

The Royal Palace, La Antigua Guatemala: An Overview of its Areas of Activity 1549-2011

Zoila Rodriguez Giron

Introduction

On the restoration, a preliminary documentary study was conducted in La Antigua Guatemala, on the historical events of the uses of said monument, after the earthquakes of Santa Marta in 1773.

There is a documentary archive in the Convent of the Society of Jesus, about the task carried out since its establishment by the city's municipal mayor's office in 1799. However, due to the vastness of documentation, its not properly registered and inventoried.

Miguel Paredes has this interesting collection in his care; thanks to his cooperation it has been possible to know some details related to the subject of these notes. On the other hand, the architecture and archeologist, Mario Ubico Calderón, made a revision of the council minutes starting in 1799. This researcher provides valuable details in his publication *La Antigua Guatemala 1799-1950: Urban and Architectural Aspects*. On our part, in the Municipal archive located in the restored Convent of the Society of Jesus (AMCJ) [by its acronym in

Spanish] The books from the years 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898, corresponding to the numbers 62, 63, 64, 65, and 66, were reviewed.

For the purposes of this work, the consulted documents were classified according to the date and numbers, which many of those still have, for example: (Municipality, 1828 (313) No. 10) It was also necessary to consult other publications from various authors mentioned in the footnotes and the bibliography.

It is to be noted that the documentation consulted has dramatic jumps in time, as can be confirmed later. It is also notorious that there are few registered details in said archive from the previous years to 1799, although it is known that the city of Santiago de Guatemala was never completely abandoned despite the prohibitions on building or rebuilding houses or buildings.

The King of Spain was emphatic through a Royal Decree from June 16th of 1774 which specifies the following:

In my will, let no work of any kind be done or allowed in the ruined city or in the establishments where you are, except for the very essential.

The presented work focuses on the urban aspects of the city, but mainly on the building of the Royal Palace, also known as Palace of the General Captains, Old Palace of the

Presidents, Old Palace, or just The Palace, and its nearest surroundings.

To know about the areas of activity in this building, it will be taken as reference the blueprint signed by Luís Diez de Navarro on September 3rd of 1769, send to Spain on occasion of requesting authorization to start works of restoration and repair works in the Royal Palace.

Annex 1.

Brief History of the City

For context of this work, is necessary to make a brief summary on the third settlement of the city of Santiago de Guatemala in the Panchoy Valley, area it occupies to this day, with the name of La Antigua Guatemala.

The first of these settlements took place on July 25th of 1524 in Iximché; The second one, due to the uprising of the Cakchiquel people against the conquering host, took place on November 22nd of 1527 in the Almolonga Valley, where it remained for 14 years. On the night of September 10th of 1541, the city was destroyed by a flow of water coming from the volcano Hunapú, which swept away the city and of the inhabitants died. Among them, the conqueror's wife, Beatriz de la Cueva.

Sololá's memorial mentions this historical event:

During the year, there was a great landslide in which the Castilians died in Panchoy. They day 2 Tixax (September 10th, 1541) The volcano collapsed, water erupted from its interior, the Castilians died, and the wife of Tunatiu perished.

The town council had appointed the wife of Captain Pedro de Alvarado as governor, after learning of his passing on July 5th, 1541, in Guadalajara, Mexico. One of the first decisions of the governor was to appoint her brother Francisco de la Cueva as Lieutenant Governor. Both the latter and the Bishop Francisco Marroquín had a distinguished role after the tragedy that befell the city on September 10th, 1541.

Both characters of differing natures had to make joint decisions in the city's crisis and its relocation on November 22nd, 1542, to the Panchoy Valley, as well as in the distribution of the lots in this new settlement. The joint governorship of the Bishop Marroquín and Francisco de la Cueva lasted approximately two years.

In May of 1542, Alonso de Maldonado assumes the role of Visitor and later Governor. This character arrives in Santiago for the residency trial of Pedro de Alvarado, years prior to the volcanic disaster. The annals also mentioned this event:

During the year, day 11 Noh (May 15th, 1536) Mr. President Mantunalo arrives, who came to ease the town's sufferings. Soon the gold laundering ceased, and the tax of girls and boys was suspended. Soon the looting on the roads by the Castilians ceased. Soon the roads were again crowded with people as they were before the tax began, when Mr. Maldonado arrived, Oh my children!

Although the city of Guatemala was officially relocated to the Panchoy valley on November 22nd, 1542, it was until March 10th of the following year, when the town council celebrated its first session. The urban layout of the city, according to some authors, was in charge of Juan Bautista Antonelli, however, various researchers believed that this character arrived in Guatemala later or he probably never arrived.

On March 10th, 1566, the King Felipe II, through a royal decreed, granted the city the title of "Very noble and very loyal city of Santiago de Guatemala".

In the old layout of Santiago, which still conserves, is valid, by midst of the 16th century and the early 17th century, referring to the description offered by Antonio Vásquez de Espinoza, when he talks about its well-planned streets, with a main square and beside it a very good water fountain. To the northeast the cathedral and the archbishop's palace

are located. Across the street are the arcades where there are merchants and general stores. To the south there are royal houses. Across the arcades, where the notaries and merchant's shops are.

As usual, around the central square resided the royal and religious power, as well as the main businesses, the main Spanish families also established there (families of conquerors, grant holders, wealthy merchants, among others). The artisans were a little further away.

The central squares in the conquered America were very crowded, since there, spaces for recreation and gathering were offered. In the case of Santiago of Guatemala offered a place for the market on Saturdays and Sundays, communal festivities, and bullfights, among other activities.

Religious orders were given spacious lots for temples and convents. Around them, neighborhoods, cornfields, and nearby settlements emerged outside the city, such as Santa Inés, Santo Tomás, San Juan Gascón, where the indigenous population regularly inhabited.

The very Noble and very Loyal, city of Santiago de Guatemala, remained in the Panchoy valley for more than 200 years, it was several times struck by earthquakes that destroyed it, but the perseverance of its inhabitants

allowed that part of the constructions were restored and others were rebuilt. The capital's kingdom increased not only in urban development but also in population. For example, Guillermo Martínez de Pereda informs that around 1740, inhabitants lived in the city and its surroundings:

...2,040 Spanish people...2,500 mulattos; 1,810 mestizos. In his information, is clear that he didn't include the clergy, black people, and slave mulattos...nor many other men of low status who serve in private homes and in manual trades.

As can be observed, the data is sparse, since it doesn't mention the indigenous population. However, it provides a clear idea of the demography of the valley.

The 18th century was especially disastrous for the city of Santiago de Guatemala. In 1717, the earthquakes of San Miguel occur, with great losses for the city. To this would be added plagues of locusts and epidemics of smallpox and measles. Then, in 1751 and 1756, new seismic events, culminating finally in 1773 with the earthquake of Santa Marta and its various aftershocks.

The year 1773 coincides with the arrival of Martín de Mayorga, as President of the Royal Audience and

General Superintendent of the Royal Treasury.

The newly arrived president is received in Santiago on June 12th of that year, with music, banquet, and bullfights.

In less the two months of Mayorga's residency, in the afternoon of July 29th, 1773, the earthquake of San Marta occurs. Due to this event, the president decided to relocate the city of Santiago to the Ermita Valley.

The civil authorities, ecclesiastical authorities, and the population, with some exceptions, officially abandoned that city on January 1st, 1775, due to the damage caused by the earthquakes. However, there were people who refused to leave their homes or their jobs. For example, Mr. Archbishop Pedro Cortés y Larraz and other people who supported him.

It is also known about the delayed relocation of the ceramicists and weavers to the Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción, although they complied with the mobilization order, they did it late because the new city did not offer the suitable conditions for the execution of their work.

In the ruined city, it seems that many of the spaces that had not completely collapsed were reclaimed by homeless people without resources to settle in the new settlement. The semi destructed Santiago de Guatemala

was gradually occupied, but it was until March 30th, 1799, the President and General Captain, José Domás y Valle, appointed Manuel del Castillo and Tomás Beteta as first and second baton. They were the first ones to occupy these positions after more than 20 years of government neglect.

The Royal Palace

This building had its beginnings after the relocation of the city to the Panchoy Valley on March 10th, 1543, when the New Laws or The Barcelona Laws, order the creation of the Royal Audience from the Borders, with jurisdiction from the Gulf of Tehuantepec to Panama. Initially, the headquarters of this Audience was in Gracias, Honduras, distant from the Kingdom's capital. The first appointed President was the licenciado Alonso López de Cerrato, who for various reasons requested his relocation to Santiago de Guatemala.

The arrival of López Cerrato to Santiago is also documented in the annals of the Cakchiquels, in a paragraph that says:

During the year (1549) Mr. President Cerrado arrived... When he arrived, he condemned the Castilians, granted freedom to the slaves and vassals of the Castilians, he reduced taxes by half and suspended forced labor... Mr. Cerrado truly eased people's sufferings. I saw him myself, oh

children! We had to endure many hardships.

It is starting from 1549, the Royal Audience and its authorities relocate to Santiago, when the President López Cerrato purchases some houses and property that belonged to the episcopal residence, from the archbishop Francisco Marroquín. These properties were located to the southeast of the cathedral. Probably at that moment, the construction of the building that [illegible section] to the authorities of the Royal Audience.

The building of the Royal Houses, although there was no planning at first, it was necessary to anticipate residence of the president and his office, the Register, the prison, and the Royal Seal.

As is to be expected, the block of land that the palace occupied had several remodeling and expansions. For example, first, the courthouse jail was added, and in the middle of the 18th century, the mint. Both factories included the Royal Palace in the layout. The last construction was in charge of the Master Architect Diego de Porres.

Currently, there is no record or description of the royal houses. It is possible that those acquired from the Ecclesiastical Curia were expanded to fulfill the assigned work to the President and other royal authorities.

The earth tremors or earthquakes were always present in the city, for example, the one occurred in January of 1557 brings down the royal houses. The occupation blueprint had to be expanded and reformed to make way starting from the second half of the 16th century to the construction of the future Royal Palace.

In 1563, on September 8th, after 11 years of settlement in Santiago, the King arranges the Royal Audience's relocation to Panama, where remained until 1568, year in which it relocates again to Reino de Guatemala. It is probable that during that period, the building didn't progress in its construction. However, the return of the authorities suggests that the construction restarted with determination on this occasion.

Although for years close to 1574, Luján Muñoz locates documentation related to the factory of the Palace. This detail leaves room to believe that previous constructions to this date had already suffered deterioration.

On the other hand, the materials used for the construction and building were not appropriate for a building of such importance and vast dimensions.

The adobe works were damaged on various occasions, in the years 1607, 1651, 1663, and 1689, when strong earth tremors hit the city.

The funds for the construction and subsequent reconstructions were provided by the Spanish Crown. However, despite the onslaughts of nature, the Very Noble and Very Loyal City of Santiago de Guatemala, grew in constructions and population. Regarding this last point, the description written by Antonio Vásquez de Espinoza is transcribed:

...it's a big city and very crowded, with well-planned and straight streets. It has a main square, which is very good and irregular, in the northeast corner is the cathedral, which is very large and impressive, one of the best there is, and in the same corner are the episcopal residencies; in the other corner to the south are the very large and impressive Royal Houses, where the president lives, and where the judges of the Audience, who are the mayors of the courts, gather. In this audience, in addition to the president, there are 5 judges and a prosecutor, two secretaries, a rapporteur, and other officials; in the same corner is the court jail.

