

# ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT FORT GRIFFIN



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# ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT FORT GRIFFIN

Susan C. Olsen, Editor  
Catherine Yates  
Texas Archeological Survey

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## INTRODUCTION

Excavations at Fort Griffin, in Shackelford County, Texas, were conducted from June 15 through July 2, 1971, by the Texas Archeological Salvage Project (TASP) in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife in a project involving the archeological investigation of Forts Lancaster, Richardson, and Griffin. The work was done in accordance with Inter-Agency Contract No. (71-72) 575 and under the authority and stipulations of State Antiquities Permit No. 12. The terms of the project outlined the work to be done as follows:

- 1) Excavation of Officer's Quarters L-12
- 2) Conduct extensive testing in and around the ruins of the Hospital Complex (buildings P-1, P-2, P-3)

Additional work to be performed, insofar as the judicious expenditure of funds will permit, shall consist of the following:

- 3) Test to determine the nature and extent of Enlisted Men's Kitchen (building G-2)
- 4) Test the ruins of the Guardhouse (building H-1)
- 5) Conduct random tests in the old dump area

Archeological investigation was under the direction of David S. Dibble, Acting Director of the TASP, with Dessamae Lorrain as chief field archeologist and Catherine Yates as assistant. The field crew consisted of Robert Stiba, John Weble, Scott McKern, Michael Mallouf, and Joseph Saunders. Records and materials consisting of field notes, maps, and drawings as well as the artifact collection from this season are presently housed at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, Balcones Research Center, Austin, Texas, but will be available to Texas Parks and Wildlife for use and final disposition.

## Setting

Fort Griffin stands on top of a wind-swept plateau; steep embankments make the ascent slow and literally "breath taking" for those on foot and climbing. During the active days of the post, approaching visitors could have been identified at a distance; there was little danger of attack from hostiles. Today there is a cover of dense tall grass, mesquite, and cactus with a few live oaks interspersed. Biotic and geological information relevant to the Fort Griffin setting is provided by Maxwell's (1970) "Fort Griffin State Historic Park."

## Historical Background

The following material is drawn from Taniguchi et al. (1968: 6-15).

When the United States annexed Texas in 1845, some provision had to be made for the safety of the westward-moving white settlers. In order to cope with Indian hostilities and boundary disputes with Mexico, the United States established three lines of federal installations. The first of these was the Rio Grande Line which came into being with the outbreak of the Mexican War to repel Mexican invasions, and prevent Indians from freely crossing the United States-Mexico border. The Indian Frontier Line, which extended from the Red River to the Rio Grande in a fairly straight line across the plains, was established in 1849 as protection against the Indians. The third line was the Western Line of Defense. Established about 1851, it extended from north central Texas near Jacksboro to Brackettville near the Rio Grande, and provided protection for the settlers, the mail route, and the fledgling railroad.

Fort Griffin, part of the third cordon of garrisons, was established on July 31, 1867, under the name of Camp Wilson, by Colonel Samuel D. Sturgis with companies F, K, and L of the Sixth Cavalry when Fort Belknap was abandoned due to scarcity of water at that post. The original camp site in the bottoms of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River had to be abandoned because of its poor drainage following rains. The post was subsequently moved to the top of a plateau known as Maxwell's Ranch about a half a mile from the river and a hundred feet above it.

It was anticipated that erection of permanent buildings would take at least a year, but to provide immediate housing for officers and troops, temporary structures were built. These shelters were constructed of various materials ranging from rough hewn wood and canvas to pickets and logs. In some cases abandoned settler's cabins were moved to the post. Although plans to construct permanent structures got under way the following year, the troops were still occupying the original quarters in 1870 when Henry McElderry and William Steinmetz made their report on barracks and the hospital to the Surgeon-General (Surgeon General's Office 1870, in Taniguchi et al. 1968). The reasons for not building the permanent structures that had been planned were unknown, but it may have been that Griffin was a very active fort that needed its men more for fighting than for construction crews.

The post was originally manned entirely by the cavalry companies from Fort Belknap, but in June, 1868, that force was augmented by companies of the Seventeenth Infantry under Lieutenant S.B. Hayman. In February, 1868, special orders changed the name to Fort Griffin in honor of Colonel Charles Griffin, who, until his death in 1867, was commander of the Department of Texas.

Fort Griffin, like most of the other garrisons on the frontier, was never intended to withstand seige. It was not stockaded and was protected only by its topographical situation. It was more of a cantonment than a true fort; a place to rest, restock and regroup before returning to the field. Since this post was in the heart of the "Comancheria," it was an exceptionally busy garrison. In addition to protecting Shackelford County from raiding Kiowas and Comanches, Fort Griffin troops escorted survey teams, mail carriers and cattle drives through that territory, and acted as a communications link between Forts Concho and Richardson. During the Red River War (1874-1875), it acted as the main supply depot for Colonel Ranald MacKenzie and his Raiders in their campaigns that eventually brought the Southern Plains tribes to their knees.

Plans were made for the abandonment of Fort Griffin as early as 1873, but its usefulness was not terminated until 1881 when it was officially abandoned. The frame structures soon fell apart on their own, or were hauled away by later settlers; the few stone buildings, not included in the 1971 excavations, were used as barns until their roofs fell in. The stone bakery has been partially



rebuilt by the Albany High School Junior Historians.

