

ABSTRACT

This thesis is a cartographic history of St. Augustine, Florida. In crafting the maps, I was struck by the remarkable persistence of a 4-block area just north of the center of town known as the Minorcan Quarter. Research revealed interesting cultural background and economic conditions in this area, but the persistence of these conditions lacked explanation. Although substantially reshaped by tourism and commercialism in the late 20th century, the Minorcan Quarter is still an identifiable neighborhood of St. Augustine today. The theory of institutional inscription (Ethington, 2011) holds that cultures leave definitive imprints in the regions where they are established; its foremost application has been to the Los Angeles Basin of California. Here, I apply this theory to the much smaller area of St. Augustine, particularly the Minorcan Quarter, to demonstrate and quantify the institutional imprints at the block and sub-block levels during successive periods of Spanish, British, and American settlement and occupation over a 250-year period (1764-2013). In this research, I am aided by remarkable maps crafted by an early 20th century cartographer, Ramola H. Drost, whose compilation made up for limitations inherent in census-related information during the time periods of this study. A quantified rating system for the persistence of institutional inscription is introduced and demonstrated within the Minorcan Quarter of St. Augustine. This metric, which takes into account both land parcel configuration and land use, varies only from 5 to 7 (on a ten-point scale) within the quarter. By comparison, persistence ratings of 3 and 9 apply to the late 19th and 20th century subdivisions to the southwest and the imposing fortress to the northeast of the quarter. A cartonomicon, including a transection diagram (after Ethington) and a time-ring chart (this work), is developed to analyze and explain the persistence of the Minorcan Quarter in St. Augustine, Florida.