabric. I attempted to pinpoint the reasons for vandalism in particular and understand the consequences of this damage. Survey of the inside and outside of the house indicated many physical changes to its architecture. The original two-story wooden porch was removed during historic preservation procedures. Upon stepping into the house, one can see that the floorboards are uneven. This would suggest a physical change due to ground movement and settlement that may have shifted the sediments underneath pushing some layers up or down creating an uneven effect underneath the floorboards. Not only does this supposed shift cause unevenness, but overtime wood decays and becomes flimsy. A large amount of pressure placed in a random spot, in addition to weight on top of a board, could end up cracking or displacing a board. Presently, due to mothballing, there are locked doors and boarded windows that most likely were built to keep humans out, but also succeeded in removing the ability of animals to enter more easily. However there is still evidence of animals trying to make a home in the structure. Photographs have shown a family of vultures residing in the household as well as a raccoon trap within a back room that showed signs of use. There is also graffiti mostly in the living room area next to the fireplace (Figures 1 and 2) and in an access way (Figure 3). None of it seems to be gang related, so we can rule out territory marking. However, there are special symbols relating to a group that could connect to the fire damage seen very prominently in the burned beams of the first floor ceiling as well (Figure 4).

Data Analysis

Not all damage to the main house has been caused by vandalism. Modern preservation has also resulted in changes to the main house. In 2001, the entire front porch was removed because it was beginning to break off from the masonry facade. The second story porch showed massive signs of degradation and decay as described by Siegfried (2011). Moisture build-up in the wooden elements of the main house’s original front porch has resulted in transformations. There is a creek (currently dry) in extremely close proximity to the main house. This could suggest that at one point there was more water vapor in the air which could have speed up the decay of the porch. With the weight of itself bearing down on the structure, lack of support columns, and strong winds, the porch began to fail, and thus became a hazard. It was removed carefully by preservation specialists. What remains are the beams that supported the flooring of the porch from underneath and that tie into the second floor interior structural elements. These wooden pieces were still embedded within the wall and are better off not to be removed in fear that the process will cause more damage to the structure. The cultural transformation of removal was a reaction to the natural transformations that affected the porch’s wooden elements.

I also learned from the representatives of the Leon Valley Historical Society (LVHS) that the walls of the building were refurbished with modern cement. They suffered for a good deal of mechanical damage (as discussed by Siegfried 2011). There are signs of chipping of the plaster which can be seen above doorways, windows, or general arches. The original cement or adhesive was a substance that was a mixture

of limestone chippings, limestone dust, and creek mud. Refurbishing of the mortar has resulted in obscuring the "aging line", which separated the second story (installed sometime in the 1930's) and the original first story. Visually this "aging line" was caused by sun bleaching and was a visual representation of the architectural phasing. There is a good deal of original material still intact. Damage from illicit activities is all the more impactful because it affects the original masonry.

The issues of graffiti and fire damage will be addressed simultaneously. At first, the graffiti and fire damage seem to have no correlation, but evidence suggests that satanic rituals were enacted within the



Figure 1: Graffiti in HOH living room likely representing "Eye in pyramid" (symbolic of Satan achieving the status of God)



Figure 2: Graffiti in HOH living room. Interpretation of writing: "May Bale..ws (probably: Baphomet) have pity on those who coal from Thiwe." Showing efforts to remove spray paint from wall plaster.



Figure 3: Pentagrams (symbols representing the goat demon baphomet) graffiti near living room.



Figure 4: Burnt beams of first floor ceiling in living room.

house that involved both types of destruction. Satanic rituals often involve fire, as described by an online source dedicated to Satanism and occultism. Two distinct satanic rituals involve fire: 1) the ceremonial use of lights as a ritual to call upon a deity; 2) a sacrifice in which an object is placed on top of a portal and then ignited as a form of transmission to appease or summon a deity. For the ceremonial use of lights, several black candles are placed around a portal. A portal is a physical object or symbol that is believed to allow spirits to enter the human world. The portal can be a literal doorway, a symbol of summoning, or even a fireplace. Symbolic ritual acts are performed as part of this ceremony of lights. The house has a fireplace, and the two symbols, shown above in the photographs (see Figures 1 and 2), were placed beside it. The fireplace is currently boarded up. According to representatives of the LVHS, the source of the fire started and then expanded from the fireplace. This evidence suggests that the graffiti and fire could be linked to recent illicit ritual use of the main house.

Conclusion

It appears that the main house changed drastically due to its location and the physical interaction of humans. The proximity of the creek could have increased the decay of the wooden structure based on moisture content. The porch's deterioration, to the point of being hazardous to visitors, made officials remove the structure all together, permanently changing the architecture of the building.

It also seems like the patterns of satanic imagery as well as the location of burning could suggest that during a ceremonial use of lights, the participants of the ritual may have intentionally or accidentally committed arson. This cultural transformation no doubt impacted the building greatly but is also evidence of reuse (albeit illicit) of the structure that leaves archaeological traces. To conclude the architecture of the main house at the Huebner-Onion Homestead drastically changed due to modern ritualistic practice, natural decay, and the input of those who wanted to preserve. In the future, it would be instructive to investigate behind the boarded fireplace to better understand the cause of the fire.

Reflection

The moment I suspected that the main house at the Huebner-Onion Homestead could have been transformed by not just vandals, or those who wished to preserve the building, but another culture altogether it became instantly more exciting. I also learned about the components of degradation. If I could have done something differently, it would be to find more information on satanic rituals. I would have also tried to understand more about the intentions behind the carvings. I can use what I learned in writing this paper in many humanities classes and in discussions of religious ritual.

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT THE HUEBNER-ONION HOMESTEAD

By Vincente Masga

Introduction to Project and Research Questions

I conducted an archival survey to collect data on the historic preservation efforts at the Huebner-Onion Homestead (HOH). My research question is: have the historic preservation efforts at HOH been successful? What could be done in the future? In order to answer these questions, I collected information and data from the Leon Valley Historical Society (LVHS) through archival research and interviews. Based on the data I collected on HOH, they are currently restoring the main two-story living structure (Figure 1). I conclude that the HOH preservation effort to raise money for a Master Plan and Site Assessment has been successful. Two architect firms (Ford, Powell and Carson and Mainstreet) agreed to make the



Figure 1: Main house of Huebner-Onion Homestead

plan for preservation and future restoration. These plans are ready to be implemented as additional funding becomes available.

Literature Review

I learned about what has been done to the homestead and some materials used to preserve the buildings. According to LVHS (2008), some preservation efforts conducted at the site have been done by public volunteers and the Leon Valley Historical Society members. Some noticeable preservation efforts include mothballing the building and the placement of wooden window covers to prevent vandals from destroying the building. Also, they have removed the floor boards in preparation for replacement. LVHS's goal is to provide education to the community through learning experiences and they are dedicated to researching, documenting and preserving the historic site including not just the buildings but the natural area surrounding the homestead architecture. Recent preservation efforts at the site included a large amount of debris removal, mowed trails marked with signage around the homestead, and trails to Mr. Joseph Huebner's gravesite. LVHS (2008) also mentions that they are collaborating with several local agencies to preserve the structures and the creek that flows through the property. Future planned activities include educating the public with tours and working with SAWS to improve the degraded Huebner Creek. Collaborations with UTSA and South Texas Archeological Association will identify artifacts and document plants and animals.

I also consulted the historic preservation master plan created by Ford, Powell & Carson (FPC)(2013). I discovered that the architects had to analyze the structural integrity of the building to determine the appropriate method for stabilization. Some immediate improvements made to the main building include repointing the exterior masonry, removal of old deteriorating wood, and application of some new masonry around the buildings. When FPC (2013) viewed the site, they made some suggestions for further restoration efforts such as replacing and painting the interior plaster, upgrading the interior and exterior lighting, and rebuilding the exterior second story balcony that was removed due to deterioration and instability.

Conducting my literature review helped me understand the scope of work, the amount of time, effort, money and resources it would take to restore and preserve this site. It helped me to know what supplies and materials were used on the buildings and that educating the public on the history of this place will attract more volunteers to help with the project. Most work done at the HOH involved a good deal of volunteer work and community programs to educate future generations about archaeology and local history.

Data Collection

My data collection method involved research of past, present, and future preservation and restoration efforts for the HOH. It includes the details of the Ford, Powell, Carson (2013) master plan and the Leon Valley Historical Societies' archives. Upon collecting data from the HOH master plan, I was able to document the preservation resources, efforts, and outlook of the project. There are two distinct and equally important time periods that the LVHS is trying to restore: the Huebner era (c.1858-c.1900) and the Onion family era (1930-1983). The limestone-block house and other buildings within the main homestead area have been overseen and preserved by the LVHS since 2000. In the master plan for the restoration efforts, they focus mainly on the main house (see Figure 1), restoring the second floor porch, and completing the interior of the building. When it came to collecting data on what preservation efforts have already been done, it was quite small in the grander scale of work that needs to be done to restore and preserve the HOH.