### Previous Investigations

Two archeological investigations were conducted at Fort Griffin prior to the 1971 season reported here. The first was a Civilian Conservation Corps project which conducted extensive testing at the site from July, 1940, through January 15, 1941. Only two of these units need be considered here as bearing on this report. Both the Hospital Complex and Officer's Quarters L-12 were trenched and the cellar of L-12 was entirely excavated. Field notes and drawings from this season are recorded on microfilm and are on file at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Interpretive Planning Section, Austin, Texas.

The second season was conducted by the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in March and April of 1969 under the direction on Dr. Dee Ann Story with Dessamae Lorrain as chief field archeologist. The findings of this work were subsequently reported by Doris L. Olds (Olds 1969). Field notes, drawings, and artifacts are currently deposited at Balcones Research Center, Austin, Texas.

### 1971 Season

Since previous archeological work had been done at the site, an effort was made to maintain consistency in mapping controls. The 1969 crew had established a datum point on the rim of the stone well. A nail had been driven into the mortar to the right side of the lowest stone on the side of the well toward the parade ground, and had been assigned an arbitrary elevation of 100 feet. All measurement from the 1971 season were keyed into this system. A secondary datum, a wooden stake, was established at the base of the large white wooden post which marks the southeast corner of the parade ground. Measurements within each unit were made with tapes and final mapping was done with an alidade and plane table. Artifact proveniences were recorded in all units but the cellar on plan maps available at TASP. Since the cellar of L-12 had been completely excavated by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it was assumed that any artifacts found there had been displaced from their original context.

Before excavation, the areas were photographed, cleared and a

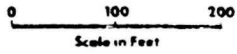
futile search for a surface collection made. The Hospital Complex was excavated by hand following visible stone lines. In the case of the Officer's Quarters the same method was employed initially, but when it was realized that the area had been disturbed and that most of the "wall" lines had been artificially created by a bulldozer, the area was divided into quarters. The cellar was cleared following visible structure limits.

**FIGURE 1:**

**Plan of the structures excavated during the  
1971 season in relation to the Parade Ground  
and the Administration Building.**



41 SF 4  
FORT GRIFFIN  
Site Map, 1971



1260'

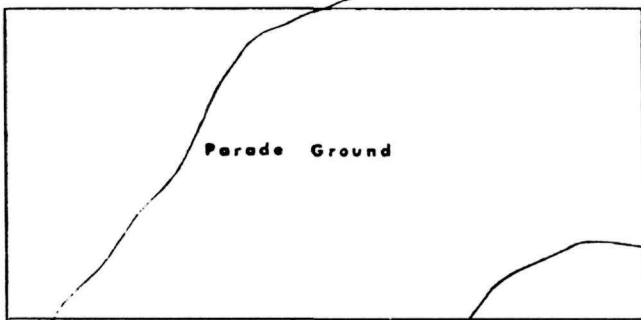
1240'

1280'

1270'

1260'

1250'



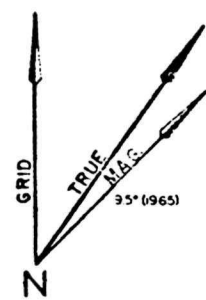
Minimum 100'  
on Well

Administration  
Building

Hospital  
Complex

Officer's  
Quarters

1290'



## RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

### Officer's Quarters (Building L-12)

A 19th century account of the post described the Officers' Quarters as "inconvenient with small rooms, low ceilings, cold in winter and located apparently without regard to convenience or system" (ibid.: 37). There were two main groups or lines of Officers' Quarters: one running northwest-southeast and perpendicular to the lines of Company Quarters northwest of the Parade Ground; the other northeast-southwest and parallel to the Company Quarters and southeast of the Parade Ground (ibid.: 17).

The structure that was excavated was shown on a map drawn of the fort as it was circa 1870-1875 (ibid.) as the easternmost building in the line of five Officers' Quarters that stood parallel to and southeast of the Parade Ground. However, research done during the 1969 field season revealed that L-12 was not the last building in the row; there was a sixth structure located to the east of L-12. Although some confusion has occurred as a result, archeological evidence seems to support the description given for the building assigned the rubric L-12. McElderry described L-12 in his 1870 report:

The last structure in this line was a company grade officer's quarters. It was a one-story frame structure, about 15 by 30 feet, with a shed abutment on the south side of about 7 by 15 feet. It contained two rooms, a kitchen, and a rear cellar, with open fireplaces, and the interior was lathed and plastered. On the north was a veranda about 6 1/2 by 30 feet. (ibid.: 40)

Before excavation, the area was overgrown with dense tall grass, mesquite, and cactus which obscured all but two clusters of stone. The first cluster was at the north edge of the unit and consisted of several large flagstones, the second was a concentration located some 7 feet to the south and was later indentified as the probable fireplace. The cellar appeared as a large depression

which was both overgrown with vegetation and littered with large limestone blocks. With the ground cover removed it was evident that the area had been previously disturbed. Many stones of both the house and cellar were displaced and in some areas heaps of stone were found. It was learned from local informants that during the 1950's the area had been bulldozed and chained several times.

