In 1851, Salisbury Haley surveyed the community of Santa Barbara with the goal of laying out a geometric street grid for the growing town. As was typical of American communities, streets were laid out at right angles with blocks of equal area.

Haley’s street grid did not extend into the heart of the town. This area, which centered around the Presidio, had developed over the previous seventy-one years following a pattern of “organic” growth typical of Spanish and subsequent Mexican communities.

Eventually, the grid laid out by Haley and drawn by Vitus Wackenreuder in 1853 would be extended through the original town center, resulting in the modification or destruction of many of the buildings and properties dating to the earlier era. Following this pattern, Santa Barbara and Canon Perdido Streets severed the Presidio into the four sections that exist today.