

Texas Environmental Profiles

AN INFORMATION AND ON-LINE ACTIVISM RESOURCE FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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County Profile

Brewster

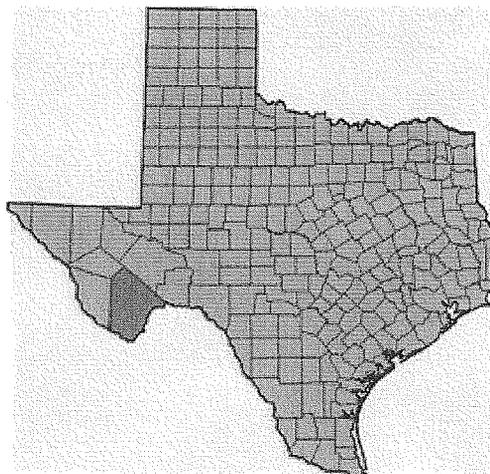
County

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Population in 2000: 9126 (169)

Population Projected for 2020: 14262 (159)

Detailed Demographic and Economic Information for:
Brewster County



WATER QUALITY

INDICATOR	VALUE (RANK)
<u>Toxics Released to Surface Waters, 2001 (Pounds):</u>	0 (63*)
Dioxins Released to surface waters (grams)	0 (6*)
<u>Number of State Wastewater Discharge Permits, 2002:</u>	1 (175)
Total Permitted Discharge (Millions of Gallons Per Day,):	0.17 (226)
<u>Number of Quality Impaired Surface Water Bodies, 2002:</u>	0 (157*)

[Information on Drinking Water Quality From U.S. EPA \(SDWIS\)](#)

WATER QUANTITY

INDICATOR	VALUE (RANK)
<u>Total Water Use 2000 (Acre-Feet):</u>	4289 (209)
Surface Water Use, 2000 (Acre-Feet):	322 (231)
Ground Water Use, 2000 (Acre-Feet):	3967 (155)
<u>Per Capita Water Use 2000 (Gallons per Day):</u>	227.76 (33)
<u>Projected Total Water Use, 2020 (Acre-Feet):</u>	5083 (212)
<u>Total Number of Active Surface Water Rights Permits, 2002:</u>	19 (118)
Total Authorized Volume of Water, 2002 (Acre-Feet):	13,822 (111)
<u>Regional Water Planning Group:</u>	E
<u>Number of Real-Time Streamflow Monitors in the County:</u>	0

[Reservoir Conservation Storage Level Data](#)

Water Well Level Data

LAND

INDICATOR	VALUE (RANK)
<u>Total Area of County (Thousands of Acres):</u>	6,097 (1)
<u>Area Dedicated to Irrigated Cropland 2000 (Acres):</u>	145 (203)
<u>Number of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Active Contracts, 1987-2003:</u>	1 (153)
<u>Number of Acres of Agricultural Land Enrolled in the CRP, 1987-2003:</u>	332.3 (132)
<u>Acres of Private Land Enrolled in Environmental Quality Incentives Program, 2002</u>	0 (150*)
<u>Acres of Private Land Enrolled in Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, 2002</u>	0 (12*)
<u>Acres of Private Land Enrolled in Wetlands Reserve Program, 2002</u>	0 (28*)
<u>Number of Federal and State Superfund Sites, 2002:</u>	0 (47*)
<u>Number of Contaminated Voluntary Cleanup Program Sites, 2002:</u>	0 (112*)

WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY

INDICATOR	VALUE (RANK)
<u>Number of Federally Listed or Proposed Endangered or Threatened Animal or Plant Species, 1999</u>	11 (4)
<u>Number of Eco-Regions Found in the County:</u>	1

AIR QUALITY

INDICATOR	VALUE (RANK)
<u>Air Emissions of Criteria Pollutants, 1999 (Tons):</u>	5614 (227)
<u>Criteria Emissions From Mobile Sources, 1999 (Tons):</u>	4228 (209)
<u>Criteria Emissions From Industrial Sources, 2000 (Tons):</u>	0 (205*)
<u>Criteria Emissions From Area Sources, 1999 (Tons):</u>	1386 (234)
<u>Tons of Power Plant Air Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants, 2000</u>	0 (76*)
<u>Toxics Released to Air, 2001 (Pounds):</u>	0 (145*)
<u>Dioxins Released to Air (grams)</u>	0 (45*)
<u>Number of Ambient Air Quality Monitors:</u>	0 (35*)
<u>Compliance with 1-hour air ambient ozone standard, 2002:</u>	attain

Information on 8 Hour Ozone Standard Compliance

WASTE

INDICATOR	VALUE (RANK)
<u>Number of Facilities Releasing Toxics, 2001:</u>	0 (137*)
<u>Total Pounds of Toxics Released Industrial Facilities and Power Plants, 2001</u>	0 (148*)
<u>Pounds Released On-site by Industrial Facilities and Power Plants, 2001</u>	0 (146*)
<u>Pounds Released Off-site by Industrial Facilities and Power Plants, 2001</u>	0 (97*)
<u>Total Grams of Dioxins and Dioxin-Like Compounds by Industrial Facilities and Power Plants, 2001</u>	0 (46*)
<u>Grams of Dioxins and Dioxin-Like Compounds Released On-Site , 2001</u>	0 (45*)
<u>Grams of Dioxins and Dioxin-Like Compounds Released Off-Site , 2001</u>	0 (9*)
<u>Industrial Hazardous Waste Generated, 1999 (Tons)</u>	0 (175*)

<u>Facilities with Permits to Treat, Store or Dispose of Hazardous Waste, 2002:</u>	0 (10*)
<u>Hazardous Waste Managed, 1999 (Tons):</u>	0 (97*)
<u>Tons of Hazardous Waste Managed at Captive Facilities, 1999</u>	0 (13*)
<u>Tons of Hazardous Waste Managed at Commercial Facilities, 1999</u>	0 (27*)
<u>Tons of Hazardous Waste Managed On-Site, 1999</u>	0 (97*)
<u>Number of Leaking Underground Storage Tanks, 2002:</u>	<u>17 (165)</u>
Number That Still Need to be Cleaned Up, 2002:	4 (188)
<u>Locate Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Centers Near You</u>	

ENERGY

INDICATOR	VALUE (RANK)
<u>Number of Power Plants, 2000:</u>	0 (99*)
Maximum Capacity of Power Plants, 2000: (Kilowatts)	0 (86*)
<u>Number of Regular Producing Oil Wells, 2002:</u>	0 (210*)
No. of Injection Oil Wells, 2002	0 (195*)
<u>Number of Regular Producing Gas Wells, 2002:</u>	0 (188*)
Number of of Temporarily Abandoned Gas Wells, 2002	0 (156*)

HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE (RANK)
<u>Total Number of Cancer Incidents, 1997</u>	43 (170)
Rate of Cancer per 100,000 persons, 1997	382 (108)
<u>Estimated Additional Cancer Risk Due to Hazardous Air Pollutants (Per 1,000,000 people), 2000</u>	76 (249)
<u>Number of Deliveries with any Birth Defect, 1997</u>	1 (94)
Rate of Birth Defect per 100 Live Births, 1997	0.93 (107)

*Indicator value for this county is tied for lowest value in the state

Note: Rankings are done across all 254 counties in Texas. Counties with the highest value for an indicator are ranked number one. Indicators that have the same value in more than one county are given the same ranking.

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County Profiles: Water Quantity

County Name:

Brewster

Residential Per-Capita Water Use, 2000 (gallons per day):	227.76
Irrigation Efficiency, Total Acre-Feet Used per Acre of Irrigated Land, 2000:	4.28
Total Number of Authorized or Permitted Active Surface Water Rights, 2002	19
Total Volume of Water Permitted in Active Surface Water Rights, 2002	13821.50

Current and Projected Water Use by Sector (acre-feet)

Sector	2000	2020
Electric Utility:	0	0
Irrigation	621	288
Livestock	707	571
Manufacturing	3	5
Mining	696	983
Municipal	2262	3236

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County Profile: Eco-Regions

County:
Brewster

This county is part of the following Eco-Region(s):

[Big Bend Country](#)

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line 104 BREWSTER



Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

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See Also:	LPST Database Query		Reimbursement Database Query	
	PST Technical and Registration Assistance		Back to PST Registration Database Query Home Page	

LPST Database Query Results

The following sites were found for "BREWSTER" County. For additional details about a LPST site and optional correspondence and Corrective Action Response Forms (CARF), select the appropriate check boxes in the Details column under the LPST ID of interest and click on the Submit button. You may also click on any of the links in the columns to the right and get a new query returning the first 25 sites for the type of query that you selected.

The data was last updated on September 16, 2004.

The following are facilities 1 - 50 out of total of 17. For more facilities click on the link(s) at the bottom of this page.

LPST ID	Responsible Party/ Facility Name	Facility ID	Address	County/ TNRCC Region
92738 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF Submit	TXDOT	0038851	2400 HWY 118 ALPINE	BREWSTER
	TXDOT			06, EL PASO
99412 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF Submit	RIO GRANDE DISTRIBUTORS INC	0030147	610 W HOLLAND ALPINE	BREWSTER
	AMIGOS 83			06, EL PASO
101619 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF Submit	SIROCCO DEVELOPMENT CORP	0024637	202 W HOLLAND ALPINE	BREWSTER
	GULF SERVICE CENTER			06, EL PASO

101969 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>CASNER LAND CO</u> <u>INC</u>	0063960	301 W HOLLAND <u>ALPINE</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>CASNER LAND CO</u>			06, EL PASO
103346 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>CITY OF ALPINE</u>	0012182	HWY 118 <u>ALPINE</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>ALPINE CASPARIS</u> <u>AIRPORT</u>			06, EL PASO
112000 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>WEST TEXAS GAS</u> <u>INC</u>	0050630	E HWY 90 <u>ALPINE</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>GAS CARD SERVICE</u> <u>CENTER</u>			06, EL PASO
112086 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>NORTH DALLAS</u> <u>CONTRACT USP</u>		107 W AVE F <u>ALPINE</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>ALPINE MAIN POST</u> <u>OFFICE</u>			06, EL PASO
112947 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>WEST TEXAS GAS</u>	0003673	STAR RT <u>ALPINE</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>STUDY BUTTE</u> <u>STORE</u>			06, EL PASO
102111 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>NATIONAL PARK</u> <u>CONCESSIONS INC</u>	0034524	RIO GRANDE VILLAGE <u>BIG BEND NATL PARK</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>RIO GRANDE</u> <u>VILLAGE STORE</u>			06, EL PASO
102368 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>NATIONAL PARK</u> <u>SER</u>	0056755	PANTHER JUNCTION <u>BIG BEND NATL PARK</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>BIG BEND</u> <u>NATIONAL PARK</u>			06, EL PASO
102371 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>NATIONAL PARK</u> <u>SER</u>	0034523	CASTOLON STORE <u>BIG BEND NATL PARK</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>BIG BEND NATL</u> <u>PARK SERVICE</u>			06, EL PASO
102110 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>NATIONAL PARK</u> <u>CONCESSIONS</u>	0034523	CASTOLON HISTORIC AR <u>CASTOLON</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>CASTOLON</u> <u>NATIONAL PARK</u> <u>CONCESSIONS</u>			06, EL PASO

96818 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>RIO GRANDE DISTRIBUTORS INC</u>	0008137	<u>E HWY 90 MARATHON</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>ACOSTA TEXACO</u>			06, EL PASO
101968 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF Submit	<u>SUNLAND DIST</u>	0031025	<u>HWY 90 MARATHON</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>ORETGA EXXON</u>			06, EL PASO
106818 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF Submit	<u>SIROCCO DEVELOPMENT CORP</u>	0024639	<u>HWY 90 MARATHON</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>MARATHON GULF STA</u>			06, EL PASO
114221 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<u>SOUTHWEST MARKETERS INC</u>	0008139	<u>E HWY 90 MARATHON</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>SIXTO SHELL</u>			06, EL PASO
92737 <input type="checkbox"/> Corresp <input type="checkbox"/> CARF Submit	<u>TXDOT</u>	0038849	<u>FM 170 TERLINGUA</u>	<u>BREWSTER</u>
	<u>TXDOT MAINTENANCE FACILITY</u>			06, EL PASO