### Structural Features

Although unit L-12 was badly disturbed by bulldozing, several features were visible (see Fig. 2). To the north of the structure were five flagstones; these appeared to have been a walk of some kind leading toward the Parade Ground. South of the flagstones there were three post molds in a row across what would have been the front of the structure. The area between the flagstones and the post molds, about 7 feet, was almost devoid of stone of any kind but with a large number of machine cut square nails. This would have been the veranda. Since the house is reported to have been a frame structure in McElderry's report (ibid.), it would be logical to assume that the veranda was made of wood also.

The north-south measurements for the building were more difficult to determine. Twenty-two feet south of the row of post molds was a stone support constructed of mortared limestone that measured 2.0 feet by 2.5 feet and extended to a depth of 2 feet. The top of the support was just above ground level, but was probably higher originally. To the east of the stone support was a 1.0 foot wide band of coarse gravel that appeared as a distinct line for some 5.0 feet where it was interrupted by a large rodent burrow. This band was possibly a dripline from the shed attached to the rear of the main structure. The actual measurements of the structure, 22.0 feet by 30.0 feet, would accommodate the floor plan described in the historical account: two rooms situated side by side in the front of the structure (north), each measuring 7.5 feet by 15.0 feet, with a 7.5 feet by 15 feet kitchen joining the west room and a 7.0 feet by 15.0 feet shed abutting the rear of the building.

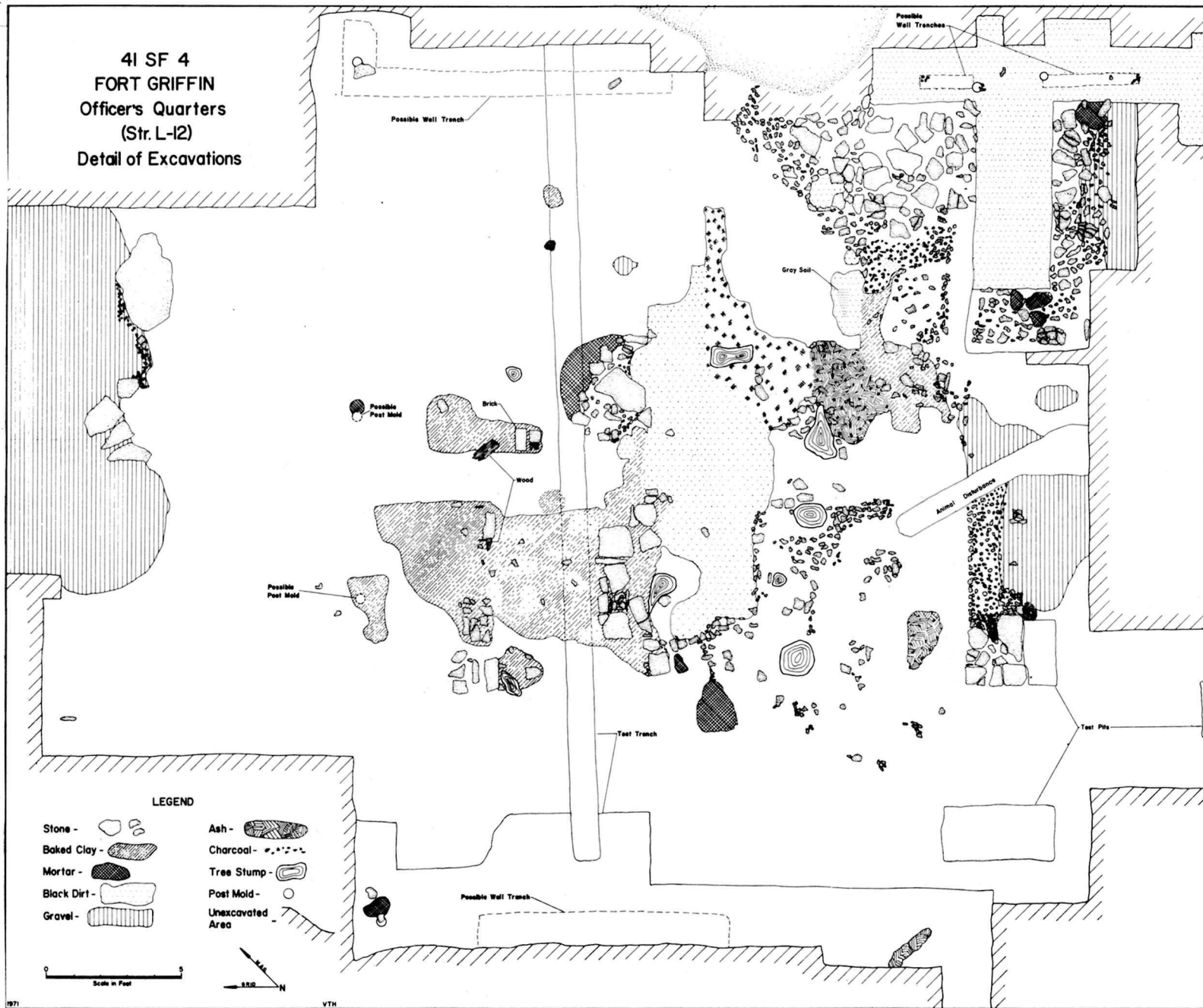
Another important feature was a concentration of stones measuring 8.0 feet by 6.0 feet. It was found 3.8 feet south of the row of post molds across the front of the structure, and 10.0 feet east of the west trench line. A reddish and dark stain surrounded the limestone rocks and seemed to indicate a hearth. There were