Around 1678, Antonio Ramírez Montufar painted the construction of the third cathedral of Santiago, it shows the northwest corner in it, a section of the Royal Palace. Luis Luján Muñoz describes it as follows:

Is the only graphic reference we have of the building, prior to the current one, which construction was finished

in 1765. It can be seen that it was two stories high with wooden columns, resting on stone bases on the first floor and without them on the second floor. The first level has wooden footings. The second floor features a balustrade, likely made of turned wood or wrought iron, and at the end of the gallery, there is a lattice made of either of these two materials. The roof is tiled with an overhang. Its appearance is naturally less imposing than what we know today, but it must have had a noble presence. Annex 2.

At the beginning of the 18th century, earth tremors occur again, but one of the strongest was the San Miguel earthquake on September 27th, 1717. The Head Architecture Diego de Porres, in October of that year, acknowledges the damage caused to the Royal Houses, as well as to the other public and ecclesiastic buildings. This general situation makes the authorities think of relocating to another area. However, a year later, the King of Spain denies this request for relocation. The city was reconstructed, furthermore, there were many new constructions that beautified it.

Three years later after the San Miguel earthquake, on December 2nd, 1720, the Head Architecture Diego de Porres and Diego de Medina, master of carpenters, yield to Manuel de Lexarza Palacios, Notary of the Royal

Audience, the declaration of recognition made in all the church factories, convents, and private houses that have been rebuilt after the earthquake of 1717. They list every building and regarding the Royal Audience, they report:

Concerning the royal houses of the Audience, the Armory, the jail, and the residence of the President, as well as the archive of the Chamber and Chancery, they are not only repaired from the damage caused by the earth tremors, but they are in much greater security and strength than they had before the earthquakes, during which part of them were damaged and ruined, all thanks to the personal assistance of His Lordship, the aforementioned President.

The territory occupied by the Royal Palace, on January 17th, 1731, through a decree, the king authorizes the foundation of the Mint, which includes rooms for mills, carving, and brushes. This was built in the southwest corner of the Palace at a cost of 19,000 pesos. This new construction was inaugurated with great pomp several years later.

On March 4th, 1751, the San Casimiro earthquake damage the city again, at that time, the most important public buildings were the most affected: The New Mint, the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, and the Royal Palace. The latter took the worst hit,

and for safety reasons, many of its spaces had to be closed off.

Furthermore, there were not always enough funds available for the necessary repairs.

Around 1754, due to the collapse of a large part of the building, a new project is developed, where the reconstructions and expansions of the Royal Audience, Jail, and the Mint appear. A blueprint signed by Luíz Diez de Navarro, who became fully involved in the reconstruction work of the building. In this occasion, by royal order of the Governor and President of the Audience, Alonso de Arcos y Moreno, allocates 65,183 pesos and five reales (\$65,183.05). However, the blueprints made had not been approved yet by the Crown. The approval takes effect until August 8th, 1763.

The funds would be delivered to the Architecture Diez de Navarro...through annual remittances of 10,000 pesos for the payment of materials, laborers, masters, and officials.

Despite the urgency of the work, the reconstruction of the building did not start immediately, the funds also did not flow as expected. Considering these circumstances, the Municipal Corporation grants the sum of \$16,000.00 for the restoration work of the Meeting Room, front, and galleries

of the palace. Even though previously he had collaborated in the repair of the façade in July of 176.

The formal works finally began in October of 1763, date in which Diez de Navarro travels to Costa Rica and leaves instructions so Francisco Javier de Gálvez, Master Builder, would take charge of it. These lasted approximately three years, although the failures, such as the sinking of the small palace, were attributed from Diez de Navarro to Gálvez's supervision. Repairs continued in the Mint and the Court Jail. On the other hand, rotten beams were replaced with new ones, along with other repairs that required an increased budget of more than \$1,900.00.

In the last blueprint made by Diez de Navarro, dated 1769, there are listed areas of activities for the first floor. (Annex 1) However, at the moment, there is no blueprint of the upper floor. Although as Annex 1-A a blueprint by the same author is listed, but in 1755.

After several renovations, expansions, and other works, by the end of the 18th century, the Royal Palace looked as it is currently seen, with the arches, widows, vaults, corridors, and workrooms. All of these collapses with the Santa Marta earthquakes on July 29th, 1773.

In this case, there is a report by the Master Builder Bernardo Ramírez, which is transcribed below:

The Royal Palace, says the engineer, was recognized as mostly in ruins, particularly the corners facing the Main Square; the vaulted arch of the main door corresponding to the Audience, the four facades of high and low porticos on the right and left, and the other two threatening to collapse; the offices facing the aforementioned porticos, the stables of the barracks, and other rooms that are mentioned. The courtyard that includes the upper and lower dwelling of the Mr. President, suffered the same devastation entirely. In the Mint, the mill room is found, the two rows, and the recognition room threatening complete destruction. The corridor placed over the row room cracked along its entire length and ruined; the corner of this, positioned above the main door; the balance room, with its vault cracked along its length, as well as the vaulted arch of the door corresponding to the courtyard; the room for casting shears, with its vault and walls completely cracked, threatening imminent collapse; the fence that divides the house from the President's garden, cracked along its entire length; the treasury room, with its vault cracked along its diagonals, the vaulted arch of the window, and the wall that separates it from the

balance room; the main door of the house and its vault threatening collapse with a crack that affects the two adjacent porticos. The pieces that are in usable condition are the casting room, the one for its materials, the testing room, the carving room, the molding room, and the guard's quarters.

The report continues regarding the residence of the Superintendent: Cracked in its interiors. On the façade facing the Plaza, the arches of the upper porticos, damaged at their keystones, and the pilasters at their bases threaten total collapse. The same happens with the corridor that connects this with the jail and the Palace. The jail did not suffer as much damage due to the small size of its rooms, but even so, it was deemed unfit for the custody of some inmates.

Although the previous detail gives an idea of the extent of the damage caused by this earthquake, the worst had not happened yet; on December 13th and 14th of that same year there were other earth tremors that altered the situation in the Palace, when the high and low arches facing the plaza fell, along with the main door. In the Mint the vault of the room intended for casting shears collapsed. The cracked wall rendered the space unusable.

To the prior we must add the order by President Martín de Mayorga to dismantle the buildings, everything

that could be used in the new city, doors, balconies, stone bases, grilles, wood, tiles, and other materials.

Some of the buildings still offer spaces to use them as vaults for the collected material, among these the Royal Palace, the Society of Jesus, and the customs office. Despite the prevailing situation, there was strict control and inventory of these in the warehouses and subsequently of the shipments to Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción. Part of the listings of all the materials extracted from the buildings of the ruined city, among them, the Royal Palace was listed in the works of Pedro Pérez Valenzuela, *La Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción* and in the monograph of the City of La Antigua Guatemala of the historian Miguel Rubio Sánchez, in the pages 277 to 307.

The question that arises is, were all the materials extracted used - literally- in this building and in others of the Santiago's city in Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción? The damage caused to the architecture of the devastated city was substantial, is believed to be much higher than that caused by the Santa Marta earthquakes.

At this time, not all the inhabitants of the ruined city were convinced of the imminent relocation to La Nueva Guatemala. Two opposing sides were formed, the 'transnationalists' and

the 'terronistas'. The first one was led by the President Martín de Mayorga and the second one by the archbishop Pedro Cortés y Larras. The last one was always against the relocation, which was imminent in 1775, when the Royal Decree authorizes it.

Description of the Current Building

The Royal Houses as precedents of the Royal Palace were expanded starting from 1549 according to the needs, along the block located to the southeast of the Cathedral. Currently, it does not longer occupy the upper part where the small Palace was located, residency of the Presidents and the upper part of the Mint. This section was in the power of the private owners. (See updated ground floor blueprint, according to the annex 3). This ground floor includes new areas of activity that are explained later.

The main façade facing the plaza, presents a two-story building with a double gallery, with 26 semi-circular arches, that rest on stone pilasters on the first level. The second level's pilasters are made of masonry. These frame the corridors that connect the different sections, meaning that from the Mint, one can go to the House of the Superintendent, to the jail, and finally to the big Palace.

The roof of the first level is a vault, the one on the second level is made of wood, but the three central

intercolumniations are vaulted. At the center, on the upper part, the coat of arms of Carlos III, dated around 1763, sheltered by two pilasters, with two rampant lions on either side.

Behind both upper and lower corridors that face the plaza, one enters the government offices. To the northeast, the Audience was located, which occupied the second floor. On the first floor was the Royal Treasury, the Dragoon Barracks and the Stables. At the center of the building is the Court Jail. It operated on the lower level, while the Armory was on the second floor. To the right of the jail is the Superintendent's House. With a central courtyard where there is a fountain, currently restored, that comes from the Santa Clara's Convent. Afterwards, at the back, the Mint. This one has a separate entrance on the side of the Palace.

Comment

Without a doubt, the activities carried out in the Royal Palace, from its establishment in the mid-16th century until the Santa Marta earthquakes in 1773, were strictly governmental. The authorities, mostly Spanish, resided in this building.

The Royal Audience, under Presidential tutoring, assisted the ministers, five auditors, a prosecutor, two secretaries, and a rapporteur. Of

course, the staff had to be increased over time. Separately, there was the Royal Prison, under the mayor's supervision, who also resided in the building.

The Mint was included in the Royal Palace starting from the 18th century, with a specific task as its name indicates, was under the Superintendent's supervision, followed in hierarchy by the Accountant, Treasurer, Clerk, Director of Currency, Assayers, Engraver, and other minor authorities.

In summary, from the Royal Palace emanated the regulations sent by the Spanish crown, as well as the control of them. The coercive power of the laws and the violations of them were enforced, as well as the economy of Guatemala's Kingdom.

The Archeological Investigation

The archeological investigation of the Royal Palace had several seasons, in the first one, the large courtyard was excavated. In this occasion, isolated section of tile floors and cobblestones that were damaged were found, foundations of a central fountain and various remnants of alterations in the area, after the abandonment of the building. The second season occurred between the months of April and November of 1994. In this occasion, the opportunity of knowing more

architectonic details, renovations, and additions to the main building. In this opportunity, the north-south and east-west wings were included in the investigation, as well as the corridors of the big Palace.

Some sections of the Palace were occupied, the marked spaces in the blueprint of 1769 by Luís Diez de Navarro with the numbers 15 and 16, stables of the dragons, and No. 33, and attached residences, by members of the National Army. The central section, the “Royal Jail” was occupied by the National Police of Sacatepéquez. To the west was located the office of the Departmental Government, and the section corresponding to the Mint was used as a garage.

In the marked spaces with the numbers 44 and 46, were occupied by the offices of the Revenue Department. In all of those, it was possible to conduct archaeological surveys.

The third field season was located in the Jail and the courtyards of the Royal Palace’s stables. This one lasted six months, from July to December of 2007.

For the formulation of the archaeological investigation, it was taken into account that the Royal Palace is a factory started in mid-16th century and it was expanded

throughout the entire time that the city remained in the Panchoy Valley.

At the end of the 18th century, when the city is relocated to the Ermita Valley, other earthquakes occur that severely damage the structure. For these reasons, the architecture of Antigua, in general, has suffered continuous deterioration, followed by masonry adjustments that are not always successful.

The commissioned archaeological work aimed to detect structural changes and activity inside the Royal Palace over the years (1549-2007)

The goals proposed to the National Council for the Protection of La Antigua Guatemala (CNPAG) [by its acronym in Spanish] were the following:

- A. To corroborate if the current building reflects in some way the layout presented by Luís Diez de Navarro in 1769.
- B. Differentiate historical stages of use of the building.
- C. Review the hydraulic systems and the foundations. Detect fountains or pitchers.
- D. Examine the drainage system, water downspouts, and distribution system.
- E. Examine surface materials: paint, floors, cobblestones, finishes, etc.