One of my biggest challenges was acquiring the cost analysis and figures associated with the project. LVHS welcomes the community to get involved in preserving this historical site so most of the work done has been carried out by volunteers. This volunteerism greatly reduces the cost of this project and promotes community involvement.

Data Analysis

According to the FPC (2103) master plan, they are focused on a 3 phase approach to preserving the homestead. They recommended that the first phase be fixing the interior of the main house back to safe conditions to include the floors, lights, porch, ceilings, etc. This will give the main house a stable foundation on which they can build to complete more involved restorations as a potential museum space. Some visible preservation efforts made early in the process were the mothballing of the house, removal of old deteriorating wood, and removal of old floorboards as well as ceilings. Upon combining all of my data I noticed a trend that all the work focuses on the main house first. For the plan to preserve the house as a setting depicting life of the homestead, it is crucial that the building be restored back to its earlier days. Future work can focus on the surrounding buildings to improve the broader area.

Interpretations & Conclusions

Through my data analysis, I was able to infer that the main house's scope of work is extremely costly and that it will take a vast amount of community support to restore and preserve this site. It appears that the master plan is very detailed in the steps to restore the homestead and preserve it. I was able to conclude through my data and field experience at the HOH that the community volunteerism has greatly helped in the restoration efforts and greatly reduced the labor cost of this project. Looking at the data I collected I was able to answer my research question, concluding that the preservation efforts that have been done to the main house are successful as an initial phase in a longer process. Further, what can be done in the future is detailed in the FPC#89800 master plan. What I would like to research further is the progress of the restoration efforts on the main building and the materials used to rebuild the homestead as new phases of the plan are implemented.

Reflection

After gathering all my data, I learned that conducting archaeological research is an extensive process. I enjoyed the whole process of gathering data to support my information about the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Some things I would do different would be applying course content such as etic/emic perspectives and diachronic/synchronic research. I would try to gather more current information and sources related to this project. What I have learned in this class and would apply to my other classes would be looking at a topic from different points of view.

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HUEBNER-ONION ARCHIVES AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESTORATION

By Jenna Anderson

Introduction

I conducted research on the archives available on the Huebner Onion Homestead (HOH), specifically on the archives regarding restoration of the main structure. To facilitate my research, I visited the Leon Valley Library to gain access to the archive room. My research questions are: How is the restoration of archaeological structures conducted, what people/ professions are involved, and how does this process directly apply to the HOH itself? From my research, I was able to compile the data into a timeline and list of people and professions mentioned in the archives. This allowed me to take a step back, and see both the general process of historical restoration as well as specific measures taken for the HOH. Much of this data was unexpected and widened my view regarding archaeological restoration.

Literature Review

While researching through the archives related to the HOH, I came across some newspaper articles (*Historical Society get Onion House Deed*, by Raymond V. Wheland, and *Sparing the Soul of the Onion House*, by Sonja Garza) which were able to supply background information regarding the origins and acquisition of the homestead by the Leon Valley Historical Society (LVHS). Established in 1862 by Austrian Immigrant, Joseph Huebner, the main building at HOH is a two story limestone structure built adjacent to a stacked stone barn and kitchen house. The Huebner family owned the property until the 1930's when Judge Joseph Onion bought the property. When Harriet Onion, the last surviving owner of the property, passed away the house was vacated. It landed in the hands of Intown Suites (now located in the lot adjacent to the historic site) who planned on demolishing it until it was sold to the LVHS in 2001 (Garza 2001).

Upon its procurement, the LVHS moved to have the HOH declared a historical landmark (Whelan 2001). Plans were laid to restore the structure to its original state and create a museum to teach people about local and Texas history. The background information provided in these articles is crucial in being able to analyze the restoration work conducted at the homestead.

Data Collection

For my data collection process, I visited the Leon Valley Public Library's archive room. In addition to several news articles discussed above, I was able to access some personal accounts of the plans and measures needed to begin the process of restoration. One email in particular, sent to Tim Baisdon from 3D/I, details the original assessment of the HOH. According to this email, the building was structurally unsafe when first obtained in 2001. The first measure to be taken was called "mothballing." For the HOH, mothballing includes measures like removing infested or rotting wood, stabilizing the second floor, removing all fallen plaster from interior walls, providing new roofing for the house, and installing smoke detectors. After mothballing is complete, and the building is declared secure, the next step is historic restoration. One challenge I had with my archival research was that much of the information available in the archive room was exclusive to the Library and unavailable through other resources. Documentation proved to be critical for this portion of my research.

Data Analysis

Below I have compiled all my documented data in chronological order to better understand the building's historical significance and changes over time. The timeline (also see Anonymous 2012) below provides a fuller picture of the process by which historical preservation is done and how it relates to the history of the homestead.

Restoration Timeline

1862	Austrian immigrant, Joseph Huebner builds main structure of HOH.
1882	Huebner dies; other occupants reside in the house until 1930.
1930	Judge John Onion buys Homestead.
1983	HOH is vacated with Harriet Onion's death.
1983-1999	Vandalism and fires damage the property between time of Harriet Onion's death and LVHS acquisition.
1999	LVHS begins pursuit of HOH when Intown Suites threatens demolition.
2001	LVHS buys Homestead and lays plans for restoration and museum development
2001- Present	Fundraising takes place.
2001- Present	Mothballing process
2005	LVHS builds two walking trails adjacent to the structure.
2008	HOH receives its Historical Marker.

In addition to creating a timeline to better understand the reconstruction process, I took note of the professions mentioned in the archives related to the project. I was able to find a few patterns that could be applied to the archaeological restoration process in general. Many of the archives I used to conduct

research were in fact correspondences between members of the LVHS and collaborating parties. From the data I was able to accumulate, the people working on the HOH restoration process include but are not limited to:

- LVHS members
- Private Contractors
- Electricians and Plumbers
- Archaeologists
- Architects
- Historians
- San Antonio Water System members
- Landscapers

As evidenced above, the restoration process clearly requires a wide range of participation from people of all different professions in order to make the structure both stable and authentic. Restoration also involves many volunteers in addition to professionals.

Conclusion

I set out to investigate the restoration of archaeological structures, what people/ professions are involved, and how the process directly applies to the HOH itself. After archival research, I was able to find a general process reflected in the measures so far taken with the HOH. This process began with private contractors, architects, archaeologists, and historians coming together to determine the changes necessary to make the HOH stable, and eventually restore it to its original state as much as possible. After fundraising and mothballing is completed, the LVHS plans to recreate the original state of the house to establish an educational landmark and museum for Texas history. Overall, archaeological restoration is much more complex than I expected. For example, while it may be common sense to expect that an old building must be stabilized before restoration can take place, I was unaware of how many people can be involved in the process to ensure proper treatment with the different construction techniques over time and the effect of the environment on certain materials.

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SCALE MAP OF THE JOSEPH HUEBNER GRAVESITE

By Haley Grendel

Introduction to Project and Research Questions

Joseph Huebner, an Austrian immigrant, lived between San Antonio and Bandera on property now known as the Huebner Onion Homestead (HOH), until his death in 1882 (Friends 2011). His gravesite sits just off of one of the beautiful nature trails within the natural area adjacent to the HOH. Recently, a Boy Scout troop restored the gravesite and inserted a fence to prevent further vandalism. My research questions concern these and previous changes to the gravesite. What types of transformations have occurred at this gravesite? Are they beneficial to future research? The term transformation in archaeology refers to changes or impacts on the archaeological record and remains caused by natural and/or human agents/actions. To address my questions and investigate archaeological transformations, I conducted a ground survey and collected measurements of the restored gravesite to create a scale map. Along with helping to answer the present questions, this map will be useful to future researchers of this gravesite and the caretakers of HOH.