**FIGURE 2:**

**Detail of excavations in Structure L-12, Officer's  
Quarters.**

41 SF 4  
 FORT GRIFFIN  
 Officers Quarters  
 (Str. L-12)  
 Detail of Excavations



LEGEND

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Stone -      | Ash -            |
| Baked Clay - | Charcoal -       |
| Mortar -     | Tree Stump -     |
| Black Dirt - | Post Mold -      |
| Gravel -     | Unexcavated Area |

Scale in Feet



scattered stones which indicate that the fireplace was originally larger than the preserved hearth. This Feature was probably a double fireplace used to heat both of the front rooms. An iron stove was probably used in the kitchen for heat and cooking; this assumption was based on the lack of any in situ stone in the kitchen area and the presence of a cast iron stove lid handle there.

There was no good evidence for the placement of windows and doors. Artifact provenience which would have been a major factor in determining the location of these features was destroyed through chaining or bulldozing. Most of the artifacts found in L-12 occurred jumbled together in a relatively small area near the center of the structure. Several hinges, a key, lock faces, and window pane sherds were found, but their original context had obviously been destroyed.

The 8.0 feet by 9.0 feet cellar was located to the south of the main structure. Six cut limestone steps, each measuring approximately 2.0 feet by 0.8 feet, led into the underground room. A seventh step, now displaced, probably had rested above the preserved top step. The soil in this area was darker than the surrounding area, and the stain was of the appropriate size for a step. Three stones had been placed end to end and sloping downward at a 45 degree angle on either side of the steps. The stones to the west were in situ, and although those to the east had been removed, the impressions of the stones were still visible. The walls of the cellar were formed of large cut limestone blocks and the floor was of bedrock. Although remnants of the walls were still present, they were in poor condition; the mortar between the stones is eroded and ground pressure is causing the stones to shift inward. No evidence of a superstructure for the cellar was located although there must have been one of some sort originally.

Although the cellar was excavated in the 1940's by the Civilian Conservation Corps, additional artifacts (buttons, coins, nails) were recovered. These articles could have washed in from the surrounding areas during the thirty years since the work was done, or they may have been shoveled in during one of the bulldozings of later clearing efforts.



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## Hospital Complex

The Hospital Complex, consisting of four buildings arranged around a cistern, was located some 100 yards east of the Parade Ground beyond the Administration Building. Site maps depicting the fort between 1870 and 1879 (ibid.: 16) indicated three structures designated P-1, P-2, and P-3; however, according to McElderry's description in his report to the Surgeon General, P-1 was actually two separate structures joined in a "T" shape. Taniguchi et al. (1968: 44), paraphrasing McElderry's 1870 report, describe the buildings as follows:

The first of these buildings [P-1A] was the administration building, which was described as an old, dilapidated log house hauled in from a deserted ranch soon after the post was established in 1867. This building was 45' X 16' 10", divided into three rooms, the steward's room (later changed to an office), dispensary, and a storeroom. It was covered with a "dirt" roof and leaned to one side; the roof is said to have leaked badly. The walls and roof were covered with old pieces of canvas. The room used as the steward's room and later as an office was at the west end of the building, 15' X 16' 3". It had three windows and two doors. The room used as the dispensary was the middle room, 11' 9" X 16' 9". It had four doors and one window: the first door was the front entrance, the second opened to the storeroom, the third to the office, and the fourth to the adjoining dining room of the building. The storeroom, 15' X 16' was at the east end of the building and had one window and three shutters serving as windows.

The second building [P-1B] , used as a messroom and kitchen, was frame joined to the first at right angles. It was 14 X 34', divided into rooms of unequal size. The larger room, 14 X 24' connected with

the dispensary and was used as the mess-room and sleeping quarters for nurses. The smaller room, 10 X 14', was used as the kitchen.

To simplify reference, the larger building running east-west has been designated P-1A, with the smaller one being called P-1B; see Fig. 3.

The remnants of P-1B were the first to be located. The dimensions of these two buildings and the locations of the other two buildings were projected by utilizing measurements given in the historical accounts. Each area was tested.

Before excavation, the unit was overgrown with various species of cacti (prickly pear, tasajillo, and cholla), young mesquite, and dense tall grass. Structures P-1A and P-1B were covered with a layer of clay fill which had been recently laid by the park in an effort to obliterate an old road that had been used by tourists in the park. The reconstructed cistern was the one readily identifiable feature, and it was from this landmark that bearings were taken for location and orientation of the structures. Most of the wall remnants were obscured by the thick vegetation with occasional flat stones showing at ground level. The only outlines visible before clearing were those of the east wall of P-1A and the west wall of P-3. These walls were the ones closest to the cistern and may have gained some measure of protection from their topographic situation.

