

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



737

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Herrera Ranch
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: NA

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Old Somerset Road at the Medina River
CITY OR TOWN: Von Ormy VICINITY: X
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Bexar CODE: 029

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
ZIP CODE: 78073

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (☒ nomination) (☐ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (☒ meets) (☐ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (☐ nationally) (☒ statewide) (☒ locally). (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

7/26/10

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 9.9.10

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:

CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
5	0	BUILDINGS
0	0	SITES
0	0	STRUCTURES
0	0	OBJECTS
5	0	TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: NA

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC: single dwelling, secondary structure
RECREATION AND CULTURE: music facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural fields

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural fields
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: Jacal; Center passage plan; NO STYLE

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION STONE
WALLS WOOD, STUCCO
ROOF METAL
OTHER STONE, METAL

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-9).

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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch is near Somerset Road and the Medina River, 2.4 miles south of Loop 410 in southern Bexar County, Texas. The built resources on the 30-acre ranch reflect the age and evolution of the property as well as the historic tradition of ranching in the area. This complex represents early settlement by Tejano settlers, and features contributing properties dating from as early as the 1830s through the 1940s. The most prominent nineteenth century historic resources include two jacales dating from the 1830s or 1840s. The jacales feature adobe palasaido and "daub and wattle" construction techniques, and are rare examples of 19th century Tejano building technology in south Texas. As the family grew and prospered, new structures were added as needed, and other built resources include two 20th century wooden buildings, and a pavilion addition to one of the jacals, used for social events. The pastures consist of native pasture lands, improved range dryland and rangeland brush. In the 20th century as the families located at the Garza's Crossing community moved away, the land's primary use became one of a gathering place for social events, although the pasturing of animals continued. The property remains in the Herrera family, and retains a good degree of integrity.

The entry to the property is off the abandoned Old Somerset Road, which tails off to the west of Somerset Road, just north of the Medina River. There is a metal ranch gate located about 100 yards south of the Somerset Road and the abandoned Somerset Road connection. The fence along this section of the property consists of livestock wire on cedar posts. As the property is entered on the packed dirt road, Building 1 (a jacal with palisado construction) is located to the immediate south. Building 2 (also a jacal, with a later pavilion addition) is attached to east. Another wood frame house (Building 4) is located 50 yards directly west of the end of the dirt road. Just southwest of wood Building 4 is the smaller one-room wood dwelling (Building 3). The site is covered with small mesquite trees and cactus with larger mature trees to the south in the river bottom. The 19th century houses (Buildings 1 and 2) are examples of early Hispanic Texas distinctive vernacular folk architecture known as *jacales*,¹ a variation of wattle and daub structures found in Mexico and the southwestern United States.

Based on Ruiz-Herrera family oral history passed down from generation to generation and substantiated by historical research, the Ruiz-Herrera family owned this land beginning in the late 18th century. The jacales were reportedly built in the 1830s² around the time that Francisco Antonio Ruiz was granted the land by the Republic of Texas in 1838. However, deed and tax records found to date appear to confirm that improvements were made to the property ca. 1845-1846 and may indicate construction of the jacales at that time.

Individual property descriptions, organized by property number, are listed below. A basic inventory of contributing properties, accompanied by the property maps, follows the property descriptions.

¹ Graham, Joe S., "Texas-Mexican Vernacular Architecture," *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. " ",
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/TT/cbtut.html> (accessed October 2, 2007)

² Personal communication from Adolph C. Herrera to Kay Hindes, 1984.

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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES (ALL CONTRIBUTING)

Building 1: Jacal (estimated c.1838, addition c.1845-46, remodeled late 19th or early 20th century)
Photos 1-12

This small rectangular gabled-end jacal building which faces north was the primary residence of the Herrera family. It has a three bay façade, consisting of a centrally spaced three paneled door with four glass panes in the top with a transom located above the door opening. A single 6 x 6 wooden double hung window is located on each side of the door. Two additions have made to the original jacal.

The current structure with additions measures 35'8" wide. The original jacal is ca. 25' 4" in length by 15'7" wide. The peak of the gable is approximately 14'3". A small shed addition was added onto the back (south elevation) fairly soon after the initial construction. An enclosed and extended porch on the front (north elevation) appears to have been added in the late 19th or early 20th century.

The method of construction for the jacal is typical of those found in the San Antonio region in the 19th century, but are now extremely rare. In fact, only five jacals are known to exist within the city limits and Bexar County. The house is constructed of stout cedar poles (*horcones*) about seven inches in diameter, cut and placed vertically in the ground at corners and at window and door openings. Subsequent poles are placed every 2 to 2 ½ feet. Cypress laths, many with the bark still attached, are nailed to the interior and exterior walls with square nails and run horizontal between the cedar poles, forming a framework that holds the wall material in place. The jacal walls are 8 inches thick. The laths are adzed cut and measure approximately 1¼" to 3" in width. Large-to-medium size river gravels as well as sandstone chunks are used as chinking stones between the laths and are held in place with adobe mortar. Adobe mortar reinforced with straw or grass and hair (most probably horse hair) is pressed into the voids between the horizontal laths and stone cobbles. The whole wall is smoothed with the adobe (some of which is deteriorating due to the exposure to the elements) and the finger prints of the person responsible for applying the adobe can still be seen in the walls. This smoothed adobe wall is covered with a plaster that according to Adolph Herrera is made from lime, sand (from the river), cactus (cut and stripped prickly pear), salt, and water. The plastered walls were then whitewashed, evidence of which is extant in a few areas. The current interior walls have been painted.

The original central jacal building interior consists of one room that was originally divided by a partition wall offset to the western side of the door opening, thereby creating two rooms. A massive red sandstone fireplace with an exterior opening measuring 6'5" was located in the western wall, but has subsequently fallen. Three original windows are 6-over-6 double hung wooden sash windows. In addition to the two windows in the front (north elevation) façade, a third 6-over-6 double hung wooden window is in the east wall. Floors in the original jacal are constructed of 5 ½" tongue and groove yellow pine. The ceiling is constructed of the same material as the floor and has been painted. Floorboards are 5 ½" to 6" in width. The original exterior doors are missing.

A small shed addition on the rear (south) facade, measuring 7'3" is of jacal construction on three sides and stone construction on the fourth side (west elevation). This room was used for cooking.³ A stone wall located on the west façade held the flue for the cook stove, and soot is visible on the sides and ceiling on the west side of the shed addition. This wall has fallen into disrepair. A single 6-over-6 double hung wood window is in the east elevation. Floors are 5 ½" tongue and groove yellow pine. A modest kitchen sink is located in this room.

³ Personal communication from Adolph C. Herrera to Kay Hinds, 1984.

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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

The original shed porch or portal on the front of the house has been enclosed with stud walls. This addition measures 12'7" in width x 25'4" in length and appears to date to the early 20th century, based on the circular sawn cut wooden components, the use of recycled beaded board ceiling material, 7" roof joists, and a three-panel door with four glass panes. A concrete floor has been poured in this addition.

The gabled ends of the house appear to have been replaced with wood planks at some later time. Lumber from the Alamo dating from was reportedly used in the construction of the two houses. Handmade cypress wood shake shingles are still present under a later galvanized metal roof. The original exterior walls are covered by cement stucco.

This jacal is an example of early Hispanic Texas distinctive vernacular folk architecture of palisadoed construction utilizing a variation of the waddle and daub technique. It is one of the extremely rare examples of jacales in Bexar County.

Building 2: Jacal (c.1845, remodeled early 20th century, and 1940s)

Photos 13-15

This small rectangular shed roof jacal building faces north. It has a three bay façade, consisting of a centrally spaced double door and window openings on each side. Individual leaves to the double door each have two vertical panels. An original single 6 x 6 wooden double hung window is located on the west side of the central door with a modified window located to the east of the door. This window was raised (shortened) to serve as a serving area. A later addition consists of dance hall pavilion added to the north. The eastern window alteration was done at the time of the pavilion addition to serve beverages from the house.

The original jacal is approximately 27 feet long, 16 feet deep, and just over seven feet high. Paneled double doors are located in the south elevation, but appear to be additions/replacements.

Due to the condition of the house, a detailed visual inspection of the interior was not possible. However, the interior is plastered with no visual evidence of the wooden horizontal lath and adobe mud mortar, and stone chinking. The original construction is the same as for jacal #1, as can be seen from the southeast corner, but numerous modifications and deterioration have obscured more of the original materials and techniques.

The jacal building interior consists of a single room, featuring 6-over-6 double hung wooden sash windows. Floors in the jacal are constructed of 3" tongue and groove yellow pine. No evidence of the original roof materials are present, and the roof appears to have been replaced around the time of the construction of the pavilion in the 1940s.

The jacal has been altered over time to serve different function on the ranch. The original wooden lathing between the upright cedar posts appears to have been replaced by lap siding underneath wire mesh cement stucco on both interior and exterior faces of the original jacal wall that measures approximately 8 inches, the same as jacal #1. Machine cut square timbers, approximately four inches wide have been butted up to the cedar corner posts and form the framework for later horizontal wood siding on the interior south wall. A visual inspection at the southeast corner of the jacal reveals that much of the original wood lathing is deteriorated and termite infested and the adobe mortar has "melted" into piles at the base of the structure.

Based on the floor materials, window size and oral history, jacal #2 appears to have been constructed after jacal #1. Floors in jacal #2 are 3-inch pine, indicating that this jacal may have been built later than jacal #1, although the panel door appears to be earlier than those in jacal #1.

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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

This jacal is an example of early Hispanic Texas distinctive vernacular folk architecture of palisadoed construction utilizing a variation of the waddle and daub technique. It is one of the extremely rare examples of jacales in Bexar County.

Building 2a: Herrera Pavilion (addition to Jacal #2, ca. 1940s)
Photos 15-18

A one story wood framed open air pavilion. The perimeter wall is framed with wood and clad with vertical corrugated metal to a height of about four feet with the remainder of the walls open to the exterior. The roof is a single gable of corrugated metal with the gable ends clad with horizontal wood lap boards. The structure abuts the one story jacal #1 at the southwest corner. This represents a typical structure utilized by Hispanic families for social events, dances and community gatherings. Family members reported during oral history interviews of having attended many events in the pavilion. It is currently used as a protective covering and stable for the horses on the property.