Literature Review

I consulted two academic sources as background to help answer my research questions. My first source helped me understand that ground survey is one of the most important methods for collecting archaeological data. Ground survey is an excellent source of data to reference for long-term research. Rowland (2007) describes how Kom el-Ahma, an archaeological site in Egypt, was established in the Delta Survey Database from an early archaeologist's (Daressy) survey notes from 1912. With Rowland (2007) able to reference notes from Daressy, she can know with certainty that ceramic fragments dating to Late Romans Times found upon the surface were not there 95 years ago. Previously collected data helps new scholars to build upon research and to understand transformations at a future date. Within my

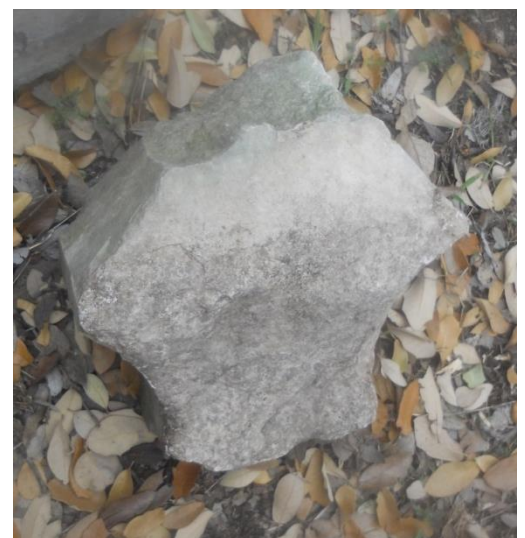


Figure 1: Possible finial not replaced during restorations.

second source, I learned that ground survey is typically used along with other methods of data collection, such as Geographic Information Systems, to create properly scaled maps of archaeological remains (Fox et al 2000). For Fox et al's (2000) particular mapping project, both ground survey and aerial photos were important to create a "canopy gap map." The use of color-infrared aerial photos worked as a second map for an accuracy comparison of the ground survey (Fox et al 2000). Having both maps allowed them to eliminate errors by noting all verified gaps, and locate others that were missed by both methods (Fox et al 2000). In conclusion to my literature review, I understand that it is likely I will have to utilize another form of data collection to create an accurate scale map of the Joseph Huebner Gravesite. It is helpful to know that the accuracy of different forms of data collection can complement each other.

Data Collection

To understand what types of transformations have occurred at the gravesite, I conducted a measured survey. There are three principal components of the gravesite today: a central monument (or obelisk), a stone wall surrounding the monument, and a modern chain-link fence enclosing the stone wall. I collected and recorded measurements from all three components to create a map. On site, I created two rough drawings: one with measurements and one sketch with the placement of scattered stones. I also took a variety of photographs as a point of reference. During the measured survey, I also noted observations about the gravesite. Upon entrance to the area, I noticed there were stones scattered throughout, and I questioned their relevance to the in situ stones. Within the scattered stones, two of them were obviously worked by a mason, while one was more complete than the other (Figure 1). I noted that the chain-link fence was not in direct alignment with the stone wall. While taking measurements, I noticed that the stone wall entrance was missing a finial, as well as the top of the monument (see Figure 3). Further, the top layer of stone in the wall surrounding the central monument looks much older than the middle layers.

Data Analysis

I combined the preliminary map containing measurements with the sketch map containing the placement of the stones to create a comprehensive scale map of the Joseph Huebner gravesite (Figure 2). It is still unclear if the placement of the scattered stones throughout the gravesite was from loss over time, discard during restorations, or intentional decoration. There are also indications that restorations to the

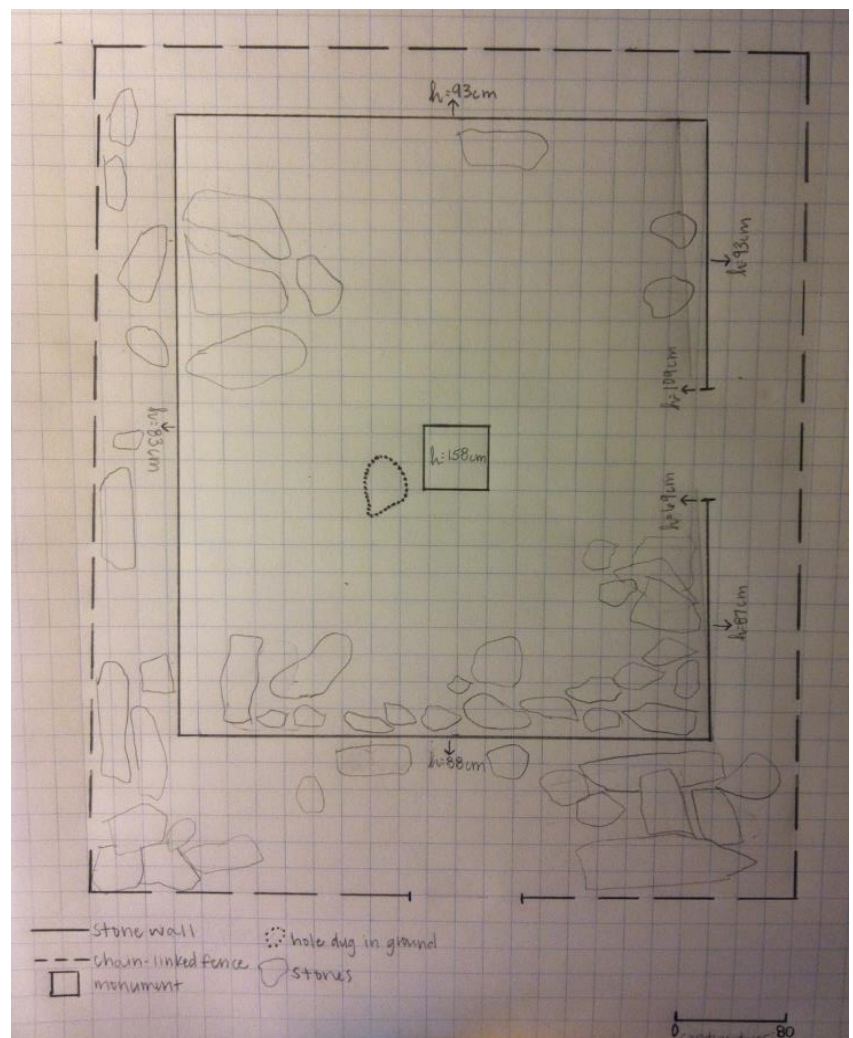


Figure 2: Scale map of gravesite

gravesite were not conducted with historical accuracy. The right side of the entrance to the central monument (within the surrounding stone wall) has what appear to be hinge grooves carved into the stone. In its current placement, if a door was attached, it would be swinging backwards and not function properly. Further, the left side of the entrance to the central monument is notably shorter, and has an unknown yellow-grey matter stuck to the top of it. I previously noted that both the left entrance and the top of the central monument seemed to be missing finials. Although the right side of the entrance is 40 cm taller, it does not have a finial similar to those found within the site.

Interpretations and Conclusions

The first notable cultural transformation at the Joseph Huebner gravesite is the chain-link fence the Boy Scouts implemented to prevent further vandalism. Further, the restoration of the masonry wall and monument are cultural transformations as well. Restoration of the wall included using original stones on top of the wall but it appears that new limestone blocks were cut for the middle courses of the wall. The two finials found among the scattered stones surrounding the restored wall were strikingly similar to that of the monument. I interpret these as stones that would have decorated the upper section of the two entrance posts in the surrounding wall. Moreover, I noted that the finials had a similarity in aging to the (older) top layer of stone surrounding the center monument. The two finials were most likely strewn about along with the top layer of the stone wall, prior to renovations. I suggest that more successful and historically accurate restorations could be conducted to conserve this gravesite.

The Joseph Huebner gravesite is a popular aspect of the Huebner-Onion Homestead and Natural Area. However, we still lack a good understanding of its history and transformations. My interpretations and conclusions are only the beginning of archaeological investigations that can be conducted here. The scale map and my data on cultural transformations will be beneficial to other scholars at a future date.



Figure 3: Central Monument with surrounding masonry wall and large tree in the background

Reflection

While conducting my research for the scale map of the Joseph Huebner gravesite I realized I was learning more about the site than I thought I would. I found myself asking more and more questions related to the site in order to create the map. I really enjoyed making my own interpretations based off of my own questions. Although they were sometimes proven wrong, it was the highlight of my project. In completion of my project report, I leave this class with more questions and curiosity about the Joseph Huebner Gravesite. I unfortunately did not have access to another form of data collection such as excavation. If I had the time to locate a device such as a GPS or Total Station that could have been useful to my research, I would have undoubtedly used that resource as well. In writing this report, I have learned that editing, re-editing, and then re-editing again is very beneficial. I feel as though I am a fine writer, but there will always be another way to express my words. To think 'outside the box' is necessary to an excellent paper.

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SURVEY OF THE HUEBNER-ONION HOMESTEAD GRAVESITE

By Lorenzo Chapa



Figure 1: Exterior view of gravesite

Introduction to Project and Research Questions

My research concerns the gravesite associated with the Huebner-Onion Homestead of Leon Valley, Texas (Figure 1). The gravesite is located approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the main buildings of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. There is only speculation about the identity of the individual buried at this gravesite. My research question is: Is it possible to determine with more certainty who is buried under the obelisk (Figure 2)? I conducted an archival survey of documents concerning the gravesite location. I also conducted an archaeological survey of the obelisk and ground surrounding the area. In conclusion, I was unable to identify the person(s) buried at the gravesite but discovered some evidence that will lead future researchers to resolve this question.