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Texas QuickFacts

Brewster County, Texas

People QuickFacts	Brewster County	Texas
Population, 2003 estimate	9,247	22,118,509
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003	4.3%	6.1%
Population, 2000	8,866	20,851,820
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000	2.5%	22.8%
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2000	5.4%	7.8%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2000	22.2%	28.2%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2000	14.6%	9.9%
Female persons, percent, 2000	50.2%	50.4%
White persons, percent, 2000 (a)	81.1%	71.0%
Black or African American persons, percent, 2000 (a)	1.2%	11.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.8%	0.6%
Asian persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.4%	2.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2000 (a)	0.1%	0.1%
Persons reporting some other race, percent, 2000 (a)	13.4%	11.7%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2000	3.0%	2.5%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2000 (b)	43.6%	32.0%
White persons, not of Hispanic/Latino origin, percent, 2000	53.1%	52.4%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000', pct age 5+, 2000	48.9%	49.6%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	6.9%	13.9%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	42.7%	31.2%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	78.6%	75.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	27.7%	23.2%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	1,929	3,605,542
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	12.6	25.4
Housing units, 2002	4,711	8,502,060
Homeownership rate, 2000	59.5%	63.8%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	15.6%	24.2%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$67,000	\$82,500
Households, 2000	3,669	7,393,354
Persons per household, 2000	2.31	2.74
Median household income, 1999	\$27,386	\$39,927
Per capita money income, 1999	\$15,183	\$19,617
Persons below poverty, percent, 1999	18.2%	15.4%

Business QuickFacts	Brewster County	Texas
Private nonfarm establishments with paid employees, 2001	292	473,868
Private nonfarm employment, 2001	2,219	8,161,321
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2001	1.7%	1.7%
Nonemployer establishments, 2000	568	1,271,401
Manufacturers shipments, 1997 (\$1000)	NA	297,657,003
Retail sales, 1997 (\$1000)	58,146	182,516,112
Retail sales per capita, 1997	\$6,563	\$9,430
Minority-owned firms, percent of total, 1997	14.7%	23.9%
Women-owned firms, percent of total, 1997	25.0%	25.0%
Housing units authorized by building permits, 2002	19	165,027
Federal funds and grants, 2002 (\$1000)	54,486	123,431,164

Geography QuickFacts	Brewster County	Texas
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	6,193	261,797
Persons per square mile, 2000	1.4	79.6
Metropolitan Area	None	
FIPS Code	043	48

includes persons reporting only one race.
Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data
 NA: Not available
 D: Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information
 X: Not applicable
 S: Suppressed; does not meet publication standards
 Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown
 F: Fewer than 100 firms

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, County Business Patterns, 1997 Economic Census, Minority- and Women-Owned Business, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report, 1997 Census of Governments

Last Revised: Friday, 09-Jul-2004 09:01:17 EDT

Census Bureau Links:

BREWSTER COUNTY

Federal Status State Status

*** BIRDS ***

American Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>) – potential migrant, but also nests in west Texas on high cliff ledges; eats mostly birds, but will prey on insects and small mammals	DL	E
Arctic Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>) - potential migrant	DL	T
Baird's Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>) - shortgrass prairie with scattered low bushes and matted vegetation		
Black-capped Vireo (<i>Vireo atricapillus</i>) - oak-juniper woodlands with distinctive patchy, two-layered aspect; shrub and tree layer with open, grassy spaces; requires foliage reaching to ground level for nesting cover; return to same territory, or one nearby, year after year; deciduous and broad-leaved shrubs and trees provide insects for feeding; species composition less important than presence of adequate broad-leaved shrubs, foliage to ground level, and required structure; nesting season March-late summer	LE	E
Common Black Hawk (<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>) - cottonwood-lined rivers and streams; willow tree groves on the lower Rio Grande floodplain; formerly bred in Texas		T
Gray Hawk (<i>Asturina nitida</i>) – locally and irregularly along U.S.-Mexico border; mature riparian woodlands and nearby semiarid mesquite and scrub grasslands; breeding range formerly extended north to southernmost Rio Grande floodplain of Texas		T
Montezuma Quail (<i>Cyrtonyx montezumae</i>) – open pine-oak or juniper-oak with ground cover of bunch grass on flats and slopes of semi-desert mountains and hills; travels in pairs or small groups; eats succulents, acorns, nuts, and weed seeds, as well as various invertebrates		
Mountain Plover (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>) – shortgrass plains and plowed fields (bare, dirt fields); primarily insectivorous		
Northern Aplomado Falcon (<i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i>) - open country, especially savanna and open woodland, and sometimes in very barren areas; grassy plains and valleys with scattered mesquite, yucca, and cactus; nests in old stick nests of other bird species	LE	E
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>) - thickets of willow, cottonwood, mesquite, and other species along desert streams	LE	E
Western Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>) - open grasslands, especially prairie, plains, and savanna, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports; nests and roosts in abandoned burrows and man-made structures, such as culverts		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>) - status applies only west beyond the Pecos River Drainage; breeds in riparian habitat and associated drainages; springs, developed wells, and earthen ponds supporting mesic vegetation; deciduous woodlands with cottonwoods and willows; dense understory foliage is important for nest site selection; nests in willow, mesquite, cottonwood, and hackberry; forages in similar riparian woodlands; breeding season mid-May-late Sept	C1	
Zone-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>) - arid open country, including open deciduous or pine-oak woodland, mesa or mountain county, often near watercourses, and wooded canyons and tree-lined rivers along middle-slopes of desert mountains; nests in various habitats and sites, ranging from small trees in lower desert, giant cottonwoods in riparian areas, to mature conifers in high mountain regions		T

*** FISHES ***

Big Bend Gambusia (<i>Gambusia gagei</i>) – type locality described as a marshy cattail slough fed by springs, close to the Rio Grande at Boquillas Spring; presently restricted to one artificial springfed pool in Big Bend National Park	LE	E
Bluntnose Shiner (<i>Notropis simus</i>) (extirpated) - main river channels, often below obstructions over substrate of sand, gravel, and silt; damming and irrigation practices presumed major factors contributing to decline		T

	Federal Status	State Status
Boquillas lizardtail (<i>Gaura boquillensis</i>) - mostly in sandy soils in desert canyons and arroyos, occasionally in gravelly limestone soils in Chihuahuan Desert scrub at low elevations; flowering March-August		
Brush-pea (<i>Genistidium dumosum</i>) - Chihuahuan Desert scrub on rocky limestone hills at lower elevations; flowering June-September		
Bunched cory cactus (<i>Coryphantha ramillosa</i>) - rocky slopes, ledges, and flats in the Chihuahuan Desert, most frequently on exposures of Santa Elena Limestone or the Boquillas Formation between about 750-1050 m (2500-3500 ft) elevation; flowering (April?-) July-August	LT	T
Bushy wild-buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum suffruticosum</i>) - sparsely vegetated rocky limestone slopes, low hills, and clay flats; flowering March-April; in full fruit by May		
Chaffey's cory cactus (<i>Escobaria dasyacantha</i> var. <i>chaffeyi</i>) - evergreen woodlands on rocky limestone soils at about 1750-2150 m (5800-7000 ft.); flowering April-May; fruiting June-September		
Chisos agave (<i>Agave glomeruliflora</i>) - grasslands or oak-juniper woodlands at elevations of about 1050-1850 m (3500-6000 ft); flowering July-August		
Chisos coral-root (<i>Hexalectris revoluta</i>) - humus in oak groves along rocky creekbeds at higher elevation. in the Glass Mountains, it has been found "among lechuguilla and shinnery oak on the sunny slopes and ridges"; flowering June-July, sometimes in May when spring rains are abundant		
Chisos Mountains hedgehog cactus (<i>Echinocereus chisoensis</i> var. <i>chisoensis</i>) - desert grasslands or open shrublands on unconsolidated gravelly fan and terrace deposits on desert flats and low hills at moderate elevations of about 600-750 m (2000-2500 ft) in the Chihuahuan Desert; flowering March-early June, or April-July; fruit maturing May-August	LT	T
Chisos oak (<i>Quercus graciliformis</i>) - oak woodlands in dry rocky canyons, usually associated with a high water table; in moister portions of canyons of the Chisos Mountains, above about 1650 m (5400 ft) elevation; fruiting July-early September		
Chisos pinweed (<i>Lechea mensalis</i>) - open pine-oak woodlands over igneous rock outcrops at high elevations in mountains of the Trans Pecos; presumably flowering June-August		
Cliff bedstraw (<i>Galium correllii</i>) - dry, steep or vertical limestone cliff faces of various exposures in Chihuahuan Desert along Rio Grande and tributaries, at elevations between about 450-500 m (1500-1650 ft); flowering April-November; fruiting May-December		
Correll's green pitaya (<i>Echinocereus viridiflorus</i> var. <i>correllii</i>) - among grasses on rock crevices on low hills in desert or semi-desert grassland, occasionally on novaculite		
Cox's dalea (<i>Dalea bartonii</i>) - semi-desert shortgrass grasslands with scattered pinyon pine and juniper in gravelly soils on limestone hills; the one known location reportedly lies at an altitude of about 1100 m (3600 ft); probably flowering in June, fruiting in July		
Cutler's twistflower (<i>Streptanthus cutleri</i>) - open shrublands or grasslands on calcareous gravel of talus slopes, rocky hillsides and gravelly stream beds, at moderate elevations in the Chihuahuan Desert; flowering mostly February-March, sometimes into May		
Davis' green pitaya (<i>Echinocereus viridiflorus</i> var. <i>davisii</i>) - novaculite ourcrops in full sun among sparse Chihuahuan Desert scrub usually hidden in mats of <i>Selaginella</i> ; flowering late March-April	LE	E
Desert night-blooming cereus (<i>Peniocereus greggii</i> var. <i>greggii</i>) - shrublands in lower elevation desert flats and washes; visually similar to dead stems of woody plants; flowering concentrated during a few nights in late May-late June		
Duncan's cory cactus (<i>Escobaria dasyacantha</i> var. <i>duncanii</i>) - Chihuahuan Desert scrub on low to moderate elevation hills, ledges, and benches; in Texas on outcrops of Boquillas Formation limestone; flowering mid April to early May; fruits mature late May-early June		
Durango yellow-cress (<i>Rorippa ramosa</i>) - moist, fine textured, alluvial soils on floodplains and in beds of intermittent streams; flowering March-May		
Dwarf broomspurge (<i>Chamaesyce jejuna</i>) - endemic; according to specimen collections, found in grama-grass prairie on caliche uplands, dry caliche slopes, and limestone hills; flowering late March-late July		

Federal State
 Status Status

Many-flowered unicorn-plant (*Proboscidea spicata*) - dry sandy alluvial and/or eolian soils on terraces along Rio Grande; also in disturbed sandy soils at scattered sites along roadsides elsewhere in the Trans Pecos; flowering May-June (-August)

Maravillas milkwort (*Polygala maravillasensis*) - crevices of limestone exposed on canyons walls, mostly along the Rio Grande and its tributaries, in low desert mountains at about 450-950 m (1500-3100 ft) elevation; flowering May-October

Mary's bluet (*Stenaria butterwickiae*) - shallow pockets or crevices in limestone bedrock on ridgetops; flowering or fruiting at least May-August

Murray's plum (*Prunus murrayana*) - deciduous woodlands on steep rocky slopes in mesic, high elevation mountain canyons on both igneous and sedimentary substrates; flowering March-April; fruiting June-August

Nellie's cory cactus (*Escobaria minima*) - novaculite outcrops in full sun among Chihuahuan Desert scrub; flowering March-June, fruiting June-October LE E

Old blue pennyroyal (*Hedeoma pilosum*) - open exposed limestone

Orcutt's senna (*Senna orcuttii*) - gravelly soil on limestone slopes and in beds of intermittent streams, within various mid- to lower-elevation Chihuahuan Desert communities; flowering July-August

Pale phacelia (*Phacelia pallida*) - Chihuahuan Desert scrub on gypsum or limestone soils at low elevations; flowering May-early August

Perennial caltrop (*Kallstroemia perennans*) - barren gypseous clays or limestone soils at low elevations in the Chihuahuan Desert; flowering late spring-early fall

Purple gay-mallow (*Batesimalva violacea*) - among boulders in moist igneous rock canyons, often under small trees and large shrubs; habitat in Mexico dry deciduous forest and brushy field, thickets; flowering/fruiting October-November in Big Bend National Park; possibly throughout the year in Mexico

Ripley's senna (*Senna riplejana*) - gravelly hilltops in arid grasslands and creosote flats in Chihuahuan Desert; apparently at elevations of 1200-1500 m (4000-5000 ft); flowering/fruiting July-October

Robust oak (*Quercus robusta*) - deciduous; mesic drainages within the Chihuahuan Desert; can reach about 5 to 10 m tall (15-35 ft)

Shinner's tickle-tongue (*Zanthoxylum parvum*) - understory of maple-oak woodlands or evergreen oak shinnery on rocky, well drained, neutral, non-calcareous loams underlain by rhyolite, tuff or other igneous rock, at elevations between about 1400-1750 m (4500-5700 ft); flowering late March-early April

Sierra del Carmen oak (*Quercus carmenensis*) - moist wooded canyon bottoms in the Chisos Mountains at about 4200 feet (1500 m) elevation; flowering spring

Silver cholla (*Opuntia imbricata* var. *argentea*) - deep soils of mesquite thickets and creosote flats on desert bottomlands and washes; rocky limestone soil; flowering June-July; fruiting September-October

Slimlobe rock-daisy (*Perityle dissecta*) - perennial; walls of limestone canyons in desert regions; only rock-daisy in west Texas with finely dissected hairy leaves; flowering/fruiting spring-fall

Stairstep two-bristle rock-daisy (*Perityle bisetosa* var. *scalaris*) - crevices in limestone exposures on bluffs and other rock outcrops; flowering late summer-fall

Straw-spine glory-of-Texas (*Thelocactus bicolor* var. *flavidispinus*) - gravel hills in desert grasslands or shrublands below about 450 m (1400 ft); in the Marathon Basin of Brewster County; apparently restricted to soils derived from Caballos Novaculite; flowering in May

Swallow spurge (*Chamaesyce golondrina*) - alluvial or eolian sand along Rio Grande, occasionally on adjacent shale or limestone slopes; flowering June-November

Terlingua brickellbush (*Brickellia hinckleyi* var. *terlinguensis*) - various situations in Chihuahuan Desert; slopes in the Chisos Mountains; also along creek bottoms; flowering July-October?

