

This residence, without foundation, showed signs of poor drainage and extensive irrigation.

Failure occurred due to the thorough softening of the adobe at the ground line. Minor cracks occurred in other parts of the structure when its base failed, but the upper structure remained intact when collapse occurred.

This structure has been retrofitted with wood bond beams and tension cables after the 1940 Imperial Valley Quake according to its former owner. An identical structure adjacent to it failed completely and was removed after that quake.

An example of properly designed and maintained adobe structure capable of withstanding severe seismic movement is the Westmorland Town Hall (FIG.9, 10, 11). This structure built by the W. P. A. is constructed of unstabilized adobe with approximately two foot thick walls. A bond beam at the lintels and roof, high foundation wall and careful construction methods have produced a structure that has had no signs of structural failure since it was constructed in the mid 1930's.

FIG. 9

