“REMEMBER THE ALAMO”

USING 3-D GIS

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2000 NW Loop 410
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The Alamo
The Alamo is one of the most important historical sites in the world. With a story more than 300 years old, it’s no wonder that more than one million people come to see it each year. They come to learn about its days as a Spanish mission or to walk the ground Lt. Col. William Barret Travis did before he wrote his “victory or death!” letter. These hallowed grounds have a big story to tell, but after centuries of urban development, that story is often misunderstood.

That is about to change.
In 2015 the State of Texas General Land Office, the City of San Antonio, and the private Alamo Endowment are teaming up to Reimagine the Alamo by developing a new master plan for the Alamo and surrounding acres. A draft plan was unveiled late in 2016. [https://reimaginethealamo.org/](https://reimaginethealamo.org/)
LIDAR
StoryMap
https://gis.pape-dawson.com/Alamo3D
The Alamo Compound in 1836

On February 23, a Mexican force comprising somewhere between 1,800 and 6,000 men (according to various estimates) and commanded by General Antonio López de Santa Anna began a siege of the fort. The Texans held out for 13 days, but on the morning of March 6 Mexican forces broke through a breach in the outer wall of the courtyard and overpowered them. Santa Anna ordered his men to take no prisoners, and only a small handful of the Texians were spared. One of these was Susannah Dickinson, the wife of Captain Almaron Dickinson who was killed and her infant daughter Angelina. Santa Anna sent them to Houston's camp in Gonzales with a warning that a similar fate awaited the rest of the Texans if they continued their revolt. The Mexican forces also suffered heavy casualties in the Battle of the Alamo, losing between 600 and 1,000 men.
3D Representation of the Alamo

Heroes died here fighting for freedom. Travis... Bowie... Crockett... Esparza. Their call for aid and refusal to surrender in the face of overwhelming odds stirred America and the world. Their sacrifice helped give birth to Texas.

Today the Alamo is the heart of San Antonio and it is Texas’ most visited historic landmark. Home of the famous 1836 battle and to living history demonstrations and special events throughout the year, the beautiful 300-year-old former Spanish mission turned fortress is open year-round and is free for families, school groups and everyone to visit, experience the battlefield first hand, and "remember the Alamo."

Areas Of Interest:
Battlefield Tour | Gift Shop

The Alamo in 1836
1842
1880
Commercial Development
Where the Alamo Compound Would Sit Today

Original Alamo Compound on Today's street network

Original Alamo compound on today's street network shows just how the current street layout goes right through the original compound walls.

Front of Alamo

Front Entrance of the Alamo in 3D. Notice the lawn and plaque showing Colonel Travis's letter requesting reinforcements. You can zoom into the plaque.

Modern Building Encroachment

The Guinness World Records and Museum shops were built in 1912. Website: http://www.alamomuseum.org/
The Front Entrance of the Alamo in 3D

Front Entrance of the Alamo in 3D. Notice the lawn and plaque showing Colonel Travis’s letter requesting reinforcements. You can zoom into the plaque.
The Museum Shops

The Alamo
The Mission, The Battle, The Legend

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The Guinness World Records and Museum shops were built in 1912. Website: [http://www.ripleys.com/phillips](http://www.ripleys.com/phillips)

The Menger Hotel
Built in 1920 with a style and tradition befitting the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi, the elegant Menger Hotel welcomes guests with a nod to San Antonio’s colorful past intermingled with its cosmopolitan present. Just steps from the Alamo on Alamo Plaza, we are a long-rooted landmark that shares San Antonio’s story from the earliest days of the Texas frontier.