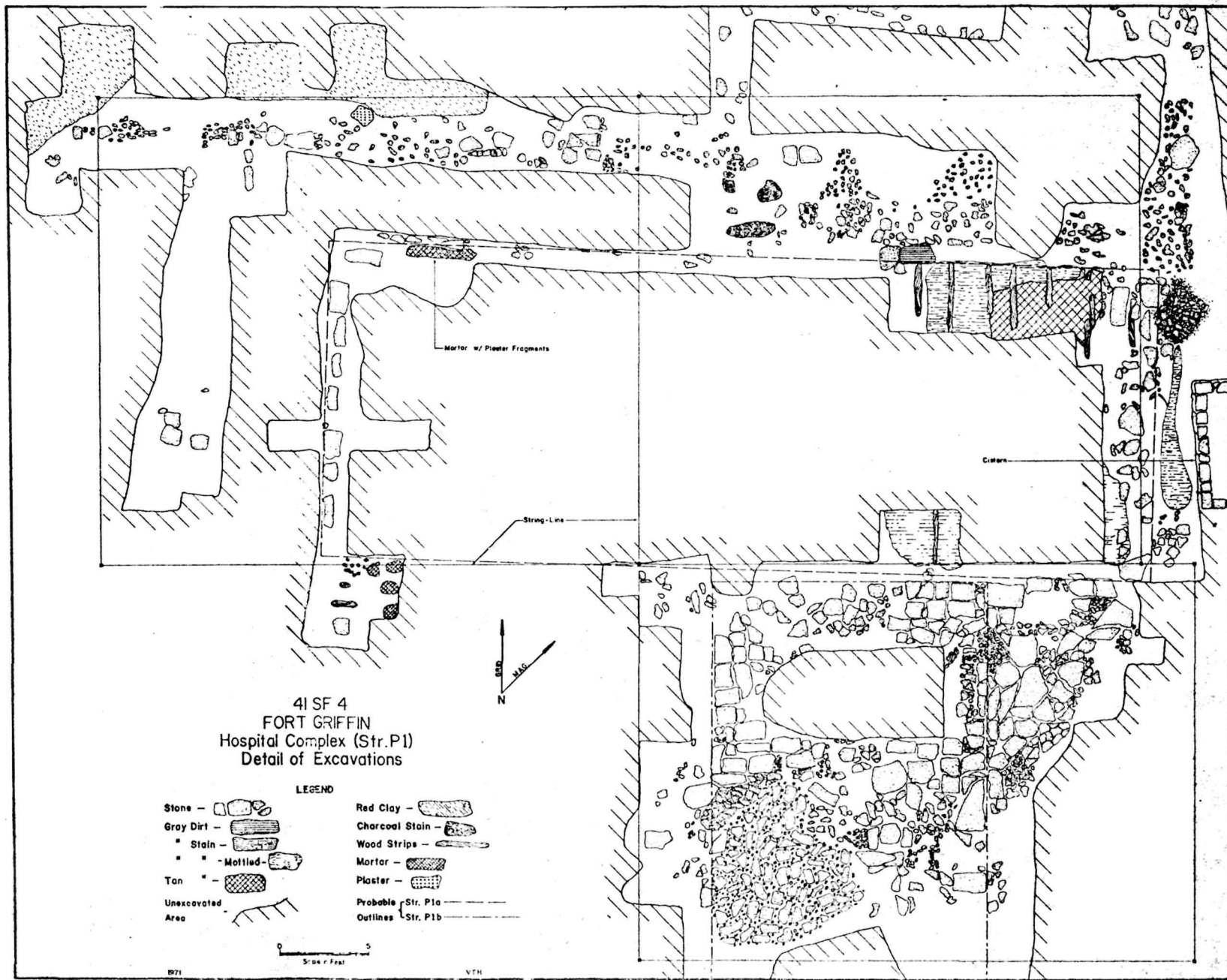
### P-1A

#### Structural Features

Remains of all four exterior walls were uncovered during excavation, but because testing was limited by the terms of the contract to trenching for wall lines, the interior rooms were not outlined. Exterior measurement of the structure were 46 feet X 18 feet. The previously quoted historical account specified the dimensions as 45 feet X 16 feet 10 inches, but it is not known whether these were interior or exterior dimensions of the entire structure.

FIGURE 3:

Detail of excavations in Structure P-1, Hospital  
Complex.





Lines of hand hewn limestone rocks were uncovered and assumed to be the supports for the frame structure. Because bedrock is encountered 2 to 3 inches below the surface, a true foundation would have been unnecessary.

The north and south walls were badly disturbed, with only the northeast corner stone still in place. There was a dark stain approximately 8 inches wide running east and west along what should have been the wall lines. A grey and yellow clay-like layer extended across the eastern portion of the interior of the structure; charred wooden strips 2 inches wide ran north and south at regular intervals through the clay. These narrow wooden strips may have been remnants of the fallen walls. Although the historical account did not describe the interior finishing of the building, other structures in the fort were reported to be lathed and plastered (ibid.: 40).

Concentrations of mortar and whitewashed plaster were found along both the north and south wall lines. Two areas of especially heavy concentration occur west of the north wall line and may indicate a setting trench.

The east wall was in poor condition, but was fairly recognizable through an irregular line of stones. There were two areas of grey clay similar to that found along the north and south wall lines. Because the interior of the structure was not fully excavated, it was not ascertained whether the clay stain extended over the entire interior.

The west wall was well defined as a solid row of flat stones. A stone running perpendicular to this wall formed the northwest corner. No clay stain appeared here, but because little excavation was done to the east of this wall, the stain may be present.