Building 3: Workers' Dwelling (c.1900)
Photos 19-20

Small single story board and batten one room, side gable house with a corrugated metal roof. It features centered doors on both the front and rear and one wood frame window on each elevation, and there is evidence of a flue hole on the south elevation. This building is reported to have housed laborers on the Herrera Ranch.

Building 4: Family Dwelling (c. 1930s)
Photo 21

This small single story wood frame structure features a low pitch front gable and a rear facing L-plan. The exterior siding is lapped horizontal wood boards and cedar post foundation. The roofing is corrugated metal and the windows are double-hung wood six over six sash. This building is said to have housed Herrera family members, visitors and in later years, laborers on the ranch.

Building 5: Restrooms (c.1940)
Photos 22-23

Small single-story wood frame stuccoed rectangular building with rear-sloping shed roof.. The roofing is corrugated metal. The building houses two small bathrooms, each accessed by a single on opposite sides of the building. This building served as public restrooms during events at the pavillion.

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Section 7 Page 9Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas**INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES**

Map ID No.	Property	Status	Date/Date of Alterations
1	Jacal #1	Contributing	Estimated c.1830s, addition c.1845-46, remodeled late 19 th or early 20 th century
2	Jacal #2	Contributing	a.1845, remodeled early 20 th century and 1940s
2a	Pavilion (addition to Jacal #2)	Contributing as part of Jacal #2	c.1940s
3	House #3	Contributing	c.1900
4	House #4	Contributing	c.1930s
5	Restrooms	Contributing	c.1940

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☒ **A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- ☒ **C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Settlement, Ethnic Heritage/Hispanic

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1838-1960

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1838, 1845

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Blas Herrera, Jose Maria Herrera

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-10 through 8-17).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-18 through 9-20).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- ☒ State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other – (*Adolph C. Herrera Papers at the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio*)

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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch is a rare early-19th century homestead in southern Bexar County, Texas. The ranch has been in continuous ownership by Herrera family members since March 26, 1845. This site represents one of a series of occupations in this area of the Medina River valley by members of the Ruiz and Herrera families for nearly two centuries. The buildings comprising the compound reflect the simple character of central Texas vernacular architecture during the early 19th century and the simple Tejano structures once common in the area. Historic built features throughout the ranch reflect the evolution and changing uses of the land, from active ranching, to one of scaled back ranching activities, to social and community events, to the simple pasturing of horses today. At the heart of the ranch stands a large jacal structure which served as the family residence, a smaller jacal with an attached open-air pavilion and three smaller wood-frame buildings. The Herrera and Ruiz families settled in southern Bexar County and engaged in civic, social, educational, religious, military and agricultural activities in the development of the area, and these buildings also represent the utilization of the property for both agricultural and social activities. The Herrera Ranch is nominated under Criteria A at the local level in the areas of Settlement and Ethnic Heritage/Hispanic as the ranch of early Tejano/Hispanic family settlers. The property has been continuously utilized with either livestock and/or agricultural ranching from 1845 through the present time. The property is also nominated under Criteria C at the state level of significance in the area of Architecture. The two jacales represent unique construction techniques (adobe palasaido with wattle and daub) and early building styles representative of the Tejano culture, and are two of the very few remaining jacales in Bexar County. Set on the banks of the Medina River, the ranch possesses an extraordinary sense of place and retains a good degree of integrity. The period of significance begins in 1838, with the documented ownership by Francisco Antonio Ruiz, and continues to 1960, a period which includes 115 years of continued ownership and occupancy by the Herrera family.

Early ranches in South Texas and in Bexar County were established along the rivers and waterways that provided a ready supply of water for livestock, farming and ranching operations. The settlement of Medina developed in southern Bexar County along the Medina River, and included a church, a cemetery, a school, a store and a saloon. This provided the nucleus of a community for the families who chose to live in the area and raise their families. The settlement of Medina later became known as Garza's Crossing, (also known as Paso de las Garzas), a name which still appears on maps today.⁴ The community was vibrant and active until the latter half of the 19th century when the arrival of the International and Great Northern Railroad (I&GN) bypassed Garza's Crossing and located a depot in the community of Von Ormy. This resulted in the eventual shifting of population closer to the location of the depot.

The Bexar County 1850 U.S. census of the Medina River area reflected a diversity of ethnic groups. A total population of 336 individuals lived along the Medina River, comprising 74 families. A breakdown of the population shows there were 227 Texans (including native-born Mexicans and Anglos), 62 Mexicans (from Mexico), 36 from other states, and 11 individuals from foreign countries. Names in the area included descendants of the earliest Spanish and Mexican settlers as well as those individuals receiving Republic of Texas land grants – names such as Francisco A. Ruiz, Blas Herrera,

⁴ Oral Interview with Adolph C. Herrera on March 13, 1985 conducted by Gilbert R. Cruz, as part of the Oral History Program, The University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio

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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Ignacio Perez, Stephen Jett, and Hernandez. Despite the fact the population of San Antonio in 1850 was a mix of German, Anglo, and Mexican cultures, the Medina River area population remained predominantly Mexican.⁵

To assist in providing clarity to the land ownership discussed in this nomination, the following list of property owners includes the year each owner acquired the property:

- Francisco Antonio Ruiz – 1838 (possibly as early as 1774)
- John Twohig – 1844
- Blas Maria Herrera and wife, Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera – 1845
- Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera – 1878
- Jose Maria Herrera (son of Blas and Maria) and wife, Josefa Perez Herrera – 1884
- Sophia Herrera Langevin and Adolph C. Herrera – 1937 (grandchildren of Jose Maria Herrera and Josefa Perez Herrera)
- Adolph Herrera – 1964 (as a result of a partition between Adolph and Sophia)
- Hortense Garza Herrera - 1999

Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz de Herrera lived on land originally granted to Maria Antonia's brother, Francisco Antonio Ruiz. Blas Herrera and his wife, Maria Antonia had homes in two different locations in this community. They apparently alternated their time between both locations. The original land, one league and one labor, was granted in 1838 to Francisco Antonio Ruiz. In April 1844, Francisco Ruiz and his wife, Concepcion Soto Ruiz, sold 800 acres of the land to John Twohig for \$500. Twohig sold the same land to Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera for \$1,000 in March 1845.⁶ It is likely this land had originally been owned by the Ruiz family as early as 1774, as it was part of a large Spanish land grant inherited by Juan Manuel Ruiz, patriarch of the Ruiz-Navarro-Herrera families.⁷ Copies of family papers located at the Bexar Archives indicate the land was granted to the Ruiz family in 1774.⁸ However, after the Battle of the Medina in 1813,⁹ many of the early families, including the Ruiz family, fled to what is now east Texas and to western Louisiana.¹⁰ Upon returning to Texas, they had to re-establish their claim on the same lands where they had previously established their homes. Often the families did not speak English and found it necessary to enlist the help of individuals who read and spoke English and who were more knowledgeable about legal requirements in order to re-establish their land claims. Only 19% of the people who claimed their lands were able to receive a First Class

5 McGraw, A. Joachim and Kay Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe: A Cultural Resources Assessment of the Proposed Applewhite Reservoir, Bexar County, Texas*. Center for Archaeological Research, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Report, No. 163, 1987, p.95.

6 Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. C2, pgs 52-53.

7 Weddle, R.A. and R.H. Thonoff, *Drama and Conflict: The Texas Saga of 1776*. Madrona Press, Austin, 1976, p.154, as cited in McGraw and Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, 1987, p.130

8 Bexar County Archives, Ruiz Files; McGraw & Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, p.130. From January 1778 to April 1778, Juan Manuel Ruiz branded "two calves and two anejas." (BAT Vol. 68, p. 63).

9 Thonhoff, Robert, *Battle of the Medina*, Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. ", "
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/qfm1.html>

10 McGraw & Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, p.135. Jose Francisco Ruiz fought under General Toledo at the Battle of the Medina where they were defeated by General Joaquin de Arredondo's forces.

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Headright in the Bexar-Goliad region.¹¹ It is probable that John Twohig, a local banker, was the individual chosen by the Ruiz and Herrera families to assist them. The purchase and sale prices of the land transactions may have been Twohig's fees for his services.

Blas Maria Herrera (1802-1878)

Blas Maria Herrera was born on February 2, 1802 in San Antonio de Bexar.¹² His parents were Benito Herrera (1769-1805) a native of Punta de Lampasos, Nuevo Leon, Mexico and Jacoba de las Fuentes, a native of San Antonio.^{13 14} Blas appears in the 1819 Census of Barrio Norte, living in the household with his mother, her husband, his sister, Guadalupe Herrera and his half-brother, Anacleto Flore.¹⁵ Blas Maria is also reported to have spent the early years of his life in the Ruiz home on the southwest corner of Military Plaza in San Antonio. He married Maria Antonia Paula de la Concepcion Ruiz in San Antonio on February 3, 1828. Maria was born in 1809 in San Antonio to Colonel Jose Antonio Francisco Victoriano Ruiz (1780-1840) and Maria Josefa Manuela del Carmen Hernandez (1783-1814).¹⁶ Blas Maria Herrera and his wife, Maria Antonia Ruiz, raised a family of at least twelve children.

Blas Maria Herrera, who has been described as a courier, soldier, and scout, is sometimes referred to as the "Paul Revere" of the Texas Revolution or "the Messenger of the Alamo." In 1835 he served under the command of Capt. Juan Seguin and was a member of the assaulting force on December 5-9, 1835. Early in 1836 Seguin sent him to Laredo to keep surveillance on Mexican troop movements, specifically that of General Santa Anna, and to report back any advancement of the troops toward San Antonio. In February of 1836, Herrera returned with the information that General Santa Anna's troops were approaching the city. Herrera's next assignment was to escort and protect Jose Antonio Navarro and Jose Francisco Ruiz during their trip to Washington-on-the Brazos, where they signed the Texas Declaration of Independence in March.. In 1836, when General Felix Huston sent an order to destroy San Antonio and move its citizens east of the Brazos River, Colonel Seguin who was then in command of the city, sent Herrera with a dispatch for Gen. Sam Houston requesting that he revoke this order, which he subsequently did.¹⁷ A headright of one league and one labor of land was granted to Blas Herrera in December 1836. The following September, Herrera sold the headright to Juan Seguin for the sum of \$800, choosing to live on the land originally granted to Maria Antonia's brother, Francisco Antonio Ruiz.¹⁸ In January 1875, David V. Whiting of Travis County, agent for Blas Maria Herrera, filed a pension application for Blas Maria Herrera with the Republic of Texas. In the application Blas Herrera stated he was one of the "surviving veterans of the war that separated Texas from Mexico." The pension for Blas Herrera was approved on January 27, 1875 in the amount of \$250.00.¹⁹

11 Tijerina, Reyes. *Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836*. Texas A & M University Press, College Station, 1994, p.140.