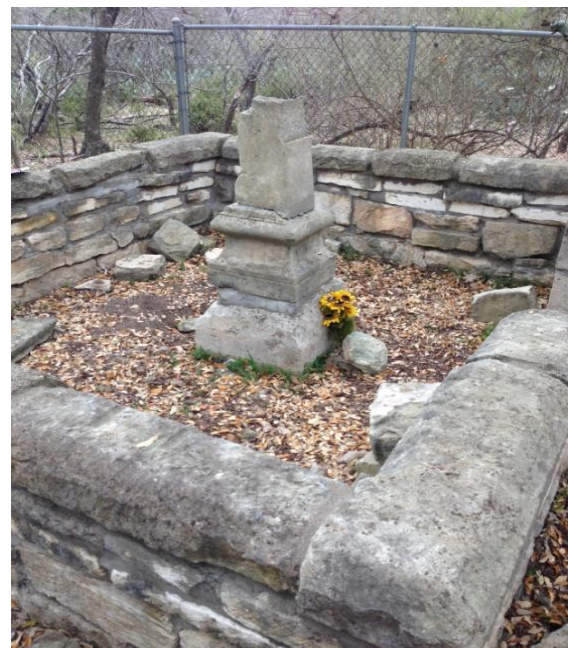


Figure 2: Central monument or obelisk of gravesite

Literature Review

Two sources were consulted for their importance to capture general and specific details on the history of the site and Texan graves. Joseph Huebner died in 1882 (Friends 2011). Folklore has it that he died from drinking what he thought was moonshine. At the time of death, it was unknown if he was incapacitated due to intoxication or in fact deceased (Friends 2011). There is very little evidence to support either claim. Joseph Huebner is said to have been buried shortly thereafter, possibly in the gravesite under investigation here (Friends 2011). Characteristics of Texan gravesites can vary dramatically from one ethnic culture to another (Jordan-Bychkov 1982). These characteristics can relate to design and/or construction. I will use these sources to continue investigating the history of the gravesite and identify the unique characteristics of this Texas gravesite.

Data Collection

I conducted a mapping survey to record significant measurements of the masonry walls and monument at the gravesite using the metric system (cm). 2-D sketches were made of the obelisk and stone walls as seen from above and as seen from the eastern side facing the obelisk (Figure 3). I achieved this with the help of colleagues. We took turns measuring the length, width, and location of the stones. I also took several detailed photographs of the stones used in the gravesite masonry looking for any signs of construction or possible identification marks. I prepared beforehand by having a tape measure, camera, and note pad. If I am able to continue this research, I will create charcoal tracings of the stones to better represent their surface textures.

Data Analysis

I compiled all the photos I captured and looked for any patterns. I then studied the sketches and measurements for any structural or numerical differences. I took note of many discarded stones on the ground outside and inside the masonry wall (see Figure 9). Two in particular appear to be shaped as finials (Figures 3 and 5). One of the photographs reveals a chiseled mark on one of the discarded stones surrounding the restored walls that appears to be an original finial (Figure 4). I also noted the presence of modern construction materials, particularly cement mortar and newly cut limestone blocks in the surrounding wall and on the obelisk (Figures 6, 7, and 8). I noticed that some of the stones used in the restoration carried out by a Boy Scout troop may have been misarranged (see Figure 7). I will describe my interpretations regarding this issue below.

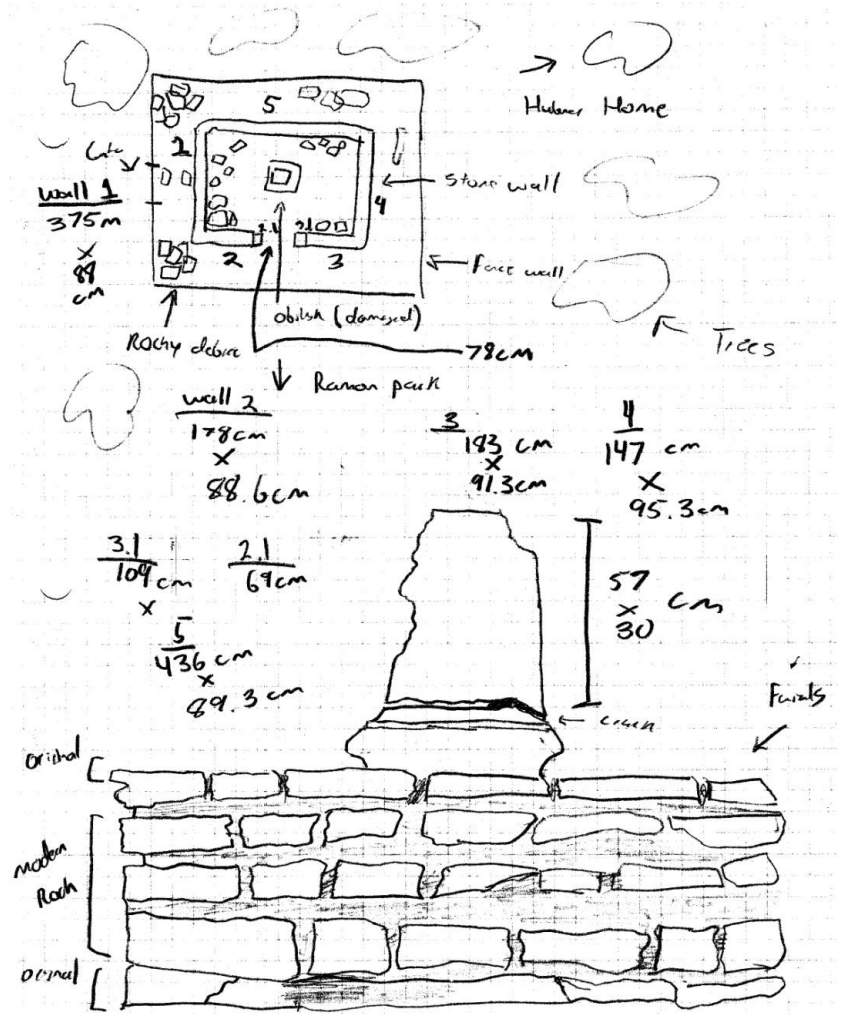


Figure 3: Sketches of gravesite made during survey



Figure 3: Possible finial



Figure 4: Possible marker's mark



Figure 5: Possible finial



Figure 6: Modern materials used in restoration



Figure 7: Reversed gate hinge block

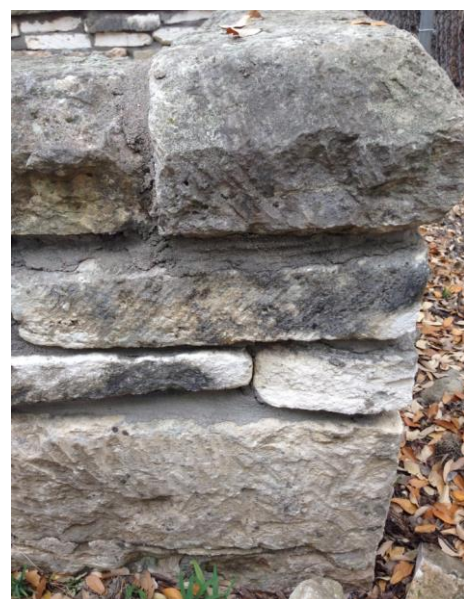


Figure 8: Distinctive masonry in restored wall

Interpretation and Conclusion

I suggest that the marking on the original finial stone in Figure 4 is some type of maker's mark. The mark does not appear natural and has the look of traditional markings from the time period, others of which can be seen on the main building of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Further, it appears that the Boy Scout group that rebuilt the masonry wall surrounding the obelisk placed several stones in the incorrect order. Figure 7 is a photo of a stone carved with a slot for a gate hinge that has been replaced into the masonry entrance upside down and facing the wrong side. There are several stones that appear to be reversed and placed incorrectly during masonry restoration.

My data collection and analysis does not allow me to make conclusions about my original research question regarding the identity of the person buried at this gravesite. However, if the possible maker's mark I identified can be investigated further, it may reveal who carved the stones and possible documentation relating to the individual who commissioned the work. In the future, a synchronic excavation below the

obelisk would help determine the identity of the person(s) buried at the gravesite. Further, additional restoration efforts could result in more historically accurate placement of stones in the gravesite masonry.