- F. Examine the humidity levels and leaks and their causes.
- G. Know the construction materials and fill materials for dating.

To meet the proposed goals, different excavation units were utilized: test pits, exploratory wells, small trenches, grids, and wall test pits. All spaces were numbered on the floor plan. The collected materials were marked RP-C1-03 = to Royal Palace, Test Pit 1, level 3.

The Excavation

The following is a summary of the works carried out in the different spaces of the building:

The big Palace: The north-south and east-west wings were excavated from the small Palace. The first one of these is marked by numbers 6, 7, and 9. From Annex 1, belong to the artillery storage, two spaces for garages of Mr. President and the Accounting Office of the Royal Treasury. The numbers 12 and 34 belong to spaces for housing and storage for it.

The tile floor was in all the rooms, in most cases it shows lowering. The access openings were also evident when applicable, as well as collapsed walls from earlier construction stages.

The numbers 15 and 16, southeast-northeast wings, stables and

courtyards of the dragoon barracks, the excavation of this section can be seen in Annex 4, graphic of the floor plant of the courtyard, which shows all the elements there: walls, cobblestones, channels, steps, cement slab, among others. In some sections the cobblestones covered old walls, making evident older constructions.

This opportunity was taken to clean the exterior east wall of the jail. This was a source of humidity that passed to the other side of the building, causing severe deterioration in the interior walls.

The cleaning and excavation of wells at the bottom of this space revealed a whole series of construction materials used: adobe stones, bricks. (Annex 5) The drawings from the previous annexes (4 and 5) are by the Archaeologist Jorge Cáceres, executed during the excavations of the Prison.

The research in the Main Courtyard showed several current alterations to it as it was used as a parking lot and mechanical workshop. The walls separating the courtyard from the corridors on all four sides were located. Just like the base of a fountain, the water input and output systems, among others.

The Court Jail: This space had a specific activity for several years; it

was used by the National Civil Police of La Antigua Guatemala. The property, despite its occupancy, showed architectural damage, as well as advanced degrees of humidity and poor lighting.

The excavation was done both on the first floor and the upper floor, as well as on the walls of both floors. On this occasion, the boreholes and records at the bottom showed the clean and wastewater conduction system, elements that are approximately 0.80 meters in depth. The cobblestones are located just 0.15 meters away from the surface.

In the environment marked by Diez de Navarro as 27 "Vault dungeon with its two-eared window." Currently, it is a spacious area, with a single entrance and two windows on the west side. On the north wall, a cross is integrated in low relief, with several layers of paint. Suggests a religious activity, that is, a chapel. It is possible that after the last restoration, its use has changed.

The No. 29, common site, or sanitary service. In the drainage, it shows a security system to prevent possible escapes from prisoners. The entrance was bricked up, currently there is a window.

On the upper floor, 23 records were made. On some occasions, it was necessary to lift some liquid cement

floors that cover the areas of this plant. The consistent fillings of sand mixture and brick fragments were evident.

The creases on the walls showed five to seven layers of paint, as well as the construction materials.

The Mint: The first floor, No. 45 (Annex 1) the explanation states that the lower part of this building served as a section of the Superintendent's house. On the second level were the mills and the yarn room. It seems like a strange combination, since the mills must have generated a lot of noise, and this disturbed the rooms of the house in the lower part. Nine boreholes and three wells were excavated here, as shown in Annex 6. The wells and records demonstrated landfills with rubble and garbage, as well as floors below 0.40 meters. Between the prison and the Mint, the Departmental Government was there for a long time. Drilling wells were built here, too. The results are similar in all cases. All environments have been worked on before, not always in a fortunate way. The materials used indicate this. Where the Superintendency of Tax Administration is currently located, it also underwent an archaeological survey process. In this space, there was previously the liquor warehouse

and the General Directorate of Revenue.

Archaeological materials.

All cultural materials resulting from archaeological research were kept in plastic bags with the respective identification. Subsequently washed, separated and marked for study.

The ceramic sample was abundant, but there are also animal bones (beef, pig, poultry and horse), glass, metal, leather and lithic. In the cleaning prior to the excavation, among the garbage, there was a lot of contemporary material, plastic bags, tires and current ceramics. For the analysis of the sample, José Paredes's (+) classification method was used, which identified the following utensils:

Pre-Hispanic tradition: which encompasses material from Antigua and the highlands of the country in general. This tradition can be presented with or without engobe, with or without decoration. These are household utensils.

Vajilla San José: Glazed ceramic, made with a lathe and closed oven. Chinese Porcelain: This was scarce, since the pieces purchased in Santiago de Guatemala were the product of contraband. They have deep blue colors on a white background.

European ceramics: With oriental and dotted designs. The colors range from blue, green, purple, red or brown on white. There were also samples of utensils from Totonicapán and Quiché, with lead-based glazing, in yellow, green and brown colors. These last utensils are for household use.

Foreign majolica ceramic: This one shows a different type of pasta than Guatemalan majolica. The decoration is polychrome, green, blue, yellow with black on white lines. The black on white sample features geometric motives.

In general, among the ceramic sample there are also fragments of amphorae or canisters, mosaics, gargoyles and taujías.

The files of the municipal archive: Society of Jesus.

The following are chronologically numbered sheets and comments on several municipal documents deposited in the building of the Society of Jesus (Spanish Cooperation), as well as on the Acts of the Council published by Maestro Mario Ubico Calderón. 1799, 1812, 1820, 1828, 1829, 1832 The authorities began their work during the month of April 1799, the first acts of the council, according to M. Ubico discussed administrative planning, control over the killing of animals,

water, weight control, repair of public water distribution boxes, charges for square floors and drawers, as well as other activities.

Little is known about the time of 1775-1799, apparently there were activities, but of the Central Government and, presumably, the many problems encountered by the new building authorities in a city with few inhabitants, but with the desire to continue living in dignity on their own land. However, the population was scarce, but the architectural environment and the surrounding landscape were vast and needed to be managed. The challenge was how?

1 Around 1812, the Collection House was located in the Mint, but due to its humidity and deterioration, it was requested to be transferred to the Convent of Santa Clara. Request that is repeated several times. That same year, the Council authorized the construction of a drawer in front of the Royal Palace and another in the square.

After the earthquakes in Santa Marta, the Master of Works Bernardo Ramírez, reports that the vault fell in the Mint, the walls cracked, leaving the space useless. The stay of the Collections in this place must have been quite difficult. As for the drawers, the first of these was built in the destroyed eastern section in front of the main square for the office of the

colonial authorities. Over time, several more were built for commercial use.

2 For 1820, the Council's book corresponding to this year, provides an approximate number of inhabitants of La Antigua and its surroundings as follows: Parroquia San José Catedral: 3707 people. San Sebastian Parish: 3200 people. Our Lady of Remedies Parish: 2293. Total: 9200 people.

3 Eight years later, the Municipality had ceded to the following people: María y Secundina Gamez, Máxima y Perfecta Monroy, Juana Salomón, Francisca Carrillo, Lina Leal and Ignacia Vesperto, six arches of the Palace and the subsequent rooms for selling meat. The above-mentioned people complain that since the month of July 1828, the current butler, citizen Manuel Acosta, imposed the payment of a cuartillo on each arch.

In view of this charge, the interested parties report that the sale does not exceed half a beef. They also say that the suppliers pay two reales for this distribution. Of these they pay one real to the axe-maker, another half quarter to an assistant. The profit at the end is half a quarter, when all the meat is sold. They complain that they do not have any profit and ask at the end of the application not to collect the aforementioned tax, which is

denied. (Municipalidad 1828 (313), No.10)

From the reading of this document it can be deduced that the Royal Palace had passed under the municipal administration. That the arches were ceded or rented to be used as small butcher shops as in the present case. In the later "ruined" rooms, they were used to store the rest of the merchandise.

4. Around July 28, 1829, the 1st Syndic Pedro Díaz Amaya, sent through the Departmental Headquarters to the Supreme Government, a note informing about the shortcomings of the three parishes and chapels of the city, which "... they have been deprived of everything, for they have not a single ornament." In view of this, he borrowed sacred ornaments and utensils from Nueva Guatemala for them.

The document is self-explanatory. Although it should be remembered that prior to the relocation to the new city, the religious in charge of the vast majority of temples collected the images, paintings and all the sacred ornaments. However, in the ruined city the cult continued, hence the request of the Syndic Díaz. At the moment there is no other document that informs whether this request was

echoed by the ecclesiastical authorities of Nueva Guatemala.

The Municipal Archive consulted has a valuable documentary collection, however, it is not properly classified, which is why on this occasion, continuous chronological information cannot be offered. After 1829, the year 1834 was jumped into, that is, there were five years without any apparent activity. Ubico also did not locate the books from the years 1834 to 1837.

5. However, by August 30, 1832, there was a Legislative Order to award the Academy of Studies the use of the Royal Palace. 1834.

6. In the main courtyard or large courtyard of the Palace, the Municipality granted permits, upon payment, to build thatched-roof galleys. The lack of payment agreed upon was a reason to auction off these perishable constructions. The document consulted reports on this matter. (Municipalidad, 1834. (651) No. 352)

7. During this same year, Mr. Alejandro Segura... he tries to put a small gallery between the Palace for me and my wife to live in, paying whatever is necessary. To make the payment effective, he informs that he would receive a pension, he also says that although he has a house, he does not want to live there because of the

tenants, he wants to live alone and quietly with his wife.

The request is granted, although the cost of the permit is not reported. (Municipalidad, 1834. (263) 563 No. 52)

8. The Municipality, on the other hand, talks about finishing off the pieces that face the square. Although according to sheet 3. it mentions that at least six arches and the rear rooms are occupied by butchers.

The above is confirmed in the same document, when Luisino Muños, tenant of two sites that "well in the old Palace" requests the piece that is between the butcher's shop and its possession, offers to make the repairs both in the portal and in the interior. (1834. No.522). 1840, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1859.

9. The following is transcribed what was agreed in a Municipal document, in the ordinary Public Session of January 11, 1840, on the "License granted by the Academy of Studies to keep the shadows of the square in the old Palace" (in the cover of the document)

... on March 22 of this year, 1839, this Corporation requested permission from the Vice-President of the Academy, to whose body the old Palace corresponds, to keep the shadows of the square in it. This grace was granted from the note that

appears on April 8 of that year, addressed to the Municipality by the Secretary of that establishment, also communicating it to Máximo Muñoz, in charge of receiving the rents produced by the old palace. He does not know whether the license granted has taken effect, which is all he has to explain in this regard in compliance with the agreement of this date.

The Municipality agrees to recommend to the Mayors the fulfillment of the order of the Academy to keep the shadows of the square in one of the courtyards of the ruined palace. (FF) Mollinedo and R. Arrazola. However, eight years later, Juan José Lemus indicates that as of January 3, 1848, the order had not been complied with by Máximo Muñoz, who has a lease in the Palace. He also states that when the shadows remain in the square, they disappear.

10. The Mayor 1st. From the Municipality, dated October 4, 1840, he addresses Rodrigo Arriola, local governor and General Commander of the Department, to inform him that he will not... he can see with indifference the ruin that the beautiful building of this council suffers daily, because of the permanence of the troops that are quartered in it. It requests in the short term facilities to enable one or two rooms in the Old Palace of the Presidents, ... that by its capacity it

could provide the one that would serve as a barracks, leaving in this town council only the guard necessary for the custody of the prison.