12 San Fernando Church Baptismal Book 4, Entry 576.

13 Herrera, Adolph Casias, "Blas Maria Herrera," *Handbook of Texas Online*, The Texas State Historical Association.

14 San Fernando Church Baptismal Book 4, Entry 476.

15 *Residents of Texas, 1782-1836, Vol. II*. The University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures, Distributed by Ericson Books, c1984.

16 San Fernando Church Baptismal Book 4, Entry 959.

17 Herrera, Adolph Casias, "Blas Maria Herrera", *Texas Online Handbook*, Texas State Historical Association.

18 Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. D1 p.113.

19 Texas State Archives, Republic of Texas, Pension Claims, Microfilm Reel 220, #242-254, ID 70966, Blas Herrera, Pension application.

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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Agriculture on the Herrera Ranch in the mid-19th Century

Tejanos developed wide varieties of skill and experience in the livestock industry including branding, round-ups, driving, open-range grazing, expert horsemanship and a broad knowledge of animal husbandry. A variety of farm and ranch animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, mules, burros, swine and oxen were commonly found on Tejano ranches.²⁰ An examination of the Herrera ranch records reveals the scope of the ranch's productivity in the mid-19th century.

After military service in the Texas Revolution, Blas Herrera, along with his wife, Maria Antonia Ruiz de Herrera, established their ranch headquarters on the family land at Garza's Crossing on the Medina River in southern Bexar County. The ranch was called El Rancho de los Herrera y Ruiz.²¹ Blas Herrera first appears on the Bexar County tax rolls in 1845, with 800 acres of land valued at \$300, one town lot valued at \$300, and three cattle. Tax records show an increase in land and farm activities over the next years. In 1846-47, his acreage remained the same (with no listing of the town lot), and his livestock increased to 32 cattle valued at \$140 and 2 horses valued at \$20. He also owned 1 cart valued at \$20 and his total property value was \$1,080. By 1849, Blas Herrera owned 3 horses valued at \$30, 36 cattle valued at \$200; the total value of the property had increased to \$1,480. The Bexar County Agricultural Census for 1850 also indicates that Blas Herrera had a farm valued at \$850, and farm implements valued at \$15. He had 20 cows, 10 of which were milk cows. This seems to indicate that he may have been operating a small dairy farm; 150 lbs. of butter was produced. He also had 2 horses, 1 mule, 6 working oxen and 8 swine, with all livestock valued at \$258. He reported the gathering of 20 lbs. of beeswax and honey for this year and produced 30 bushels of Indian corn.²² In 1853, his total property was valued at \$3,400.²³ The number of cattle increased significantly in 1862-1864 during the Civil War period and dropped dramatically during 1865. Sheep first appeared on the Herrera property in 1862. There was a significant decrease in the value of property during 1865, probably reflective of the drop in overall property values immediately after the Civil War across the South. Beginning in 1871, it appears there was a decrease in farming and ranching activities as the number of cattle began to drop, the number of horses began decreasing, there were no sheep on the land and the total number of acres decreased from 800 in 1872 to 600 in 1873. It might be speculated that because Blas was aging, he may have also begun to suffer illnesses and was unable to continue to manage livestock to the same extent as previously. From 1876 through 1890, there were no cattle on the land. Cattle reappeared in 1891 when the land was taken over by the son, Jose Maria Herrera. Blas Maria Herrera died at the age of 76 in Bexar County Texas on July 9, 1878. He is buried in the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery off Quesenbury Road in southern Bexar County.

In December 1883, at the age of 74, Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera, widow of Blas Herrera, requested that Everett G. Graves survey the land she and her husband, Blas had purchased in 1845 from John Twohig. Continuing in the tradition of the early Spanish land grants, the land was divided into subdivisions also called *porciones*, i.e., long strips of land that had some river frontage and extended back from the river for a considerable distance. In an effort to ensure that each beneficiary had an equal share of the available river or stream, the *porción* took its characteristic shape, often referred to

20 Tijerina, Reyes. *Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836*. Texas A & M University Press, College Station, 1994, p.70.

21 Oral Interview with Adolph C. Herrera on March 13, 1985 conducted by Gilbert R. Cruz, as part of the Oral History Program, The University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio.

22 Texas Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Census for 1850, microfilm roll at the San Antonio Public Library, Texana/Genealogy Dept. The 1850 agricultural census was taken between Sept 24-25 and Oct. 25, 1850, indicated that the statistical data reported was for the year of 1849.

23 Bexar County Tax Rolls, 1845-1853.

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as a "prolonged quadrangle" with a narrow river front.²⁴ Most of the subdivisions in the survey contained approximately 128 acres each and had frontage on the Medina River. In 1884, Maria Antonia deeded the land subdivisions to her surviving children and heirs.²⁵

Jose Maria Herrera (1850-1932)

The nominated property was deeded to Jose Maria Herrera in 1884 as Subdivision 4.²⁶ When Jose Maria Herrera inherited his 128 acres from his mother, he already owned 102 acres in the F. Rolan Survey. Although Jose Maria Herrera continued with the farming and ranching operations instituted by his parents, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia, it must have been on a very limited basis. Tax records dating from 1884 through 1909 reflect no sheep and only 1-2 cows, 2-5 horses and 1 wagon. Jose Maria Herrera appeared as Head of Household on the 1880 Bexar County Census, 29 years of age with his occupation listed as a farmer. His 24-year-old wife, Josefa's occupation was listed as "keeping house" and they had two young children under two years of age, Jose M. (Miguel) and Jose Maria, Jr.²⁷ Jose Maria's wife, Josefa Perez Herrera, died in 1891. In the 1900 census, Jose Maria Herrera, was identified as a 49 year old widower, heading a household with 6 children, ages 8 through 21. He listed his occupation as "farmer."²⁸ In the 1920 census, he was still farming at the age of 68 and had not remarried. Also living in the household was his son, Jose M. Herrera, Jr. age 36, Jose's wife, Felipe, age 25, and their two young children, Desidero and Alfredo. Additionally, Jose's widowed daughter-in-law Josefa Casillas Herrera and two children also lived in the home. In the 1930 census, Jose Maria Herrera, Sr. was still living in the same household, but his son, Jose Maria Herrera, Jr. was listed as Head of Household.²⁹

During the early twentieth century, oil and gas exploration began locally in Bexar County. Droughts affected the small farmer's ability to successfully grow crops and produce yields. The interest in oil and gas exploration on available lands provided a source of income. On Dec. 8, 1930, Jose Maria Herrera entered into an oil and gas lease for a period of 5 years. The drilling of oil and gas wells on Subdivisions #4 and # 5 was authorized with various stipulations. Jose Maria Herrera died on Dec. 20, 1932. In 1937, Jose Maria Herrera, Jr. and his siblings brought suit against their brother Tomas to partition their deceased father's land. The lawsuit resulted in the Court designating the land by shares. Share #3, previously referred to as #4 Subdivision, was set apart to Sofia and Adolph Herrera, children of Josefa Casillas and Adolph Herrera, to be held jointly and in common.³⁰

Adolph C. Herrera (1913-1999) and Hortense Garza Herrera

Under the ownership of Adolph and Hortense Herrera, the homestead became an important family gathering place. In keeping with the Hispanic and Tejano traditions, frequent family gatherings occurred, celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and other special events. A dance hall pavilion was built in the 1940s to accommodate community and social

24 Tijerina, Andres. *Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836*, 1994, p.51.

25 Subdivision of R.A. Ruiz-Survey, Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 31, pgs 612-613, Dec. 1883.

26 Maria Ruiz Herrera to Jose Maria Herrera, Deed, Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 346, p.140, Feb. 2, 1884.

27 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedule, Bexar County, Texas, p. 14 B, Enumerated June 11, 1880.

28 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedule, Bexar County, Texas, p. 150B. Sheet 11, Enumerated June 18, 1900

29 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedules, Bexar County, Texas, p.220A, Enumerated April 9, 1930.

30 Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 2584, page 537. "Jose Maria Herrera, et al vs. Tomas Herrera."

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events, and a number of people living today recall visiting the ranch as children and going fishing with family members.³¹ Carmen Schmalhorst, a great great granddaughter of Blas Herrera, recalls visiting the Herrera ranch in the early 1930s when she was about 7 or 8 years of age. Her cousin, Adolph Herrera, who was older, delighted in scaring the children by telling them ghost stories.³² Mrs. Schmalhorst remembered the Herrera house (Jacal #1) with the large fireplace and thought that family members probably slept on the floor when visiting as there were no beds in the house. She did not remember anyone living on the property at that time. Mrs. Schmalhorst also recalls attending a 25th wedding celebration for Adolph and Hortense Herrera which was held on the ranch property.³³

Although Adolph Herrera and his wife, Hortense, maintained their primary residence in San Antonio, limited farming and ranching activities continued on the historic property. They raised hay and sorghum on the property. They also had Shetland ponies. Adolph Herrera rented out the pavilion/dance hall for parties and dances.³⁴ After Adolph Herrera's death in 1999, his wife, Hortense G. Herrera was appointed executor of the estate, and received the 30 acre nominated tract on which the Blas Herrera structures are located. The land is currently leased to an individual for the pasturing of horses.

Architectural Significance

The 19th century houses on the Herrera Ranch (Buildings 1 and 2) are examples of early Hispanic Texas vernacular folk architecture known as *jacales*,³⁵ a variation of wattle and daub structures found in Mexico and the southwestern United States.³⁶ The term *jacal* derives from the Nahuatl word *xahcalli*. Native Americans built jacales prior to European settlement and the building technique was then later used by the Spanish and Tejano settlers in Texas and elsewhere. South Texas jacales generally followed the building techniques and styles used in Mexico, but at least five variations are known to have existed in the San Antonio region. Basically, the jacales found in South Texas are rectangular-shaped dwellings consisting of poles buried in the ground, plastered with adobe mud or lime mortar, whitewashed, and having a steeply gabled roof of thatch.³⁷ Currently, only two variations are known to exist/survive in San Antonio and Bexar County:

- (1) palisadoed construction of abutting vertical poles ca. 9" in diameter pounded into the ground or placed in a trench daubed with adobe plastered walls, windows in the gable ends, doors in the long axis and chimneys in the gable end; and,

31 Verbal communication from Alfred Rodriguez, Spanish Archivist, Bexar County Courthouse, to Pat Ezell, August 2007.

32 Andres Tijerina wrote in his book, *Tejano Empire, Life on the South Texas Ranchos*, 1998, p.99, "One of the most frequent pastimes in the evening was telling ghost stories around the fireplace. Tejano ghost stories followed a well-defined repertoire of class themes. The most common themes were stories of treasure, of apparitions, and of class characters like the Lechusa and La Llorona."