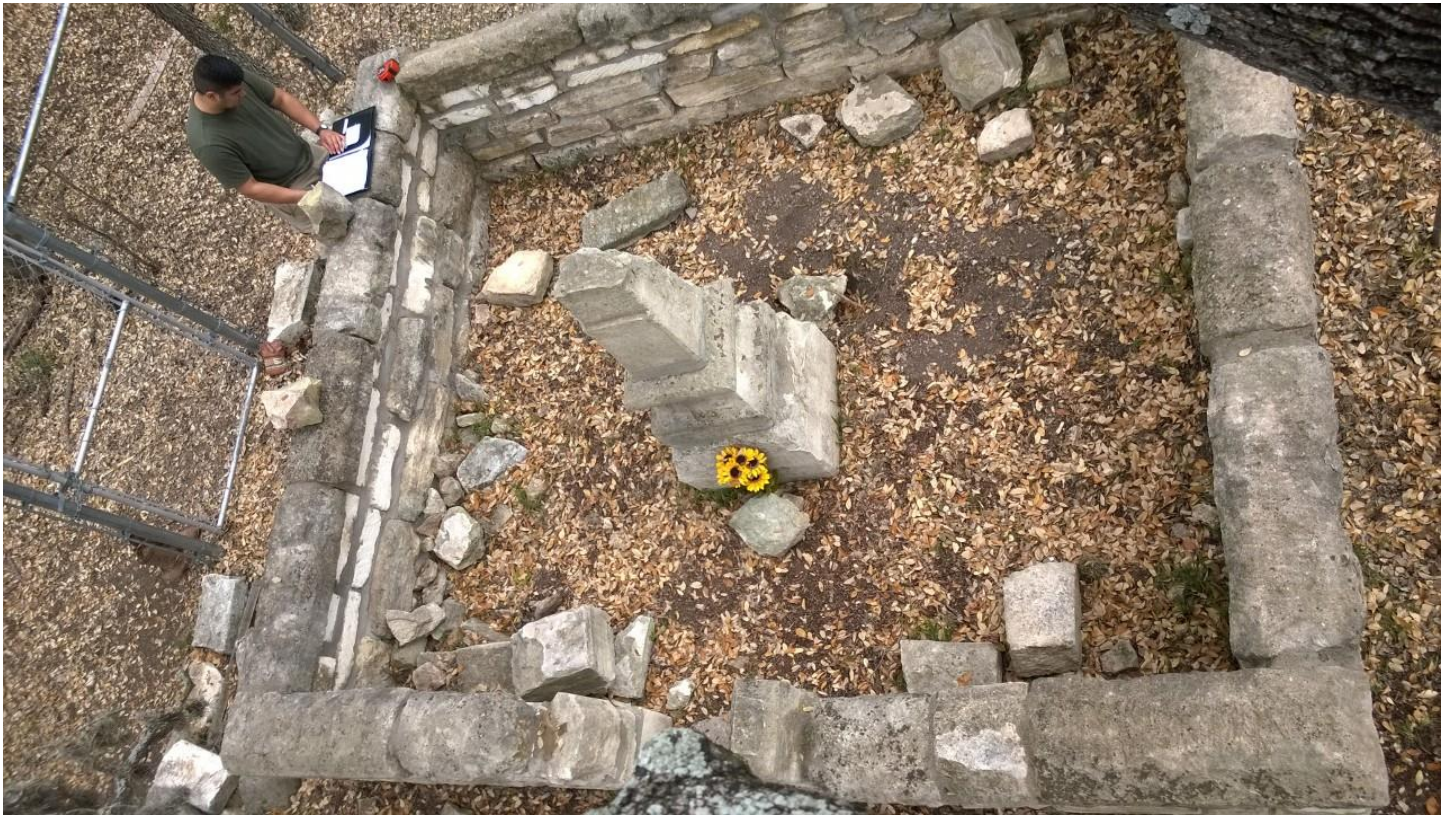


Figure 9: Working at the gravesite

Reflection

In working on this project, I have learned what an actual archaeologist does when they are researching a project or are out in the field. Of all the experiences from the project, my favorite was going to the Huebner-Onion Homestead and getting an up close look at the buildings and structures (Figure 9). If I had the chance to collect more data, I would focus on a perimeter surrounding the gravesite to conduct a surface collection survey. I also would continue searching for sources from one of the witnesses that helped bury Mr. Huebner. I can apply the foundation of relentless fact checking and revising when I hopefully one day start to write peer reviewed articles.

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FLINT KNAPPING EXPERIMENTATION

By Diego Rodriguez

Introduction and Research Question

My research project concerns experimental flint knapping and how this supports inferences about the ancient inhabitants of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Flint knapping is the process by which stone such as chert (also known as flint) is reduced from its natural state to create useable fragments called lithics. My research question is: which types of chert prove to be the strongest in making lithic tools and stay sharp after use? Finding the best stones needed to make a reliable tool would have been crucial to the early inhabitants of this area of Texas. Lithic tools that dull easily slow the efficiency of subsistence activities and so would have been avoided. As an experimental approach to understanding stone tool production, I created lithic artifacts by traditional flint knapping methods using chert found at the Huebner-Onion Homestead. This experimentation will help to better understand what the ancient inhabitants of the Huebner-Onion Homestead used to create stone tools, if the materials were from the local area, and why they made the specific kinds of tools that are found at the site.

Literature Review

The type of stone needed to make a lithic tool depends on the intended use. For example, obsidian would be ideal for cutting strong materials because it is very sharp. However, obsidian is not present in the local Leon Valley environment; therefore if obtained it would have been treated as an exotic and/or prized resource. Chert is available locally and is represented in the artifacts recovered from the Huebner-Onion Homestead (Figure 1). These artifacts demonstrate a great diversity in function.

I have found that selectiveness is the key starting point for flint knapping. According to Lewis Johnson (1978), "stones gathered from the environment must be inspected for quality to ensure that a flint-knapper will not waste time



Figure 1: Lithic artifacts produced from chert found at or near the Huebner-Onion Homestead

using an overly imperfect stone." Once a good quality core has been selected, not only can the core of the stone be used to make the bulk of the desired tool, the larger flakes broken from the core can also be used as more disposable tools (Johnson 1978). These smaller flakes are very sharp once flaked off of the core and so useful for many tasks. It is important to use a technique called pressure flaking to add strength to the stones edge and prevent unintentional chips (Johnson 1978). Pressure flaking along the cutting edge would be a great asset to a blade for longevity. I have found that pressure flaking adds more cutting surface as well. Adding serration along the blade can also be beneficial to any sawing tasks, keeping the tool sharper longer. By researching stone working techniques, I have gained much more background knowledge on the art of flint-knapping. I have learned about the process and the reasoning behind the steps. I have also consulted numerous online videos on how to begin the process and how to treat certain types of stones as not all should be treated the same.

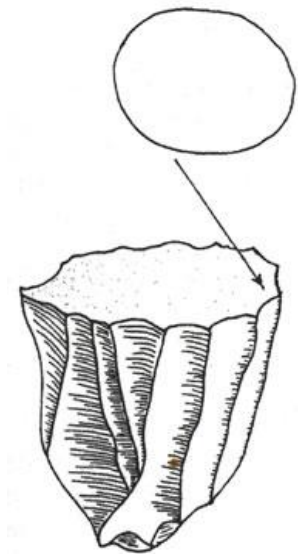


Figure 2: Lithic production diagram showing striking platform

Data Collection and Data Analysis

My field experience first consisted of walking creek ways in the Leon Valley area. Near the Huebner-Onion Homestead, I wanted to see how many different types of chert I could find for my experiments. Some issues I encountered were finding chert of the optimal size. Most nice pieces were too small or much too large to work with. I learned that finding good quality cores is very difficult and likely was a large part of the process to conduct flint-knapping in the past.

HARD HAMMER PERCUSSION

FORCE APPLIED

APPLIED FORCE
FROM HARD HAMMER



POINT OF PERCUSSION
BULB OF PERCUSSION
ERAILLEUR SCAR

RIPPLES

RESULTING FLAKE



Figure 3: Visual explanation of hard hammer percussion technique from Bordaz 1958

I began my flint-knapping experiment to find the strongest core possible. I started knapping from a medium sized core, approximately 4"x3"x2". I used a method called hard hammer percussion with a larger hammer stone to chip off flakes and start forming a rough shape (Figure 2). As explained by Bordaz (1958), "hard hammer percussion is the earliest and most basic flint knapping technique, producing flakes by striking another stone, the hammer stone against a core" (Figure 3). This is used to break off smaller pieces to start shaping the lithic. Currently, I have made a total of 3 artifacts from 2 different cores (Figure 4). To answer my research question, it is best to find pieces of dissimilar quality and size to allow for contrasting the final products and process. I documented my process and finished products through photographs.