No further information was located to find out what happened with the previous request. However, it is evident that the Palace, still in ruins, offered possibilities to be used as a market, houses, barracks among other activities.

11. A sector of the Royal Palace was apparently used as a warehouse, because on November 20, 1846, a payroll of 52 pesos 7 reales was paid to masons and waiters who worked in the building where the granary is going to be placed. In March of the following year, the master carpenter Juan de la Cruz Ávila was paid for the work on the door of the granary.

This cellar has a precedent for the early 1800s, when the town hall ordered the establishment of the granary, for the sale of corn, flour and sugar, establishing the dependency in a room that had formerly served as an oratory of the prison in the town hall building.

12. It seems that the possibility of using the Royal Palace as a barracks continued for several years, because on February 28, 1848, a Commission was appointed composed of the same Syndic and the conservative

Councilor of the municipal buildings to establish the bases of a contract to buy the old Palace of the Presidents by census. (f). Félix Corzo.

13. Around October 12 of that same year, the Municipality announced that the value of the habilitation announced that the value of the habilitation of the space is one thousand pesos at the expense of the Corporation. That same month, on the 17th, it is ordered "... to find out the state of the entire building to use it not only for barracks, but also for his estate"

14. The use is expanded and it is also intended to rescue the building for the House of the local governor, the Revenue Administration and the establishment of a Lyceum. The outer part facing the square would be rented for shops. But to carry out this task there is a but... the document says... For all this it is necessary to acquire ownership of this building. It belongs to the University of San Carlos and could be purchased.

15. On February 3, 1849 it is known that "In the file followed on enabling some pieces in the Old Palace of the Presidents, which serve as barracks for the garrison of this square, the following has been foreseen with this date: General Commander "... that as soon as possible what is coming will be fulfilled" 1848 (1689).

16. Eleven years after the above, on January 14, 1859, the minutes book announces that the road to Escuintla has been completed. In the same document, with respect to the Palace, it is announced that the rebuilding of the Palace has begun, by Order of the Supreme Government. In a later session, the expenditure made on the construction and furnishing of the oratory of the prison is mentioned.

17. On this same subject, a file, without number, with the seal of the Department of Sacatepéquez, is transcribed below:

Antigua Guatemala, January 12, 1859. Mr. Mayor of this city, On the occasion of the Commission of Superior Order that has been conferred on me for the work of the Old Palace, I officially address the local governor of this Department, with a note that reads in its content: Mr. magister of that Department-Antigua, January 3, 1859- I do myself the honor of participating with you. For your information that the wheeled road that goes from this city to the town of Escuintla was concluded in the same terms of our jurisdiction, on December 22 last; without the work being suspended because of these, because only that of Escuintla is still continuing.

I must also participate with you. That I have received express order from

His Excellency. His Excellency General Captain President of the Republic to begin the rebuilding of the old Palace of the Presidents, located in this square; Therefore it has begun today by beginning by digging it up, for which I have had half of the police prison composed of four.

But since the cooperation of the local authorities is indispensable in order to carry out this important work, I hope that if there is no inconvenience on the part of that Township, it will please give orders to the Alderman Judge of Police to act in accordance with this Command, the same to you if you see fit. God preserve you. Many years (f) Manuel Loraner.

His Excellency Mr. Capital General, President of the Republic, in this case is Rafael Carrera, in his second term of the Presidency. It is striking that more than 38 years after the Independence of Spain, the President is still named as General Captain .

18. Mr. Commander General of the Department. Antigua Guatemala, January 3, 1859. By your kind communication of this date, I am obliged to conclude the road that opens for the Villa of Escuintla, in the part that corresponds to the jurisdiction of that Department, and that it continues in that Villa.

I am also understood that because you have received Express Order of

the Hon. Mr. President, for the rebuilding of the Old Palace, located in this square, a part of the prison has begun to be dug up today, and of course there will be no objection to the Police Judge taking part in this work; the same as the Township in what fits in its functions; wishing that the University, as the owner of said building, would have previously smoothed its knowledge. God preserve you. Many years (ff) Att. R. Godoy.

Fact sheet 14 mentions that the building of the Royal Palace belongs to the University of San Carlos de Guatemala. The previous letter from the Municipal Mayor mentions this property again. After this note, no further information was located on the matter.

19. ... But having to date without the Alderman Judge of Police, having agreed with me, and understood that the Municipal Corporation was preparing to integrate this General Command, on the works that are being verified, I have believed without doubt that this respectable body is still unaware that in order to proceed, I gave knowledge through the legally established channel of our operations in gift of the progress of the work and that in good faith harmony that must be maintained among the authorities whose documents I leave uncertain, already in order to directly give

participation to the Corporation since it is time for it to be part of it and if it deems it convenient to dispose of who is of its individuals who must assist this Command. I hope you will communicate it to the Corporation and to the Mayor. I protest my respectful subordination. God preserve you. Many years. (FF) Manuel Loraner.

20. On April 5, 1861, according to the Book of Minutes of that day, there is an Agreement of the Supreme Government where the Palace of the Presidents is destined to be occupied by the authorities of the Department of Sacatepéquez.

21. Around October 12, 1861, there is news of complaints to the Municipal Mayor by Bishop Bernardo Piñol, Rector of the University of San Carlos, who claims the part of the old Palace, owned by Cirilo Salazar. However, Manuel Arzú had previously initiated this claim. The Municipality transferred it to the Local governor with the background.

There is inconsistency in this claim, since if the building belonged to the University, why the claim of a part of it? See notes 14 and 18.

22. A year after the previous claim, the Secretary of the Municipality, José María Cáceres, writes a note about... the abandonment of buildings, especially the Palace of the

Presidents. Bad appearance on the outside, and inside among the undergrowth hide evildoers who endanger the lives of the few inhabitants of this time. He suggests that although the Municipality had intervened the building and rented some pieces, it had been beneficial for the building, but that in 1862 the Government should hand it over to the Municipal Corporation. Municipal Hall February 14, 1862. (1862 (2673) No. 60)

23. When there seemed to be a consensus regarding the future occupation of the Royal Palace, everything seems to have fallen into oblivion, because five years after the last decision, on September 18, 1866, the Municipality intended a public market in it. He appoints two carpentry and masonry teachers for future work. The following year they also agreed to place butcher shops in a section of the building.

24. By July 11, 1873, there is a note addressed to the Municipal Secretary, stating that in 1871 the Supreme Government agreed to grant the Municipality the usufruct of all the rooms on the lower part of the Palace of the Presidents. The transfer would be extended to the lower parts occupied by the Revenue Administration, adjacent to the granary.

The following is a summary of the Report presented to the Municipality at the end of the year 1873, presented by the 1st Mayor. Federico

Solarán: General state of the city consisting of eight cantons: San Cristobal el Bajo, Santa Isabel, Santa Inés del Monte Pulciano, San Antón Dean, Santa Ana, San Juan Gascón, San Bartolomé Becerra and San Lucas

Among its inhabitants, the occupations are artisanal, although there are also professionals: doctors and lawyers. The city had 12,000 inhabitants and has several prisons with 12 prisoners in them.

The water comes from Santa Ana, Las Cañas, and Pamputic. It is also reported that for that year there were reconstructions of the aqueducts with an increase of 800 water straws.

25. On July 11, 1873, the Municipality submitted a request to the Government for the usufruct of all the rooms on the lower part of the buildings that formerly constituted the Palace of the Presidents. Due to the state of penury in which the funds are found... Lorenzana (Accountant).

It happens, on the 22nd of the same month to the 2nd Syndic. With background. The document shows several passes on August 8 and 22 of the same year. On August 29, the Provisional President "...considering the deficiency of municipal funds, the Supreme Government agrees to grant the usufruct of the lower rooms of the Palace under the terms requested, authorizing them to collect."

The Provisional President was - liberal era - Mr. Miguel García Granados.

26. By this time, the Municipality takes possession of the six boxes that Mr. Cecilio Solózano and the heirs of Mrs. Concepción have on census, plus the house occupied by Mr. Manuel Valenzuela. It was also included in the inauguration the debts that totaled 331. 63 pesos.

27. Document title: Budget for the repair of the gallery inhabited by Francisca Menéndez at the corner of the Palace.

As noted earlier, according to records 6, 7, and others within the Palace, the Municipality authorized the construction of sheds for housing, of course, rent was paid. On some occasions, the users presented budgets to the Municipality for repairs of the same, as is the case of Mrs. Francisca Menéndez.

The requested material was as follows: three clotheslines that need to be made 8 yards long, at a real per half yard, 4.4 pesos, two loads of lime, 1.6, one load of barilla, 1., fifty tiles 0.5, four of bejuco, 0.4 and payment for mason and laborer 10 pesos. All this makes a total of \$18.3.

It is likely that the request was made at the beginning of February, because on the 19th of that same month, it was passed to Mr. Councilor Catalán "...so that as the Conservator of the specific building, he may subsequently report

what is appropriate." (ff). J. Laguardia and José Ma. Cáceres. Paulino Catalán, after recognizing the piece located in the Portal of the Township, which is in very poor condition, and since the piece generates a monthly rent for the municipal funds, it is necessary to repair it before it becomes unusable. Two years later, on February 26, the expense is agreed upon. (Municipalidad, 1873. No. 221)

1885, 1886, 1887, 1890, 1895.

28. Several years pass and the building of the Palace is not mentioned in the Municipal Archive of the Society of Jesus. M. Ubico mentions other buildings, such as the University, the temple of La Merced among others. Only until 1885 is there a record from the Municipal Corporation that reports "...the lower parts of the palace of the Political Headquarters, in addition to being narrow, are quite humid." For this reason, the Police Office moved to the Municipal Palace.

29. In the Municipal Report of 1886, the paving in front of the Political Headquarters is mentioned. (Municipalidad, Memoria 1886). For the same year, the Municipal Corporation budgets the value of paving the street in front of the Headquarters and Revenue Administration Palace.

30. At the end of 1887, the President, General Manuel Lisandro Barillas, visited the city of La Antigua Guatemala, and among his promises, he ordered the reconstruction of the

ruined part of the Palace of the Headquarters. Two years later, on May 27, 1890, the completion of a part of the works at the Royal Palace is reported. The inauguration was scheduled for June 30, 1890. To commemorate this event, there is a plaque on the building that says:

...this was destroyed on July 29, 1773. On December 4, 1887, a board was installed under the Presidency of the Political Chief of the Department, Lieutenant Colonel José Pacheco, which began the reconstruction. On February 29, 1888, General Don Manuel L. Barillas, Constitutional President of the Republic, authorized by supreme agreement the rebuilding, immediately formulating the preparatory works. August 29, 1889, the reconstruction was begun by the board, directed by the contractor, Engineer Don Ricardo Fisher, and was completed on June 29, 1890.

In the northeastern corner of the building, there is a stone pilaster with the date of this year engraved on it.

The council minutes: Municipal Archive, Company of Jesus

Several municipal record books from the years 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898 were reviewed. Numbers 62, 63, 64, 65, and 66 respectively. From reading them, it can be inferred that the elected officials were 13. First and Second Mayors were appointed. and 30. Two Trustees and eight Councilors. The mayors and the

Municipal Council held their positions for one year, starting on the 1st. From January of each year and ended at the end of December.