### Doors and Windows

The historical account refers to numerous windows and doors in this structure. Any interior doors would not have been encountered by the 1971 excavation, however, which was limited to trenching of the outside walls only. The front entrance was to be in the center room of the dispensary, facing north. There was a concentration of window pane sherds 7.0 feet to 8.2 feet east of the



VIEW FROM NORTHEAST  
ACROSS PARADE GROUND

northwest corner stone and three hinges located within 10.2 feet of this corner. All these accoutrements would fall within the limits of the west room (the steward's room) which had two doors: one that opened to the dispensary and one to the outside. Here the historical account failed to mention in which wall the outside door was to have been, and the door could have been as easily located in the north wall as the south.

### Roof and Ceiling

There was no discernible evidence found for the roof or ceiling. Since the area of P-1A had been covered with a clay fill in the recent past, determination of a "dirt" roof would have been difficult at best.

The wood strip and grey and yellow clay layer found at the east end of the building could possibly have been part of the fallen ceiling, but from accounts of the interior finishing of other buildings on the post, it would be more probable that the strips belonged to wall lathing.

### P-1A Addition

Approximately five feet north of P-1A there was evidence of another wall running the full length of the building and some fifteen feet beyond it to the west where it cornered with a wall running southward. The large number of wire nails and the fact that no mention of this area was made in the historic accounts seemed to indicate that this room was a later addition to the building, possibly after the fort was abandoned about 1881. The artifact inventory included bedsprings, suspender clasps, and coins, which seemed to indicate a sleeping area. The wall to the north of P-1A may have formed a porch.

### P-1B

### Structural Features

Structure P-1B was described as a frame building measuring 34

feet (north-south) X 14 feet (east-west) and placed at right angles to P-1A (ibid.:44). Excavation was begun around two large rocks which were found to form the southwest corner of a flagstone floor which abutted the south wall of P-1A. Although the outline of the entire stone concentration appeared to be rather irregular, there was a clearly delineated north-south break or butt joint in the stone occurring 15.3 feet from the western edge of the P-1B floor (see Fig. 3). The joint was well defined for approximately 12 feet from the south wall of P-1A after which it became indistinct due to an apparent disturbance. This joint may indicate the eastern limit of P-1B so that the flooring to the east of the butt joint would fall in the angle formed by the abutment of P-1A and P-1B but outside of both structures. Although the function of this patch of flooring was not known, it may have been part of a paved veranda.

It was evident that the preserved floor did not represent the entire structure. The flagstones west of the butt joint may be the remnants of the messroom which connected with the dispensary in P-1A described by McElderry in his 1870 report (ibid.). If this be the case then the second room, the kitchen, which lay to the south of the messroom has been destroyed. Due to the disturbance at the south end of the feature and the lack of wall remains, the dimensions of the structure remain highly conjectural.

There was no evidence for windows or doors.

### P-2

Taniguchi et al. (1968: 44, 46) paraphrase McElderry's 1870 report in regards to building P-2 as follows:

The third building...stood six feet on the northwest side of the log building and at right angles to it. This was an old frame house of warped cottonwood, 12' 6 1/2' X 28' 4", first used as an adjutant's office. It was divided into two rooms, a storage room and the office of the surgeon in charge, later the quarters of the hospital steward. The smaller room at the southeast end was used as surgeon's office and steward's room; the storeroom was

provided with shelves for the medicines and a closet "for the poisons and most expensive drugs."

### Structural Features

No evidence of this structure was located. Two trenches were excavated which should have bisected any remains. Very few artifacts were found in the area. The wall line found 5 feet north of P-1A did not appear to be part of the building in question since it cornered and continued southward. It was assumed, then, that the remains of P-2 were destroyed through chaining or other disturbance.

### P-3

P-3 was the Ward Pavilion Building which stood in line with and 10 feet east of P-1. It was a board and batten building with a shingled roof and was raised 18 inches above the ground on stone supports. It measured 44 feet X 20 feet X 12 feet in height and had four windows on each side and a door at each end. The interior walls were plastered and the ceiling was canvas. The interior was partitioned off to form three rooms: the wardmaster's room, a wash and bath room and the ward. The two former rooms were at the northeast end of the structure. The ward room was 20 feet X 33 feet, was heated by two sheet iron stoves and ventilated by small holes under the stove and by two shafts through which passed the stove pipes (*ibid.*: 46). This Ward Pavilion Building follows the description given in "Plan for a Post Hospital of Twenty-four Beds," Surgeon-General's Office, 1867 (*ibid.*: 77-82) except that this ward housed only 12 beds. The privy for the hospital lay about 60 feet from the ward and is today outside the park's boundary.

### Structural Features

The Ward Pavilion was located to the east of the cistern. Although several trenches were excavated that should have crossed any preserved wall lines, little well-defined evidence of the structure was found. Immediately east of the cistern, a line of rocks was encountered, but only the stones in the northern end of the trench seemed to be in place. The northernmost stones could



have been the northwest corner of the building, but because the stones of what should have been the north wall had been displaced, evidence was inconclusive. Pinkish mortar of the type common to other areas of the fort was found in the soil between the two largest stones of the west wall. No other wall lines were found. The ground slopes steeply away from the cistern to the east toward the park fence with evidence of heavy erosion in the area. Bedrock was encountered at a depth of 2 to 6 inches below the ground surface in the area that should have been the center of the building, and at grass root level at the eastern edge of the testing, i.e., what should have been the east wall. There is undoubtedly a structure in this area in view of the large collection of machine cut square nails and other artifacts, but the building limits could not be defined. Plaster, charcoal, and other debris showed in the soil profiles of the center trench.