Federal State
Status Status

wintering residents only, or may be historic or considered extirpated.



Search Options

Brewster County

Click County name for map

Brewster County Courthouse and Jail - Alpine

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

Burro Mesa Archeological District - Panther Junction

- [National Register listing](#)

Castolon Historic District - Big Bend National Park

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

Daniels Farm House - Rio Grande Village

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

Hot Springs - Big Bend National Park

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

Luna Jacal - Big Bend National Park

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

Mariscal Mine - Big Bend National Park

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

Nolte--Rooney House - Alpine

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

Rancho Estelle - Big Bend National Park

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

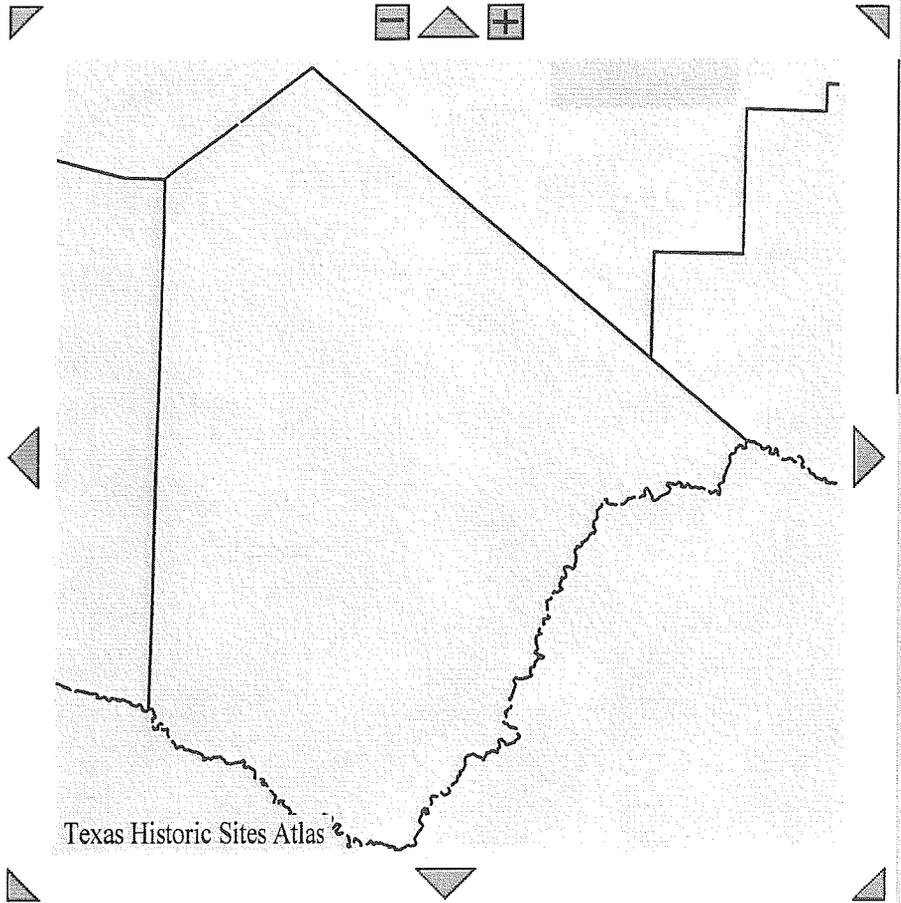
Terlingua Historic District - Terlingua

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

Wilson, Homer, Ranch - Santa Elena Junction

- [National Register listing](#)
- [Location map](#)

11 records.
11 NR Listed Sites



Brewster County Courthouse and Jail

Reference Number: 78002899
Resource Name: Brewster County Courthouse and Jail
Other Name:
Address: Courthouse Sq.
Restricted:
Owner: LOCAL
Resource Type: BUILDING
Number of Contributing Buildings: 2
Number of Contributing Sites: 0
Number of Contributing Structures: 0
Number of Contributing Objects: 0
Number of Non-contributing Buildings: 0
Number of Non-contributing Sites: 0
Number of Non-contributing Structures: 0
Number of Non-contributing Objects: 0
Federal Agency:
Park Name:
Multiple Name:
Nominated Name: STATE GOVERNMENT
Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Certification Date: 19780717
Significance Level: STATE
Significance Name:
Circa:
Significant Year: 1887
State:
Cultural Affiliation:
Architect: Lovell, Tom
Other Description: American Second Empire
County: Brewster
City: Alpine
Applicable Criteria: EVENT; ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING
Area Significance: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE
Architectural Style: OTHER

Current Function: GOVERNMENT

Criteria

Exception:

Subfunction: CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Historic Function: GOVERNMENT

Historic

Subfunction: COURTHOUSE; CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Foundation: LIMESTONE

Wall: BRICK

Roof: TIN

Other Materials: NONE LISTED

Other

Certifications:

Other

Documentation:

Period: 1875-1899

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 18

Narrative:

Constructed in 1887 in West Texas, the Brewster County Courthouse is an interesting local "vernacular" interpretation of an architectural idiom which was to become known as the American Second Empire Style. This two-and-one-half story brick building laid in Common bond is rectangular in massing with thin, elongated pavilions advancing slightly from the center of each facade. No corner towers, which would be expected in this style, are in evidence.

All four facades are comprised of pairs of elongated, round arch window openings surmounted by curved, pressed-tin hood molds with a single voussoir on center. The window openings on the second story are slightly longer than those on the first story. Each bay of paired windows is delineated by vertical brick strips or referential pilasters. The Brewster County Courthouse rests on a small base of rusticated local limestone with a brick belt-course separating the facades between the first and second stories.

The shorter east and west facades are comprised of three bays of paired round arch window openings with a pressed-tin "frontispiece" doorway on the first floor pavilion comprised of a triangular pediment supported on single Doric pilasters resting on single paneled podiums, and a semicircular, two-pane light over paneled, wooden double doors. The longer north and south facades are comprised of two stories of five bays of paired round arch windows with similar pilaster strips. The north facade has no doorway and the recent addition of a two-story brick wing to the northwest half of this facade has obscured the two northwest bays and part of the north pavilion. The south facade has a similar pressed-tin "frontispiece" doorway, although the door itself has been removed and replaced with a twentieth century aluminum frame window. All original window frames (wooden, double-hung, four-over-four-light sash) have survived, with the exception of those on the second story of the east facade and portions of the second stories of the north and south facades. These have been replaced with fixed wooden shutters.

A pressed-tin entablature, comprised of a paneled frieze and a cornice, surmounts the building. Pairs of pressed-tin brackets are incorporated within the entablature and reflect the spacing of the brick pilaster strips below and serve as referential (or interpretative) capitals to them. Pressed-tin triangular pediments crown the pavilions throughout. The radically hipped, wood-framed, pyramidal roof of standing-seam-tin is capped by pressed-tin cresting in the pattern of a cornice. Triangular, two-paned dormers punctuate the roof line: four each on the north and south facades and two each on the east and west facades. Originally, each pavilion was capped with a large attenuated Mansard-like roof with a single round arch four-light window. These, however, were removed in the second half of this century.

The first floor of the wood-frame interior is bisected by a center hall on the east/west axis dividing offices equally on both sides. Exemplary pressed-tin ceilings and some of the original woodwork have survived. A handsome wooden staircase with "Eastlake-like" details rises from the first floor to the General Courtroom on the second floor. Extensive remodeling has taken place on the second floor. However, much of the original fabric has been maintained beneath the new paneling and above the newly lowered ceilings.

Also constructed and presumably designed by Tom Lovell in 1887, the Brewster County Jail building is a two-story brick structure of an "L" plan and massing laid in common bond. In 1921, an addition was added to the south side of the pile conforming and, therefore, preserving the "L" shape massing. A rusticated stone base of local limestone rises several feet on the jail complex. However, the most interesting and wholly outstanding architectural detail is the fine brick crenelated parapet wall which crowns the flat, wood framed roof. The choice of this "detail" in contrast with the quasi-Second Empire detailing on the contemporaneous Courthouse is an interesting testimony to the symbolic implications, vis a vis qualities, of "fortress-like impregnability" which must have been important design parameters to the builder and the County Commissioners. Several corbeled chimneys rise from behind the parapet wall.

Window openings throughout are round arch with brick hood molds and brick sills on the unaltered openings and stone sills on those windows which are added in the 1921 addition or those affected by that addition. The original windows (wood frame, double-hung, two-over-two-light sash) have survived. Requisite iron bars exist on the exterior of windows where they were deemed appropriate for security.

A one story wood frame porch on a stone base supported by wooden Doric columns on brick podiums was constructed at the interior intersection of the two "L" wings. A flight of stone steps to the porch gives the only access to the building.

The first floor interior of the Brewster County Jail is arranged around the quarters and offices of the sheriff and staff. The second floor contains freestanding iron cells provided and built by the Diebold Safe and Lock Company--an unusual situation in Texas where the Pauley Jail Building and Manufacturing Company dominated the field. Little of the original interior detailing remains.

The Brewster County Courthouse and Jail Building, like so many other such complexes in the other counties of Texas, traditionally were and still remain the physical and governmental focal point of the community of Alpine and the larger community of Brewster County. In an age where these traditional seats of government are often demolished or substantially denatured, the Brewster County Courthouse and Jail Building have survived remarkably. They deserve to continue to do so. Both buildings possess historical significance in that they have served as the government seat of Brewster County (the largest of Texas' counties) since their inception in 1887. Architecturally, both buildings dominate the community of Alpine as excellent examples of locally interpreted nineteenth century styles.

The territory of Brewster County has been under a number of political jurisdictions. Originally considered part of Chihuahua, Mexico, during Spanish and Mexican rule, the area was later attached to Bexar County following Texas independence. From 1848 to 1887 the Brewster County area was under the jurisdiction of Santa Fe County (1848), El Paso County (1849-1871), and Presidio County (1875-1887). When the Presidio County seat was moved from Fort Davis to Marfa, dissatisfaction among residents in this area led to the creation of Brewster County in 1887. Murpheyville, renamed that year as Alpine, became the county seat.

Built in 1887, the Brewster County Courthouse and Jail were the first monuments to the newly organized county and continue to serve in their original capacities. Only a few Texas counties still utilize either their first courthouse or jail. The Brewster County complex also holds the distinction of serving Texas' largest county with an area of 5935 square miles. The county was enlarged to its present size in 1897 when the proposed Bushel and Foley counties were abolished and their territory added to Brewster.

As an architectural entity, the Brewster County Courthouse presents an interesting and rather sophisticated local interpretation of the Second Empire Style. Tom Lovell, the local nineteenth century contractor and presumed designer, showed a substantial comprehension of design, massing, fenestration, and detailing making the Brewster County Courthouse one of the finest buildings in Brewster county.