These minutes included a variety of issues: water and electricity service, decoration, cleaning, requests from neighbors, among others. For these notes, only those data that were important to know the history of the facilities of the Royal Palace and, due to its proximity, the Archbishop's Palace and the central square were taken into account. Of course, the two from the publication "La Antigua Guatemala 1799-1950" are also included: Urban and architectural aspects" by Mario Ubico Calderón, from the years 1902 to 1952.

1894 (Minute Book No.62)

31. 6°... "the building of the Revenue Administration." The building's tank does not match the parts purchased by General D. Manuel Lisandro Barillas, but from the municipal house where the centralization of liquor is located. (Session 16 Feb. 1894)

In two subsequent sessions on the 2nd and 4th of March, the same issue is discussed:

32. 2°. Communication from the Rent Administrator, inquiring about a wall and the property of Lic. L. Barillas sobre el edificio municipal. 2°. Widen the place of the centralization of liquor and ask which part corresponds to General M.L. Barillas.

1895 (Libro de Actas No. 63)

33. 17°. It was agreed that the Commission of Communal lands and Building Conservation would present a detailed report on the buildings belonging to the Corporation and their current state. (Session of January 4)

35. 9°. T. Matheu Castillo requests a new license to occupy three yards of land in the square for the sale of food and groceries. It was agreed to deny the license request, informing that the Municipality will offer another place to move those food trucks. (Session of September 20)

1896 (Libro de Actas No. 64) The format of this book, on this and other occasions, offers some indexes of topics covered in the Acts on the left side of the ten-cent stamped paper. This book begins on the 1st. In January 1896, presided over by the Chief Political Officer of the Department, with the presence of the 1st Mayors. and 2ND. Councilors and Trustees take office as the new authorities.

36. 4°. The Public Limited Company "Empresa Eléctrica de La Antigua" is created.

4°. Mr. Daniel Salazar requests a new contract as a tenant of the Archbishop's Palace.

39. 18°. At the motion of Trustee 2nd. He says that the building occupied by the granary is unoccupied and the

Building Manager is commissioned to put it up for rent. (Session of March 17)

1897 (Libro de Actas No- 65)

40. 15°. The building of Santa Teresa, where the centralization of liquors is located, enjoys four water straws. (Session of January 12)

Undoubtedly, the population by the end of the 19th century had increased considerably. Electric lighting was already available, a service inaugurated on July 31, 1897. Also around this time, many of the city's alleys were sold by the Municipality. There are about eight quotes about it.

41. 1°. Inauguration of electric lighting. The President J.M. Reina Barrios, excuses himself. 2°. Inaugurated by the Chief Political Officer. The Mayor 2°: Rafael Moreira delivered the official speech. This record contains four pages of signatures from authorities and residents present at the inaugural event. (Session of July 31)

Day 14. Building lighting (Municipal?) with electric light. Marimba concert.

Supposedly by this time, it was either repaired or at least the work had advanced substantially.

1898 (Book of Minutes No. 66)

45.

Unfortunately, there are no other Town Council Books, nor prior to No. 62, not after No. 66. There is always hope of

finding them someday. From 1898 onwards, no more data about the Royal Palace is recovered in the Municipal Archive.

Project requested (session of April 4)

September 20, 1902, the Political Headquarters communicates to the 1st Mayor. From the Antigua, which by higher authorization has arranged for a part of the column to be at the center of the main square's pile with the purpose of building a kiosk on it. Suggest that the plumber suspend the water service for as long as necessary so that it does not interrupt the work that will be carried out. (ff) Enrique Haeussler. The Municipality approves the works. (session of September 26).

224

1907

50. Figure in the Book of Municipal Minutes of 1907, but the decision was made in 1906: On demolishing the drawers of the Main Square. The Municipality arranged for the affected people to be given space in the Archbishop's Palace. 1909

51. The Municipality agreed to thank the Political Chief, General J. Antonio Aguilar: ...for his intelligence used in carrying out the construction of the portal's canvas in front of the military square... Additionally, another piece of information is offered: the possible reconstruction of the other corner of the portal. (session of June 4) 1915

52. This record states that the Corporation is aware that the work on

the central park is advanced and anticipates that the missing arch will be built in the northwest corner of the main square. On the other hand, if there were any difference in the appearance of the portals, the Municipality requests the Political Chief to arrange for the exterior appearance of said portals to be standardized. (session June 18)

53. In the session of July 16 of that same year, the Political Chief authorizes the Municipality: to require the owners to carry out the work on the arch of the portal at the north corner, likewise, the owners of the west portal must also be required to proceed with the work as the north arch is. And, for more uniformity, put cornice and parapet on both portals. The Municipality postpones the work.

54. Subsequently to the previous decision, it was agreed to construct the northeast arch, in the section of the portals corresponding to Mr. Luis Rizzi. (session of August 13)

1918

55. For the beginning of this year, the municipal session is held in the central park kiosk called "November 21" in view of a strong tremor that destroyed at least 20% of private houses, as well as most of the buildings, especially the National Palace which "has most of its middle archway very damaged." (session of January 25).

1919

56. Extraordinary session, where it is announced that on November 21st, President Estrada Cabrera's birthday will be celebrated. The Municipality will inaugurate, on this occasion, the clock tower of the Santa Catarina arch, as well as a stone bridge in Santa Isabel. (session of November 4)

1924

57. The Political Chief intends to cut down the jacarandas in the park and replace them with other more ornamental trees. This "...to beautify the main square" (session April 8). 1926

58. It is intended to place cement posts in the central park to support public lighting. In addition, new cypress flooring was installed in the kiosk of the same, because the previous one was chipped and rotten. (session June 11) 1930

59. Repairs in the central park sewer, ... giving them the appearance of a monolith with legends or hieroglyphs. (session of January 24) 1931

60. The Society of Geography and History proposes to restore the fountain in the central square. (session of September 9). 1934

61. At the initiative of the Political Chief, it is intended to repair the fountains of the convent of La Merced, el Calvario, and particularly the fountain that existed in the center of the square and others. (session of January 9)

1935

62. On modifying the central park (session of June 4) 1936

63. It was agreed to clean the ruins of Santa Catalina and the Palace of the Captains, in front of Fifth Avenue, as it was covered with grass. (session of August 13). The cleaning of the buildings was a constant concern of the Municipality. It is the first time that in a municipal document the Royal Palace is referred to as the Palace of the Captains. 1942

64. It is stated that the renovation of the cement floor of the park will begin shortly. It is also planned to remove the seating pool from the Conde de la Gomera fountain. In the next session, the renewal of the park's floor is authorized. (sessions of May 5 and 20 respectively)

65. On August 8, 1492, an extraordinary session was held, the point of which was to address the prevailing situation after the earthquake at 5:30 PM on August 6 caused havoc that affected the entire population, when some buildings and houses suffered major damage. Other constructions also showed "cracks." There was also damage to the water system of Pamputic and Las Cañas.

66. Subsequently, damage is reported in the buildings of the City Hall Palace, University, market, cemetery, slaughterhouse, hospital, schools, Archbishop's Palace, School of Christ, the water supply aqueducts, among others. (Session of August 12)

None of the previous records mention whether the Palace suffered any damage to its structure. However M. Ubico transcribe what was discussed on this matter in the newspaper *Nuestro Diario* on September 19 of that same year.

To prevent the complete destruction of the ancient stone plaque with an engraved legend, which indicates the original construction date of this Palace of the Captains General, which was placed on the cornice at the eastern end of the same building, the upper part of the frame surrounding it was demolished and the upper half of the plaque was lowered, as it was made of two parts and was seriously damaged by the earthquakes, keeping it in a safe place.

1943

This year, the author did not include the sequence of reviewed books, but reveals the text of a plaque that says:

The President of the Republic, Major General Jorge Ubico,

He ordered the immediate repair of the Palace of the Captains General due to the serious damage it suffered from the earthquake on August 6, 1942.

The work began on January 14, 1943, and was completed on November 10 of the same year.

Comment:

The above information suggests a wide range of activities that took place within

the Royal Palace, as well as the central square and the Archbishop's Palace.

It is clear that from the second half of the 16th century until the end of the 18th century, the role of the building was to house the political-social-economic power of Chiapas, Guatemala, and the Central American provinces.

After 1773, the building had different uses: Academy of Arts, House of Collection, butcher shops, essential goods store, straw-roofed housing sheds, among many others. It was intended to restore it on several occasions, but these attempts remained just that. It was not until 1887, when the President of the Republic General Manuel Lisandro Barillas took an interest in the reconstruction, which began on June 30, 1890. It is striking that after the reconstruction, General Barillas bought a section of the building where the Centralization of Liquor and the Revenue Administration were located. The consulted documents provide a final piece of information for the 20th century, when General Jorge Ubico, President of the Republic, ordered the immediate repair of the Palace in August 1942. Jobs that were completed in November 1943. The Palace was occupied until a few years ago by the Tourism Offices, the National Civil Police, the Departmental Government, and the Superintendency of Tax Administration (SAT). Of all these instances, only the SAT remains in the

building; the others had to vacate the premises due to the restoration carried out by the National Council for the Protection of Antigua Guatemala.

The New Usage Proposal

The Office of the World Heritage Delegation of Guatemala, attached to the Ministry of Culture and Sports with the collaboration of the World Monument Fund, formulated last year a New Proposal for the Use of the different environments of the Royal Palace, both on the ground floor and the upper floor. The different spaces were classified as follows:

A. Grand Palace

Old Jail.

C.

D. The Mint, Annexes 7 and 7-A.

The study of new uses is based on two International Seminars for the Development of Proposals for the use of the monument, held in July 2008 and March 2009. See Annexes 8, 8-A. 9. 10 and 11. This proposal was based on Governmental Agreement No. 397-2007, signed by the President of the Republic Oscar Berger, at that time, in which it is established: Article 1. Assign in favor of the Ministry of Culture and Sports the urban property registered in the General Property Registry of the Central Zone with the number 12874, folio 15 of Book 97 of Sacatepéquez, property of the Nation, located between 4th and 5th. South Avenue,

municipality of Antigua Guatemala, Department of Sacatepéquez, in accordance with the measures and boundaries that appear in its first domain registration.”

Article 2. The assignment related in the previous article is granted with the exclusive purpose of carrying out the shoring and restoration works of the Royal Palace of the Captains General, and once these are completed, the Cultural Center of the City of Antigua Guatemala will operate, under the decisive jurisdiction that with the change of destination for which the property is described, it will be terminated. The proposal for new uses of the Royal Palace is aimed at the implementation of a World-Class Cultural Center, where the country's culture is promoted, and the cultural identity of Guatemalans is strengthened.

