



(Oct. 1990)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

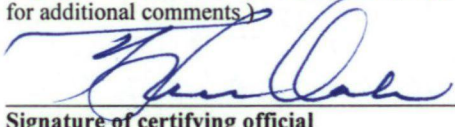
HISTORIC NAME: Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 7300 Jones Maltsberger Rd. NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio VICINITY: N/A
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Bexar CODE: 029 ZIP CODE: 78209

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (☒ nomination) (☐ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (☒ meets) (☐ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (☐ nationally) (☐ statewide) (☒ locally). (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

6-23-05

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

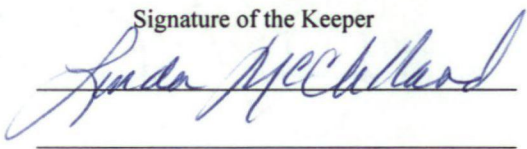
4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.



8/19/05

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Structure

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	0	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	1	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: *The Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture / work of art = covered fountain

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture / work of art = covered fountain

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: Faux bois sculpture

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION
WALLS
ROOF
OTHER CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☐ A PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- ☐ B PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- ☒ C PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- ☐ D PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Art

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c.1926

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c.1926

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Dionicio Rodriguez

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-# through 8-#).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-# through 9-).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- ☒ State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7-8-9 Page 5

Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Description

Dionicio Rodriguez's sculptures at the Alamo Cement Company are to the east and west of the old company office building. The covered pond (to the west of the office, and east of the laboratory) features a thatched palapa roof, constructed of sculpted concrete. The 125-foot-long concrete faux wood fence (to the east of the office) is laid out in an irregular plan (approximating a "C" shape), and features an elaborate entranceway formed by two sculpted trees. The 1-story stuccoed Mission Style office building, and 1-story concrete laboratory building have been modified with additions, and are not included in this nomination. The round pond (approximately 25' in diameter) is covered by a *palapa* roof. The roof thatch is organized in neat bundles that are arranged in three concentric layers as the round roof tapers upwards to a 2' wide opening. The structure is enclosed with a "log" fence. Vertical "trunks" (approximately 5' 6" apart) serve as uprights for the fence of intertwined "branches," as well as for supports for the roof. Angles "branches" serve as roof brackets. The entire structure measures 76' in circumference and 6' 9" high. A canopied section extending from the roof serves as an entrance to the pond. The fountain (non-operating in 2003), made of cement which imitates the honeycomb limestone rock of the Texas Hill Country, tapers upward from its base and is topped by a mushroom shaped cap. Cement "cactus plants" are found in the crevices of the lower edge of the fountain and twisting "snakes" are entwined around two of the "tree trunk" roof supports. The fountain needs some repair, but the structure is in fair condition. Faint remnants of color remain, particularly on the underside of the roof.

Statement of Significance

Dionicio Rodriguez's sculptures for the Alamo Cement Company (c.1926), in San Antonio, Texas, consist of a 125-foot faux bois fence with an arched entrance and a concrete pond covered by a concrete palapa style roof. They are nominated separately to the National Register under Criterion C, in the area of Art as distinctive works by noted artist Dionicio Rodriguez as part of the multiple property submission *Sculpture by Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*.

Alamo Cement Company¹

Englishman William Loyd, with the help of chemist George H. Kalteyer, organized a group of investors to form the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company in San Antonio. The company was the first portland cement plant west of the Mississippi, and one of the earliest in the United States. The original plant, in what is now Breckenridge Park, was powered by steam engine, and ground ten barrels of cement daily. The company quickly diversified, selling building stone and constructing sidewalks, obtaining patent rights for segmented sidewalks that could better tolerate seasonal changes in temperature. The company's principal product however, was Alamo brand cement, which was widely used for large and small building projects throughout the state. In 1897, Charles Baumberger became president of the company, which in 1908 was reorganized under the name San Antonio Portland Cement Company. After the material at the Breckenridge location was exhausted, the plant was relocated to a place that came to be known as "Cementville," where the nominated properties stand.²

¹ Adapted from "ALAMO CEMENT COMPANY." The Handbook of Texas Online.

<<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/AA/dlaay.html>>

² The smokestack and kilns of the original plant (NR 1976) remain in Brackenridge Park, adjacent to the Japanese (also *Chinese*) Sunken Gardens.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7-8-9 Page 6

Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Dionicio Rodriguez's Sculpture for Alamo Cement Co.

