

Report of Analysis

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Item Description

(pictured on the opposite page)

1. The Item is a photographic, black and white, "glossy" print, approximately 5 and 1/8th inches by 4 inches, with a photographic image appearing on one side (designated Image Side).
2. The side opposite the image (designated Reverse Side) consists of a clear white background bearing ink (2 colors) and pencil writing.

Reverse Side

1. A handwritten, black in color ink inscription appears at the top:

*Northwest Corner of Military
Plaza 1850. San Antonio, Tex*

This inscription is partially obscured, possibly due to "cropping" of the photograph.

2. A handwritten, black in color, ink inscription appears approximately 1/2 inch below the initial inscription:

4x5 b & w neg.

The ampersand is a typeface equivalent to the symbol used and does not appear on the subject photograph.

3. A handwritten, red in color, ink inscription appears approximately 1 and 1/4 inches below, the initial inscription:

DRT - Restricted

4. A handwritten pencil inscription appears approximately 2 and 1/4 inches below the initial inscription:

City Hall & Jail "Bat Cave" 71-633

The ampersand is a typeface equivalent to the symbol used and does not appear on the subject photograph.

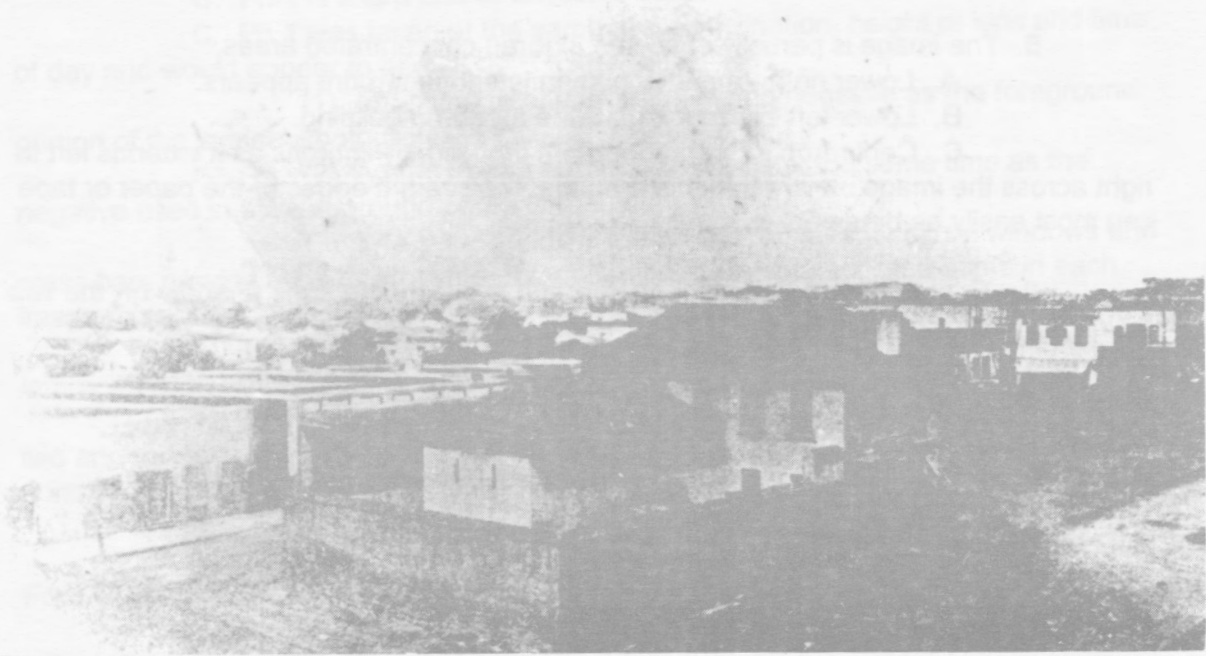
5. A pencil mark appears in the lower right corner approximately on level with the pencil inscription described above. This mark is partially obscured, possibly due to "cropping" of the photograph.

Image Side

1. The image is of buildings and landscape. The building known and referred to as the "Bat Cave" is depicted in the foreground center with additional buildings beyond and a receding vista of trees and residential structures.

2. In the extreme right hand corner of the image, approximately 1/4 inch from the top of the item, is a developed image of what appears to be a paper or tape corner that has bent or peeled inwards.

3. The top 1 and 1/2 inches of the photograph indicate the photographic development of at least two bands of paper or tape extending left to right across the image.



Northwest Corner of Military
 Plaza 1850. San Antonio, Tex

4x5 b&w neg.