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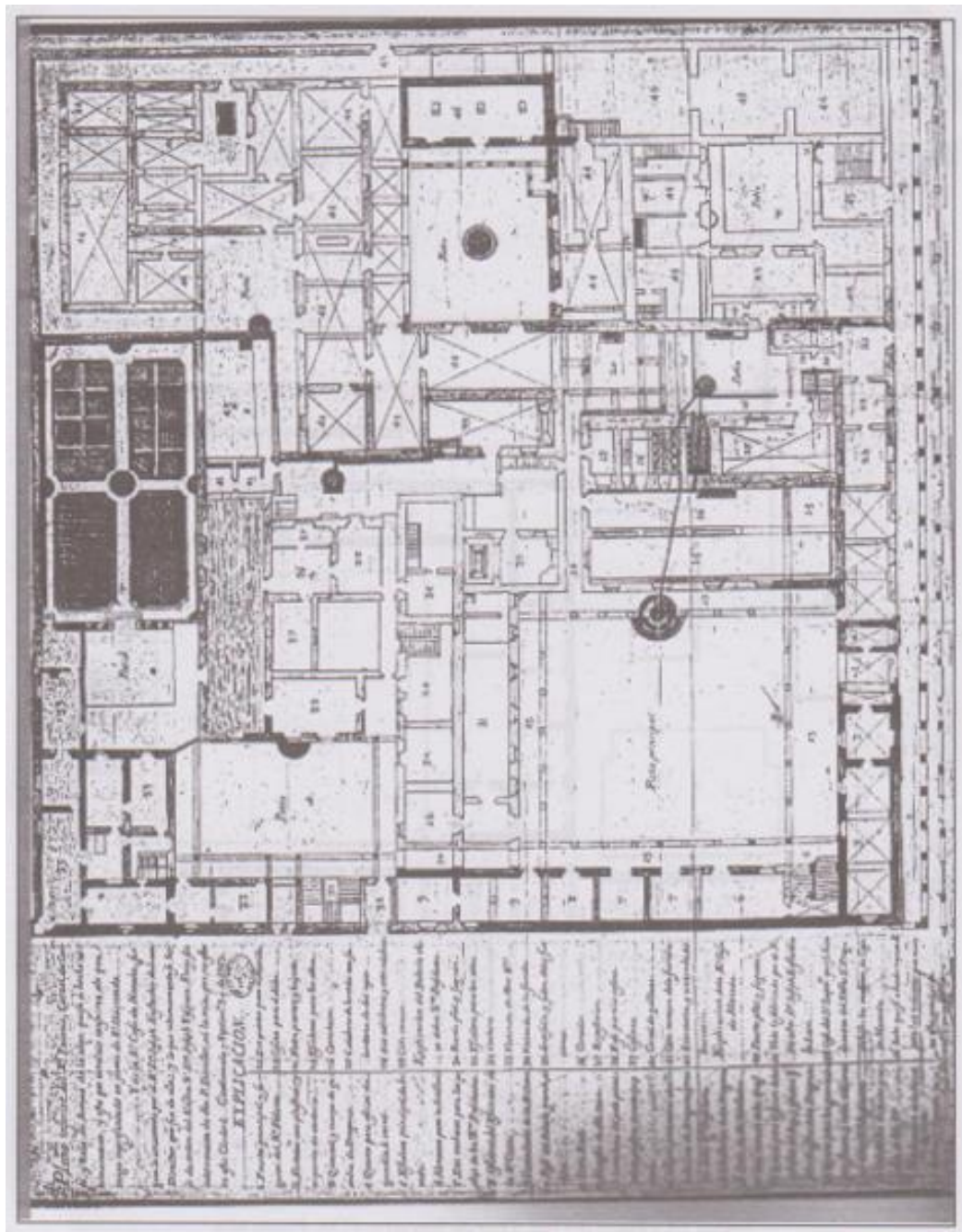
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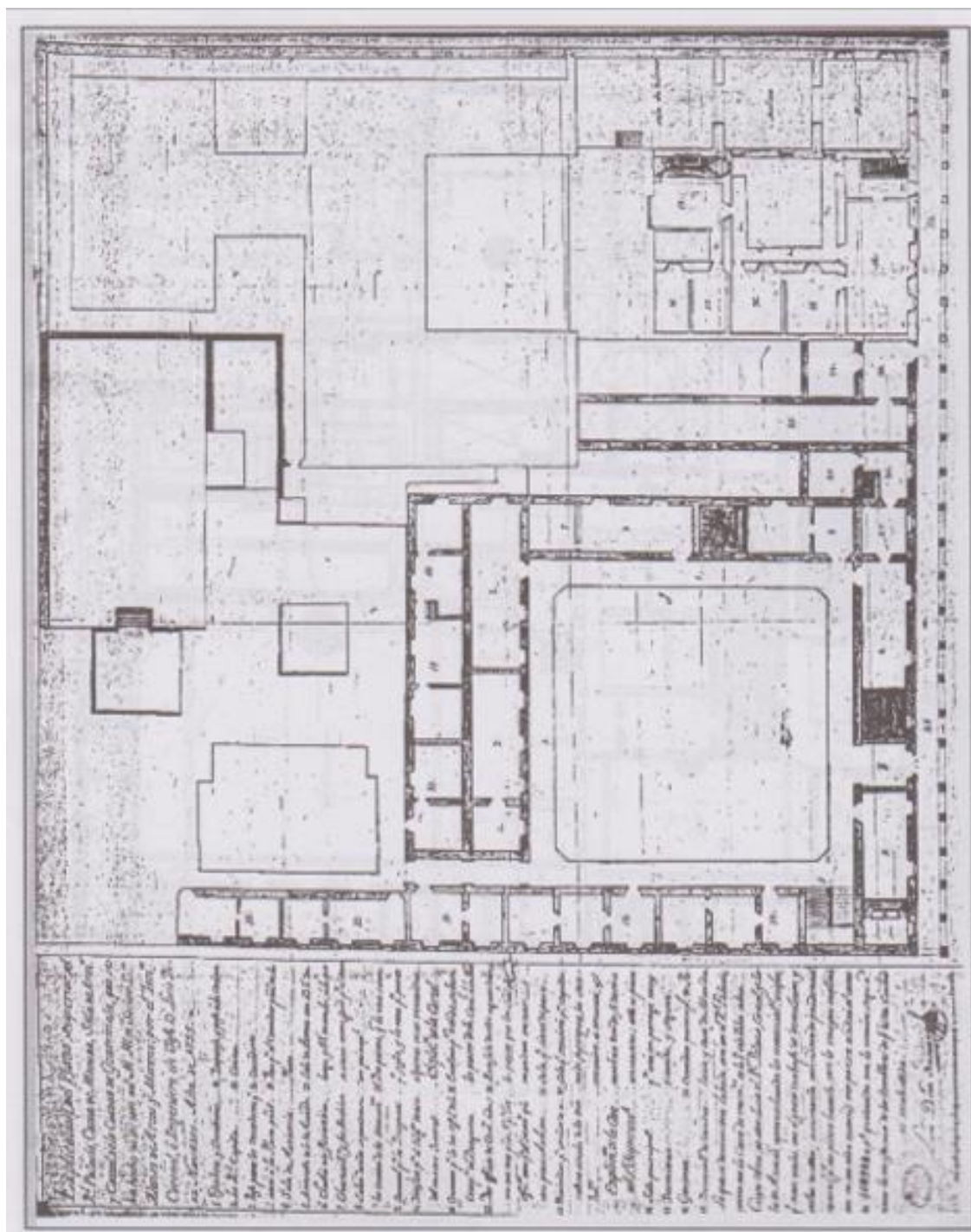
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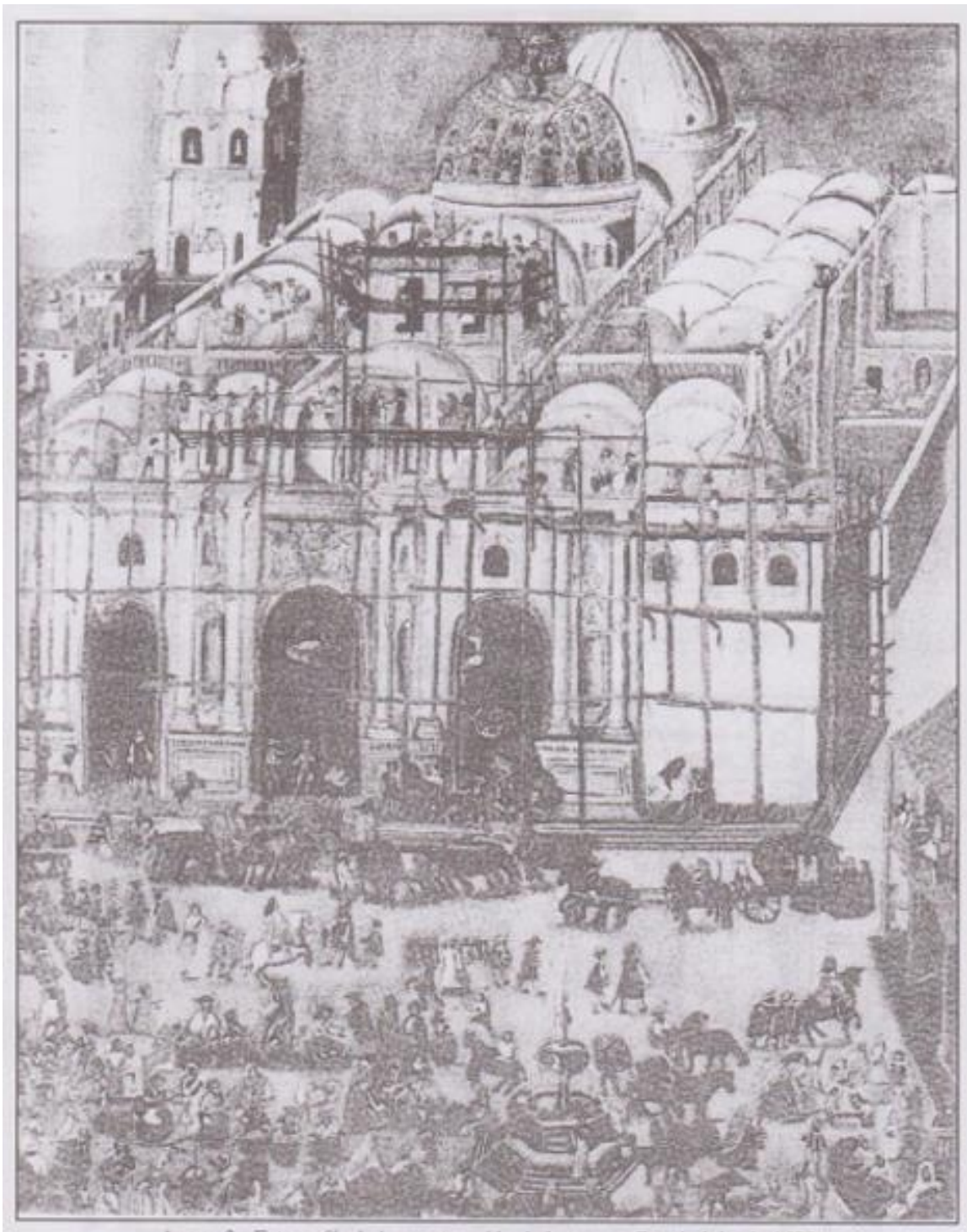
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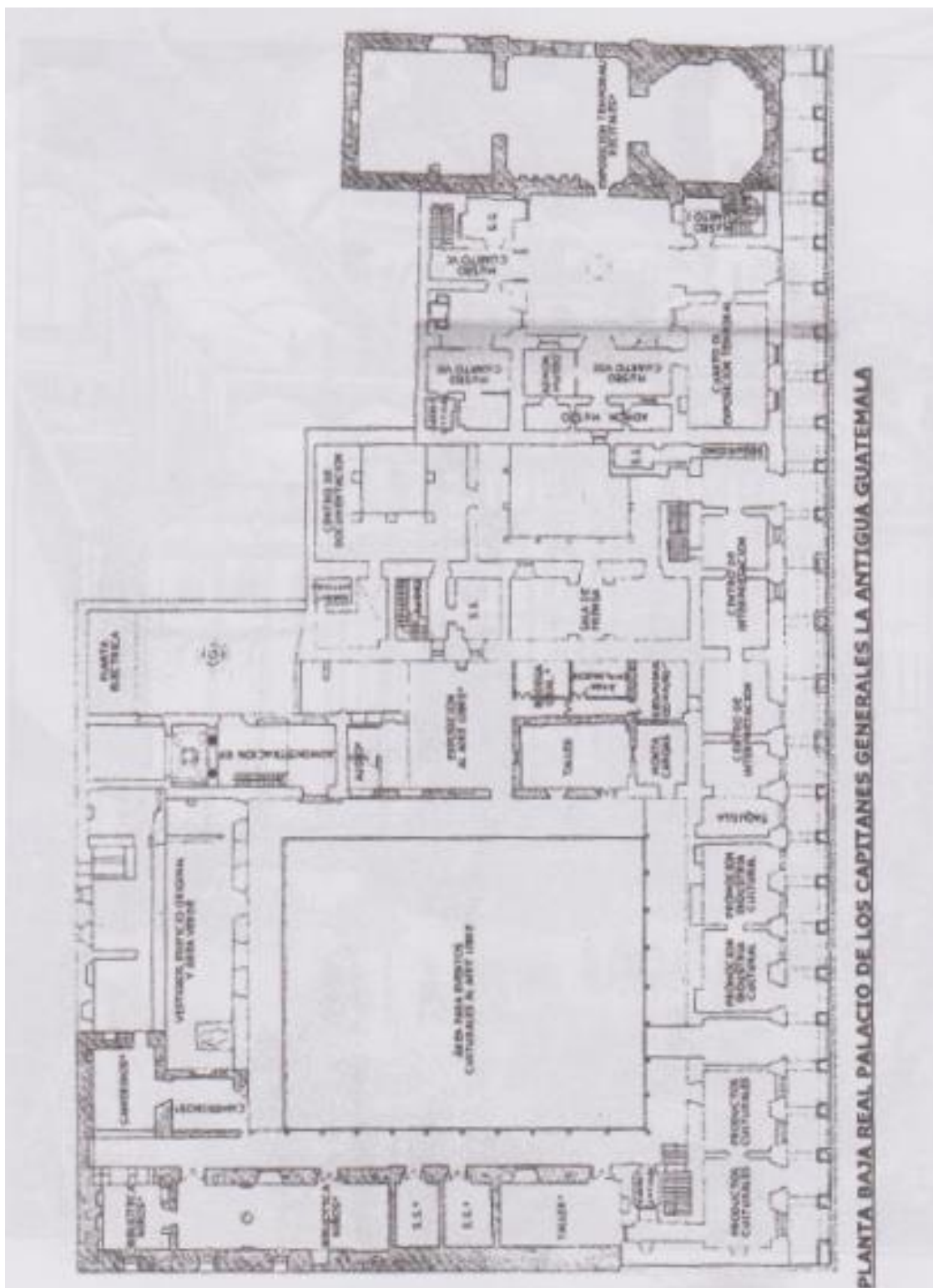
Annex 1 – Blueprint of the Royal Palace of 1769, Signed by Engineer Luis Diez de Navarro, First floor



