

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF THE RUINS OF THE FIRST MINING CAMP BUILT BY THE SPANISH IN SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

43rd AIC ANNUAL MEETING

Legend

- 1.- Remains of mining camp
- 2.- Lifting or drawing of plant remains
- 3.- Geographical location of the remains
- 4.- New location
- 5.- Survey with laser scanner
- 6.- Drawing or calco of each component
- 7.- Transfer of a plant paper calco
- 8.- Placement of each component nomenclature
- 9.- Reconstruction of the calco made in plastic
- 10.- Body north camp during the process of research
- 11.- Body north camp during the phase of reconstruction.

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The remains of the mining camp were located in the city of Cotuí, province of Sanchez Ramirez, Dominican Republic, at the 19Q 03 75 675 East and UTM 20 94 900 North coordinates. The foundations of the camp, church, cemetery and initial preparation area of minerals were identified. They are vernacular stone buildings from the early 16th century. Subsequently, the ensemble was modified in the 17th and 18th centuries.

This location is an area of intensive mining today. This presented a challenge: how to preserve this heritage site for posterity and prevent its disappearance, in the midst of the mining activities taking place on site.

To promote the conservation and enjoyment of the site by the public, intensive cooperative work took place. The participants were: the mining company "Barrick Pueblo Viejo", the Ministry of Culture represented by the Museum of Dominican Man, and, the National Monumental Heritage Directorate. It was decided to transfer the remains of the mining camp.

The new space to be used was selected: an area opposite the entrance of the mine, which enabled access and spatial understanding of these structures by the general public.

The next step was to conduct a rigorous graphic documentation of all components, using for the first time in the country, the laser scanner system for recording and documenting archaeological remains.

Additionally to the use of the laser scanner, a rigorous documentation was carried out. It was based on tracings, and, a nomenclature system to identify each one of the stones used in the construction. This system later served as the basis and guide for the reconstruction of the transferred remains.