Although simpler in program and detail than the Brewster County Courthouse, the Brewster County Jail is architecturally interesting for its vigorous, strong detailing and massing. It is an interesting exercise in a quasi "Gothick" fortress-like style (although the window detailing certainly belies this assertion) whose architectural presence enhances the Brewster County Courthouse complex immeasurably.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON FILE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Burro Mesa Archeological District



Burro Mesa Archeological District

Reference Number: 85002309

Resource Name: Burro Mesa Archeological District

Other Name: 41BS187,41BS220,41BS221,41BS630

Address: Address Restricted

Restricted: X

Owner: FEDERAL

Resource Type: DISTRICT

*Number of Contributing
Buildings:* 2

Number of Contributing Sites: 4

*Number of Contributing
Structures:* 0

*Number of Contributing
Objects:* 0

*Number of Non-contributing
Buildings:* 0

*Number of Non-contributing
Sites:* 0

*Number of Non-contributing
Structures:* 0

*Number of Non-contributing
Objects:* 0

Federal Agency: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Park Name: Big Bend

Multiple Name:

Nominated Name: FEDERAL AGENCY

Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Certification Date: 19850911

Significance Level: STATE

Significance Name:

Circa:

Significant Year:

State:

Cultural Affiliation: Paleo-Indian; Archaic; Neo-American

Architect:

Other Description:

County: Brewster

City: Panther Junction

Applicable Criteria: EVENT; INFORMATION POTENTIAL

Area Significance: PREHISTORIC; HISTORIC - ABORIGINAL; HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL;
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Architectural Style: NO STYLE LISTED

Current Function: LANDSCAPE

Criteria Exception:

Subfunction: PARK

Historic Function: DOMESTIC; INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION; RECREATION AND CULTURE;
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Historic Subfunction: WORK OF ART (SCULPTURE, CARVING, ROCK ART); SINGLE DWELLING; CAMP; ANIMAL
FACILITY; EXTRACTIVE FACILITY

Foundation: NONE LISTED

Wall: STONE

Roof: NONE LISTED

Other Materials: NONE LISTED

Other Certifications:

Other Documentation:

Period: 5000-6999 BC; 7000-8999 BC; 1499-1000 AD; 1500-1599; 1000 AD-999 BC; 1000-2999 BC; 1900-1924;
1875-1899; 3000-4999 BC; 1925-1949

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 2600

Castolon Historic District

Reference
Number: 74000276

Source Name: Castolon Historic District

Other Name: La Harmonica Ranch, Camp Santa Helena; Castolon Army Compound

Address: Along Rio Grande at jct. of Park Rtes. 5, 9, and 35

Restricted:

Owner: FEDERAL

Resource Type: DISTRICT

Number of
Contributing
Buildings: 10

Number of
Contributing
Sites: 3

Number of
Contributing
Structures: 0

Number of
Contributing
Objects: 0

Number of Non-
contributing
Buildings: 0

Number of Non-
contributing Sites: 0

Number of Non-
contributing
Structures: 0

Number of Non-
contributing
Objects: 0

Federal Agency: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Park Name: Big Bend

Multiple Name:

Nominated Name: FEDERAL AGENCY

Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Certification Date: 19740906

Significance
Level: STATE

Significance
Name:

Circa:

Significant Year:

State:

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect:

Other Description:

County: Brewster

City: Big Bend National Park

Applicable
Criteria: EVENT

Significance: OTHER; COMMERCE; MILITARY; AGRICULTURE

Architectural
Style: NO STYLE LISTED

Current Function: DOMESTIC

Criteria
Exception:

Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING

Historic Function: DOMESTIC; DEFENSE; COMMERCE/TRADE

Historic Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING

Foundation: NONE LISTED

Wall: ADOBE

Roof: METAL

Other Materials: NONE LISTED

Other Certifications:

Other Documentation: LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES

Period: 1900-1924

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 8000

Narrative:

The Castolon Historic District contains 2 major groups of structures, distinguished by their origin. The first is commonly called "Old Castolon" and the second the "Castolon Army Compound." All were part of what came to be known as the La Harmonia Ranch. Hithin the Historic District are the following historic structures:

Old Castolon BBH-618 Old Castolon Store

617 Cafe and Residence

616 Shed

Army Compound BBH-600 Barracks (Castolon Store)

601 Recreation Hall (Utility Building)

602 Latrine

603 Officers Quarters

604 Officers Quarters

605 Magdalena House

606 Garlick House

607 Alvino Residence

608 Granary and Tack Room

(The Magdalena and Garlick Houses were not part of the Army Compound; they were added later as part of the La Harmonia Ranch. The Alvino Residence is probably one of the oldest structures in the park, dating to ca. 1903. It is located at the base of the bluff on which the other structures are situated, and is not part of the general scene of the army compound.)

Miscellaneous: BBH-111 Dertick Residence

609 Cotton Gin

Almost all of the structures are constructed of adobe block. The majority have pitched roofs with corrugated metal roofing, although several follow the more indigenous viga, latia, and soil roof system. The buildings vary from good to ruins condition. Buildings 616, 617 and 618 have been restored by the National Park Service. The Army buildings are, for the most part, still in use, being used variously for store, residential, administrative, and storage purposes. Buildings

606, 607, and 609 are in various states of deterioration and 609 is threatened with destruction due to erosion of the river bank. The overall historic appearance of the area has lost much to NPS operation.

The primary significance of the Castolon Historic District lies in the border relations between the United States and Mexico. The general border unrest of the first part of the 20th century, occasioned by the Mexican Revolution and World War I, resulted in U.S. Cavalry patrols to protect lives and property along the Mexican border. Castolon Army Compound (known as Camp Santa Helena) was constructed to garrison such troops. Although it was constructed just as these border tensions eased and consequently saw little use by the Army, it is nevertheless a tangible remnant of this facet of our relations with Mexico.

The first store in the Castolon area was begun about 1903 by Cipriano Hernandez in the east end of the so-called Alvino Residence (BBH-607). Acquired by Clyde and James Sublett in 1914, the enterprise was moved to the "Old Castolon Store" (BBH-618). Under the partnership of Howard Perry and Wayne Cartledge (acquired in 1919) the Castolon Store continued to serve residents on both sides border, first at Old Castolon and later in the barracks building (BBH-600) at the Army Compound. It is still operated by a concessioner under NPS jurisdiction. As manager of "La Harmonia Enterprises," (a name selected "in an effort to restore and maintain peace and order in the area, ... and to promote idea of harmony between Anglo-Americans and Mexican-Americans in the area"¹) Mr. Cartledge was a storekeeper, rancher, farmer, and trader. To the residents of the area, both Mexican and American, he was also friend, employer, banker, broker, postmaster, lawman, and counselor; and above all, he was honest and fair. That the United States and Mexico have enjoyed good border relations since the end of World War I has been in large part due to men like Wayne Cartledge.

The site and structures at Castolon are significant in that they embrace all of these activities and their consequences, and are tangible evidences of this interesting and important part of our national history.

_____ 1 Casey, Clifford B. Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend National Park Service, 1969, p. 77

2. Location

The Castolon Historic District located along the Rio Grande River at the junction of Park Routes 5, 9, and 35. It extends northwest from this junction approximately 0.9 mile along Route 9, southeast approximately 1.0 mile from the junction along Route 35, approximately 1/4 mile to the northeast of Routes 9 and 35 sufficient to encompass the post cemetery and the old Castolon structures, and includes all of the floorplain between the Rio Grande and Route 9 and 35 for the distances mentioned above.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON FILE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Daniels Farm House

Reference
Number: 89001627

Source Name: Daniels Farm House

Other Name:

Address: W of Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park

Restricted:

Owner: FEDERAL

Resource Type: BUILDING

Number of
Contributing
Buildings: 1

Number of
Contributing
Sites: 0

Number of
Contributing
Structures: 0

Number of
Contributing
Objects: 0

Number of Non-
contributing
Buildings: 0

Number of Non-
contributing Sites: 0

Number of Non-
contributing
Structures: 0

Number of Non-
contributing
Objects: 0

Federal Agency: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Park Name: Big Bend

Multiple Name:

Nominated
Name: FEDERAL AGENCY

Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Certification Date: 19891020

Significance
Level: LOCAL

Significance
Name:

Circa:

Significant Year: 1937

State:

Cultural
Affiliation:

Architect: Wedin, John O.; Daniels, John R.

Other

Description:

County: Brewster

City: Rio Grande Village

Applicable
Criteria: EVENT

Area
Significance: ECONOMICS; AGRICULTURE

Architectural
Style: NO STYLE LISTED

Current Function: VACANT/NOT IN USE

Criteria

Exception:

Subfunction:

Historic Function: DOMESTIC; AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Historic Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING; AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS

Foundation: STONE

Wall: ADOBE

Roof: WOOD

Other Materials: NONE LISTED

Other Certifications: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Other Documentation:

Period: 1900-1924; 1925-1949

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 2

Narrative:

Daniels Farm House (BBH-443), situated on 0.18 acres of land, is located on the south bank of the Rio Grande approximately threequarters of a mile west of present Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park, Texas. Constructed in the traditional Southwest architectural style, the farm house stands relatively unaltered from its original appearance. Man-made irrigation ditches and open fields, once under cultivation, provide a setting in which the integrity and historic appearance of the farm remains intact. In effect, Daniels Farm House stands as one of the best historical representations of irrigated agricultural production in the Big Bend region.

Daniels Farm House is a simple rectangular two-room adobe structure. Oriented along an east-west axis, the building is approximately 44 feet in length and 15 feet in width. Of the two rooms, the western most is the larger measuring 23'-2", while the smaller room measures 15'-9". The central wall which divides the two rooms is a twelve- inch thick adobe wall with a centrally located opening. Both the east and west elevations also have centrally located doors, so that each room has a door with the exception of the north elevation.

The adobe walls are built on a stone rubble foundation measuring approximately 18" to 24" wide. The south elevation has two doors, one at each end and a single window located just west of the central interior wall. The north elevation is broken by three window openings, two of which open into the western room. The average size of all windows is 3'-6" X 4'-9". All window frames and door jambs are constructed of rough-cut, dimensional lumber measuring 2" X 12". The lintels extend through the entire thickness of the wall and are exposed on the interior. None of the window sashes remain and only one of four doors is in existence. The latter is constructed of five equally-sized panels of rough- cut dimensional lumber held together by heavier stiles and rails.

The construction of the exterior walls is adobe brick, which appears rather rough in texture. The parapet along the south is broken by six existing canals that extend beyond the surface of the wall approximately 24". Vigas, which support the roof, are also visible on this elevation, extending to about 10".

The interior finishes of Daniels Farm House are traditionally simple. The floor consists of irregularly shaped flagstones, uniformly dark grey in color and randomly laid on a compacted earth floor. The floor is intact and in generally good condition. All interior walls are finished with an uneven coat of lime and gypsum plaster that is off white in color. While 70% of the plaster is still visible, it must be noted that this layer of plaster is not the original. Rather, it is the result of a National Park Service rehabilitation project conducted in the spring of 1972. At present, the interior walls have been badly scarred by graffiti.

The most striking feature of the interior is the ceiling, which is actually the underside of the roof construction. A series of unevenly spaced aspen vigas, measuring 9-11" in diameter, support the weight of the roof. These supports rest on a dimensional lumber bearing plate that is an integral part of the wall construction. Running perpendicular to the vigas are river cane and reed latillas woven together into a series of mats that give a corrugated look to the ceiling. Above the latillas is a covering of reeds and grass thatching capped with adobe mud. Notably, this roof is also not the original, but also part of the 1972 rehabilitation project. Today, the roof shows signs serious deterioration. Several of the vigas are fractured and are presently being held by vertical supports. Portions of the latilla ribbing have also deteriorated beyond reuse.

The grounds around the building are not landscaped. They do, however, convey a strong sense of irrigated farming activity in which the rectangular outlines of the fields are still clearly visible. The remains, of a small, flagstone irrigation canal--perhaps part of the original system built in 1918--runs parallel to the farm house near the north elevation. In

addition, there are several large cottonwood trees and a variety of grasses and carrizo cane outcrops growing along the river bank. On the north elevation there is evidence of a patio or ramada, which no longer exists. Also, there is a clearly outlined rectangular rock foundation adjacent to the main structure measuring 41' in length and 21'-6" in width. Inasmuch as there are no door openings within this outline, it was presumably utilized for outdoor purposes only.

While there is evidence of the existence of a smaller rectangular one-room adobe outbuilding located approximately 100 yards east of the main building, it has deteriorated beyond recognition and no longer retains sufficient integrity required for inclusion in this nomination.