Step into our exquisite, three-story Victorian lobby, and you are transported back to a time when Theodore Roosevelt was gathering his Rough Riders in our very own Menger Bar and San Antonio’s petticoated elite kicked up their heels at the city’s most elaborate galas and cotillion parties in our very own ballrooms. Our hotel is renowned for its refined architecture, including its meticulously restored wing adorned with 19th...
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The Federal Building & The Emily Morgan Hotel

The Alamo
The Mission, The Battle, The Legend

Federal Building and Emily Morgan Hotel

Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, San Antonio, Tx. (built in 1937)

Credit:

The Emily Morgan Hotel. (built in 1926)
Enjoy the blend of historic Southwestern charm and contemporary urban sophistication at The Emily Morgan - a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, an iconic landmark location on Alamo Plaza overlooking the Alamo and in walking distance of the Riverwalk. Dating back to the 1920s, our historic building offers one-of-a-kind accommodations in a superb location for leisure and business travelers, in the heart of San Antonio, Texas.
The Ripley’s Building

Modern Buildings vs Original Alamo Walls

This view allows you to see how modern buildings have encroached and sit directly on top of the original Alamo compound walls.

Alamo Viewshed (City Ordinance)

“VP-1” Alamo Viewshed Protection District. A.
Designation Criteria. There is hereby established an Alamo Viewshed protection district. The area for the Alamo Viewshed protection district meets the following designation criteria established in subsection 35-337(a) above:

1. 
Modern Building vs Original Alamo Walls

The Alamo
The Mission, The Battle, The Legend

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"VP-1" Alamo Viewshed Protection District.

A. Designation Criteria. There is hereby established an Alamo Viewshed protection district. The area for the Alamo Viewshed protection district meets the following designation criteria established in subsection 35-337(a) above:

1. The viewshed protection district lies behind the major entrance to the front door of the Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo), a local historic exceptional landmark that is also a national historic landmark; and

2. A brass disc monument named "VP-1," Alamo Viewshed, has been set to mark the viewpoint origination in Alamo Plaza in front of the Alamo Chapel at coordinates N13702680.0759 and E213939.4520 (feet) NAD-83 Coordinates established November 23, 1997 by George W. Muery Services, Inc. at elevation 657.72 feet referencing City of San Antonio Standard Disc (5962) located at the south lawn, city hall elevation 648.58 feet.

B.
The Alamo Viewshed (City Ordinance)

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B. Boundaries. The area above a plane described by the following boundary is designated as the Alamo Viewshed protection district "VP-1": Beginning at a point at elevation 663.22 feet (5.50 feet observation height above monument) above disk "VP-1," Alamo Viewshed and extending through a point of the
Protecting the Alamo

Alamo Viewshed using a 3-D Representation

This is a side view of the Alamo viewshed. It shows, as per City ordinance, there are no buildings behind the Alamo tall enough to be seen when you take a picture standing in front of the Alamo. This view shows how the Crockett Hotel, directly behind the Alamo walls, is not taller than the limits of the viewshed. Therefore, it will not appear if you take a picture while standing on the disc in front of the Alamo.

You can use your mouse to pan around the map and see the viewshed from different angles, or you can select this link to take a Virtual Tour while standing on the brass disk.

Archaeological Digs and Findings

There have been multiple archaeological digs around the Alamo over the past century. There were two recent digs, done by Pape-Dawson Engineers, in 2016 that confirmed the original compound wall limits on the west side and south side of the Alamo.

Please click on the blue circle to see the hyperlinks that will take you to the news articles and videos.

Reimagine The Alamo
Archaeological Findings

The Alamo
The Mission, The Battle, The Legend

The Alamo still stands, even when you take a picture standing in front of the Alamo. This view shows how the Crockett Hotel, directly behind the Alamo walls, is not taller than the limits of the viewshed. Therefore, it will not appear if you take a picture while standing on the disc in front of the Alamo.

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Reimagine The Alamo

This is a 2-D representation, created by PDP Architects, of how the Alamo grounds will change.

Use the Swipe tool in the map to explore the draft master plan, and make sure to visit the Reimagine the Alamo website for the latest details and to...
Current Ortho Image of the Alamo

The Alamo
The Mission, The Battle, The Legend

A picture standing in front of the Alamo. This view shows how the Crockett Hotel, directly behind the Alamo walls, is not taller than the limits of the viewshed. Therefore, it will not appear if you take a picture while standing on the disc in front of the Alamo.

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Architects Future Layout of the Alamo

The Alamo
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A story of the Alamo

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Model to convert a KML layer to ArcGIS Pro and Publish
1849
First Known Photograph of the Alamo
History of Alamo archaeology