## ARTIFACTS

The artifact inventory from L-12 produced an assortment of material ranging from military issue to personal goods. Military issue included military buttons, a brass bugle insignia (Infantry), centerfire cartridges, lead bullets and shot. Personal goods included pen points, a Jew's Harp fragment, rubber comb fragments, clay pipe fragments, coins, a ring embossed FRIENDSHIP, a poker chip, and assorted metal, glass, bone, and shell buttons. There were ladies' buttons, several glass beads, a small ring, slate pencils, and ceramic marbles. The hardware category included assorted metal hinges, nine keys, lock plates, and stove parts. Since officers were allowed to have their families with them at many of the frontier forts, the presence of women's and children's artifacts is not too surprising.

The Hospital Complex (P-1, P-2, P-3) produced a number of artifacts with the majority coming from P-1A and P-1A Addition: assorted buttons of glass, metal, bone, and shell, door hinges, cartridges, windowglass, buckles, bedsprings, and assorted coins. Artifacts of special interest were a dental pick, a fragment of golden metal assumed to be material for fillings, a glass drinking straw, and a scissor fragment.

The excavated materials and provenience data are presently housed at Balcones Research Center.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The 1971 field crew completed the Inter-Agency Contract requirements for complete excavation of Officer's Quarters L-12 and for testing the Hospital Complex ruins. No work was done on the optional structures allowed by the contract due to time constraint and crew limitation. Fort Griffin was the last site excavated in the 1971 series of three historic forts (Lancaster, Richardson, Griffin) and only two weeks could be spent at this particular site.

Officer's Quarters L-12 had been so disturbed by bulldozing and chaining that little unquestionable architectural evidence remained. The fireplace stones were displaced and no clear outline was found for the hearth area. The trench lines that were found could have been either the exterior lines of the structure or the result of the 1940 Civilian Conservation Corps excavations which trenched in the area in an effort to locate the wall lines of the structure. These trenches would have been refilled with soil which probably contained some of the pinkish mortar that is common to the fort. Therefore it is not known whether the trench lines found during the 1971 excavation were those of the exterior of L-12 or the remains of the 1940 trenching. Little can be concluded from artifact placement since the bulldozer had heaped them into one area area, in the center of the structure. Artifact provenience was recorded on a plan map and is available for study at the Texas Archeological Salvage Project, Balcones Research Center, Austin.

The cellar of L-12 should be stabilized since the area is open and subject to erosion and weathering. When the area was re-excavated in 1971, it was noted that most of the mortar had eroded from between the wall stones, and ground action over the last thirty years had begun to push some of the dressed limestone blocks out of place. Now that the cellar is completely unprotected, weathering will occur more quickly than before. Since the wall remains are currently intact, protection or stabilization of some kind should be effected.

Of the Hospital Complex buildings (P-1, P-2, P-3), remains of only P-1 and P-3 were found. Complete excavation of P-1 would probably be very productive in terms of both architectural information and artifact recovery. The interior of P-1A was covered

FIGURE 6:

Looking north at the cellar of L-12. Six limestone steps with stone "sidings" abutting them on the left descend to a bedrock floor. Note limestone rock debris from the cellar wall used as part of backfill by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

FIGURE 7:

Looking east at the Hospital Complex and reconstructed cistern. P-1A lies in the foreground outlined with string. P-1B is the flagstone floor shown at lower right.