Daniels Farm House is historically significant under criteria "A" of the National Register Criteria because of its long-term association with the social, cultural, and economic development of the Big Bend. In the first place, it is one of a few remaining physical structures throughout the entirety of Big Bend National Park that adequately represents the farming activities of early West Texas pioneers. In a region traditionally dominated by stock raisers, flood plain and irrigated farming emerged as a viable economic alternative for both Anglo and Hispanic residents. Secondly, since 1918 the growing dependency of these lower Rio Grande communities upon farming centered around Daniels Farm House. After the establishment of Big Bend National Park in 1944, nearly all evidence of this activity--with the exception of this structure--disappeared. In effect, Daniels Farm House is the last remaining physical representation of a social and economic lifestyle once common along the Rio Grande. While no longer evident in the Big Bend region today, irrigated and flood-plain farming played a significantly historic role in the early settlement of the region.

In 1918 Jesus Estrada, the original deed holder of Block G-19, section 6 (Daniels Farm House), sold his land to a Swedish immigrant named John O. Wedin. That same year, Wedin, an experienced wheat farmer from Kansas, leveled the land and installed an 8-inch centrifugal pump irrigation system. Although the Hispanic residents of the area had practiced subsistence, flood plain farming for decades before Wedin's arrival, it was he who introduced one of the earliest commercial, irrigated farms into this portion of the Rio Grande valley. The remains of a flagstone canal still visible near the north elevation of the farm house are all that remain of the original irrigation network.

In addition, in 1918 Wedin built the structure known today as Daniels Farm House (BBH-443). While it appears that he did not use the building as his residence, he did use it to house farming equipment. Wedin's residence was located about one mile farther east of the present Daniels Farm House site. For the next eight years, Wedin raised wheat, alfalfa, hay and other crops that he marketed among Anglo and Hispanic residents living in the near-by mining communities of Boquillas and San Vicente, Texas. In 1926 Wedin sold his farm to Joe H. Graham of Del Rio, Texas.

Joe Graham, a prominent West Texas cattleman and owner of the famous Lou Buttrill Ranch Complex located in the Rosillos Mountains north of Big Bend National Park, expanded the commercial importance of the farm. Graham continued to raise a variety of grains, alfalfa, and other "feed crops" which he used primarily as winter range for his cattle. Graham marketed his cattle in Kansas City and other Midwestern cities. In addition Graham owned feed lots in the Midwest where he fattened his cattle before shipment to the packing houses. By linking his farming operation to his West Texas cattle enterprise, Joe Graham introduced a fully integrated system of ranching into the Big Bend. Thus during the tenure of Graham's ownership the farm assumed regional as well as local economic importance.

Upon their arrival in the Big Bend in 1927, Graham and his two sons placed more acreage under cultivation, modernized and improved upon Wedin's original irrigation system, and built two or three smaller adobe out-buildings for storage purposes. The Grahams continued to utilize the main structure (Daniels Farm House) for storage and maintenance of equipment.

It was not until 1937, when Joe Graham sold the upper portion of his farm to John R. Daniels, that the building (BBH-443) was utilized as an actual residence. John and Mary Coe Daniels of Presidio, Texas, enlarged the original one-room structure to two rooms in order to accommodate a small mercantile store from which they serviced the needs of local residents living on both sides of the Rio Grande. Known affectionately among the Hispanic population as "Tia Maria," Mrs. Daniels sold the grains, melons, and vegetables grown on their irrigated property to consumers on both sides of the international border.

Shortly after his arrival, John Daniels converted approximately one-half of the 200-acre farm to cotton cultivation. In doing so, he not only introduced the concept of raising cash crops in this section of the Rio Grande valley, but also he provided a means of steady employment for local Hispanic neighbors. By introducing cotton into the region, the Daniels operation--albeit comparatively small-scale--kept pace with economic trends in the late 1930s that witnessed a gradual shift away from cattle ranching in West Texas toward agri-business. While cotton farming in Brewster County declined after W. W. II, it currently retains economic importance in other counties of West Texas. While John and Mary Daniels only occupied their property until the establishment of Big Bend National Park in 1944, they stimulated and diversified a local economy upon which Rio Grande residents became increasingly dependent.

For more than three decades before the establishment of Big Bend National Park, Daniels Farm House, and the rich agricultural farmlands that enclosed it, served the economic and social needs of a bi-cultural community. Just as the mining and ranching pioneers of the early frontier period blazed the way for the eventual settlement of this region, the farmer brought stability and a promise of long-term occupation through the cultivation and irrigation of the land. At present, there is little historical evidence that remains of the farming frontier in the Big Bend. Daniels Farm House, therefore, is a significant reminder of an important episode in the region's diverse historic past. Generally speaking, the

overall size of the farm has been reduced and altered through park development projects. Nevertheless, the remarkably well-preserved integrity of Daniels Farm House and the now-abandoned fields that immediately surround it, remain to capture the essence of these early pioneer activities in West Texas.

Brewster County Records of Deed. Vols. 75-76. Brewster

County County Courthouse, Alpine, Texas.

Brown, William E. and Roland H. Wauer. Historic Resources

Management Plan: Big Bend National Park. Washington,

D.C.: United States Department of the Interior,

National Park Service, 1968.

Hot Springs

Reference Number: 74000278
source Name: Hot Springs
Other Name: Boguillas Hot Springs
Address: W of Rio Grande Village
Restricted:
Owner: FEDERAL
Resource Type: SITE
Number of Contributing Buildings: 2
Number of Contributing Sites: 1
Number of Contributing Structures: 1
Number of Contributing Objects: 0
Number of Non-contributing Buildings: 0
Number of Non-contributing Sites: 2
Number of Non-contributing Structures: 0
Number of Non-contributing Objects: 0
Federal Agency: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Park Name: Big Bend
Multiple Name:
Nominated Name: FEDERAL AGENCY
Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Certification Date: 19740917
Significance Level: LOCAL
Significance Name:
Circa:
Significant Year: 1927
State:
Cultural Affiliation:
Architect:
Other Description:
County: Brewster
City: Big Bend National Park
Applicable Criteria: EVENT
Significance: COMMERCE; HEALTH/MEDICINE; ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
Architectural Style: NO STYLE LISTED
Current Function: WORK IN PROGRESS
Criteria Exception: SIGNIFICANCE OF LESS THAN FIFTY YEARS

Subfunction: PARK

Historic Function: HEALTH CARE; RECREATION AND CULTURE

Historic Subfunction: OUTDOOR RECREATION; RESORT

Foundation: NONE LISTED

Wall: STONE

Roof: METAL

Other Materials: WOOD

Other Certifications:

Other Documentation: LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES

Period: 1900-1924; 1925-1949

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 1150

Narrative:

Original Appearance: Perhaps the first structure at Hot Springs was a stone tub carved in a flat layer of rock which caught the waters from the spring and enabled man to use the waters for bathing purposes. BS24?

Some time prior to the arrival of the Langfords a dugout have been constructed and subsequently abandoned. This was rehabilitated and served as the Langfords' first home. Shortly thereafter Langford erected a one-room adobe house on a bench overlooking the site. A stone addition, roofed with river cane and corrugated metal and containing two more rooms, was added a year later. Langford also constructed a substantial stone bathhouse at the site of the springs, containing rock tubs plastered with cement. There were also a number of cane and brush bathing shelters at a second spring, downstream from the area. Due to bandit raids and general border unrest, the Langfords left Hot Springs in 1912. When they returned 14 years later in 1927 Langford apparently discovered that the bathhouse had either been destroyed or at least was badly disintegrated. He immediately rebuilt it, but of a somewhat smaller and less substantial construction, being roofed only with canvas. He also constructed at this time a store and a motor court. Only these last two structures remain today.

Present Appearance: Both the store and the motor court are currently being restored by the NPS to their original appearance.

The store BS350? is a one-story stone structure approximately 28x12 feet in dimension. The walls are constructed of native stone set in earth mortar and painted with a natural limestone mortar. The roof is trussed rafter construction with wood sheathing and corrugated metal roofing. The interior walls are plastered and pointed and, at least during Maggie Smith's occupancy, a celotex or similar natural was used as a ceiling attached to the bottom chord of the roof trusses.

The cabins consist of a row that seen attached one-room units, each approximately 11x15 feet in size. Of stone construction, the one-story structure has a wood-framed roof with rolled mineral-surfaced roofing. A flagstone terrace along the south side east and west ends was originally covered by a porch or ramada. The interior of the walls were plastered and the exposed wood joists and wood were painted. Four of the rooms contain hand-painted murals.

Two other structures still remain on a hillside across Tornillos Creek BS11? to the west. However, these structures were not part of the Langford operation. These are a frame and adobe shack constructed as temporary quarters for a postman, and a stone residence constructed by Charles Livingstone of Alpine, Texas. Both are now in a state of ruin.

2. Location:

Hot Springs is located approximately two miles west of Rio Grande Village at the confluence of Tornillos Creek and the Rio Grande River. It is reached by about one mile of dirt road which joins Park Route 2 where it crosses Tornillos Creek.

7. Description:

Few traces of the original springs now remain, having been reclaimed by the meanderings of the river, and appearing only occasionally with the fluctuation of the stream.

9. Bibliography:

Koue, A. Lewis, Historic Structures Report Part 1

Architectural Data Section Hot Springs Complex Big Bend

National Park. National Park Service, Department of the

Interior, 1969.

Langford J. O., A Homesteader's Story

Levy Benjamin, Historic Structures Resort, Part 1,

Historical Data Section, Hot Springs Complex Big Bend

National Park. National Park Service, Department of the

Interior, 1968.

"Hot Springs" or "Boquillas of Spring," as they were at one time, had apparently been known to the Indians and other inhabitants of the region for some time before J. O. Langford acquired the place in 1909. Reputed to have medicinal qualities, this was just the place Langford, a man of poor health, was seeking. He developed the area as a health and recreational resort, and continued to operate it as such until 1942 and the establishment of Big Bend National Park with the exception of a 14-year period between 1912 and 1927 when border unrest made the area unsafe. The influx of tourists initially attracted of the Big Bend area lay Langford's resort was to a great degree responsible for movement to establish the area as a National Park.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON FILE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Luna Jacal

Reference Number: 74000282
Resource Name: Luna Jacal
Other Name: Luna Residence;BBH 168
Address: At base of Pena Mountain in Big Bend National Park
Restricted:
Owner: FEDERAL
Resource Type: BUILDING
Number of Contributing Buildings: 1
Number of Contributing Sites: 0
Number of Contributing Structures: 0
Number of Contributing Objects: 0
Number of Non-contributing Buildings: 0
Number of Non-contributing Sites: 0
Number of Non-contributing Structures: 0
Number of Non-contributing Objects: 0
Federal Agency: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Park Name: Big Bend
Multiple Name:
Nominated Name: FEDERAL AGENCY
Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Certification Date: 19741108
Significance Level: LOCAL
Significance Name: Gilberto Luna
Circa:
Significant Year: 1947
State:
Cultural Affiliation:
Architect:
Other Description:
County: Brewster
City: Big Bend National Park
Applicable Criteria: EVENT; ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING; PERSON
Area Significance: ARCHITECTURE; AGRICULTURE
Architectural Style: NO STYLE LISTED
Current Function: VACANT/NOT IN USE
Criteria Exception:
Subfunction:
Historic Function: DOMESTIC; AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
Historic Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING; AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

Foundation: NONE LISTED

Wall: SANDSTONE

Roof: LIMESTONE

Other Materials: CONCRETE

Other
Certifications:

Other
Documentation: LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES

Period: 1900-1924; 1875-1899; 1850-1874; 1925-1949

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 15

Narrative: "Rectangular in plan, the rear of the house utilizes a large flat boulder as one end of the structure. Walls of random limestone and sandstone blocks are laid up 3-4 feet high in mud mortar. They are 3' thick at the base and 2' thick at the top. Upright forked poles are set integral with the sidewalls with longitudinal poles resting in the forks. Along the central long axis of the room are six similar but longer and heavier uprights supporting center ridge poles in relays. Primary beams extend on either side from center ridge pole to the side supports, flush with the masonry walls. Ocotillo branches, brush, earth, and stone for ballast from the roofing. Jacal curtain walls divided the interior, and the floor is earthen. A door was hung to one edge of the front upright."¹

Level of treatment: Restored in 1971 by the National Park Service, the structure is now in good physical condition. However, the use of soil-cement on the roof is discordant and blatantly not a faithful restoration, and corrections are recommended.

Cost Estimate: \$3,000 initially, \$750.00 P/A thereafter, based on 1973 cost.