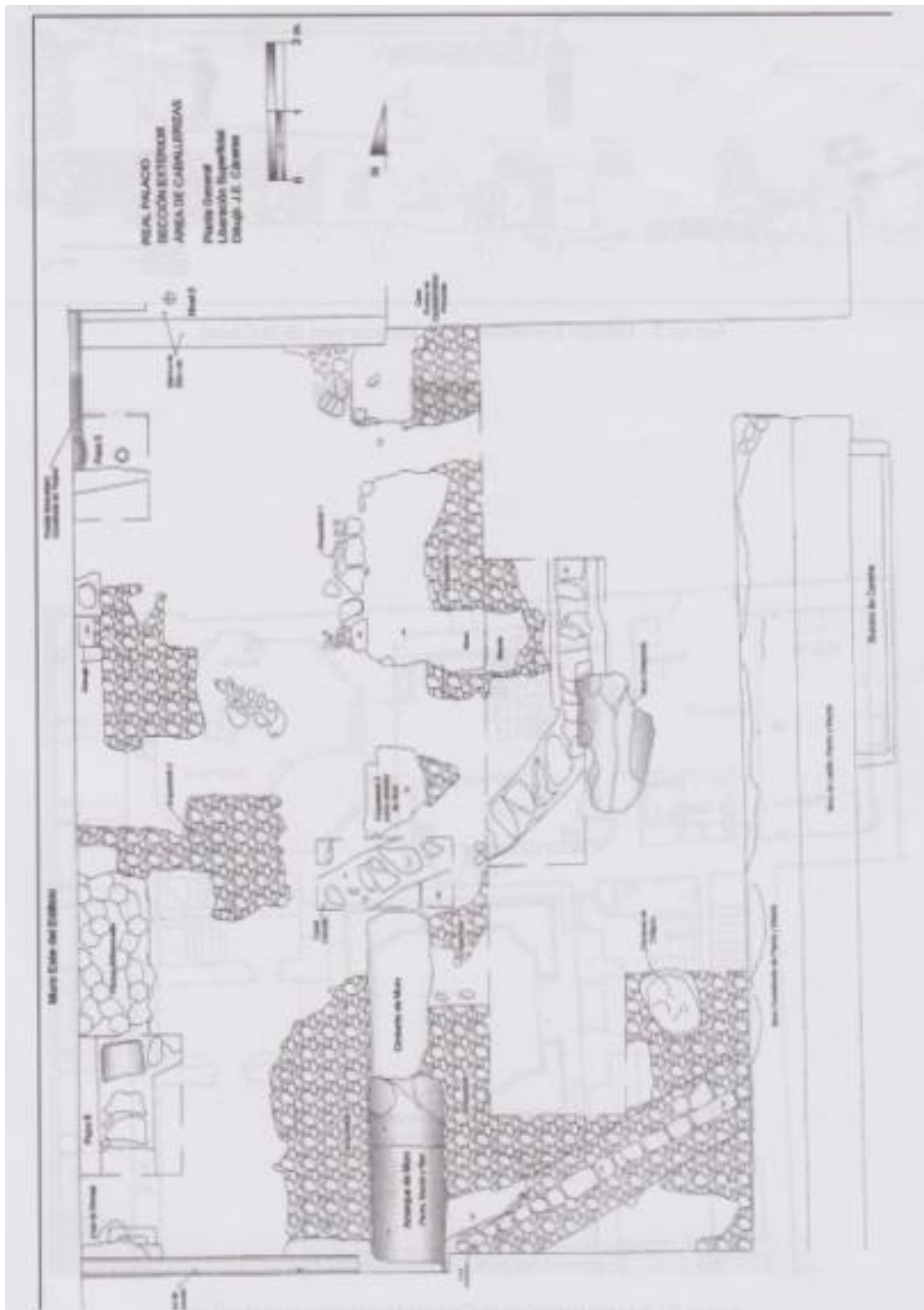
Annex 1A – Blueprint by Engineer Diez de Navarro, 1755, First floor.



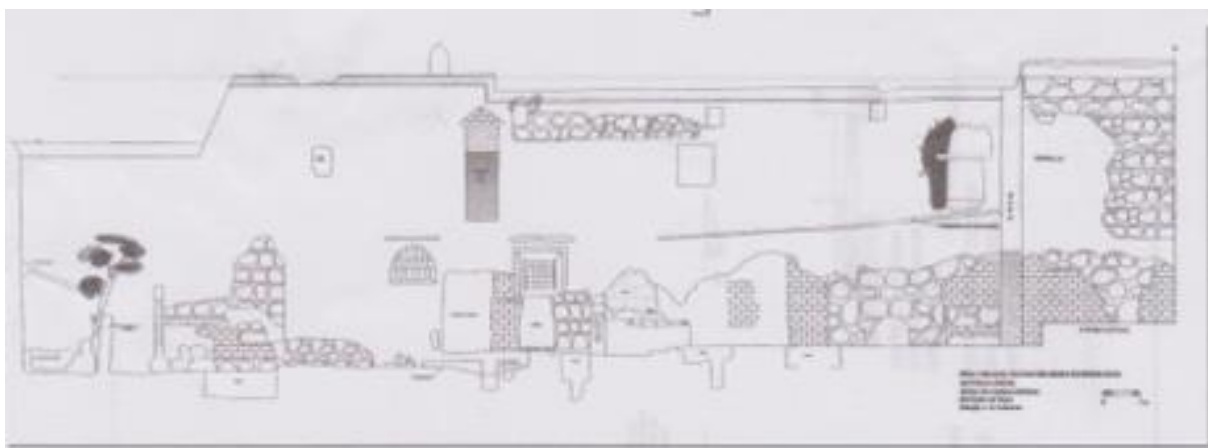
Annex 2– Photograph of the construction of the third Cathedral, around 1678



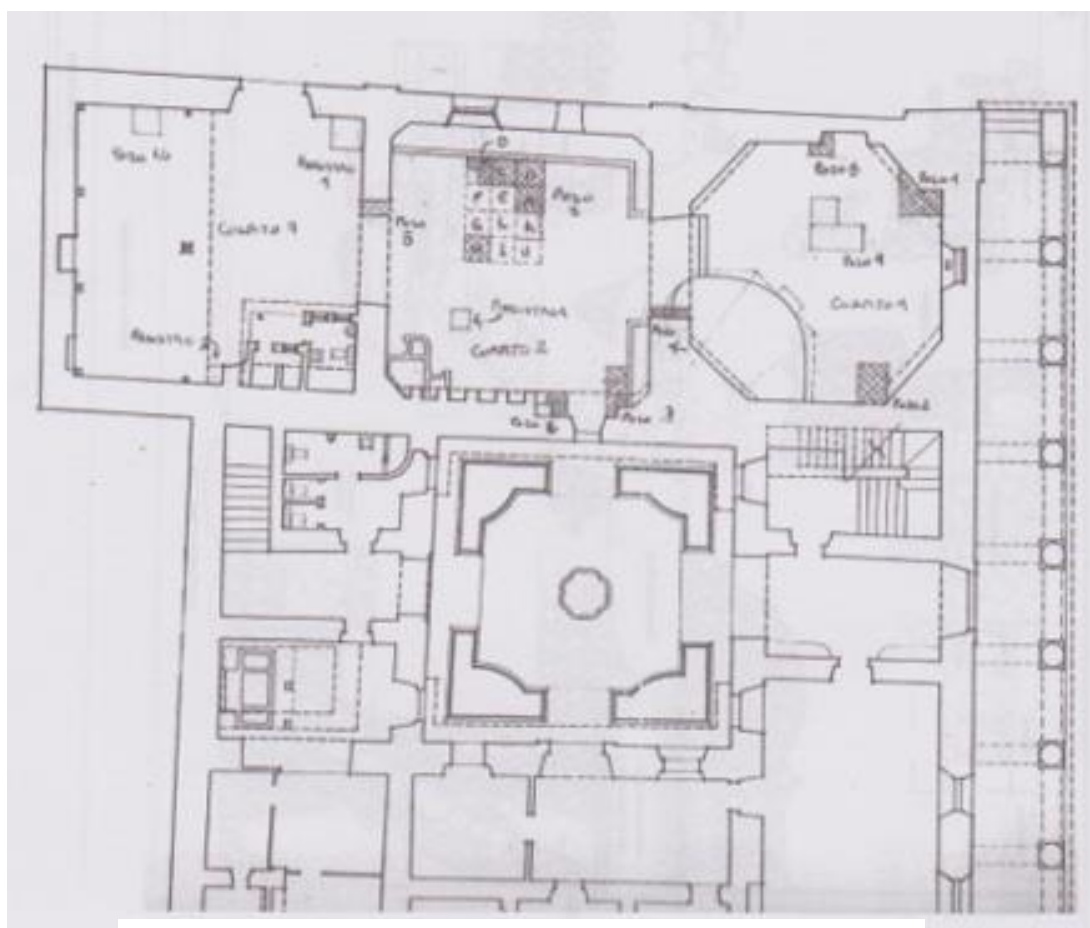
Annex 3 – Updated First floor of the Royal Palace



