

Hypothesis #1: The East Pensacola Heights Site (8Es1) is the location of the Luna Colony.

Positive Evidence: Numerous 16th-Century Spanish artifacts have been found on the site.

Negative Evidence: Numerous Spanish burials, structures, refuse pits, and firehearths have not been found although Native burials have been found by local people. The Smithsonian Institution in 1883 also reported two burial mounds on the site. The 16th-Century shipwrecks off the shore of the site were wrecked on a shallow sand shelf and were not anchored. The shipwrecks could have been blown onto the sand shelf from anywhere in the bay during the hurricane of the summer of 1559.

Hypothesis #2: The East Pensacola Heights Site (8Es1) is a Native village or seasonal campsite from which Native people salvaged the shipwrecks just offshore and/or the Luna Colony located in another area of Pensacola Bay.

Positive Evidence: The 16th-Century Spanish artifacts found by UWF were mixed with Native artifacts. Numerous Spanish burials, structures, refuse pits, and firehearths have not been found. The anchorage of the Luna fleet has not been found.

Negative Evidence: There is none.

Tests for the two hypotheses:

Hypotheses #1: Continue to excavate the East Pensacola Heights Site in hopes of finding the requisite archeological features necessary to prove the presence of the Luna Colony site.

Hypotheses #2: UWF needs to produce a detailed technical report of their excavations at the site. By providing this data, peer reviews can then determine conclusions based on the data. Also, there needs to be underwater surveys of portions of Pensacola Bay to search for numerous anchors associated with the anchorage of the the ships of the Luna Colony. By finding the anchorage, the colony should be close by.