1 William E. Brown, Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory October 1964.

2. LOCATION

The Luna Jacal is at the base of Pena Mountain, approximately 6 miles south of the Maverick Junction along what is known as "The Old Maverick Road."

"Gilberto Luna was a pioneer Mexican farmer in the Big Bend country who settled in the Alamo Creek drainage, living there all his long life and raising a very large family. He died in 1947 at the age of 109. In the early years, Alamo Wash was on the Comanche War Trail through the Park, and Luna somehow established peaceful relations with these savage warriors and also with the Apaches resident in the vicinity. That he survived the incursions of these raiding Indians is a tribute to his diplomacy. That he succeeded for nearly a century in farming the dry Alamo Creek drainage using the technique of flood-plain farming is only slightly less amazing.

"The Luna Residence is significant as the prime example within the Park of the primitive Mexican house-shelter typical of earliest pioneer settlement."¹

It is also considered to be a prime example of man's adaptation to the environment in the Big Bend National Park.

Additionally, Luna was a widely known personage in the area, "a legend in his own time."²

1 William E. Brown, Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory, October 1964.

2 Guide to Backcountry Roads (see Bibliography)

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON FILE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Mariscal Mine

Reference Number: 74000279

Source Name: Mariscal Mine

Other Name: Lindsey Mine, Ellis Mine

Address: River Rd.

Restricted:

Owner: FEDERAL

Resource Type: DISTRICT

Number of Contributing Buildings:

0

Number of Contributing Sites:

1

Number of Contributing Structures:

0

Number of Contributing Objects:

0

Number of Non-contributing Buildings:

0

Number of Non-contributing Sites:

0

Number of Non-contributing Structures:

0

Number of Non-contributing Objects:

0

Federal Agency: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Park Name: Big Bend

Multiple Name:

Nominated Name: FEDERAL AGENCY

Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Certification Date: 19740913

Significance Level: LOCAL

Significance Name:

Circa:

Significant Year: 1919

State:

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect:

Other Description:

County: Brewster

City: Big Bend National Park

Applicable Criteria: EVENT

Area Significance: INDUSTRY

Architectural Style: NO STYLE LISTED
Current Function: VACANT/NOT IN USE
Criteria Exception:
Subfunction:
Historic Function: INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION
Historic Subfunction: EXTRACTIVE FACILITY
Foundation: NONE LISTED
Wall: STONE
Roof: CONCRETE
Other Materials: NONE LISTED
Other Certifications:
Other Documentation: LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES
Period: 1950-1974; 1900-1924; 1925-1949
UTM Zone:
UTM Easting:
UTM Northing:
Acreage: 6400

Narrative: Original Appearance: At the time the Mariscal Mining Company took over the work and operation of the Mariscal Mine the plant consisted of a four compartment ore bin which fed directly into three small no-revolving retorts. During the latter part of 1919, and in the year 1920, the Mariscal Mining Company constructed a more extensive plant which consisted of the following structures: well up the hillside, and not more than 100 feet from the entrance to the main shaft of the mine, a large ore bin which was fed from the top by rail ore cars operating directly from the mouth of the main shaft. At the bottom of the ore bin there were chutes with doors which permitted the ore to empty by gravity into ore cars which in turn delivered the ore down the hill, likewise by gravity, to secondary ore bins which emptied directly into a 45-ton Scott Furnace, which was constructed by the Mariscal Mining Company after they took over the operation and control of the mine. The Scott Furnace was constructed of bricks, which were burned locally at a brick kiln some two miles away on the west side of the north end of Mariscal Mountain. Closely related and just above the Scott Furnace there was constructed a series of concrete condenser chambers which were connected to the furnace by large ceramic tile tubes. In turn the condenser chambers were connected by four smaller ceramic tile tubes or pipes to a large rock chimney about 100 yards up the hillside.

In addition to the concrete condenser chambers, in an effort to reduce the amount of stack loss of refined ore, the company had put in two large red-wood tanks through which all fumes were directed on their way from the main condensers to the chimneys outlet. Along the lower side and at the bottom of the main condenser chambers there were openings out of which the condensed quicksilver ore came preparatory to being bottled into flasks for shipment to the market. Some 100 yards down the hill from the Scott Furnace there was constructed a stone building which served as a combined commissary store and office. This building was just below the original ore bins and retort which had been used by Ellis in his operations. In addition to the above mentioned structures, there was at the foot of the cliff and in close relationship to the main mine shaft a blacksmith shop. Then near the main shaft and on the opposite side from the blacksmith shop there was a large concrete platform to which was anchored the engine and hoisting equipment which was used to lift and lower the baskets from the main shaft of the mine

Following a period of almost twenty years of inactivity, due to a heavy drop in the price of quicksilver, in 1942 the newly organized Vivianna Mining Company, under the direction and management of W. D. Burcham, reopened the Mariscal Mine. The Vivianna Mining Company installed a 30-ton capacity Gould-type rotary furnace just below the main ore bin up near the main shaft of the mine. In addition, the Vivianna Company added a considerable amount of new mining equipment, including two small hoisting plants, numerous miscellaneous mining tools, a single-stage air compressor, and a caterpillar 100-kva dieselelectric generator.

2. Location: The Mariscal Mine is situated in the southeastern part of Big Bend National Park along what is known as the "River Road." Located at the northern terminus of an anvil-shaped mountain known appropriately enough as "Mariscal Mountain," it is approximately 25 miles east of Rio Grande Village and 30 miles west of Castalon.

7. Description: (Original Appearance continued): Housing for the workmen and the foreman of the mine were, as previously mentioned, all located on Section 34 along the hillside and out in the flats below the mine. The foreman's home was a six-room frame stucco house with a garage nearby and was constructed by the Mariscal Mining Company. On the other hand, the twenty or more stone or rock buildings occupied by the workmen and scattered along the foot of the hillside and the flats, were all constructed by the workmen themselves, since the company assumed no responsibility for housing the workmen. As the workmen came onto the job they often lived in brush shelters for a few weeks or months. During this period they would, after working hours, construct their small stone or rock houses. Some

of the older workmen, who did only part-time work, aided by the women, often cultivated small gardens along the nearby creeks in which they produced melons and vegetables to augment their food supply which was purchased from the company commissary. During the period of operation of the Vivianna Mining Company, 1942-43, an additional ten or more concrete and stucco houses were constructed by the company to house additional workmen. 1

Recent Appearance: The Mariscal mine structures are today in a state of ruins-- no structure remains intact. In the late 1940's and early 1950's the mining machinery and equipment was sold and removed from the site, and no doubt this operation caused much of the damage to the processing structures. The rest is mostly the work of nature or vandals.

Those structures constructed of concrete or stone masonry remain in the best condition, with walls intact, but roof, doors, windows, etc., long since gone. Less substantial structures such as those constructed of adobe or frame and stucco are little more than rubble heaps today. Of the main plant, the holding bins, condensing chambers, and the stack still remain, along with miscellaneous other structures, but such items as the ceramic tile tubes have been broken or removed. The furnace, while much of it still remains, is disintegrating rapidly. In addition to the structures just mentioned, the area abounds with mine shafts, many of them as yet unprotected.

Recommended Treatment: Preservation.

Estimated Cost: Not available

1 Clifford B. Casey, "Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend," pp. 234-237.

Quicksilver, or mercury, is a metallic element with the unique property of being the only metal which remains in a liquid state at ordinary temperatures, becoming solid only about 40oF below zero. The unique properties of this material make it useful in a wide range of products, such as insecticides, paint, pharmaceuticals, electrical apparatus, etc., and was used extensively in explosives, particularly during WWI.

The ore from which quicksilver is obtained is called cinnabar. Cinnabar deposits are caused only by certain types of volcanic activity and are therefore somewhat rare. The only major cinnabar mines in the United States are in California and in Brewster and Presidio Counties, Texas.

One of the less productive of the cinnabar mining ventures in Texas, the Mariscal Mines were not a financial success. Cinnabar was first discovered in the Mariscal area in 1900 by Martin Solis. D. E. Lindsey was the first to actively mine the area, however, extracting enough ore to only produce about 50 flasks of quicksilver. The ore was transported by burros to Terlingua for refining. W. K. Ellis, was the one who really began the development of the area with the construction of storage bins and a retort. Between 1917 and 1919 the Ellis Mine "produced and shipped 894 flasks of refined quicksilver."¹ Purchased in 1919 the Mariscal Mining Company, considerable effort and expense were used in the construction of a new refining plant, Ellis' requiring too high a grade of ore to be economical. The bulk of the structures remaining in the area date to this period of development. However, with the end of WWI, a drastic drop in the price of quicksilver, coupled with the development expenses the company had incurred, made the venture an economic failure, and the mines were closed in 1923. One last attempt to operate the mine was made by the Vivianna Mining Co. in 1942. It added some new equipment and constructed several new buildings, but this effort also ended in financial failure in 1944.

Cinnabar mining was one of the major industries leading to the development of the Big Bend area. Although the Mariscal Mine was not a financial success, other such developments in the area were successful. The Mariscal Mine is typical enough of these early mining enterprises to tell the story of this industry's contribution to the history of the area.

1 Clifford B. Casey, "Soldiers, Ranches, and Miners in the Big Bend," p.228

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON FILE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Nolte--Rooney House

Reference Number: 97000360
source Name: Nolte--Rooney House
Other Name:
Address: 307 E. Sul Ross Ave.
Restricted:
Owner: PRIVATE
Resource Type: BUILDING
Number of Contributing Buildings: 2
Number of Contributing Sites: 0
Number of Contributing Structures: 0
Number of Contributing Objects: 0
Number of Non-contributing Buildings: 1
Number of Non-contributing Sites: 0
Number of Non-contributing Structures: 0
Number of Non-contributing Objects: 0
Federal Agency:
Park Name:
Multiple Name:
Nominated Name: STATE GOVERNMENT
Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Certification Date: 19970417
Significance Level: LOCAL
Significance Name:
Circa: C
Significant Year: 1920
State:
Cultural Affiliation:
Architect: unknown
Other Description:
County: Brewster
City: Alpine
Applicable Criteria: ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING
Significance: ARCHITECTURE
Architectural Style: QUEEN ANNE
Current Function: DOMESTIC
Criteria Exception:

Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING

Historic Function: DOMESTIC

Historic Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING

Foundation: LIMESTONE

Wall: ADOBE

Roof: WOOD

Other Materials: TIN

Other Certifications: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Other Documentation:

Period: 1875-1899; 1900-1924

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 9

Narrative: The Nolte-Rooney House (1890) faces south at the corner of Second Street and Sul Ross Avenue in a largely residential neighborhood near Sul Ross State University. The 1-story adobe house with Victorian Queen Anne details is one of the best and most intact examples in Alpine of domestic architecture of the late 19th century. The original L-plan house was altered several times, first c. 1900 and again in 1920 until reaching its present U-shape. A projecting bay and gable trim adorn the original projecting section on the principal facade. Built on a foundation of fieldstone and rubble, the 20-inch thick adobe blocks are overlaid with a layer of rolled galvanized tin stamped with an impression of brick. The intersecting gable roof is covered with cedar shingles. The property also has a Noncontributing garage and Contributing tool shed.

The Nolte-Rooney House is near Sul Ross State University in a primarily residential neighborhood of houses of similar age. Across the street is the First Methodist Church (RTHL) as well as the historic Church of Christ. The house faces south and sits close to the street on a grassy corner lot consisting of three original city lots.

The 1-story adobe block house is set on a foundation of fieldstone and rubble and covered with a side and front gable roof of cedar shingles. On the principal elevation, two square wooden columns support the dropped shed-roof over a concrete porch (originally wood) tucked in the U-shape plan. Two windows are located to the west side of the porch. To the east, concrete steps lead to the single door. Projecting sections flank the porch on either side; the one to the east, the tip of the original L-plan, is echoed by a slightly larger one to the west. A brick chimney is located at the peak of the roof near the intersection of the main gable roof with the roof of the addition on the west side.

A tripartite bay with Queen Anne ornamentation dominates the east side of the principal facade. Under each window is a double tier of recessed panels. The tall, narrow windows, like the rest of those in the original portion of the house, are 1/1. Above the bay windows, the roof gable is embellished with gable trim with diamondshaped cutouts. On the projecting section to the west of the porch are a pair of 2/2 windows topped by a pent roof with scalloped brackets. Gable trim identical to the trim over the bay is evident in the historic photograph (c. 1920), but it is no longer present.

The west elevation is relatively simple with two vertical windows under the gable end near the southwest corner, and one smaller window to the north. The bedroom at this end was added c. 1900 by the owner giving the house its present configuration.