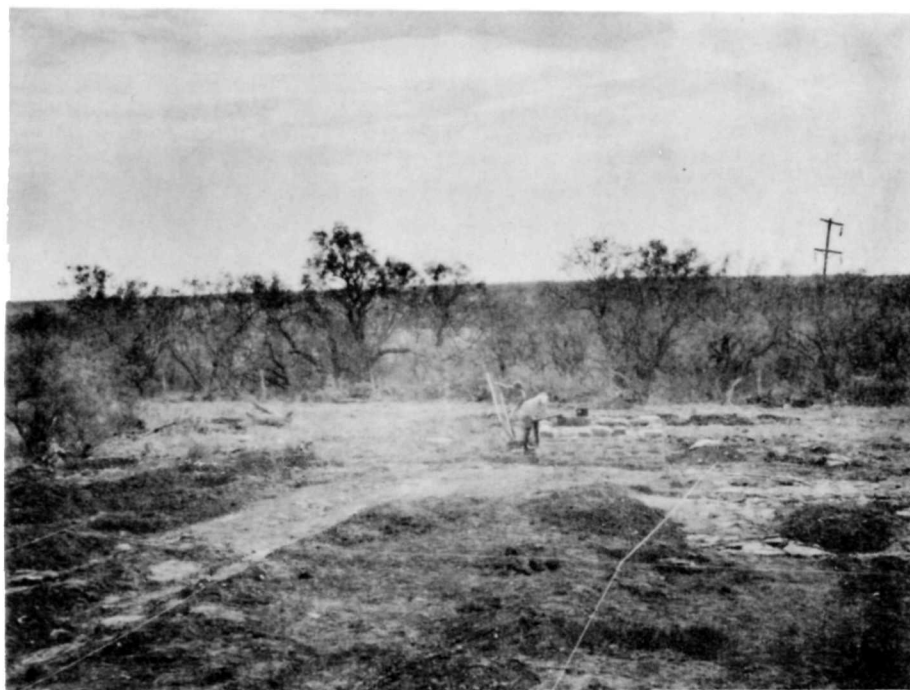


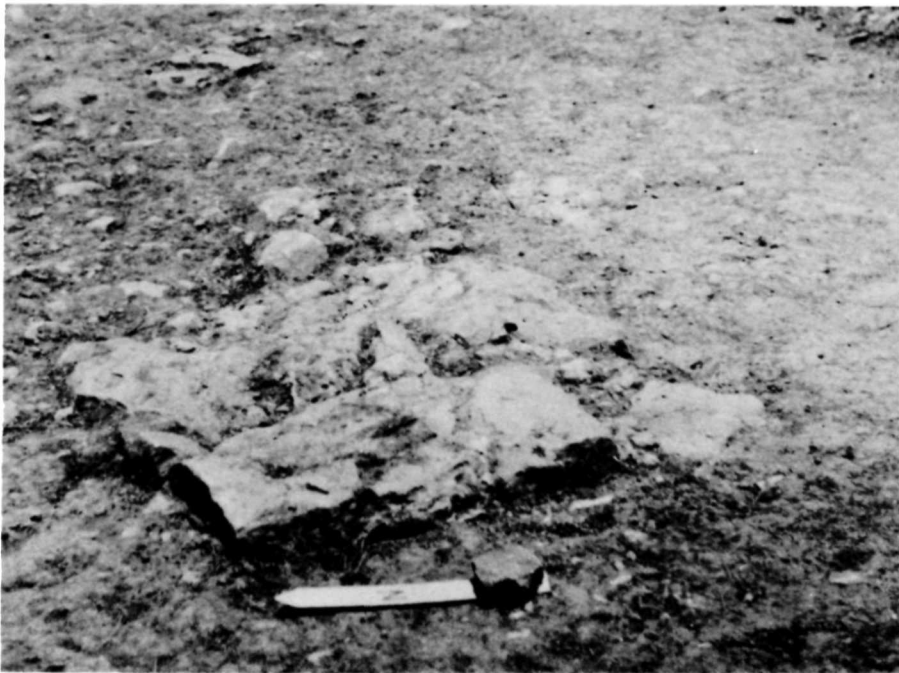
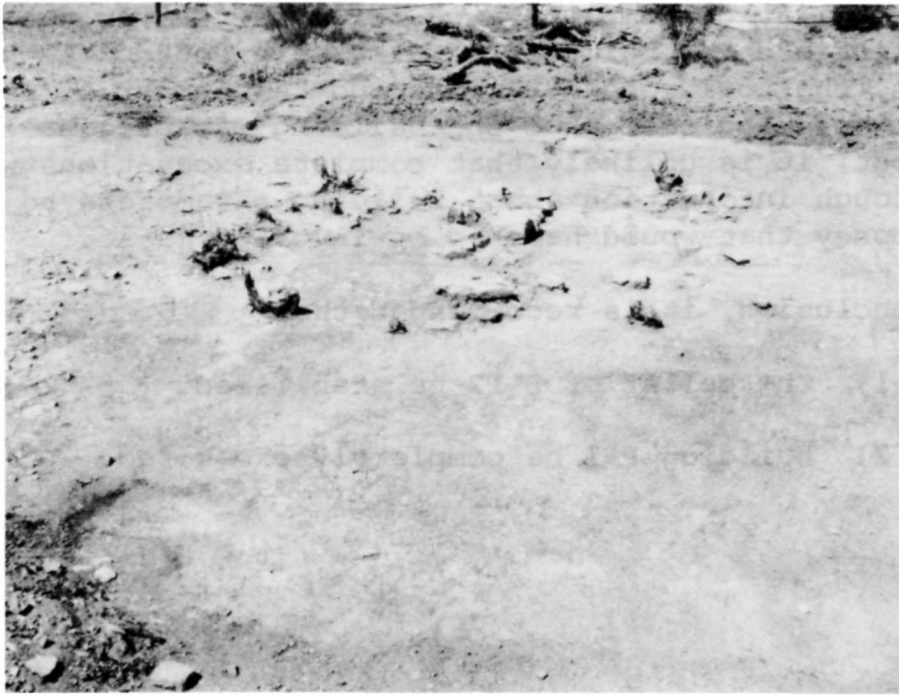
FIGURE 4:

Looking west at the central portion of Officer's Quarters L-12. The light stains running horizontally in the foreground and at the west edge of the excavation are trench lines filled with pinkish mortar. The stones in the center of the photograph are the displaced hearth. Note the stone support in the upper left of the photograph.

FIGURE 5:

Detail of the 2 feet X 2.5 feet stone support found at the rear of the structure.





by what appeared to be interior wall finishing, i.e., lathing strips covered by plaster. If this is the case, then the features under the collapsed wall would be undisturbed and would provide much information on the construction of the interior rooms.

Advisability of complete excavation for P-3 is conjectural since so little of the building remains were found. Although mortar stains, charcoal concentrations and the number of recovered artifacts would indicate that the building was originally located at this spot, it is unlikely that complete excavations would produce enough information about building parameters to merit the time and money that would have to be invested.

In conclusion, it is recommended that

- 1) the cellar of L-12 be stabilized
- 2) building P-1 be completely excavated.

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