Rodriguez's work for Charles Baumburger's office complex at the Alamo Portland Cement Company at its second location north of the city at 4300 Jones-Maltsberger Road was the earliest of the small number of commissions he received to embellish commercial sites. The 1925 San Antonio City Directory lists Dionicio Rodriguez as "wks at Alamo Cement Company," which probably was during the period that he was constructing the sculpted works for Bamburger's office and laboratory and the trolley stop which Bamburger gave to the City of Alamo Heights. It seems appropriate that the owner of a cement company would commission a cement artist to decorate his corporate headquarters and to construct a gift to the neighboring city. Bamburger also hired Rodriguez to make pieces for the garden of his home, but those works were sold and now belong to private collectors.

It is believed that Dr. Urrutia introduced Rodriguez to Baumberger (Schmidt to Pfeiffer and Light). Rodriguez completed several projects for Baumberger, including the trolley stop for Alamo Heights, his personal residence and the company headquarters, including the *faux* wood fence and *palapa* roofed fountain with a pond. When the Alamo Cement Company moved again in 1985, the entire 468-acre site was sold to investors for a mixed use development, which now includes the Quarry Market. Some of the original buildings were remodeled, and three smokestacks were retained. In 1993, the company office and laboratory, across Jones-Maltsberger Road from the shopping center, were purchased separately and remodeled.

Rodriguez's *faux bois* fence is similar to other work by Rodriguez at the "Old Mill" in Arkansas (NR 1986) and at the Froman residence in Clayton, New Mexico, but the *palapa* roofed fountain is unique among his known works. Many of his structures had *palapa* roofs, but as of 2003, no similar fountains have been located. In comparison with some of his other projects throughout the United States, where clients dictated their own ideas for the designs of the work, it appears that Rodriguez was afforded the chance to use his own creativity for Mr. Baumberger. These two sculptures were the earliest of a small number of commissions Rodriguez received through the years to embellish commercial sites and it seems appropriate that the owner of a cement company would hire a cement artisan to decorate his corporate headquarters.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Lambeth, Laura. "Old Cement Plant Site Rescued." *San Antonio Express News*, San Antonio, Texas, February 11, 1993, Section G, pp. 1,8.
- Schmidt, Stanley. "Dionicio Rodriguez" (monograph), February, 29, 1980.
- Schmidt, Stanley. Interviews with Maria Pfeiffer and Patsy Light; San Antonio, Texas, March 7, 1996 and February 6, 1998.
- Schmidt, Stanley. "The Concrete Art of Dionicio Rodriguez" (monograph based on interviews with J.R. Kagy and Rihard Rodriguez, Sr.), n.d.
- Tibbits, Ann Cain, "Stone Werks-A Successful Adaptation." *San Antonio Conservation Society News*, October, 1995.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	14	550491	3263036

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination encompasses only the fountain and the ground upon which it stands, a circular area approximately 25 feet in diameter, as illustrated on the accompanying map. The fountain is in the southern portion of Lot 1, Block 8, NCB 18208, City of San Antonio (Legal description: STONE WERKS CAFE & BAR 007300 00 JONES MALTSBRG and CEMENTVILLE LABORATORY LTD 007310 00 JONES MALTSBRG.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The nomination boundary is drawn to include only the fountain itself. The adjacent buildings have been altered, and are not nominated at this time.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patsy Light and Maria Pfeiffer, with Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION:

DATE: January 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 300 Argyle

TELEPHONE: (210) 824-5914

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Figure-7)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-8)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Los Coyotes Joint Venture (ATTN: John Colglazier)