33 Oral history interview with Carmen Schmalhorst, 10/05/2007, conducted by Pat Castanon and Pat Ezell

34 Email communication from Evie Patton to Pat Ezell, June 18, 2007.

35 Graham, Joe S., "Texas-Mexican Vernacular Architecture," *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/TT/cbtut.html> (accessed October 2, 2007)

36 Patel, Nisha K. House Construction and Destruction Pattern of the Early Copper Age on the Great Hungarian Plain. Thesis, Ohio State Univ. March 2004.

37 Graham, Joe. S. "Texas-Mexican Vernacular Architecture."

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(2) buildings of upright corner poles with vertical poles spaced two feet to ca. seven feet apart and having horizontal wooden laths, thin narrow strips of wood, daubed with mud mortar, plastered and whitewashed, windows and doors in the long axis, and a gabled chimney.

Although the *jacal* was a modest dwelling, its construction required a complex knowledge of local materials and native building techniques.³⁸ Most of the dwellings destroyed in the fighting around the Alamo were not expensive stone houses like the Veramendi Palace, but small jacales constructed of timber post, hides, mud or clay plaster, reeds for straw thatch, and other cheap local materials. Although well adapted to the environment and the economic level of their residents, jacales seemed unfamiliar and primitive to Anglo American observers. When kept in good repair and whitewashed with lime inside and out, the jacal was a comfortable, attractive home that could last for decades.

The South Texas *jacal* was normally from eight to ten feet wide and twenty to twenty-five feet long. It most often had one room, perhaps divided with a hanging cloth. The ridgepole was ten to fifteen feet from the floor. The size of a jacal was limited by the materials available. The steeply pitched gabled roof made adding rooms impractical. For the poor, the jacal was often a permanent home, but for the more well-to-do it was looked upon as temporary shelter until a better house could be built.³⁹ Many of the earliest settlers of San Antonio had stone houses in the city and secondary residences in the country, many of which were jacal construction.⁴⁰

Summary

The Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch is significant under National Register Criteria A as the ranch of early Tejano/Hispanic family settlers. The property has been continuously utilized with either livestock and/or agricultural ranching from 1845 through the present time. In addition to its significance in the areas of settlement and agriculture, the property is also being nominated under Criteria C due to the significance of the architecture. The two jacales represent unique construction techniques and early building styles representative of the Tejano culture. These are two of the very few remaining jacales in Bexar County, and are significant in a statewide context because they are rare examples of what was once a common vernacular form. Due to the great age and fragility of the resource type, very few jacales have been identified in Texas through the statewide survey. The additional buildings also represent the utilization of the property for both agricultural and social activities.

The Herrera and Ruiz families are a vital part of the history of Texas and early Bexar County. Although the Ruiz family is better known, the contributions made by Blas Herrera to the Texian struggle for independence is equally important. These early Tejano/Hispanic families settled in southern Bexar County, raised their families and engaged in civic, social, educational, religious, military and agricultural activities in the development of the area. This site represents one of a series of occupations in this area of the Medina River valley by members of the Ruiz-Herrera family for possibly over 200 years.

³⁸ Saenz, Andres and Andres Tijerina, Editor. *Early Tejano Ranching in Duval County, The Family History of San Jose and El Fresno Ranches*. Chapt. 11, "Jacales de Lena." The Institute of Texan Cultures, 1999.
<http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/ranching/chapters/chapter011.htm>.

³⁹ Graham, Joe S. "Texas-Mexican Vernacular Architecture."

⁴⁰ Graham, Joe S. "The Jacal in South Texas, The Origins and Forms of a Folk House." *Los Bexarenos Genealogical Register*, Vol. XVI, #2, p. 74, June 1999.

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The Herrera Ranch is a rare early-19th century homestead complex in south Texas. The structures comprising the compound reflect the simple character of central Texas vernacular architecture during the early 19th century and the structures which were common to the area. Historic built features throughout the ranch reflect the evolution and changing uses of the land, from active ranching, to one of scaled back ranching activities, to social and community events, to the simple pasturing of horses today. At the heart of the ranch stands the larger jacal structure which served as the family residence, the smaller jacal, the open air pavilion and the two wood frame structures. The jacals are indicative of the early Tejano construction techniques. It is evident that as the family grew and prospered, new structures were added as needed. In the 20th century as the families located at the Garza's Crossing community moved away, so did the Herrera family. The land's primary use became one of a gathering place for social events, although the pasturing of animals continued.

The buildings, fields, pasture and landscape reflect the historic tradition of ranching in southern Bexar County. This tradition is fast being diminished from the rural landscape as developers purchase rural ranches and put in large-scale housing and commercial development. The Herrera Ranch is in the vicinity of the Toyota plant in Bexar County and would be prime acreage for a housing development in the event adjacent property owners could be persuaded to sell their acreage as well. The current property owner is interested in protecting the historic property and having the property remain in the family. Interest has also been expressed in the stabilization and restoration of the buildings.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 30 acres

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	537854	3240137
2.	14	538009	3240097
3.	14	537581	3239370
4.	14	537435	3239436

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: (see continuation sheet 10-21)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Nomination includes all property historically associated with the homestead and its original built resources that is currently under single ownership. The 30 acre tract is the remaining portion of the 128 acre tract originally deeded to Jose Maria Herrera in 1884 by his mother, Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera. It contains original structures built by the Herrera family as well as pasture land that has been owned by Herrera family members for over 150 years.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patricia Ezell, Patsy Castanon, Ron Bauml, and Joanna Parrish in conjunction with Kay Hinds, Staff Archaeologist for the City of San Antonio

ORGANIZATION: San Antonio Conservation Society

DATE: January 2008

STREET & NUMBER: 107 King William Street

TELEPHONE: 210-224-6163

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio **STATE:** TX

ZIP CODE: 78204-1312

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheets Figure-22 through Figure-26)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-30 through Photo-35)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheets Figure-27 through Figure-29)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Hortense Herrera

STREET & NUMBER: 5903 Padre Cove

TELEPHONE: 512-914-7983

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78731

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Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description

This 30 acre tract owned by Hortense Herrera is located in southern Bexar County on the northern side of the Medina River, 2.4 miles south of Loop 410 off of Somerset Road. The entry to the property is on the abandoned Old Somerset Road which tails off to the west of Somerset Road just before the Garza's Crossing bridge. It is a tract of land from the Francisco A. Ruiz Subdivision of Survey No. 47, Abstract 614, C.B. 4300, Bexar County, Texas. The Bexar County Appraisal District website gives the legal description as: CB 4300 P-6A ABS 614. The Property ID is 190048. The Geographic ID is 04300-019-9261.

This tract was described as Tract 3A according to a survey made on Feb. 20, 1964 and described in Vol. 5209, p.368 on the Deed and Plat Record book. Metes and bounds are described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the centerline of the Medina River, said point being 27.00 feet north of the centerline of an existing concrete bridge;

THENCE along the centerline of the Medina River as follows:

N 15 deg. 09'41" E, a distance of 233.23 feet to a point, for a corner of this tract;

THENCE N 29 deg. 58'03" E, a distance of 2265.14 feet to an iron pin set for a corner of this tract;

THENCE East, a distance of 557.98 feet to an iron pin set for a corner of this tract;

THENCE S 29 deg. 06'37" W, a distance of 2352.04 feet to an iron pin set, for a corner of this tract, said point being located on the north line of SOMERSET ROAD;

THENCE along the North line of SOMERSET Road (and being 27.00 feet north of the centerline of SOMERSET ROAD) as follows:

S 58 deg. 11' W, 277.41 ft. to the point of curvature of a curve to the right

THENCE along said curve with a radius of 273.00 feet, a distance of 220.69 feet to the point of tangency of said curve;

THENCE N 75 deg. 30' W, 188.04 feet to the point of beginning, and containing 30 acres of land, more or less;

EXCEPT the bed of the Medina River, a navigable stream.

The 30 acre tract is bounded on the south by the Medina River and Old Somerset Road, on the West and North by property owned by Charles A. Tims and on the east by a series of 18 smaller lots owned by 14 different property owners, including 2 of which are also owned by Mrs. Hortense Herrera.

Boundary Justification

The 30 acre tract is the remaining portion of the 128 acre tract originally deeded to Jose Maria Herrera in 1884 by his mother, Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera. It contains original structures built by the Herrera family as well as pasture land that has been owned by Herrera family members for over 150 years.