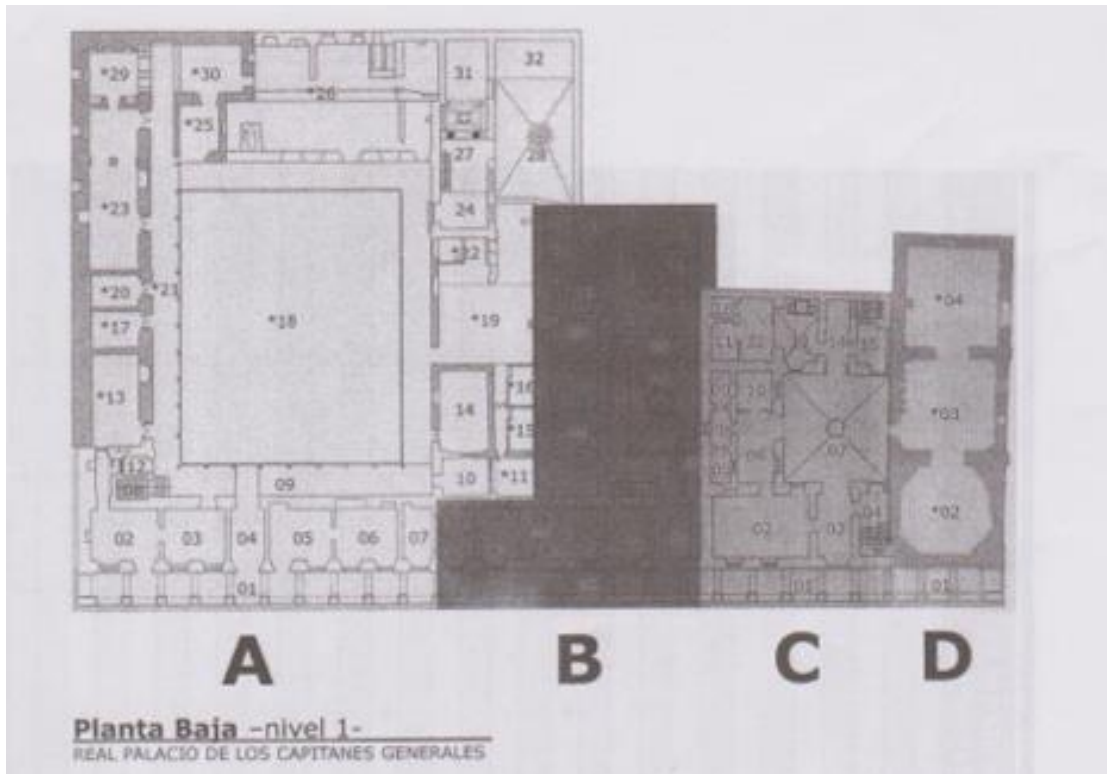
Annex 4 – Diagram: Stables floor



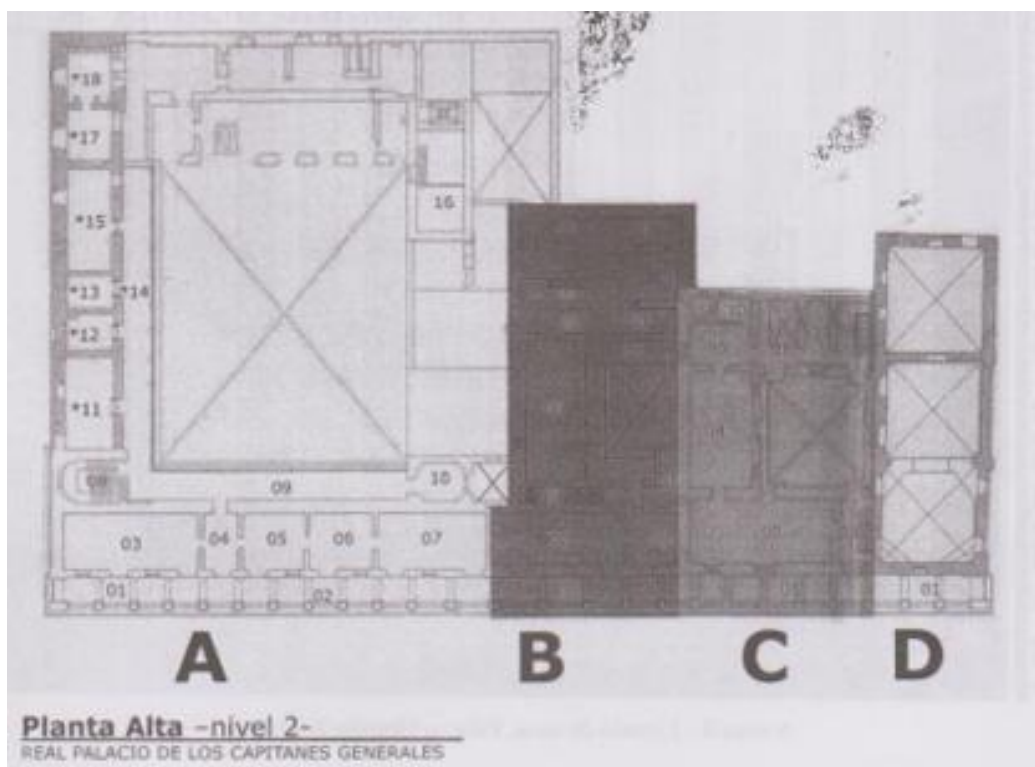
Annex 5 – Diagram: elevation of the east exterior wall of the prison.



Annex 6 – Excavations in the Mint, first floor



Annex 7 – Royal Palace, ground floor.



Annex 7A- Royal Palaca, ground floor

A. Palacio Grande - Nivel 1-

No.	USO	PENDIENTE DE INTERVENCIÓN	TIPO DE ESPACIO	
			FUJO	TEMPORAL
A1-01	Corredor		X	
A1-02	Productos Culturales			X
A1-03	Productos Culturales			X
A1-04	Entrada		X	
A1-05	Espacio Promoción Industria Cultural			X
A1-06	Espacio Promoción Industria Cultural			X
A1-07	Tequilla General		X	
A1-08	Escaleras		X	
A1-09	Corredor		X	
A1-10	Montacargas		X	
A1-11	Sistema de Seguridad y Cómputo		X	
A1-12	Closets de Limpieza		X	
A1-13	Baños	*	X	
A1-14	Talleres		X	
A1-15	Bodega General	*	X	
A1-16	Área de Empleados	*	X	
A1-17	Baños	*	X	
A1-18	Área para eventos Culturales al aire libre		X	
A1-19	Exposición al aire libre	*	X	
A1-20	Baños	*	X	
A1-21	Corredor	*	X	
A1-22	Audio	*	X	
A1-23	Biblioteca para niños	*	X	
A1-24	Secretaría RP		X	
A1-25	Camerinos	*	X	
A1-26	Escenario/Vestigios de edil. Original/Área Verde	*	X	
A1-27	Administración RP		X	
A1-28	Patio		X	
A1-29	Biblioteca para niños	*	X	
A1-30	Camerinos		X	
A1-31	Contabilidad		X	

Annex 8- List of uses, Royal Palace, Level 1.

A. Palacio Grande -Nivel 2-

No.	USO	PENDIENTE DE INTERVENCIÓN	TIPO DE ESPACIO	
			FIJO	TEMPORAL
A2-01	Corredor café cultural			X
A2-02	Corredor		X	
A2-03	Café Cultural		X	
A2-04	Ingreso a Corredor		X	
A2-05	Espacio Exposición Fundaciones			X
A2-06	Espacio Exposición Fundaciones			X
A2-07	Salón de Conferencias		X	
A2-08	Escaleras		X	
A2-09	Corredor		X	
A2-10	Montecargas		X	
A2-11	Taller	*		X
A2-12	Baños	*	X	
A2-13	Baños	*	X	
A2-14	Corredor	*	X	
A2-15	Taller	*		X
A2-16	Administración RP		X	
A2-17	Biblioteca para niños	*	X	
A2-18	Biblioteca para niños	*	X	

Annex 8A- List of uses, Royal Palace, Level 2.

B. Antigua Cárcel – Nivel 1 y Nivel 2-

No.	USO	PENDIENTE DE INTERVENCIÓN	TIPO DE ESPACIO	
			FIXO	TEMPORAL
B1-01	Corredor		X	
B1-02	Centro de Interpretación		X	
B1-03	Ingreso y Seguridad		X	
B1-04 ^p	Escalera		X	
B1-05	Baños		X	
B1-06	Sala de Prensa		X	
B1-07	Patio			X
B1-08	Corredor		X	
B1-09	Baños		X	
B1-10	Audio		X	
B1-11	Escalera de Servicio		X	
B1-12	Centro de Documentación		X	
B1-13	Patio			X
B1-14	Patio			X
B1-15	Closet de Limpieza		X	
B2-01	Corredor con acceso restringido		X	
B2-02	Salón de Recepciones			X
B2-03	Despacho		X	
B2-04	Escaleras		X	
B2-05	Baños		X	
B2-06	Salón de Protocolo		X	
B2-07	Corredor		X	
B2-08	Área de Traducción		X	
B2-09	Área de Estar			X
B2-10	Escaleras de Servicio		X	
B2-11	Closet de Limpieza		X	
B2-12	Área de Preparación		X	

Annex 9- List of uses, Old Jail, Level 1 and 2.

C. Real Audiencia – Nivel 1 y Nivel 2-

No.	USOS	PENDIENTE DE INTERVENCIÓN	TIPO DE ESPACIO	
			FIJO	TEMPORAL
C1-01	Corredor		X	
C1-02	Cuarto de Exposición Temporal			X
C1-03	Ingreso		X	
C1-04	Escaleras y Cuarto de Exposición		X	
C1-05	Área de Empleados		X	
C1-06	Cuarto de Exposición		X	
C1-07	Patio		X	
C1-08	Secretaría		X	
C1-09	Contabilidad		X	
C1-10	Dirección		X	
C1-11	Cuarto de Exposición		X	
C1-12	Cuarto de Exposición		X	
C1-13	Patio		X	
C1-14	Cuarto de Exposición		X	
C1-15	Baños		X	
C1-16	Closet de Limpieza		X	
C1-17	Escaleras		X	
C2-01	Corredor		X	
C2-02	Cuarto de Exposiciones		X	
C2-03	Cuarto de Exposiciones		X	
C2-04	Cuarto de Exposiciones		X	
C2-05	Cuarto de Exposiciones		X	
C2-06	Cuarto de Exposiciones		X	
C2-07	Bodega		X	
C2-08	Cuarto de Exposiciones		X	
C2-09	Closet de Limpieza		X	
C2-10	Cuarto de Exposiciones		X	

D. Casa de la Moneda-Nivel 1-

No.	USO	PENDIENTE DE INTERVENCION	TIPO DE ESPACIO	
			FIJO	TEMPORAL
D1-01	Corredor		X	
D1-02	Exposiciones Temporales y Recitales	*		X
D1-03	Exposiciones Temporales y Recitales	*		X
D1-04	Exposiciones Temporales y Recitales	*		X
D2-01	Corredor		X	

Annex 11- List of uses, Mint, Level 1 and 2.