Figure 4: Lithic artifacts I produced through experimental flint knapping

Interpretations & Conclusions

Overall, I found that with very smooth rounder chert cores, it seems to be very hard to break off flakes. However, with more square cores with sharp corners, opening them up and flaking seems to be easier. I also noticed that cores with a darker center can be a bit weaker compared to the chert that had a distinctively lighter colored center. I found one exception to this trend. This may be a result of my technique, however I found that chert with a dark center is very resistant to pressure flaking. I put the experimental flakes and tools I knapped through three use tests: cutting cloth, sawing through a living tree branch, and scraping bark off of a tree. These tests were designed to simulate what lithics would have been used for by people like the ancient inhabitants of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Lithics produced from the chert with a lighter center stayed sharper longer after conducting these tests. All of the lithics did the job however, some performed better than others.

Reflection

After conducting myself as an archaeologist and writing this paper, I can get a feel for the level of professionalism needed in this academic field. The parts that I liked most from this experiment were the exploratory searching and locating stones to work with and actually flint-knapping as people did long ago, using the same techniques. This was the most enjoyable part because it teaches you to appreciate the things that they did make because of the time and energy spent making these tools. If I were to have more time to work on these, I would like to see if the larger the size of the stone affects a flake's strength. Testing them against everyday use as if used in that time period would give an idea of a tool's longevity and how often someone would need to make a replacement tool.

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THE STUDY OF BLACKSMITHING AND HISTORIC HORSESHOES

By Renessa Sanders

Introduction to Project and Research Question

My research concerns the function of the Huebner-Onion Homestead in Leon Valley, Texas as a horse ranch and stagecoach stop in the 19th century (Friends 2011a). I focus on blacksmithing and the production of horseshoes. Along with historic artifact research, my project also concerns modern horseshoe making. I ask how horseshoes have changed over time and whether the quality of horseshoes has increased or stayed the same. My data collection methods include artifact analysis and ethnoarchaeological interviews. Ethnoarchaeology is the study of modern activities to better understand the archaeological remains of activities and actions in the past.

Literature Review

I consulted literature on two distinct topics relating to my project. In my first source, I learned about a very reliable method to determine if blacksmithing was taking place in a specific area like the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Artifacts such as horseshoes will help researchers understand more about both the blacksmiths and working as a stopping place for stagecoaches (Custer et al 1985). Further, blacksmithing activity areas leave evidence in soils that can be detected by modern tests. Evidence of extensive fire use, tool use, and metals in the area are combined to make inferences about blacksmithing. Soil samples can be obtained from areas under investigation and processed in a lab using soil chemistry tests to determine levels of magnesium and other elements resultant from blacksmithing activities (Custer et al 1985). Such tests could be conducted in the future to confirm blacksmithing interpretations and reveal specific details about the materials used at the Huebner-Onion Homestead.

The second source I consulted relates to the history of stagecoaches and stagecoach stops. Stagecoaches were frequently used in the 1800's when the Huebner-Onion Homestead was being established. Carlos A. Schwantes (1999) describes that "concord coaches sped along the primitive roads of the West, drawn by four- or six-horse teams and driven by skillful rein men. No other vehicle became more closely identified with the West of the 1850s and 1860s." A majority of the United States at this time still relied on stagecoaches. People depended on stagecoaches to travel from town to town, trading, and also as a way to make a living. The horses and people working the stagecoaches had to have places to stop in

between towns to get hydrated and rest. The Huebner-Onion Homestead is documented as a resting stop for travelers on stagecoaches (Friends 2011b). I will tie the function of this site as a stagecoach stop with historic blacksmithing practices. I suggest that horseshoe making and repairing was a key activity at the Huebner-Onion Homestead.

Data Collection

To better understand blacksmithing and horseshoe production at the Huebner-Onion Homestead as an aspect of its function as a stagecoach stop, I sought to compare different types of metal horseshoes from the 1800's to modern times. I conducted artifact analysis and captured photographs of the horseshoes collected from and around the Huebner-Onion. I then collected present-day horseshoes from a modern farrier. I also collected historic and modern horse bits and nails to make additional comparisons of metal working.

Data Analysis

In comparing the historic and modern horseshoes, age is very apparent. Natural transformations have resulted in rusting and corrosion of the historic horseshoes (Figure 1). Further, the historic horseshoes have many indications of use and irregularities. These irregularities could be the result of long-term use on horses or the crafting process. I suggest that both are certainly involved. Hand-made horseshoes will not be perfect and will have irregularities. Modern horseshoes (Figures 2 and 3) are machine-made and are thus much more regular and standardized. In particular, the outside edges and inside curve of the horseshoes reveal whether they are hand-made or machine-made. The hand-made shoes have irregular indentations while the machine-made horseshoes have very smooth edges.

I also conducted some measurements on the historic and modern horseshoes. The historic horseshoes are slightly larger than the modern examples on average. The difference is approximately 3 cm in both the horizontal and vertical dimensions. The distance between the prongs at the base of the horseshoes is also different with the modern horseshoes being approximately 5 cm wider. I am uncertain as to the reason of these differences.



Figure 1: Historic horseshoes from the Huebner-Onion Homestead



Figure 2: Close-up of modern horseshoe

Interpretations and Conclusion:

The evidence of beaten edges, curvature, and the size of the horseshoes clearly indicate differences between historic and modern horseshoe making and blacksmithing. The historic horseshoes from Huebner-Onion Homestead are obviously handmade and the result of manual blacksmithing. I conclude that there

was a blacksmithing activity area at the Huebner-Onion Homestead and it would most likely be located near or inside the barn behind the main living structure. This blacksmith area would have served the stagecoach stop business and the horse ranching business as well. When coaches and horses stopped for a break, many of the horses would likely need fresh shoes and the Huebner-Onion Homestead would offer that service. In future research, a soil chemistry test as described above could corroborate these conclusions and reveal specifics about the blacksmithing process. Further investigations of metal artifacts collected from the site including horse bits and nails will also reveal information about the blacksmithing that took place.



Figure 3: Multiple examples of modern horseshoes

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URBANIZATION GOOD OR BAD? THE EFFECTS OF URBANIZATION ON THE HUEBNER-ONION HOMESTEAD

By Cassandra Baca

Introduction

Since the Huebner-Onion Homestead (HOH) was established in 1858 (Friends 2011), urbanization and the expansion of Leon Valley around it has changed its makeup. This research focuses on the cultural transformations of this historical site specifically related to urbanization. Cultural transformations are recognized by archaeologists as changes to the archaeological record that result from human actions and cultural development. There have been many changes to both the building interiors and the Natural Area (NA) such as renovations, structural changes, and property development. I emphasize the disturbances that urbanization has created in the landscape of the NA. This research is focused on the following question: Has the urbanization around the HOH and NA had positive or negative effects? This research highlights the effects of urban development at HOH, focusing on the Onion family time period and afterwards. Surveys of the buildings and the NA provide evidence for claims of disturbance and change.

Literature Review

In researching the effects of urbanization and industrialization in America, I examined sources that helped me to understand what physical remains I could recognize during my survey of HOH and the NA. James Tejani (2014) discusses the benefits and downfalls of industrialization in Southern California in the early 20th century. Tejani (2014) describes intense urban growth and its effects on the environment, such as entire estuaries being destroyed by dredging machines in order to build "pleasure harbours" for locals and tourists. There are many examples of how early urbanization and industrialization lead to the destruction of, what we would now call, historical sites containing buildings or houses (Partridge et al 2007). This kind of destruction of historical sites has hindered our ability and accessibility to learn about our history. With this information, I hope to show, through my own research, how urbanization has affected HOH and the NA surrounding it.

Data Collection

In order to collect data on the effects of urbanization at HOH, I conducted an aerial survey using Google Earth to understand the extent of the property and physical markers of urbanization and industrialization. I also conducted a surface survey of HOH and the NA on foot to make personal observations. I took photographs that captured the present state of HOH and the NA and made observations about the transformations that have occurred there. During the surface survey, I recognized that much of the area is affected greatly by the expansion of the city of Leon Valley.

Data Analysis

To analyze this data, I divided the information I collected into two sections; one section concerning the negative aspects of urban development at HOH and the NA and the other section about the positive aspects of urban development. I then compared the positive and negative to see the intensity of each type's impact. It is clear that urban development has changed what HOH and the NA look like through cultural transformations. As I gathered my data it became more difficult to identify whether the negative or positive effects were more impactful. As indicated below, the data points in both directions.