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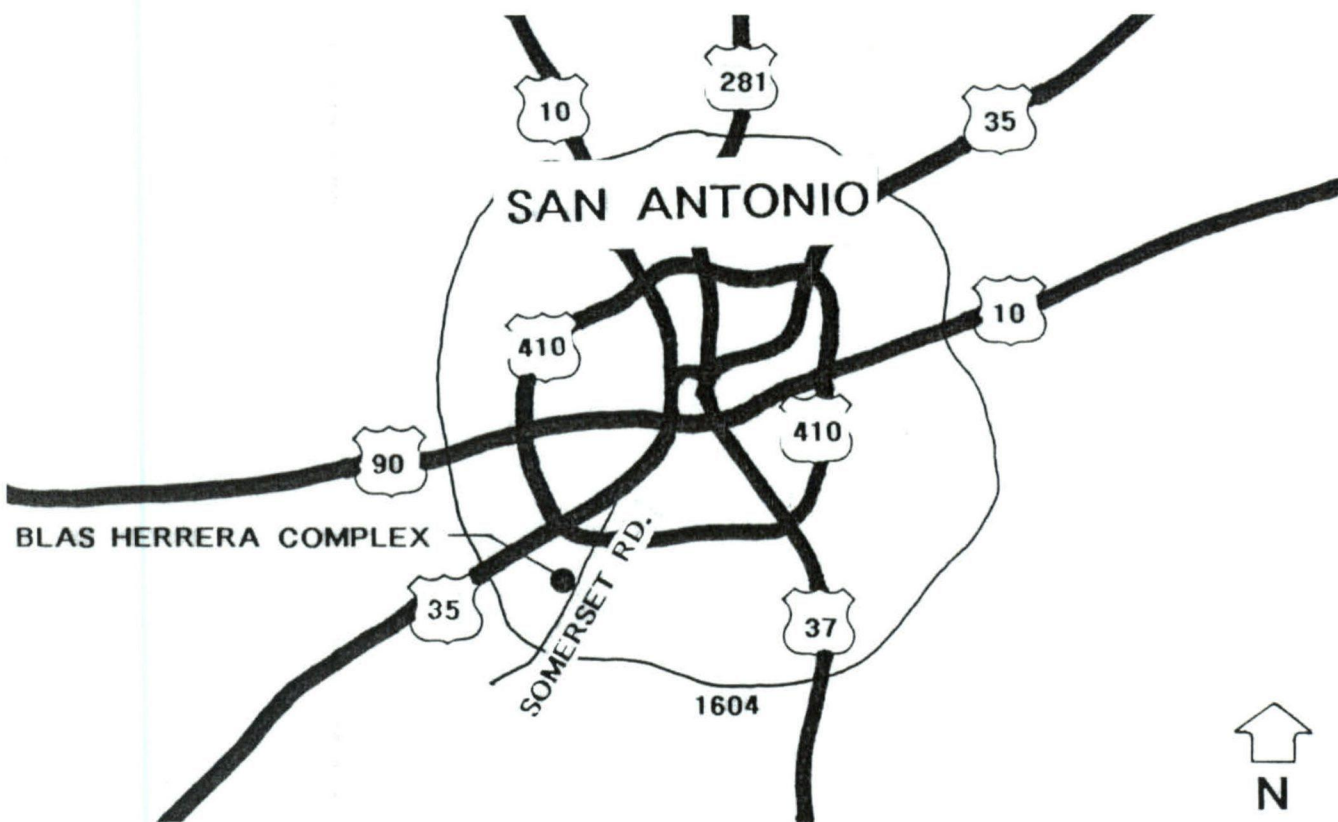
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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Map 1: Herrera Ranch

Location Map Relative to San Antonio, Bexar County, TX

Drawn by Ron Bauml, January 2008



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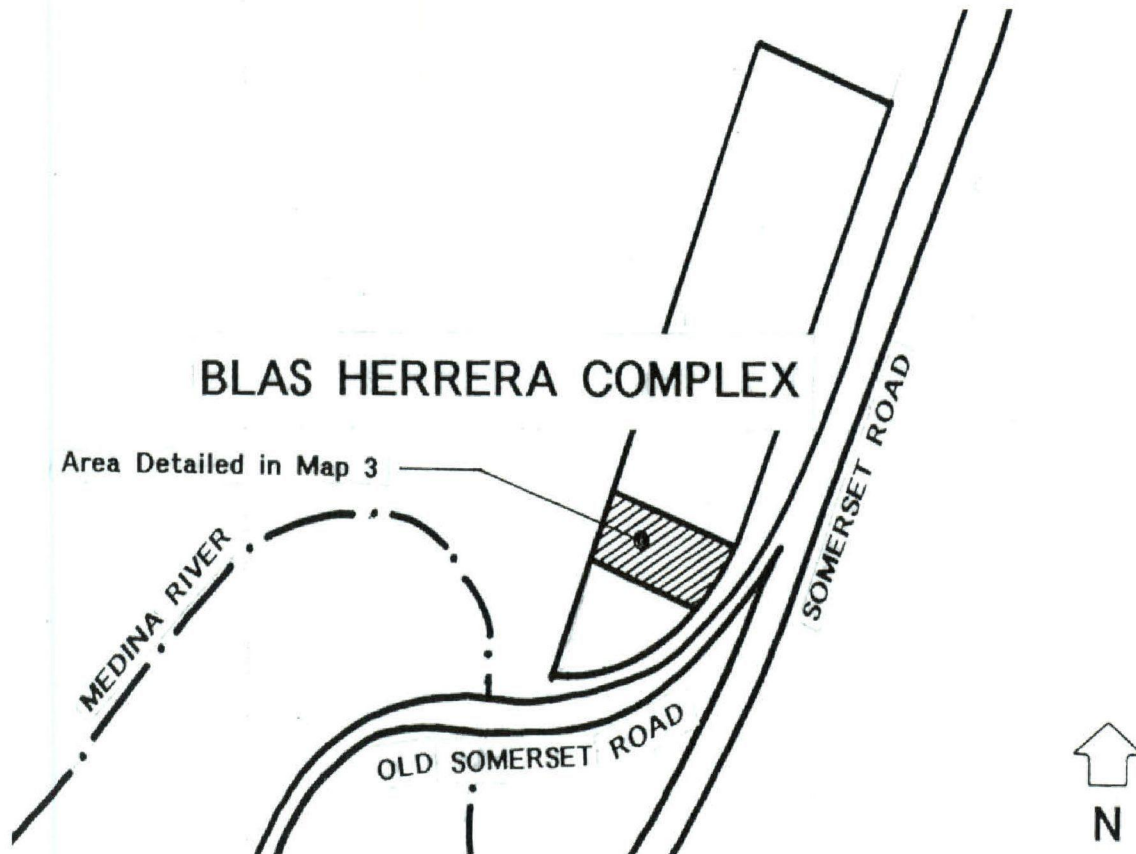
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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Map 2. Herrera Ranch

Property Map. Drawn by Ron Bauml, January 2008 - no scale



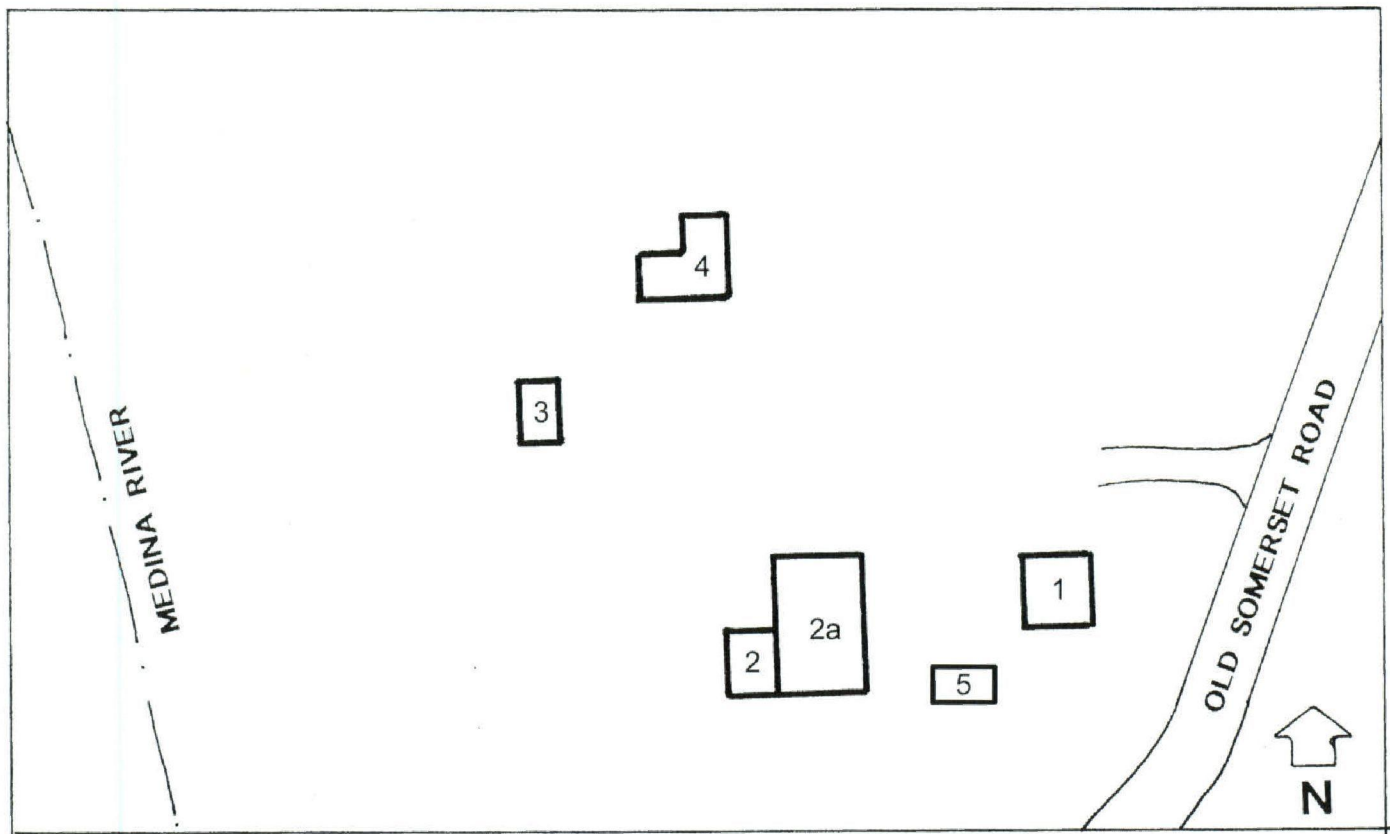
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Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Map 3. Herrera Ranch
Resource Identification Map
No scale



Map ID No.	Property	Status	Date/Date of Alterations
1	Jacal #1	Contributing	ca.1830s, addition ca.1845-46, remodeled late 19 th or early 20 th century
2	Jacal #2	Contributing	ca.1840s, remodeled early 20 th century and 1940s
2a	Pavilion (addition to Jacal #2)	Contributing as part of Jacal #2	ca.1940s
3	House #3	Contributing	ca.1900
4	House #4	Contributing	ca.1930s
5	Restrooms	Contributing	ca.1940

