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Guide to MS198 Anthony L. Aguirre collection

Owen Williamson

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MS198
Anthony L. Aguirre collection

1781 – circa 1975

2 inches (linear)

Inventory by Owen Williamson
February 27, 2019

Donated by Anthony L. Aguirre, 1976, 1992.

Citation: Anthony L. Aguirre collection, MS198, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biography

Anthony L. Aguirre was born 11 February 1918 and died 19 November 1993 in El Paso, Texas. After a career in the U.S. Army, he retired to El Paso. He died after he was shot by one of his wife's high school students as he tried to intervene in an attack against Mrs. Aguirre.

The Hacienda of Oacalco dates to at least 1637 and is located in Morelos, Mexico. In the 1860s, neighboring indigenous communities protested against the hacienda for encroaching on their traditional lands. The hacienda was for a time owned by Enrique Creel, a wealthy and powerful former governor of Chihuahua.

Series Description or Arrangement

The first folder of this collection, with legal documents related to Hacienda Oacalco, was left as found – there was no apparent arrangement. The second folder, with legal documents from the 18th and 19th centuries, is generally arranged in reverse chronological order. The third folder contains a modern-era typescript of an unpublished research report plus photocopies of supporting data.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is an accumulation of documentary resources resembling a legal title-search for the ex-Hacienda Oacalco, in Morelos, Mexico. Although this resource was evidently collected in current form well before the publication of Mallon (1995) cited below, the dates of the documents in the collection do correspond to the dates of significant events mentioned by Mallon. These events include a nearby indigenous community's plea in 1864 to the "Emperor" of Mexico, Maximiliano, against the Hacienda Oacalco's encroachment on their traditional lands. Documents from that year in the collection bear the distinctive crowned eagle-and-cactus seal of Maximiliano's "Mexican Empire." It seems likely that the legal documents in this collection may have been originally collected, drafted, or hand-copied circa 1864 at the direction of the owners of the Hacienda in response to neighboring peasant communities' lawsuits or complaints.

The unknown author of the attached typed report, evidently writing in the 1970s, is mainly concerned with investigating his family connection to Hacienda Oacalco during the Mexican Revolution era. However, no documents from the era of the Revolution are included in the collection.

Provenance Statement

Donated by Anthony Aguirre, 1976, 1992.

It is not clear how or when the Spanish-language documents in the collection from the 18th and 19th centuries were obtained. These appear to have been photocopied from originals held in the Mexican national archives. Documents in the collection dated before 1864 are generally photocopies of certified, but undated, mid-nineteenth-century handmade copies of still earlier original documents.

Restrictions

None.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the collection must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Anthony L. Aguirre collection, MS198, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

The historical context of this collection is briefly described in Mallon, F. E. (1995). *Peasant and Nation: The Making of Postcolonial Mexico and Peru*. Los Angeles: University of California Press. Pps. 137-139. An Internet search (27 February 2019) indicates that the lands, buildings and ruins of the now long-abandoned ex-Hacienda Oacalco, the subject of this collection, were for sale at www.premiuestates.com for eight million U.S. dollars.

Documents in this collection (except for the contents of Folder 3) are all handwritten in Spanish script and are mostly composed in an archaic Castilian legalese, occasionally employing non-standard spelling as well. Most of the handwriting is legible and does not require specialized paleographic skill to read, but to make best use of this collection researchers should be at least somewhat familiar with older Castilian Spanish, particularly Spanish-language legal terminology, and be proficient in reading handwritten script. No print transcript or English-language translation of documents in the collection is available. The previous accession number for the collection was 861; the previous name of collection was Enrique M. Creel collection.

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	<p>Photocopies of handwritten Spanish-language legal documents dealing with inheritance and litigation surrounding the ownership of Hacienda Oacalco, (also Oacales or San José Oacalco), located near Yautepec in the present-day State of Morelos, Mexico. Documents include the last will and testament of Doña Nora María Ana Petra Pablo Fernández, Marquesa del Valle Amens, as well as legal documents on the ownership of the Hacienda, dating from 1790 to 1864.</p>	1781-1864
1	2	<p>Photocopies of the following handwritten Spanish-language legal documents, roughly organized in reverse chronological order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An detailed inventory of the Hacienda of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, Michote, dated 13 November 1843. b. Legal correspondence, narratives and pleadings related to Hacienda Oacalco, dated 1864. c. Hand copies of legal documents related to Hacienda Oacalco, dated 1824. d. A probate account book from 1802 from the estate of Don Miguel de Canto. e. A copy of legal files relating to the “sale or auction” of Hacienda de San José Oacalco, circa 1829. f. A copy of the last will and 	1781-1843

		testament of Doña María Petra Pablo Fernández, dated 12 July 1781.	
1	3	Typescript of an undated English language research report on "Oacalco," unattributed but probably by Anthony L. Aguirre. Attached to the report are photocopies of outline maps of the area of Hacienda Oacalco (source unknown) and a photocopy of pps. 118-119 from an unidentified modern-era Spanish-language book, with the headings "Anatomía Marquesana" and "Gobernación y Administración del Estado," mentioning Oacalco.	circa 1975