ART - Restricted

City Hall & Jail "Bat Cave" 71-633 <

4. The images of structures such as telephone poles and buildings, extending vertically beyond approximately, 1 and 5/8 inches from the bottom, have been "cropped" from the photograph.

5. The image is partially obscured in three concentrated areas.

A. Lower right - a partial human latent fingerprint appears.

B. Lower left - a "fogging" of the area and building.

C. Center top - a darkened area that slightly lightens as it extends left to right across the image. It is within this area that the straight edges of the paper or tape can most easily be detected.

6. Time of day of the initial photograph is set by the sun's shadow on the two buildings in the foreground.

Comparative Sources

(pictured below)



1. A privately owned print (designated Ph 1) that depicts substantially the same scene as the subject photograph.
 - A. Ph 1 depicts all structures, buildings and poles in their entirety.
 - B. Ph 1 is sharp and of excellent detail.
 - C. Ph 1 was taken at the same angle, inclination, height of lens and time of day and would appear to be:
 - (1) An enlarged print from the same negative as the foreground portion of the subject photograph, or
 - (2) A print from a negative exposed at the same time as the negative used in the foreground portion of the subject photograph.
 - (3) The sun's shadow line across the jail with its slit windows and cross bars provide an excellent time determination and are exactly the same in each image.
 - D. Ph 1 has been cropped both vertically and horizontally, reducing the image area.
 - E. Ph 1 depicts, in place of the horizon vista of the subject photograph, two and three story buildings fronting on Commerce Street. One of the building inscriptions clearly reads ELMENDORF & CO 1890.
2. A print from a stereograph by Alexis V. Latourette ca 1877. Wanda Graham Ford Collection, San Antonio Conservation Society.
3. *Courthouses of Bexar County* by Sylvia Ann Santos. Bexar County Historical Commission, 1979.
4. A print of west side of Main Plaza. Institute of Texas Cultures.
5. *Combats and Conquests of Immortal Heroes* by Charles Merritt Barnes, 1910.
6. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps of the Military Plaza area for the years 1895, 1888, 1892, and 1996.

Discussion

1. The photograph purports to be the image of the "Bat Cave" and Military Plaza, located on Military Plaza, San Antonio, Texas. Taken as a whole with the written inscriptions on the reverse, the photograph is supposed to have been taken in 1850. The image indicates that the buildings facing on Commerce Street, near the "Bat Cave" are one story and depicts trees and residential structures extending towards the North-east horizon.
2. Substantially the same image appears on page 110 of Charles Merritt Barnes' *Combats and Conquests of Immortal Heroes*. published in 1910.
3. The image does not correspond with reality at any time or period.
4. The photograph has been manipulated to eliminate the tall buildings on the North side of Military Plaza existing at the time of initial exposure, and substitute a vista of small dwellings and trees extending to the horizon.

5. The photograph is a composite image.
6. The initial exposure of the image for the foreground portion of the subject photograph, could not have been earlier than 1890, nor later than 1892.
There is some evidence that places the beginning of deconstruction of the "Bat Cave" in October 1889.
7. It is my supposition that the subject image was obtained by the following process:
 - A. The original photograph had the foreground scene "cut out." This cut out runs about mid way across the image. The one story buildings just beyond the "Bat Cave" are actually the first story of three story buildings existing at the time and in the image when the original negative was exposed.
 - B. Then what appears to be a drawing or retouched photograph of another scene was correspondingly cut and the two halves joined, then photographed. The subject photograph is the result. The image even indicates the tape or paper that was used to hold the two pieces during the process.
8. A review of the Sanborn maps indicate that the image depicted in the subject photograph is not consistent with any period.
9. A comparison with the Latourette print indicates that the "Bat Cave" in the subject photograph is being torn down. Pieces of the structure have been removed and others are in evidence on the ground.
10. The sharp, wide, corner cut into the ground to the right of the "Bat Cave" is photographic evidence of construction work being done on the structure that is the present city hall.

ii. It is my supposition, given the poor quality, the fingerprint, etc., that the original of this print was made during the photographic process of manipulation and is in fact a "darkroom" or "printers" image, taken to judge the result of the manipulation.

12. The manipulated image, somewhat "cleaned up" appears in the Barnes book.

Conclusion

1. The image is not of the "Bat Cave" or Military Plaza in 1850.
2. The subject photographic print in possession of the DRT is a photographically manipulated, composite image, depicting a scene that never existed.
3. The manipulation occurred and the image was composed by at least 1910.
4. A portion of the image is from a photographic exposure with an exposure window no earlier than 1890 and no later than February 1892. These are extreme outside parameters. Further research could easily narrow this window.