The north elevation has experienced several alterations. In 1920 a kitchen and bathroom were added at the back of the house. Later the porch adjacent to the kitchen was enclosed.

The east elevation is also very simple, with two windows corresponding to the two bedrooms on this side of the house. A brick chimney rests directly at the center of the roof.

The interior follows an asymmetrical plan. The principal door opens directly into the living room. A bedroom added by the second owner is west of the living room and can be entered directly from the porch. A bathroom and closet were added later behind the bedroom. A kitchen and bathroom are located to the rear of the living room, with two more bedrooms to the east. The interior adobe walls are covered with plaster and painted white.

Behind the house near the northeast corner of the property is a garage which was expanded from a one-car garage into a two-car garage in the 1960s. At the northwest corner of the property is a small tool shed. A windmill located behind the house was dismantled in 1920.

The Nolte-Rooney House (1890) is representative of the earliest residential development in Alpine (originally Murphysville), Brewster County, following the arrival of the railroad in 1883. The house is a marriage of traditional

Hispanic building techniques and Anglo-influenced domestic architecture. Its adobe block construction is typical of the Southwest while its original L-plan form and Queen Anne details are largely derivative of common and popular domestic architecture of the South and East. The property is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance.

Alpine, Texas, is in the northeastern part of Brewster County, the largest county in Texas, equivalent to the combined size of Rhode Island and Connecticut. With an elevation of 4,484 feet, Alpine is nestled in the Alpine Valley and surrounded by high peaks of the Davis Mountains. Fort Davis, the town and the restored Fort Davis National Historic Site, lie 26 miles to the north of Alpine while Big Bend National Park spreads some 110 miles south of the city. The county seat is home to Sul Ross State University, which recently celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Long before the first English settlers landed on the East Coast of North America Spanish soldiers and priests had entered the Big Bend region and had crossed the Alpine Valley. In 1535 Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca and three of his fellow Spaniards crossed the Big Bend and, according to many historians, camped at what is today known as Kokernot Springs in Alpine, thus becoming the first Europeans in the area (1).

Inspired by Cabeza de Vaca's reports of gold and silver in the Big Bend, the Spanish Governor of New Spain (Mexico) financed exploring expeditions into the region. In 1582 Antonio de Espejo crisscrossed the area, following ancient Amerindian trails and including the encampment at Kokernot Springs (2). In 1682 Juan Domingues de Mendoza camped at the water hole and named it San Lorenzo. Dr. H. Connelly and a group of wealthy Mexican merchants attempted in 1839 to establish a direct trade route between Chihuahua City, Mexico, and St. Louis, Missouri. While camped at the Alpine water hole, the group was attacked by an Indian war party led by Mescalero Apache Chief Alsate. For a time the water hole became known as Charco de Alsate (3).

In 1846-48 a group of discharged U.S. Army men in Chihuahua City including John Burgess decided to establish their own trade route between Chihuahua and San Antonio (4). The Chihuahua Trail, as it became known, followed the Indian Salt Trail near Fort Stockton, through Fort Davis and Alpine, southwest to Presidio and into Chihuahua City. Burgess was one of the most active freighters who contracted with the U.S. government in 1850 to sell supplies to Fort Stockton and Fort Davis. He frequented Charco de Alsate and the water hole soon became known as Burgess Springs.

After the annexation of Texas to the Union in 1845 and the end of the Mexican War in 1849, the federal government began construction of forts for protection along the trade routes, wide-scale immigration into Texas. The threat of Indians and Mexican renegades still posed a threat, however, to the Big Bend. The Texas Rangers were dispersed to assist the forts and frontier lawmen. By the 1870s, cattlemen began settling the area, and after 1880 when the last of the Indians were forced on reservations, many retired rangers arrived in Alpine and southern Presidio County to build ranches, among them Joe D. Jackson and John W. Kokernot.

The coming of the railroad finally developed Alpine, with the first train coming through on January 12, 1883, from New Orleans to California (5). On November 10, 1883, Thomas O. Murphy, a surveyor with the Southern Pacific Railroad, registered a plat out of Section 42 for the town of Murphysville (6). Murphy and his father had lived in Fort Davis for several years and had acquired Sections 42 and 98 in exchange for the right to erect and maintain a pump station at the Burgess Water Hole which they owned (7). At that time, Murphysville (or Osborne) was in Presidio County with Fort Davis as the seat.

Almost immediately following the dedication of the town plat, Murphy held a special sale of lots. Louisa DuBois, a member of one of the town's early families from Elgin, Illinois (8), bought Block 22 for \$250 (9). Seven years later DuBois sold Lots 1 and 2 to F.H. and Sara Nolte, also of Elgin (10). In late 1889 Nolte began constructing on the property an adobe residence with 20-inch-thick sun-dried bricks molded on the site. The house was completed in February 1890 (11). At that time, the three-room adobe was located at the easternmost edge of Alpine-Murphysville. Today, the house rests on three lots at the corner of Second Street and Sul Ross Avenue, the main thoroughfare leading to the Sul Ross campus. Situated in a quiet, tree-shaded neighborhood of primarily older residences, the house faces the historic First Methodist Church (also a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark) and parsonage and the historic Church of Christ.

The more than 100-year-old building is completely American in an original way: the architecture is a marriage of centuries-old Hispanic and 19th-century Anglo traditions. Embracing its Spanish Colonial heritage, the adobe reflects typical Southwestern construction that is adapted with Territorial or rural American innovations primarily introduced via the railroad. The framed cedar-shingled pitched roof, bay window, and gable trim are Queen Anne style influences to an otherwise typical Victorian vernacular L-plan house (modified c. 1900 to a U-shape). The adobe blocks are laid on a foundation of fieldstone and rubble stone and is covered in rolled galvanized tin to give the impression of brick. The tin is an innovative protection over the adobe, completely original and indigenous (12). Although a number of buildings in the area are constructed of adobe, the use of tin over adobe blocks is somewhat unusual.

In 1893 Nolte sold Lots 1 and 2 with the house to John M. Rooney, the eldest son of a pioneer Big Bend ranching family (13). On February 14, 1887, the organization of the newly-created Brewster County from Presidio County began with Rooney elected first commissioner (14). In 1890 Rooney was elected second sheriff of Brewster County (15). Rooney enlarged the original three-room adobe by adding a bedroom on the west side c. 1900 (16).

Rooney purchased the remaining lots of Block 22 in 1898 from a Sheriff's Sale (17). Rooney left Alpine in 1911 for his ranch in Fort Stockton and sold Lots 1 and 2 to Newt Gourley, who served two terms as county sheriff from 1924 1930 and 1933-1936 (18). Rooney also sold the rest of Block 22 to John W. Kokernot and Green Haver, who in 1912 deeded the property to Gourley (19). Kokernot had arrived in then Presidio County with brother Lee; they founded the Lazy K ranch, which later became the Kokernot 06 ranch, one of the largest spreads in Texas ranching history (20). Green Haver was a Buffalo Soldier and the baker at Fort Davis (21). The first Catholic service in Alpine was held in Haver's home in 1892.

Gourley sold the Nolte-Rooney House and all of Block 22 to Claude Matthews, who later sold it all to his brother Morton (22). The Matthews family was another prominent ranching family in early Big Bend history (23). In 1914 Morton Matthews sold Block 22 to Joe Jackson and Sam Harmon, names still highly revered in local and state history. Jackson was an ex-ranger and trail driver who settled in Alpine in 1882 (24). The Jackson-Harmon Cattle Company developed the largest ranch in West Texas. A great philanthropist and promoter, Jackson helped push through legislation for the creation of Sul Ross Normal College (today Sul Ross State University); he is known as "the Father of Sul Ross." Additionally, Jackson-Harmon donated land for the city cemetery, and Jackson chaired numerous civic organizations in Brewster County as well as being president of the Texas Cattle Raisers Association and board member for several universities.

Between World War I and World War II, Alpine rapidly grew despite two earlier devastating fires, in 1907 and one in 1911. Following the wave of early ranchers were the merchants who quickly built the downtown area. As business expanded, so did the housing industry and the demand for pre existing homes. Jackson and Harmon sold part of Block 22 to Joe E. Burgess, who managed the Radford Grocery Company in Alpine from his arrival in 1915 from Abilene, Texas, until his retirement in 1946 (25). Burgess had purchased the remainder of the block by 1935. In 1920 the incorporated City of Alpine built the city's water storage system and constructed the first sewer system (26). Up until then Alpine's sewer system consisted of "out houses" behind each house and building. This construction coincides with the addition of an indoor bathroom on the Nolte-Rooney House (27). The kitchen also was probably added at this time and the windmill dismantled and water well filled in (28).

Jackson and Harmon sold the Nolte-Rooney House and a portion of Lot 3 in 1920 to Paul Q. Mills, a jeweler who had moved to Alpine in 1917 (29). Mills sold the house to Walter Measday, a member of another pioneer ranching family who operated the Holland Hotel (30). Measday quickly sold the property to J.A. Dunlap, another Alpine businessman who, along with Jackson, was responsible for paving and curbing Sul Ross Avenue (then College Avenue), Second Street and Avenue B surrounding the Nolte-Rooney House (31). It may have been during this time that the original wooden porch on the historic adobe was replaced with a concrete addition (32).

Lorenzo and Anna Belle Harris, who purchased the property from Joe Burgess' widow (33), improved and enlarged the house during the 30+ years they were tenants. The bathroom off the west bedroom was added, the screened back porch on the kitchen was enclosed and the yard was landscaped (34). Mr. and Mrs. Harris also added a singlecar garage onto the existing one-car garage as well as a potting shed. One small outbuilding used as a tool shed remains on the northwest portion of the property. James Hindman, a former professor at Sul Ross and currently president of Angelo State University, bought the NolteRooney House from John Dow Harris, son of Lorenzo and Anna Belle and currently president of the Sul Ross Ex-Students' Association (35).

When the current owner -- a Sul Ross graduate, active preservationist and writer/publisher -- began restoration of the house in 1990, she uncovered the following poem written and painted by Mrs. L.D. Harris (35) on the original north wall in the kitchen:

God bless the corners of this house, And be the lintel blessed; And bless the heart and bless the board, And bless each place of rest; And bless each door that opens wide To stranger and to kin; And bless each crystal windowpane That lets the starlight in; And bless the roofree overhead And every sturdy wall; The peace of man, the peace of God The peace of love on all.

The combination of Hispanic and Anglo architectural traditions makes the Nolte-Rooney House an excellent representative of domestic architecture from the late 19th century and one of the most intact examples remaining in Alpine. The property is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance.

NOTES

1. Clifford B. Casey, Alpine, Texas, Then and Now

(Seagraves, Texas: Pioneer Book Publishers, 1981), 11.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Ronnie C. Tyler, *The Big Bend: A History of the Last Frontier* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Office of Publications, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1975), 154.
 5. Casey.
 6. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 2, 170. 7. Casey.
 8. DuBois Collection, unprocessed, Archives of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University.
 9. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 2, 179.
 10. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 1, 506.
 11. The Texas Historical Commission, No. 2479, July 10, 1968. The information regarding the Texas Historical Building Medallion awarded the Nolte-Rooney House was researched and compiled by Dr. Clifford B. Casey, who was then chair of the Department of History at Sul Ross State University.
 12. Ellen Adan and Robert Mallouf, recorded interviews, Alpine, Texas; October 1995. Adan is manager of the Alpine Main Street Program and a restoration architect. Mallouf is director of the Center for Big Bend Studies, Sul Ross State University, and former archeologist for the State of Texas.
 13. Cecilia Thompson, *History of Marfa and Presidio, County, Texas 1535-1946* (Austin: Nortex Press, 1985), 259.
 14. Ibid.
 15. Casey.
 16. Letter from L.F. Dunnell to Mrs. L.D. Harris dated February 3, 1965.
 17. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 7, 255.
 18. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 25, 47; and Casey.
 19. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 29, 5.
 20. Archives of the Big Bend, Obituaries.
 21. Casey.
 22. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 30, 249; and Vol. 32, 21.
 23. Archives of the Big Bend, Obituaries.
 24. Jackson Collection, Archives of the Big Bend. The author has a forthcoming biographical article titled "J.D. Jackson: The Father of Sul Ross" for the *Journal of Big Bend Studies*.
 25. *The Alpine Avalanche*, September 18, 1953.
 26. Casey.
 27. The author has noted the date on the toilet as December 23, 1920, which would logically correspond to the known construction of sewer lines in Alpine. An interview on November 1, 1995, with John Dow Harris, who grew up in the house, confirms that the bathroom was present in 1929.
 27. Adan and Harris interviews. 28. *Alpine Avalanche*, March 8, 1917. 29. *Alpine Avalanche*, February 20, 1919. 30. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 3, 281; and Vol. 4, 83. 31. Adan and Harris interviews. 32. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 143, 424. 33. Harris interview. 34. Brewster County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 187, 261. 35. Interview with Emy Lou Harris Walker, November 22, 1995. The current owner has replaced the wood shingle roof, repainted and wallpapered the kitchen and removed dead trees and shrubs from the yard.
- BIBLIOGRAPHY Casey, Clifford B. *Alpine, Texas, Then and Now*. Pioneer

Book Publishers, Seagraves, Texas, 1981.

