

WALK TO THE WEST, CROSS ALAMO PLAZA AT THE CROCKETT STREET SIGNAL, WALK TO THE NORTH TO FIND THE LOW GRAY WALLS.

Stop 4: Southwest Corner

Across Alamo Plaza just behind the fronts of the 19th century buildings you see today stood the western wall of the mission. Small rooms or apartments located along the wall housed the mission Indians. The location of the southwestern corner is marked by the low gray walls. The west wall continued northward past the corner of Houston and Alamo Streets. The north wall of the mission stretched across Alamo Street and midway through the federal building at the end of the plaza.

When the mission was secularized (or closed) in 1793, mission families received parcels of land, animals and equipment. One such family was the Losoyas, who lived in a small home near the southwest corner of the mission. Toribio Losoya was 28 when he fought in the 1836 battle and is the only defender to begin and end his life in the Alamo.

When Santa Anna arrived in San Antonio on February 23, 1836, he established his headquarters on the west side of the river. He ordered a red flag flown above San Fernando Church, a half mile away, which signified no quarter would be given if the rebels refused to surrender. In response, Travis ordered a single shot fired from the largest gun in the compound, the 18 pounder, positioned at the southwest corner of the walls. With that, Santa Anna had his answer—the Texans planned to fight. Both sides settled in for what became 12 days of siege warfare.

During the battle, Mexican soldiers captured the cannon and turned it on the long barracks.