Firstly, there is a very heavily trafficked street (Bandera Road) directly in front of the main homestead buildings, which was not so near to the historic site as little as 80 years ago (Figure 1a, 1b). The house itself has seen some major changes over the years due to urbanization such as vandalism, the installation of electrical wiring, and historic preservation measures, such as the wooden boards over the window openings (Figure 2). Also, to the west of HOH, there is a large commercial property containing an In-Town Suites motel that is the cause of a great deal of garbage and trash littering the NA.

Focusing on the NA specifically, there have been many changes to the landscape and makeup of this area. One being the contraction of land from the historic property holdings associated with the



Figure 1b: Bandera Road in front of Huebner-Onion Homestead gates



Figure 1a: Huebner Onion Homestead circa 1930's, with no viewable street in front as is now.



Figure 2: Vandalism on the pigeonnaire

homestead. According to the Friends of the Leon Valley Public Library and Leon Valley Historical Society (2011), the original area of the land that HOH was built upon was 200 acres and has now been reduced to only 36 acres. This is due to the suburban development that has taken place surrounding the NA (Figure 3). Also due to the suburban development, sewer lines are laced throughout the NA, affecting the creek, and disturbing how rainwater travels through the property (Figure 4). Rainfall, that would usually pool and travel through a small creek bed has over the years carved out entirely new channels through the NA (Carol Poss personal communication 2014). Today these new water-carved pieces of land are dried up beds due to drought. In addition, walking through the NA, trails and pathways are evident and are the result of conservation programs and foot traffic of the people who live in the suburban areas near HOH. These effects of urbanization are permanently changing the makeup of the NA and HOH for future generations.

The effects due to urbanization are not solely negative. Some of the urban development conducted on the homestead buildings themselves is due to the desire of the City of Leon Valley and the Leon Valley Historical Society to restore the site for educational purposes. For example, they are currently working to restore the two-story porch that was recently removed from the main building due to structural concerns. They also have future plans to fix up the house interiors for public tours (Carol Poss personal communication 2014). The Leon Valley Historical Society wants the HOH and the NA to be a place where families can go to teach their kids about history and to enjoy leisure time walking through the trails. They also have plans to add plumbing and improve the electricity to the main house (Carol Poss personal communication 2014). This would require further alterations and cultural transformations to the house and surrounding property.

Interpretations and Conclusion

The patterns that I found during data analysis show that the urbanization of Leon Valley has impacted HOH and the NA in negative and positive ways. While it appears that damaging cultural transformations have been inflicted upon the buildings due to vandals and the NA

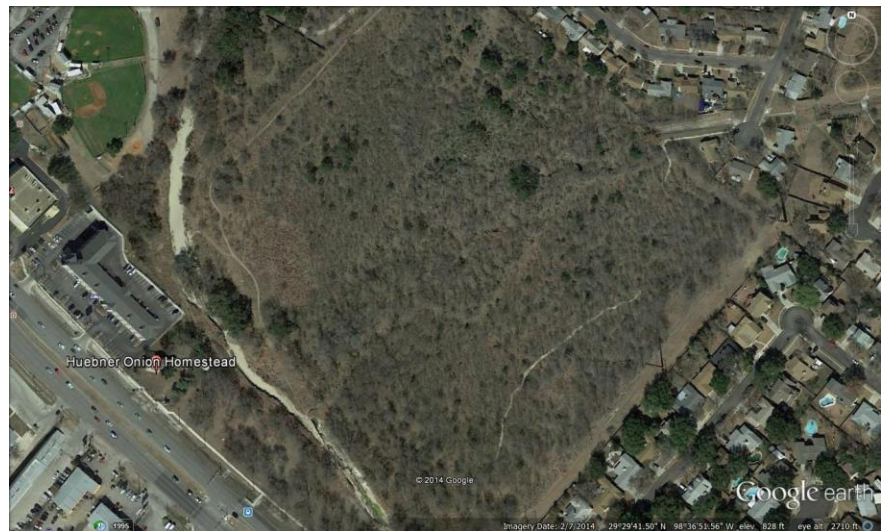


Figure 3: Suburban development adjacent to modern boundary of historic site



Figure 4: Plumbing and sewage fixtures on historic property

has been transformed due to human intrusion, the fact that the building is being renovated to its original state for future generations is important. While this is a great use of resources to produce an educational historical landmark for Leon Valley, the negative effects of cultural transformations still very much outweigh the positive impacts of this aspect. This is similar to Tejani's (2014) description of the estuaries in Southern California suffering greatly so that tourists could enjoy "pleasure harbours". While this was beneficial to the economy of the area, it was bad for the natural environment of the estuaries. The HOH and the NA circumstances are analogous. HOH and the NA will receive more appreciation and awareness, but the more and more urban development that occurs, more destruction may happen to HOH and the NA. Future research could investigate the opinions of people who live in the adjacent neighborhoods through interviews. I argue that the negative effects of urbanization currently outweigh the positive benefits. Future investigations may support this argument or reveal that community action has bolstered positive impacts.

Reflections

Doing this research showed me how hands-on and interesting research projects can be. I loved being out in the field and doing the survey (Figure 5). It made me feel like what I would write would be solely my own perspective and no one else's. This means if someone else were to research this exact topic they could come up with completely different conclusions. As I mentioned before, if I continued this research, I would interview the inhabitants of the neighborhood surrounding HOH and the NA to gain more insight from that perspective. I also would devote more time to surveying within the building itself. This project definitely forced me to be more diligent and on top of my work which has also helped me with time management for my other classes.

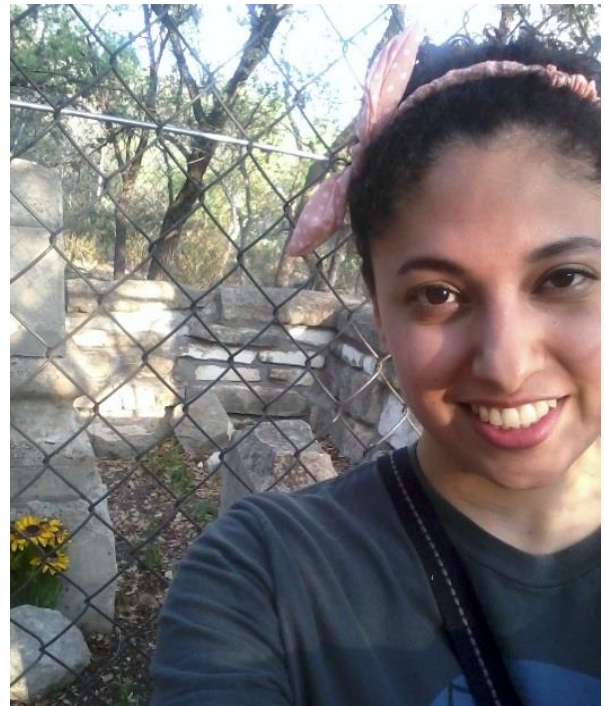


Figure 5: Photograph of me in front of the Huebner Gravesite

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COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AT THE HUEBNER-ONION HOMESTEAD

By Dacia Mallia

Introduction to Project and Research Question

This project is designed to inform others of the kinds of community activism that has gone on at the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Further, this project will offer some ideas of what projects could take place to help the Leon Valley Historical Society to restore the site to be a living historical museum and provide education for the community. My research question is: what community activism has gone on at the Huebner-Onion Homestead and what sorts of projects could be implemented in the future? To collect data for this project, I interviewed those in favor of restoration of the Huebner-Onion Homestead to see what their thoughts are on preservation plans and their vision for future community involvement. There will be outstanding results to come if the community can take an active role in this important heritage site.

Literature Review

Jensen (2014) tells of a best-selling author who “raised as much as \$750,000 for historic preservation nonprofits.” Jensen (2014) describes author Steve Berry, and says he “has a passion for history and writing novels about historical sites. He raises awareness and money for the preservation of significant premises, while he also hosts writing workshops and lectures in cities with historic sites in need of support.” These may be examples to draw from to increase community involvement at the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Prall (2013) presents some benefits to cities from preservation such as “making connections to the past” and notes “the struggle of communities trying to preserve significant sites”. Prall (2013) also explains that “getting physically involved in helping with preservation creates an even better personal connection to the past when supporting something significant to home and history”. The information from these sources provides insight into who can potentially help out in preserving the Huebner-Onion Homestead while giving something to think about when it comes to being active in a community for preserving the site.

There are many ways that the Huebner-Onion Homestead and the Leon Valley Historical Society are already active in the community and help raise money and awareness. For example, the Leon Valley Historical Society holds many fundraisers and forward all earnings to the restoration of the site. One such fundraising event, according to the staff of The Helotes Herald (2009), consisted of dinner, a silent auction, and live bands playing to attract people and raise money. There are also other contributions such as

merchandise sales for funding of the site's restoration. Besides the restoration there are many at work such as Boy Scouts of America discovering the site as it serves great educational purposes. Many students have had the opportunity to learn and give their input on the site, especially Archaeology students at Northwest Vista College investigating the artifacts and features of the site to report back to the Huebner-Onion Homestead.