Dillard, Betty. "J.D. Jackson: The Father of Sul Ross,"

Journal of Big Bend Studies, forthcoming article.

Thompson, Cecilia. History of Marfa and Presidio County,

Texas, 1535-1946. Nortex Press, Austin, 1985.

Tyler, Ronnie C. The Big Bend: A History of the Last

Frontier. U.S. Department of the Interior, 1975.

Deed Records in Brewster County

Alpine Avalanche (9/18/53; 3/8/17; 2/30/19) Interviews:

Emy Lou Harris (Walker)

Ellen Aden

Robert Mallouf

Rancho Estelle

Reference Number: 74000280
source Name: Rancho Estelle
Other Name: Sublett Farm;Stone Residence;Dorgan Residence
Address: On the Rio Grande River
Restricted:
Owner: FEDERAL
Resource Type: DISTRICT
Number of Contributing Buildings: 0
Number of Contributing Sites: 5
Number of Contributing Structures: 0
Number of Contributing Objects: 0
Number of Non-contributing Buildings: 0
Number of Non-contributing Sites: 0
Number of Non-contributing Structures: 0
Number of Non-contributing Objects: 0
Federal Agency: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Park Name: Big Bend
Multiple Name:
Nominated Name: FEDERAL AGENCY
Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Certification Date: 19740903
Significance Level: LOCAL
Significance Name:
Circa:
Significant Year:
State:
Cultural Affiliation:
Architect:
Other Description:
County: Brewster
City: Big Bend National Park
Applicable Criteria: EVENT; ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING
Significance: ARCHITECTURE; AGRICULTURE
Architectural Style: NO STYLE LISTED
Current Function: LANDSCAPE
Criteria Exception:

Subfunction: UNDERWATER

Historic Function: DOMESTIC; AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Historic Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING; AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

Foundation: NONE LISTED

Wall: ADOBE

Roof: STONE

Other Materials: NONE LISTED

Other Certifications:

Other Documentation: LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES

Period: 1900-1924

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 1350

Narrative: The exact number, type, and location of structures at Rancho Estelle are unknown. Those structures that do remain are all in various states of ruins. Some stabilization work has been done, but all are presently endangered. They are as follows:

BBH-12, Sublett Farm House: This structure was a one-story adobe house having a cane including roof. It contained 2 rooms separated by a central hall, and a covered porch across the front of the structure.

BBH-13, Farm Hand's Casita: Typical Mexican farm worker's adobe home. One-story adobe structure, walls capped with stone. Cane and viga roof. Contained 2 rooms.

BBH-14, Adobe Shed: One-story, single room adobe structure which served variously as a warehouse and store. The roof is gone and the walls are deteriorating.

BBH-15, Stone Farm House: This stone structure consisted of 2 apartments separated by a day room, at the end of which was an outdoor cooking area and fireplace. Substantial stonework walls are still fairly intact, but the roof is now gone. The structure probably housed farm workers.

BBH-139, Dorgan Residence: One-story ranch home of adobe and stone wall construction. The core of the house is a 30'x30' living room with 3 smaller rooms and a porch extending from the central square giving a total floor space of ca. 1,200 sq. ft. A unique feature of the construction is the large, square main room with a 2-way fireplace in the center made of petrified wood and acting as a structural pier supporting huge log beams extending to the corners of the room forming a hipped, almost flat, roof with a large chimney at the apex. The house is now roofless and in ruins. Lintels over the main entrance are carefully selected cured logs forming segmental arches. Floors are concrete slab. Floor plan consists of the large main room and smaller rooms on the northeast and southwest sides. The southeast side opened to covered terrace or ramada overlooking the flood plain of the Rio Grande and Mexico to the south. Walls plastered exterior and interior. Mr. Dorgan aid to be the sonin-law of James Sublett and an associate in the enterprise.

James Sublett was one of the first settlers in the Big Bend area to actively farm the Rio Grande flood plain on a large scale. In partnership with Clyde Buttrill, he farmed the area and operated the store at what come to be known as Castalon or La Harmonia Farm, several miles downstream.

When the Buttrill-Sublett partnership broke up, Sublett purchased 4 sections of land at the present location and "under the name Grand Canyon Farms, Sublett and his associates operated what came to be known as Rancho Estelle."¹

Rancho Estelle derives its primary significance from its importance in depicting the flood plain farming activity along the Rio Grande, and is a good and representative example of such. Additionally, the Dorgan House has outstanding architectural merit among remaining structures of its time, type, and place.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON FILE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Terlingua Historic District



Terlingua Historic District

Reference Number: 96000132

Resource Name: Terlingua Historic District

Other Name: Big Bend;Chisos Mining Camp;Quicksilver Mining District

Address: 7 mi. W of jct. of TX 118 and TX 170

Restricted:

Owner: PRIVATE

Resource Type: DISTRICT

Number of Contributing Buildings: 97

Number of Contributing Sites: 0

Number of Contributing Structures: 0

Number of Contributing Objects: 0

Number of Non-contributing Buildings: 0

Number of Non-contributing Sites: 0

Number of Non-contributing Structures: 0

Number of Non-contributing Objects: 0

Federal Agency:

Park Name:

Multiple Name:

Nominated Name: STATE GOVERNMENT

Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Certification Date: 19960310

Significance Level: NATIONAL

Significance Name: Perry, Howard Everett, et al.

Circa:

Significant Year: 1943

State:

Cultural Affiliation: American Industrial; Mining Camp

Architect:

Other Description:

County: Brewster

City: Terlingua

Applicable Criteria: INFORMATION POTENTIAL; ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING; PERSON; EVENT

Area Significance: EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT; COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; INDUSTRY
Architectural Style:
Current Function: VACANT/NOT IN USE
Criteria Exception:
Subfunction: OUTDOOR RECREATION
Historic Function: COMMERCE/TRADE; DOMESTIC; INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION
Historic Subfunction: SPECIALTY STORE; SECONDARY STRUCTURE; MULTIPLE DWELLING; EXTRACTIVE FACILITY
Foundation: LIMESTONE
Wall: STONE
Roof: METAL
Other Materials: ADOBE
Other Certifications: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION
Other Documentation: HISTORIC AMER. BLDGS SURVEY
Period: 1925-1949; 1900-1924
UTM Zone:
UTM Easting:
UTM Northing:
Acreage: 1300
Narrative: [Terlingua Historic District \(72 KB\)](#)

Wilson, Homer, Ranch

Reference Number: 75000153
Source Name: Wilson, Homer, Ranch
Other Name: Blue Creek Ranch (Oak Canyon)
Address: 8 mi. S of Santa Elena Junction on Park Rte. 5, Big Bend National Park
Restricted:
Owner: FEDERAL
Resource Type: DISTRICT
Number of Contributing Buildings: 5
Number of Contributing Sites: 0
Number of Contributing Structures: 4
Number of Contributing Objects: 0
Number of Non-contributing Buildings: 0
Number of Non-contributing Sites: 0
Number of Non-contributing Structures: 0
Number of Non-contributing Objects: 0
Federal Agency: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Park Name: Big Bend
Multiple Name:
Nominated Name: FEDERAL AGENCY
Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Certification Date: 19750414
Significance Level: LOCAL
Significance Name:
Circa:
Significant Year: 1943
State:
Cultural Affiliation:
Architect:
Other Description:
County: Brewster
City: Santa Elena Junction
Applicable Criteria: EVENT
Area Significance: AGRICULTURE

Architectural Style: NO STYLE LISTED
Current Function: VACANT/NOT IN USE
Criteria Exception: SIGNIFICANCE OF LESS THAN FIFTY YEARS
Subfunction:
Historic Function: DOMESTIC; AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
Historic Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING; ANIMAL FACILITY
Foundation: NONE LISTED
Wall: STONE
Roof: WOOD
Other Materials: METAL
Other Certifications:
Other Documentation: LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES
Period: 1925-1949
UTM Zone:
UTM Easting:
UTM Northing:
Acreage: 2000
Narrative:

Original Appearance: Although Homer Wilson maintained Oak Canyon as his headquarters, he "erected at this location (Blue Creek) a secondary and very substantial ranch house..."¹. "This house was 24x60 feet with a 16x60-foot screened porch on the south side of the house. The house proper consisted of 2 bedrooms, a kitchen, and a large living room near the middle of the north wall. There is a large fireplace in which the mantle is made by very artistic placement of long slabs of stone placed horizontally. Some of these slabs are up to 8 feet in length and placed in a colorful arrangement. The double roof is supported separately by large poles. The ceiling is made of reeds in the pattern that has been used for centuries by the inhabitants of the river. The story goes that Mrs. Wilson wanted the reed ceiling with the adobe mud on top, to which Mrs. Wilson agreed. However, since such a roof would leak, he used a 2-inch concrete mixture in place of the adobe mud and above that a sheet metal roof, thus making the house leak-proof. This arrangement not only accomplished its purpose but in addition made the house such cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, as it created an air space between the metal roof and the ceiling. It was a very satisfactory of insulation. The interior walls carry little if any support for the roof, as this was done by sturdy poles set in cement and holding up the weight of the ceiling and roof. Practically all materials for the construction of the house came from the area. The stone, sand, and gravel came from Blue Creek Canyon, the timber from the Chisos Mountains, and the reed from the nearby Rio Grande. Thus the Blue Creek line camp ranch house may be said to be indigenous to the area. "The floor of the house, as made of well-selected flags, while that of the porch was concrete. In addition to the house, there was in the Blue Creek complex a small 1-room house for living quarters for additional ranch help, a small storeroom, an outside barbecue fireplace, a cistern to catch and hold fresh rainwater, a circular corral with a snubbing post for the training of young horses, and a nearby dipping vat and chute. There was also a chemical outhouse, a small chicken house, and a combination rock and tin structure likely used for the storage of salt and other equipment and tools. Access to the Blue Creek house was over a reasonably well-maintained dirt road which came up the valley from Oak Canyon along the flats between Burro Mesa and the Chisos Mountains and then over the ridge into Blue Creek Canyon."² Present Appearance: Of the structures described above, all but the chicken coop still remain. Except for the storeroom and toilet, which are in poor condition, all are "structurally sound but deteriorating in details."³

¹ Casey, Clifford B. Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend (National Park Service, 1969) p. 165.

² Ibid.

³ Brown, William E. & Wauer, Roland H., Historic Resources Management Plan, Big Bend National Park (National Park Service, 1968) p. 22.

2. LOCATION

The Homer Wilson Blue Creek Ranch is located in Big Bend National Park, approximately 8 miles south of the Santa Elena Junction along Park Route 5. The ranch may be viewed from the highway at this point. Access to the structures is by foot for a distance of approximately one-fourth mile along the dirt road which originally lead to these structures, but which is now closed to vehicular traffic. 7. DESCRIPTION Natural vegetation has begun to reclaim the area in the immediate vicinity of the buildings. The road has been blocked off at the new paved road to Santa Elena Canyon and

serves as a trail by way of which visitors can reach the structures on foot.

Most of the doors and windows are gone from the structures. All of the interior partitions and fixtures have been removed from the ranch house. In most other respects the various structures and the historical scene itself retain most of their original appearance.

The Big Bend country is considered to be "the last outpost of large-scale ranching in Texas."¹ "The Oak Canyon-Blue Creek Ranch of Homer Wilson was, without doubt, the best example of ranching within what is now the Big Bend National Park."² "While Oak Canyon remained headquarters for the entire period of their operation, Blue Creek and the Blue Creek area became the heart of the ranch and its productive activity."³

¹ Casey, Clifford B. Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend (National Park Service, 1969), p. 143

² Ibid., p. 199

³ Ibid., p. 165

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Casey, Clifford B. Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend. National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 1969.

Brown, William E. and Wauer, Roland H. Historic Resources Management Plan, Big Bend National Park. National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 1968.