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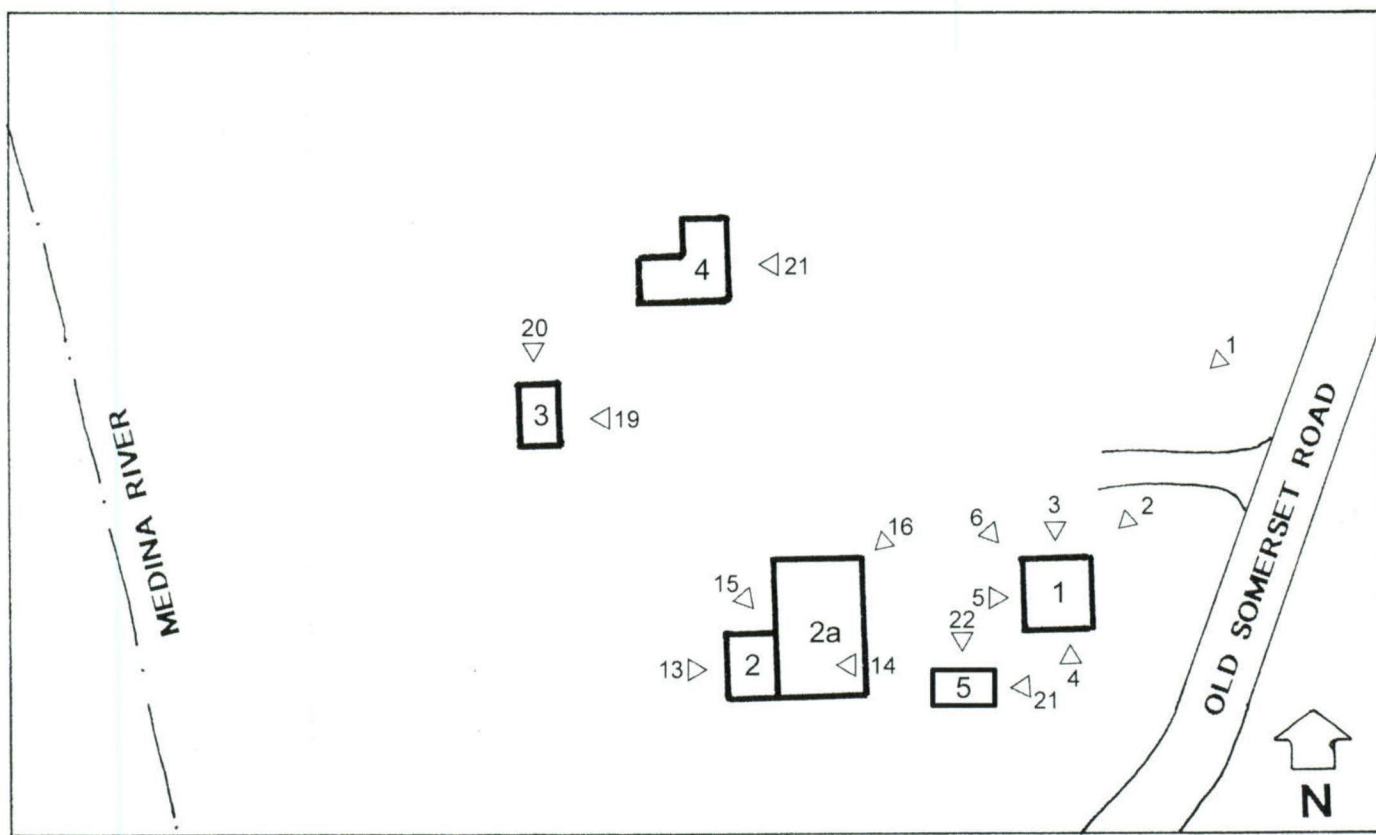
Section Figure Page 25

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Map 4. Herrera Ranch.

Photo Identification, Contributing Resources.

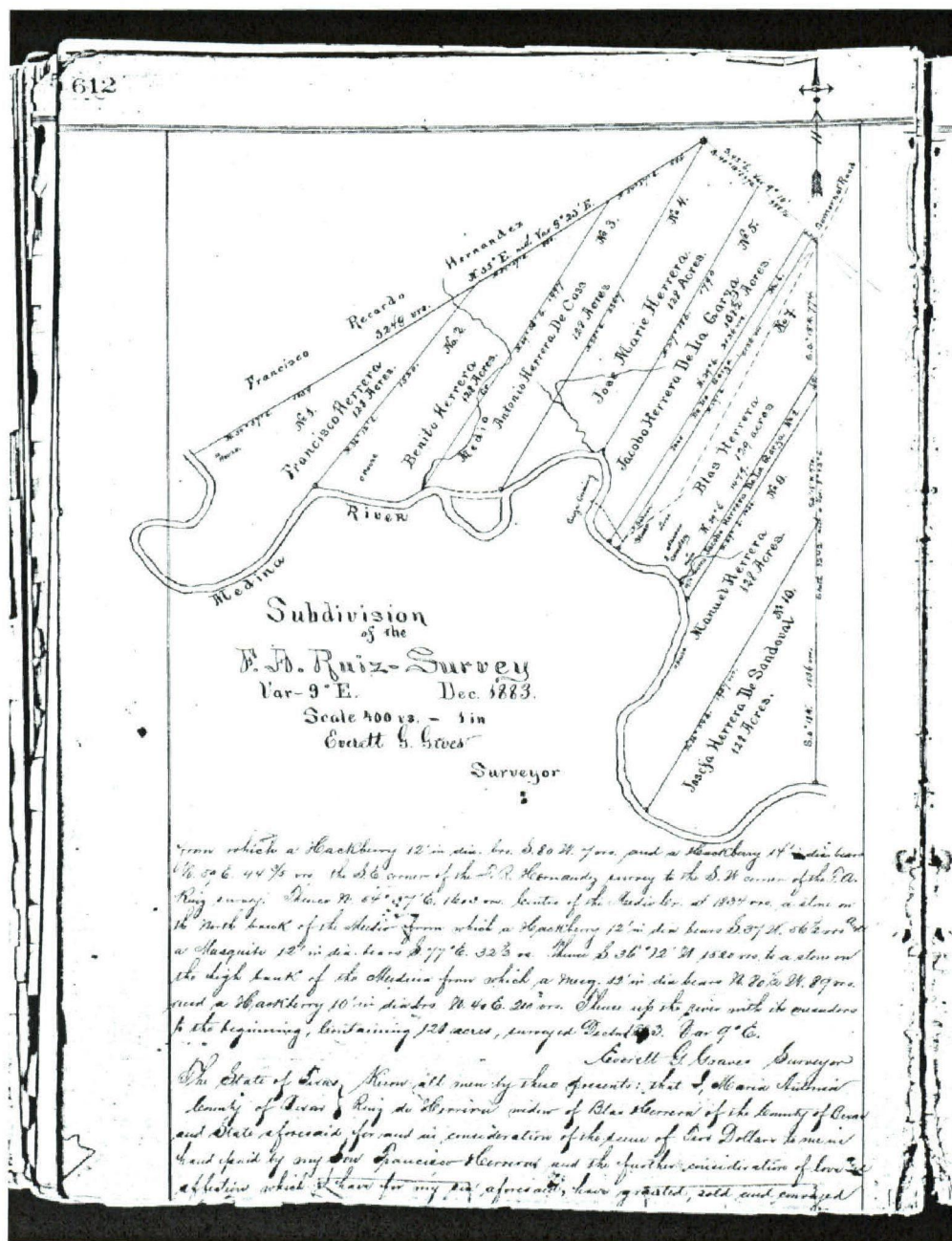
No scale



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Francisco Ruiz Survey of 1883 showing division of Herrera property to Children of Blas and Maria Herrera. Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 31, pg. 612.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

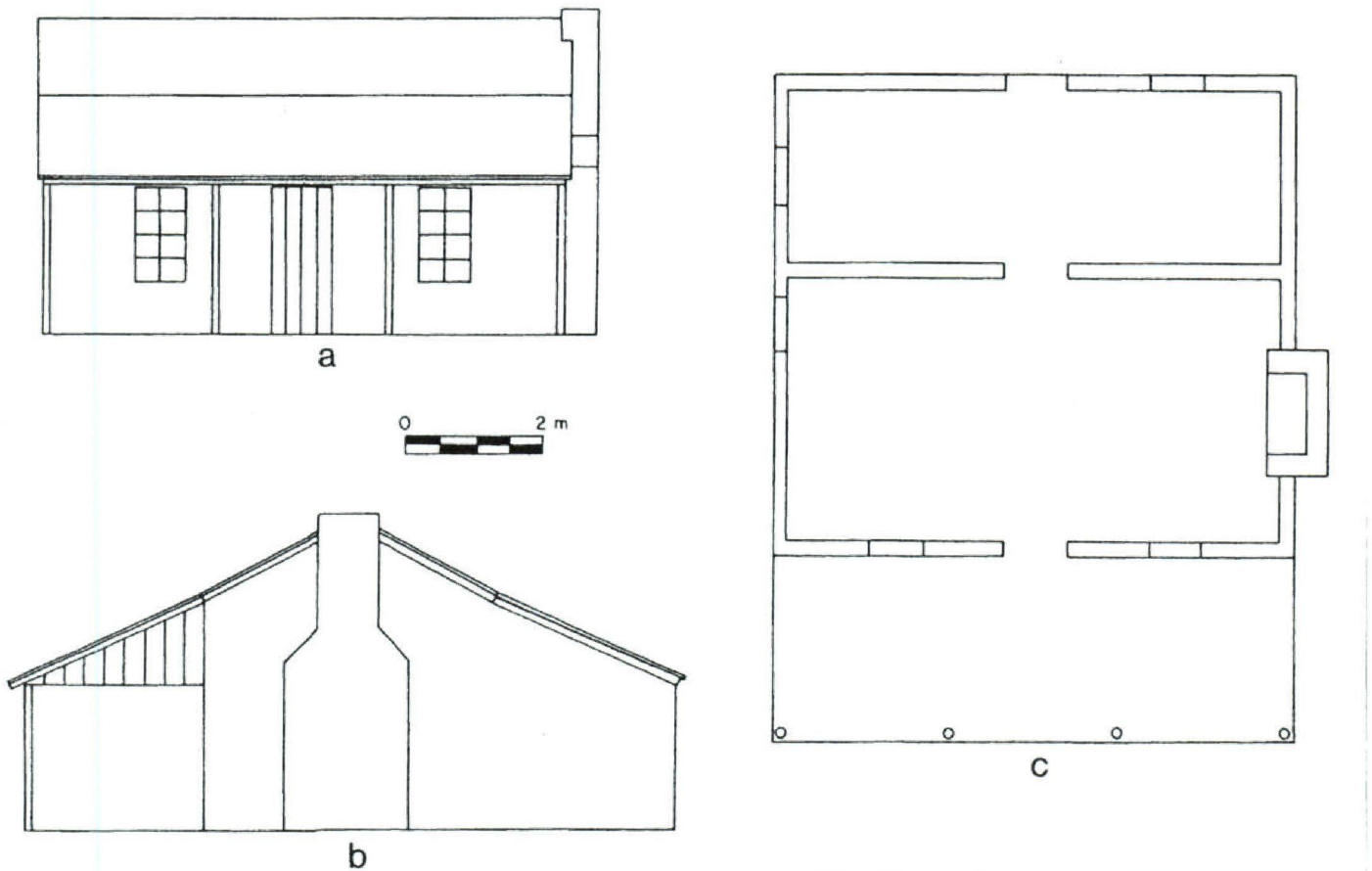
Section Figure Page 27

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Floorplan of Jacal #1, Site 41 BX 672.