Data Collection

To collect data regarding community activism at the Huebner-Onion Homestead, I conducted interviewing. Upon interviewing those in favor of the historical site, I was presented well thought out plans for the future of the homestead in hopes that there will be aid in making the plans happen. We discussed the kinds of things that are expected to be implemented such as making the site a museum for educational purposes and living history. I also observed some photos depicting the history of the homestead.

Interviewing is a slightly different approach to archaeological data collection. One usually thinks of data collection as a form of material findings (quantitative data), but in this case I collected qualitative data (opinions from interviews). Before this project, I interviewed for a journalism class in high school where I gained previous experience in interviewing and collecting qualitative data. A small flaw in the process of trying to interview is that I was presented with print sources for data collection before I could personally ask further questions. This may be due to the presence of others asking similar questions. The data presented to me, however, is very clear, strong evidence of the types of things that are expected to be conducted at the historical site over time.

I prepared a few relevant questions for interviews and expected them to develop much like a conversation. It was also important to have questions in mind that aim for answers to the archaeological questions in this project. Interviewing for this project also led me to an important source, the Ford Powell & Carson (2013) master plan. This provides information on the future plans for the homestead supported by many, especially the Leon Valley Historical Society. The main face-to-face question I asked regarding the Huebner-Onion Homestead was: What kinds of things would you like to see happen here at the homestead?

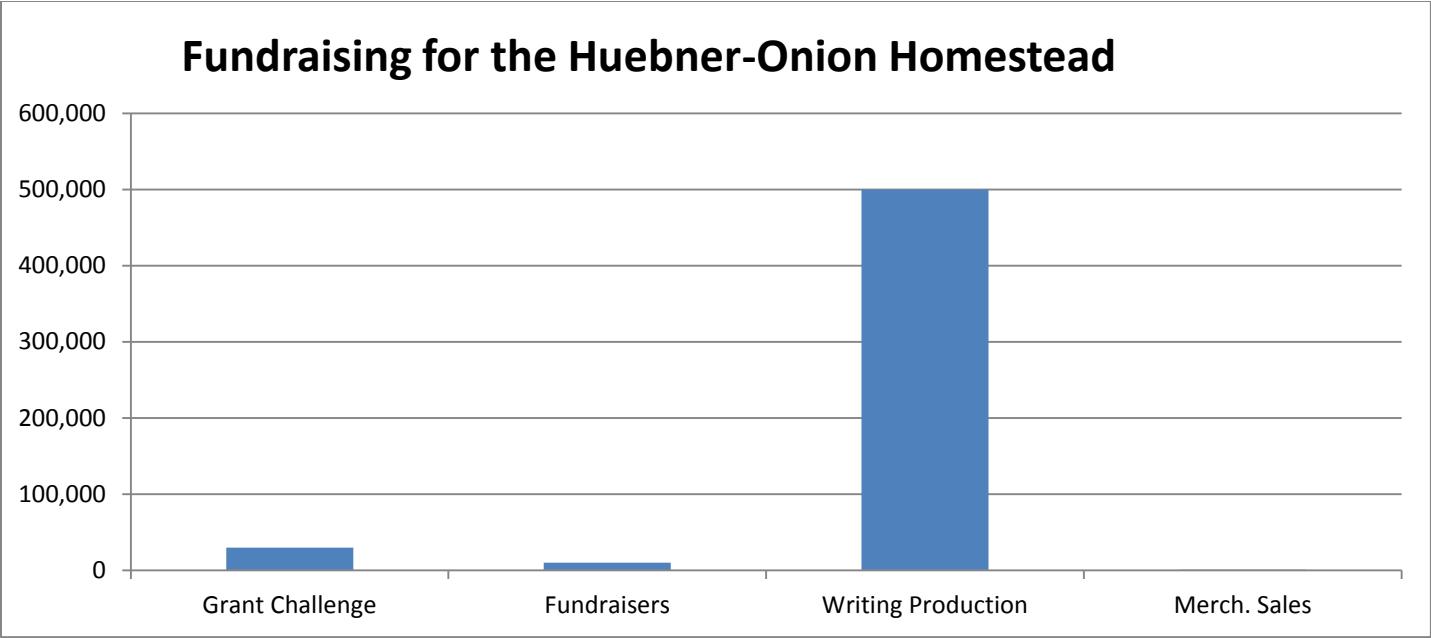
I also collected data from pictures, diagrams, and floor plans showing the different phases of the homestead, and the motives for restoration. Preservation activities have included: 1) removal of the main house porch that was worn down; 2) future restoration of the porch; 3) installation of temporary floors to provide a temporary space for tours; and 4) future restoration of the stagecoach barn for historical and educational purposes (Friends 2011). Further, I collected data regarding raising money for the preservation efforts. Friends of the Leon Valley Public Library and the Leon Valley Historical Society (2011) discuss "when Carl's Jr. opened their new restaurant on Bandera and Eckert Roads in 2009, they shared with the Leon Valley Historical Society their desire to carry on the spirit of community involvement ... they donated \$500 toward saving the stagecoach stop and also contributed to other organizations". As from Carl's Jr., there are many ways that the Huebner-Onion Homestead has been granted money for aid in preservation.

Data Analysis

To compile data for this project, I took notes on the source provided to me by Carol Poss of the Leon Valley Historical Society and made mental notes of the patterns in opinion of many supporting preservation of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. The most common patterns I noticed are that many support the preservation of the site for educational and historical purposes. Other patterns consist of the many events such as fundraisers and social gatherings that have been held and will be held to raise money

and recognition for the homestead. Methods of raising money are consistent (coordinating dinner events, auctions, selling merchandise, etc.). The data I collected revealed that similar events can and should be held in the future, but should be maximized for further recognition of the homestead and increase funds for preserving the site (ex: attract more people, raise more money).

Based on my research, I am able to determine that profits from the publications of *Images of America: Leon Valley* (Friends 2011) have been the most impactful. The Leon Valley Historical Society has also raised a good deal of funds for restoration through their grant challenge fundraiser. Other money raised has come from merchandise sales and other fundraisers organized as community events. The graph below visualizes estimates of fundraising carried out to benefit the Huebner-Onion Homestead.



Interpretations & Conclusion

The patterns I have noticed from interviewing and researching sources indicate similar motives from all those in favor of preservation of the homestead. There seems to be no one from the data collected that oppose preservation of the site. This may be because logically many would not want to see the site not prosper into something even better. The types of activities for raising money and awareness of the homestead all share a common ground such as a social gathering. For example, when interviewing Carol Poss of the Leon Valley Historical Society, she mentioned that she would like the front porch reinstated to the main structure. When reading the source from Ford Powell & Carson (2013), they mentioned the same thing was a favorable idea by many, and thus other sources such as The Helotes Herald (2009) and The Leon Valley Historical Society (2007) said the same.

Upon reading about Steve Berry from Jensen (2014)’s article, I learned that there is more to just holding social gatherings and raising money, but having the opportunity to get someone skilled in writing can go miles to gain awareness for the preservation of the homestead. I answered my research question by gathering qualitative data with common ideas and goals for the Huebner-Onion Homestead. The data was very supportive of the idea of preservation of the homestead, leading to a conclusion that it should be done and with the ideas that are commonly shared (ex: restoring the main structure, remodeling the floors, turning the homestead into a museum/educational site).

To help restore the Huebner-Onion Homestead, we need to gain as much attention as possible to make it a historical museum and thus provide an even better educational experience for students and the Leon Valley community. It is important to raise awareness all around the Leon Valley and Helotes area, as well as the greater San Antonio area and beyond! The site needs as much community involvement as possible to maximize aid for its restoration. Clubs, schools, fundraisers all need to get involved, spread the word, and raise money together.

Reflection

This experience with the archaeological research cycle gave a hands-on approach to going through every step to conduct archaeological research, the right way. If I could choose a topic for research now I would probably ask a research question based on physical artifacts rather than something abstract. Though it seems easier from the start, it is actually challenging trying to find academic sources on the subject. It is also more challenging because you have to take the time to interview and one never knows what to expect from opinions. The interpretations one can draw from opinions is different from physical archaeological evidence.

The most interesting part of this project was going to the Huebner-Onion Homestead itself. Getting to visit the site gave a better understanding of our subject and what was expected of our project. I believe hands-on guided tasks like this can help students learn a great deal about a subject. This project taught me that there is far more to data than just physical findings, and that it can be as abstract as interviewing, surveying, and much more. Learning about this qualitative data helps me expand my possibilities of research in the future.

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