STREET & NUMBER: 1000 E. Basse Road, Suite 100

TELEPHONE: (210) 821-5644

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

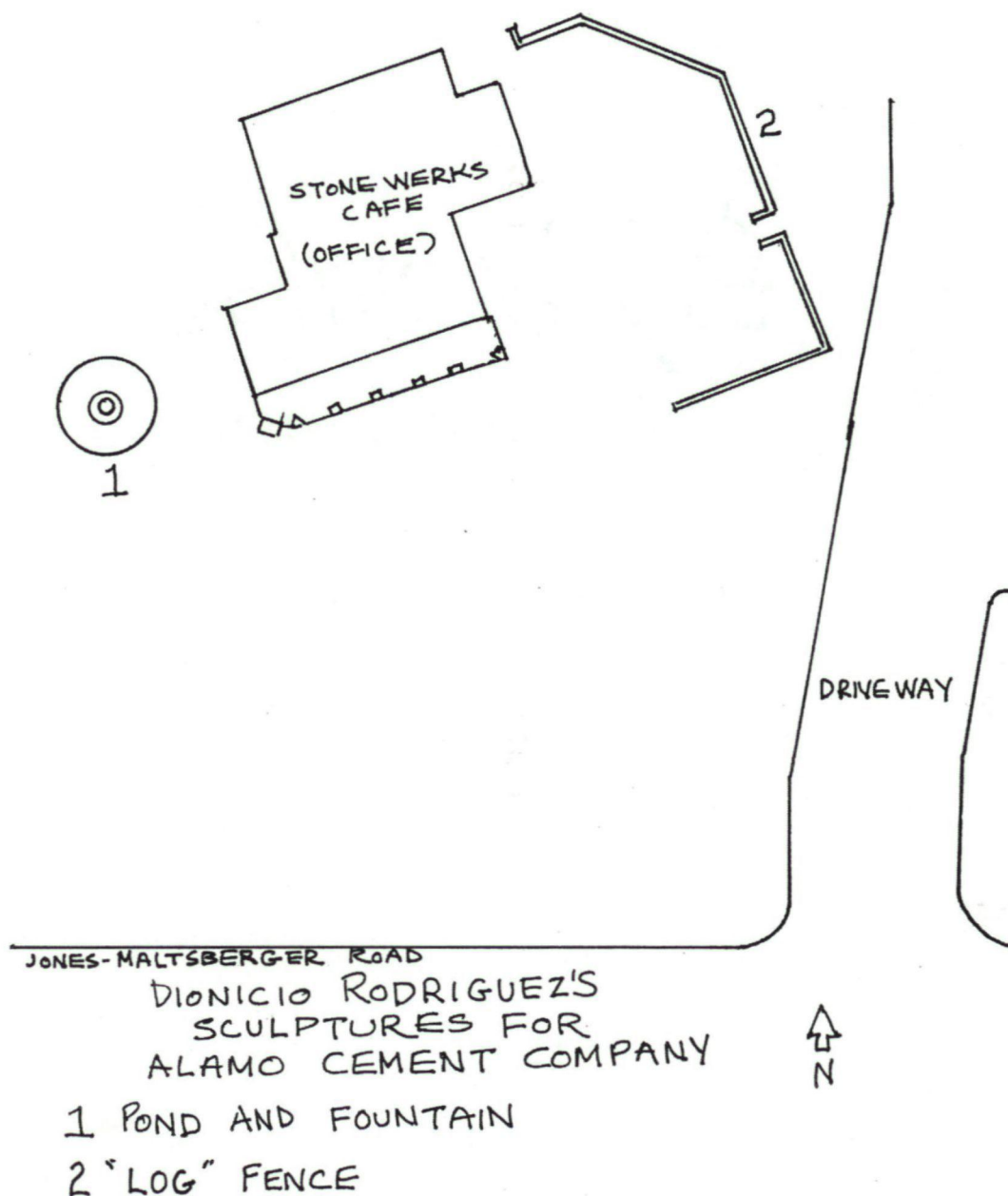
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National Park Service

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Section Figure Page 7

Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Alamo Cement Company
No Scale



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Section Photo Page 8

Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

PHOTO LOG

Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
Photographs by Patsy Light
July 1996
Negatives on file with Patsy Light

Palapa roofed fountain
Camera facing north
Photo 1

Cactus on fountain
Camera facing northwest
Photo 2

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05000862

Property Name: Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
County: Bexar State: Texas

Multiple Name: Sculpture by Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas MPS

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

August 9, 2005
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 7: Description

Accompanying Documentation: Photographs

The following statement is, hereby, added to the nomination to verify that the condition of the resource remains unchanged since the photographs were taken:

“The sculpture at the Alamo Cement Company (fence and fountain), as well as their immediate setting, are unchanged from the time the NR photos were taken in 1996.”

The Texas Historic Preservation Office was notified of the need for this amendment and subsequently provided the above statement.

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
NAME:

MULTIPLE Sculpture by Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 6/27/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/25/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/09/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/10/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000862

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT ___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Outstanding example of Rodriguez's
work: a covered rustic gazebo shelter
and provides shade at the fountain complex
with rustic faux bois ^{supports} and a thatched
Palapa roof - all rendered in polychromatic
concrete.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER L McClelland

DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____

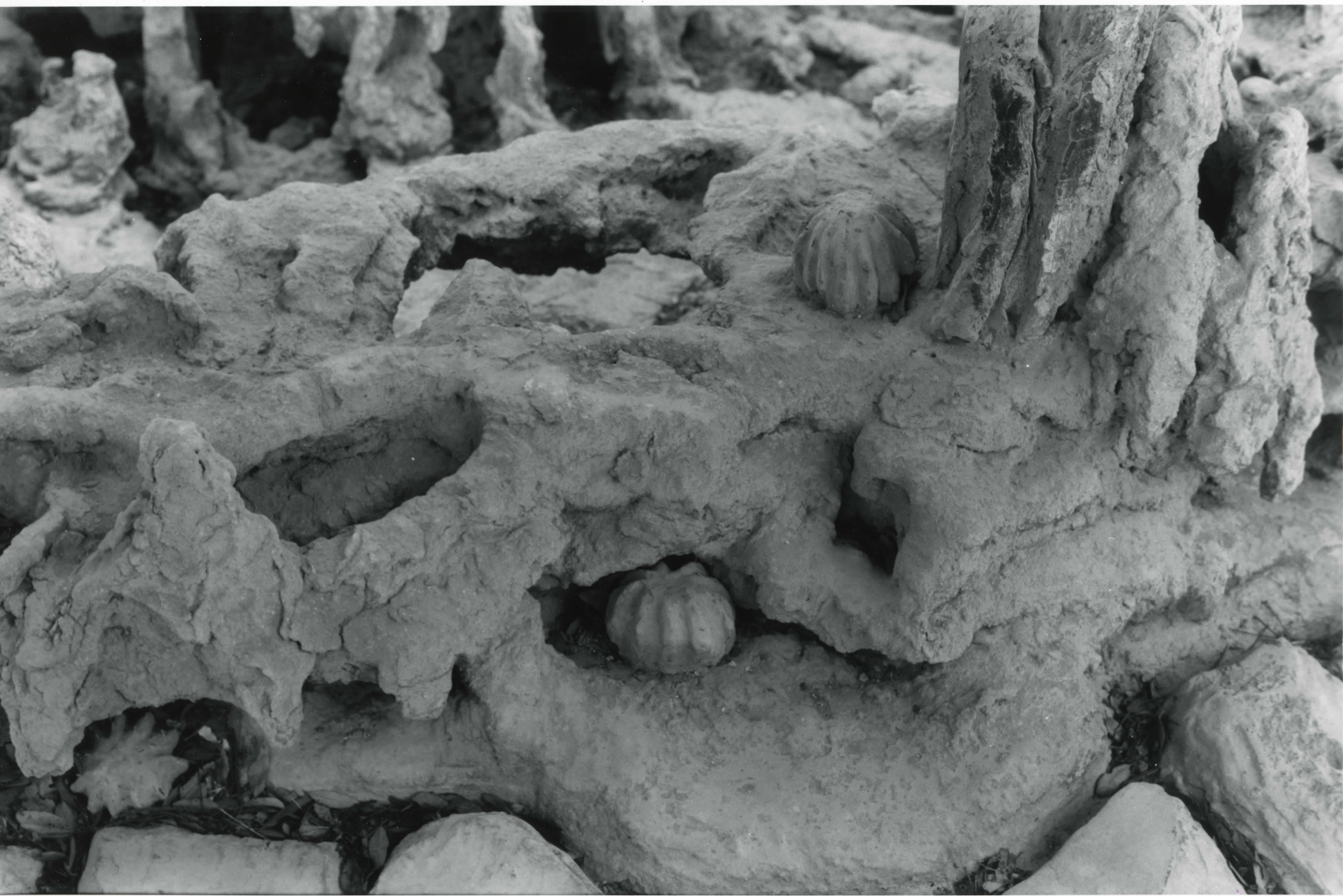
DATE 8/9/05

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas
Photo 1



Fountain at Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar Co., TEXAS
Photo 2

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500904