a. Front plan of Jacal #1 at east end of complex; b. side plan; c. floor plan of structure

Source: McGraw, A. Joachim and Kay Hindes, *Chipped Stone and Adobe: A Cultural Resources Assessment of the Proposed Applewhite Reservoir, Bexar County, Texas*. Center for Archaeological Research, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Report, No. 163, 1987, p.251.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

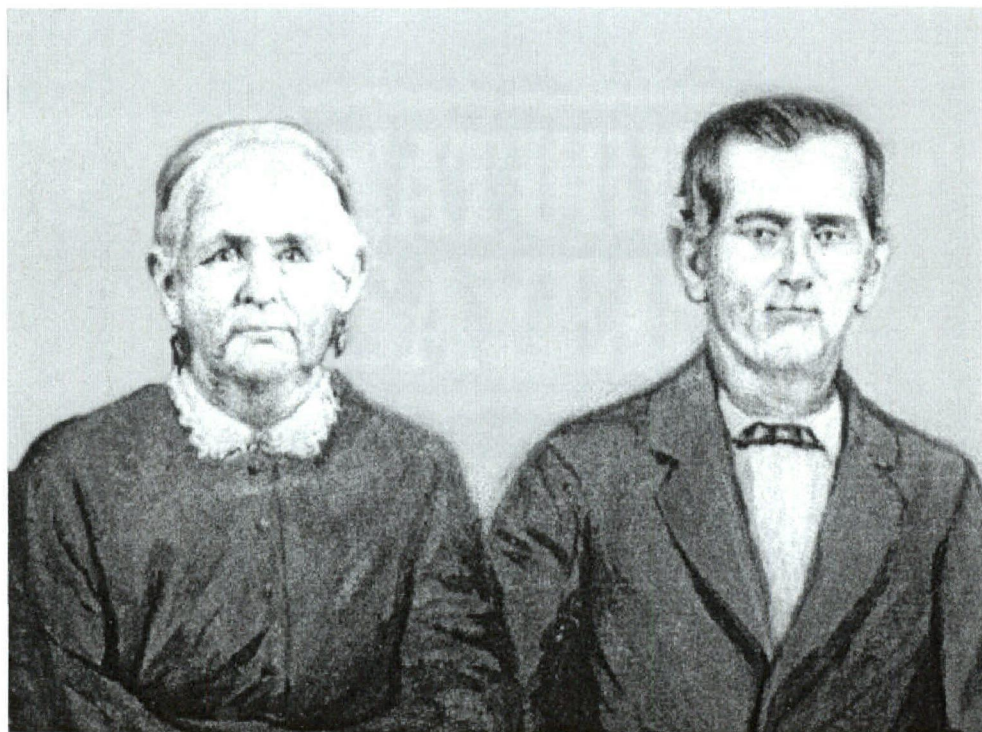
Section Figure Page 28

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Historic Sketch #1

Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera and Blas Herrera

Painting by Eligio Fernandez, May 20, 1887. Copy courtesy of Maria Olga "Vee" Gomez



Maria Antonia & Blas Herrera

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 29

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Historic Sketch #2

Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera and Family

Painting by Eligio Fernandez, May 20, 1887. Copy courtesy of Maria Olga "Vee" Gomez

Left to right:

Standing: Blas III (Blas J.) Herrera, Antonio Herrera, Francisco Herrera, Juan Jose Herrera

Seated: Maria Aurora Herrera (Mrs. Miguel Patino), Martin Herrera, Blas II (Blas Buenaventura), Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera, Blas Maria Herrera, Josefa Flores de Abrego Salinas (mother of Sabina Salinas), Sabina Salinas Herrera (wife of Blas II), Eugenio Herrera, Feliz Trinidad Herrera, Josefa Julia Herrera.

All the children belong to Blas B. and Sabina Salinas.



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 30

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

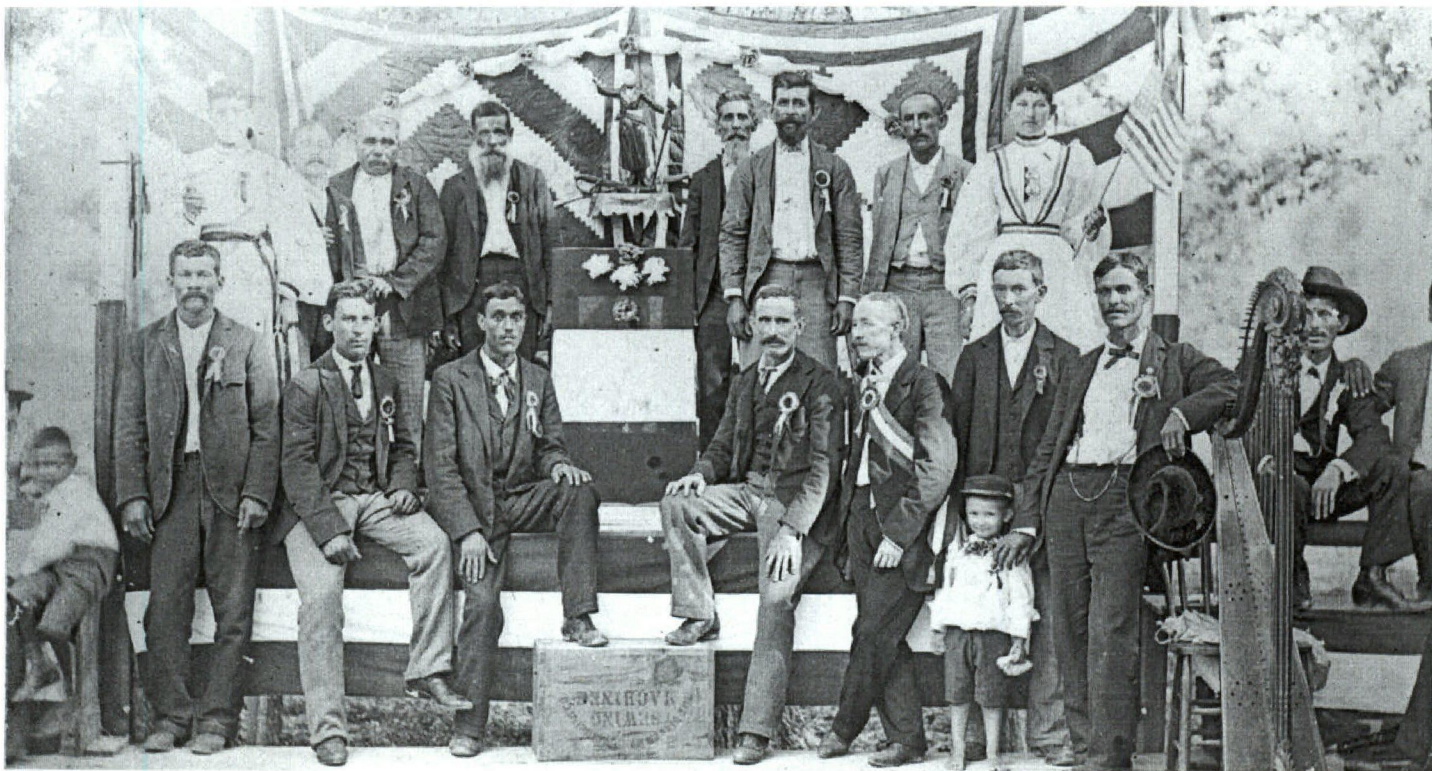
Historic Photo #1:

Diez Y Siez Celebration, Veterans Reunion – Paso de Las Garzas, Herrera Ranch on the Medina River, 1898
Photo courtesy of Maria Olga "Vee" Gomez

Left to Right: Standing: Paula Herrera, unknown, Doroteo Pena, Blas B. Herrera), Manuel Herrera, Jose Maria Herrera, unknown, Tia Josefa.

Sitting on left: Jose Maria Herrera, Adolph Herrera, Antonio Guerra.

Sitting/Standing on right: Francisco Herrera, Juan Jose Herrera, Blas Herrera and son, Blas Herrera, Francisco Herrera.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 31

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Historic Photo #2:

Herrera Family Members on the Garza's Crossing Bridge, Medina River.
Photo in the Adolph Herrera Collection, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.
Individuals unidentified.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 32

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Historic Photo #3

Herrera Family Members at the Herrera Ranch on the Medina River

Note the marks of "A" and "S", pointing to two children. It is likely these are Adolph Herrera and her sister, Sophia Herrera.

Other family members are unidentified.

Source: Adolph Herrera Collection, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photo Page 33

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Herrera Ranch
Old Somerset Road
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas
Photographed by Hector Cardenas
Photograph negatives located at: San Antonio Conservation Society

Photo 1
House #1 and Pavilion
Northeast blique, camera facing southwest
March 2008

Photo 2
House #1
Northeast oblique, Camera facing southwest
March 2008

Photo 3
House #1
North elevation, camera facing south
March 2008

Photo 4
House # 1
South elevation, camera facing north
March 2008

Photo 5
House # 1
West elevation, camera facing east
March 2008

Photo 6
House #1
Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast
March 2008

Photo 7
House 1
Main room, south wall
Sept. 2008

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photo Page 34

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 8
House 1
Main room, southwest corner
Sept. 2008

Photo 9
House 1
Main room, northeast corner
Sept. 2008

Photo 10
House 1
Main room, west wall detail
Sept. 2008

Photo 11
House 1
Main room, southeast interior wall
Sept. 2008

Photo 12
House 2
Porch, northwest exterior wall
Sept. 2008

Photo 13
House 2, west elevation, camera facing east
March 2008

Photo 14
House 2, east elevation, camera facing west
March 2008

Photo 15
Pavilion addition to House 2
Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast
March 2008

Photo 16
Pavilion
Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest
March 2008

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photo Page 35

Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 17
Pavilion interior
Southeast oblique
Sept. 2008

Photo 18
Pavilion interior
Northwest oblique
Sept. 2008

Photo 19
House # 3
East elevation, camera facing west
March 2008

Photo 20
House # 3
North elevation, camera facing south
March 2008

Photo 21
House # 4
East elevation, camera facing south
March 2008

Photo 22
Restroom Building 5
East elevation, camera facing west
Sept. 2008

Photo 23
Restroom Building 5
North elevation, camera facing south
Sept. 2008

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Herrera Ranch
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 7/29/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/23/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/07/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/12/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000737

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9.9.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic,
BEXAR Co. TX



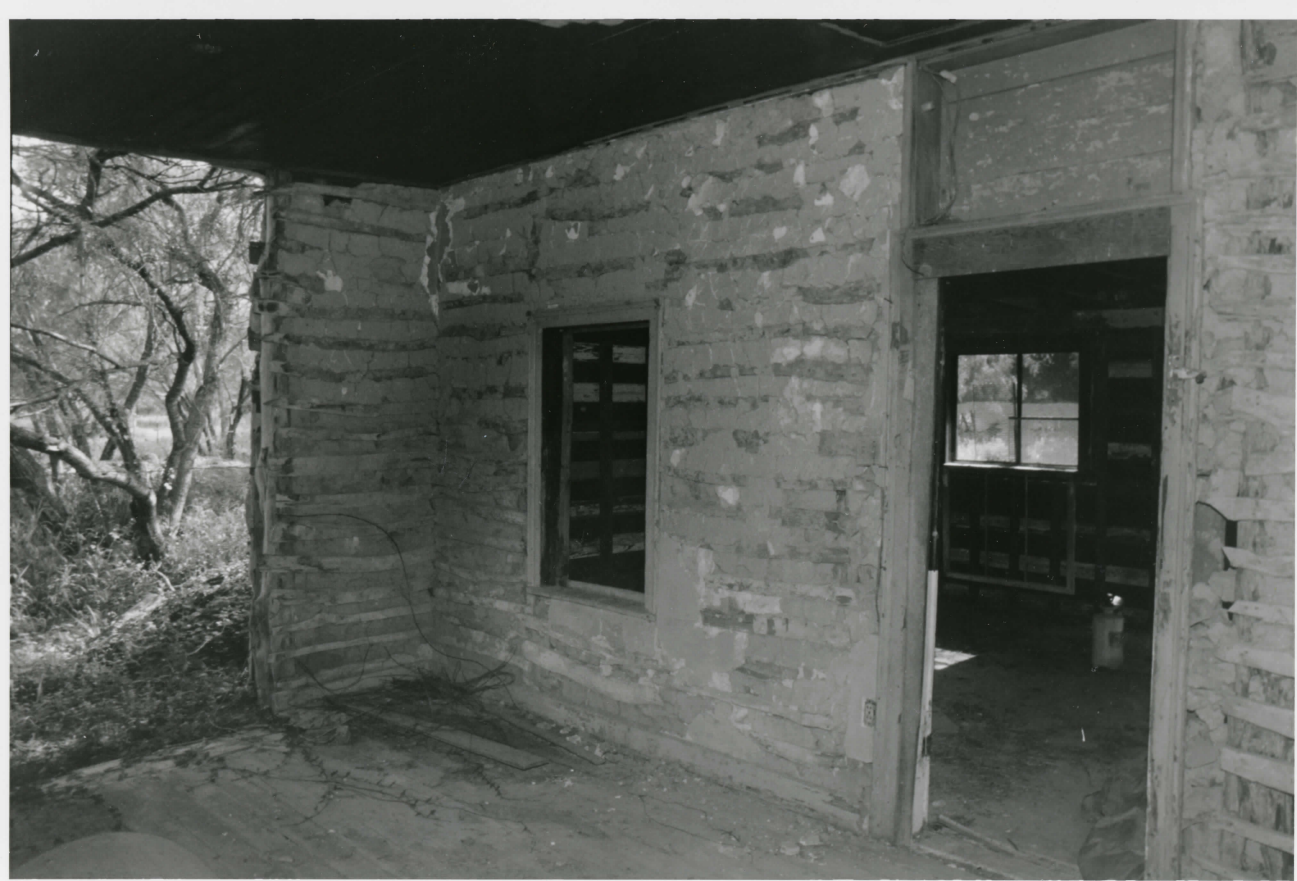
Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
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BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
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BEXAR Co. TX
15



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy, vicinity
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic,
Bexar Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic,
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
BEXAR Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy, vicinity
Bexar Co. TX



Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy vic.
Bexar Co. TX

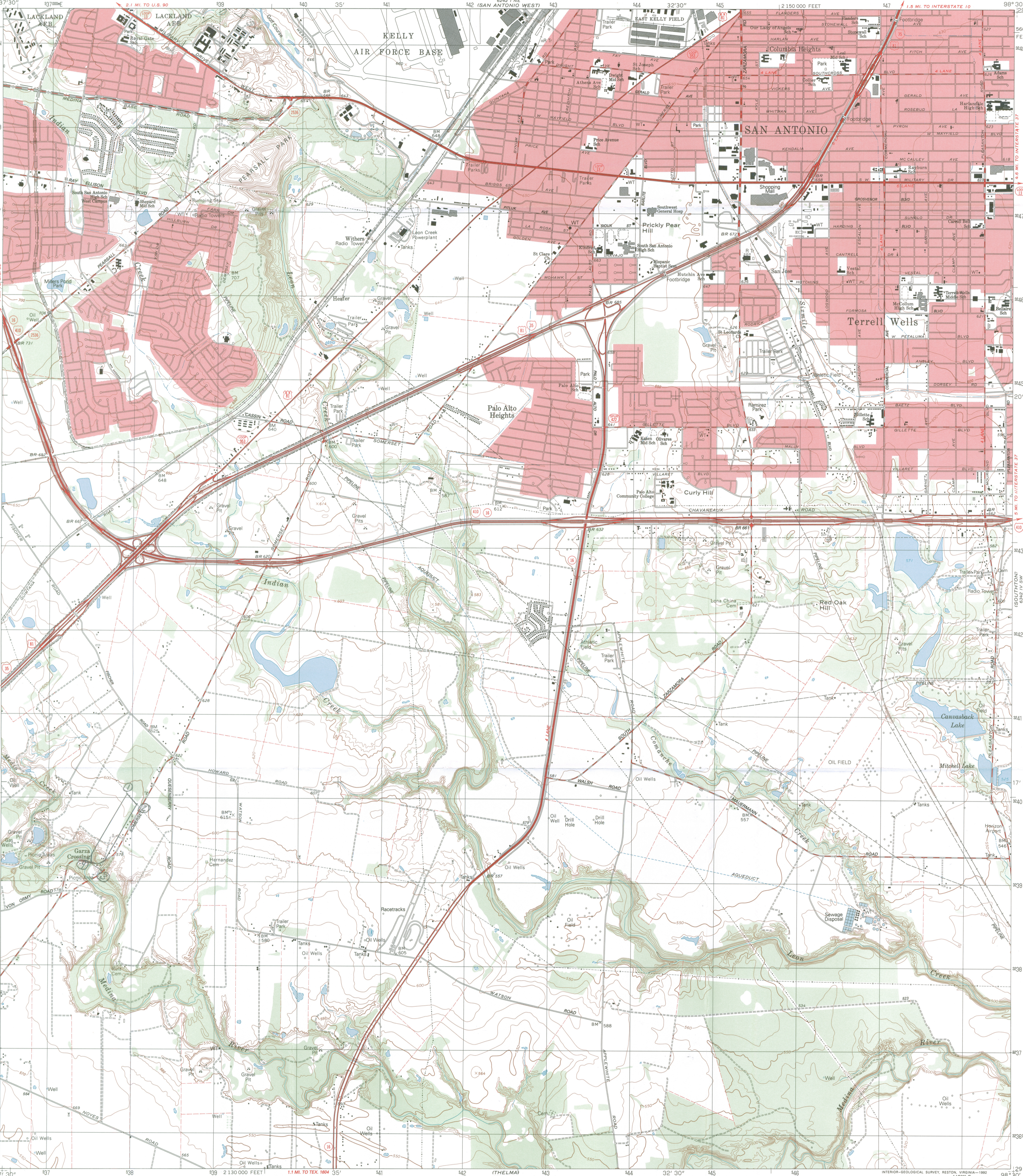


Herrera Ranch
Von Ormy, vicinity
Bexar Co. Texas



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TERRELL WELLS QUADRANGLE
TEXAS—BEXAR CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



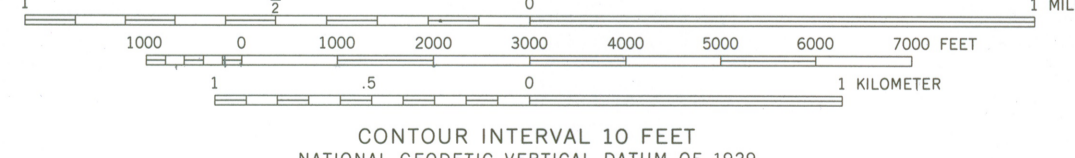
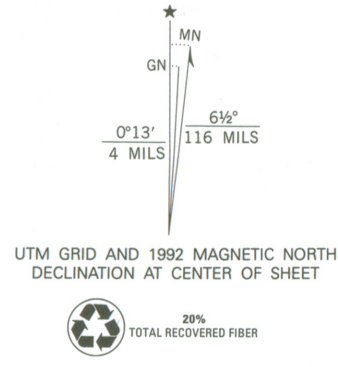
Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Compiled by Defense Mapping Agency from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1986
and other source data. Field checked 1986. Map edited 1992

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
10 000-foot grid ticks. Texas Coordinate System, south central zone
(Lambert Conformal Conic). 1000-meter Universal Transverse
Mercator grid, zone 14

The difference between NAD 27 and North American Datum of
1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5 minute intersections is given in USGS
Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
Unimproved road
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
U.S. Route
State Route

TERRELL WELLS, TEXAS
29098-C5-TF-024

1992

DMA 6242 I SE-SERIES V882



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Linda McClelland
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Herrera Ranch, Von Ormy vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

DATE: July 23, 2010

- The following materials are submitted:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places forms:
<input type="checkbox"/>	_ Resubmitted nomination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs printed from negatives
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS maps
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

COMMENTS:

- ___ SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- ___ The enclosed owner objections (do___) (do not___) constitute a majority of property owners
- ___ Other:

