

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North edge of Brownsville on Parades Line Road

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

15th

STATE

Texas

CODE

48

COUNTY

Cameron

CODE

061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: Polo Field**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple private

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cameron County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1150 East Madison Street

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Today the Resaca battlefield merely suggests conditions as they were in 1846. The bend of the Resaca, once dense with chaparral of mesquite and cactus has been cleared, and until recently was planted as a citrus orchard. This has been removed and is now an open field used for polo. The outlying areas are heavily developed residentially, losing completely any remaining historical integrity. At least the Resaca de la Palma, once filled in has been excavated and again contains water. The tall palms that suggested the name of the Resaca are still standing. A Texas Centennial Commission monument marks the site, but a cannon placed by General James Parker during 1920-21 has been removed about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the site. The intrusions are so great that no attempt at preservation is possible. The only remaining open space, although it no longer retains original landscape features is the major portion of the active battlefield and serves well in a commemorative function.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1846

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The battle of Resaca de la Palma was one of only two important battles of the Mexican War fought on what is now American soil. Following the Mexican retreat from the Battle of Palo Alto on May 8, General Zachary Taylor and his army followed them to the Resaca de la Palma, where fighting resumed. Deploying his infantry through the high chaparral and sending his cavalry in a sudden charge down the road, Taylor captured enemy artillery and caused the foot soldiers to withdraw. With heavy losses in artillery and personnel, the Mexican army retreated across the Rio Grande. These events led to the successful invasion of Mexico, demonstrating the superiority of American arms which gained the United States new prestige at home and abroad.

HISTORY

Early in 1846, General Zachary Taylor received orders to take possession of the territory lying between the Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers. Accordingly, he started southward with a part of his force from Corpus Christi overland, sending his supplies and munitions by boat. After a difficult march across the vast territory, the Army encamped on March 24, 1846, near Los Fresnos, ten miles north of the present Brownsville, remaining four days while supplies were brought from Point Isabel. On March 28 they reached the Rio Grande where they began construction of earthworks directly on the banks of the river. The post was first known as Fort Taylor but was renamed Fort Brown in honor of Major Jacob Brown who was fatally wounded on May 9 when the fort was besieged by Mexican troops from Matamoros.

Movement of the American army south from Corpus Christi had been the signal for the concentration of Mexican troops at Matamoros. General Arista was appointed Mexican Commander-in-Chief to supercede General Pedro Ampudia, with a total of 15,200 regulars and 26 pieces of artillery.

General Arista moved the concentration of the Mexican cavalry at Rancho Soliseño, 26 miles west of Matamoros with a view of cutting off Taylor's supplies. He crossed from Soliseno on April 24 and took a position on the Point Isabel road near Loma Alta, 9 miles north of Brownsville. Upon hearing of the move, Taylor, with his entire force except for some 50 men remaining at Fort Brown, left on May 1 for the coast, arriving at Point Isabel on May 5. Believing that Taylor was about to withdraw entirely, the Mexicans crossed from Longoreno on May 1 in pursuit of Taylor, leaving a force to besiege the fort.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 651870 2869530
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 14 651390 2869330

B 14 651730 2869190
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 14 651420 2869850

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

5/6/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

TITLE

DATE

Landmark

Designated:

12/19/69
date

Boundary Certified:

Chief, Hist. &
Arch. Surveys

DATE

DATE

Boundary Reirmed:

Acting Director, OAHF

date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Taylor, having received news of the Mexican movement, departed from Point Isabel on May 7. On the following day the Americans and Mexicans confronted each other on the Battlefield of Palo Alto.

After each army was unable to advance, the Mexicans retired southward during the early hours of May 9 and made a stand at Resaca Guerrero, since known as Resaca de la Palma. Here they planted three cannons and the greater part of their infantry on the north bank of the Resaca. Supporting these were four cannons on the south side of the Resaca, distributed on each side of the road from Point Isabel, with the remainder of the infantry planted on the bank of the Resaca. The cavalry was distributed along the western turn of the Resaca and a body called "Defensores de Tampico" was hidden in the woods west of the old road which ran south from the Resaca Rancho Viejo in the direction of Brownsville. In front and to the north of the position taken by the Mexicans there was a prairie about three miles in length, thickly covered with sacahuiste or wire grass. To the west, along the road on both sides, there was also a dense growth of ebony, mesquite, and other native cover. The artillery, which had been so effective the previous day, was greatly impeded in its progress by the wire grass.

Realizing that artillery alone could not dislodge the enemy, General Taylor ordered Captain May of the Dragoons to charge the position. This was done successfully and the Mexican army quickly retreated. General Arista narrowly escaped capture, his tent and all his personal effects falling into the hands of the Americans. His forces fled toward the Rio Grande while all the Mexican artillery and supplies fell into the hands of the victorious Americans.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Grant, U.S., Personal Memoirs, 2 vol., New York, 1885, Vol I.

Henry, Capt. W. S., Campaign Sketches of The War With Mexico, New York, 1847.

Ripley, R. S. (Brevet Major in the U.S. Army, First Lt. of the Second
Regiment of Artillery, etc) War with Mexico, New York, 1849.

Rivas, George L., The United States and Mexico, 1821-1848, 2 vol, New York,
1913, Vol II.

Smith, Justin H. The War with Mexico, 2 vol., New York, 1919, Vol I.

Tillotson, M. R., "Report on Proposed Fort Brown, Texas, National Historic
Park," 1947, NPS, HSS property files.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The boundary has been drawn to include the only portion of the battlefield which has retained any historical integrity. All structures on the site are nonhistoric and do not contribute to the significance of the landmark. Beginning at the southwest corner where Paredes Line Road crosses the Resaca the boundary continues southeast along the south bank of the Resaca, following the curve around north, then west to the point where it bends back eastward, then continuing in a line from this point to an intersection with Paredes Line Road, then south along this road to the point of beginning as shown on the U.S.G.S. map.

Property Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

State Texas

Working Number

180

Response to NR
Control Sheet

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos _____

Maps _____

HISTORIAN

The boundary description appears ok. There **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**
does not appear to be any problem in following the line. The historian on the ground
has reported that this is the only remaining spot of the active battlefield that
remains with any degree of integrity. It is not clear what is the basis for believing
otherwise.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

This is a valid point. However, there are local concerns **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**
that indicate that it would be premature to raise this question now. In addition,
the property is not without integrity. The integrity may be marginal but could be held
to be sufficient to sustain landmark status. Remember, it had lots less integrity
when it was established. And these judgments must be made with the ADVISORY Board's
perspection of the property at that time. However, we could put this aside for the Board.

Benjamin Levy

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____

Property	Resaca de la Palma Battlefield		Boundary Definition Rec'd. 7.17.75
State	Texas	Working Number	NHL
TECHNICAL	See Attached Note		CONTROL
Photos			OK 7.19.75
Maps			HISTORIAN

Boundary description needs to be rewritten - they have their directions confused. It also appears from the description of the battle, that action took place to the n and w of the site. The area to the north is developed, but the area slightly w does not. Maybe this needs reconsideration MJL

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

It does not seem appropriate to establish a boundary for a property ^{about} ~~over~~ which there is considerable concern over lack of integrity.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Cote 3-28-76

BRANCH CHIEF

Concern
Hing D
3-29-76

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____	Send-back _____	Entered _____
Federal Register Entry _____	Re-submit _____	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North edge of Brownsville on Parades Line Road

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

15th

STATE

Texas

CODE

48

COUNTY

Cameron

CODE

061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: POLO F.**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple private

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cameron County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1150 East Madison Street

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ▶ 9

To
Bruce Craig
Dept./Agency
NPFFrom
Susan Escherich
Phone #
343-9591Fax #
861-0576Fax #
I'm out til Sept 26

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Today the Resaca battlefield merely suggests conditions as they were in 1846. The bend of the Resaca, once dense with chaparral of mesquite and cactus has been cleared, and until recently was planted as a citrus orchard. This has been removed and is now an open field used for polo. The outlying areas are heavily developed residentially, losing completely any remaining historical integrity. At least the Resaca de la Palma, once filled in has been excavated and again contains water. The tall palms that suggested the name of the Resaca are still standing. A Texas Centennial Commission monument marks the site, but a cannon placed by General James Parker during 1920-21 has been removed about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the site. The intrusions are so great that no attempt at preservation is possible. The only remaining open space, although it no longer retains original landscape features is the major portion of the active battlefield and serves well in a commemorative function.

It is important, as part of
the continuum of the campaign
Palo Alto N. H. Site seeks to interpret

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1846

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The battle of Resaca de la Palma was one of only two important battles of the Mexican War fought on what is now American soil. Following the Mexican retreat from the Battle of Palo Alto on May 8, General Zachary Taylor and his army followed them to the Resaca de la Palma, where fighting resumed. Deploying his infantry through the high chaparral and sending his cavalry in a sudden charge down the road, Taylor captured enemy artillery and caused the foot soldiers to withdraw. With heavy losses in artillery and personnel, the Mexican army retreated across the Rio Grande. These events led to the successful invasion of Mexico, demonstrating the superiority of American arms which gained the United States new prestige at home and abroad.

HISTORY

Early in 1846, General Zachary Taylor received orders to take possession of the territory lying between the Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers. Accordingly, he started southward with a part of his force from Corpus Christi overland, sending his supplies and munitions by boat. After a difficult march across the vast territory, the Army encamped on March 24, 1846, near Los Fresnos, ten miles north of the present Brownsville, remaining four days while supplies were brought from Point Isabel. On March 28 they reached the Rio Grande where they began construction of earthworks directly on the banks of the river. The post was first known as Fort Taylor but was renamed Fort Brown in honor of Major Jacob Brown who was fatally wounded on May 9 when the fort was besieged by Mexican troops from Matamoras.

Movement of the American army south from Corpus Christi had been the signal for the concentration of Mexican troops at Matamoras. General Arista was appointed Mexican Commander-in-Chief to supercede General Pedro Ampudia, with a total of 15,200 regulars and 26 pieces of artillery.

General Arista moved the concentration of the Mexican cavalry at Rancho Soliseno, 26 miles west of Matamoras with a view of cutting off Taylor's supplies. He crossed from Soliseno on April 24 and took a position on the Point Isabel road near Loma Alta, 9 miles north of Brownsville. Upon hearing of the move, Taylor, with his entire force except for some 50 men remaining at Fort Brown, left on May 1 for the coast, arriving at Point Isabel on May 5. Believing that Taylor was about to withdraw entirely, the Mexicans crossed from Longoreno on May 1 in pursuit of Taylor, leaving a force to besiege the fort.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Taylor, having received news of the Mexican movement, departed from Point Isabel on May 7. On the following day the Americans and Mexicans confronted each other on the Battlefield of Palo Alto.

After each army was unable to advance, the Mexicans retired southward during the early hours of May 9 and made a stand at Resaca Guerrero, since known as Resaca de la Palma. Here they planted three cannons and the greater part of their infantry on the north bank of the Resaca. Supporting these were four cannons on the south side of the Resaca, distributed on each side of the road from Point Isabel, with the remainder of the infantry planted on the bank of the Resaca. The cavalry was distributed along the western turn of the Resaca and a body called "Defensores de Tampico" was hidden in the woods west of the old road which ran south from the Resaca Rancho Viejo in the direction of Brownsville. In front and to the north of the position taken by the Mexicans there was a prairie about three miles in length, thickly covered with sacahuiste or wire grass. To the west, along the road on both sides, there was also a dense growth of ebony, mesquite, and other native cover. The artillery, which had been so effective the previous day, was greatly impeded in its progress by the wire grass.

Realizing that artillery alone could not dislodge the enemy, General Taylor ordered Captain May of the Dragoons to charge the position. This was done successfully and the Mexican army quickly retreated. General Arista narrowly escaped capture, his tent and all his personal effects falling into the hands of the Americans. His forces fled toward the Rio Grande while all the Mexican artillery and supplies fell into the hands of the victorious Americans.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuance Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 651870 2869530
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 14 651390 2869330

B 14 651730 2869190
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 14 651420 2869850

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuance Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

5/6/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

TITLE

DATE

Landmark

Designated: 12/19/69

date

Boundary Certified:

Cornelia W. Hinkle 5-20

Chief, Hist. & date

DATE Arch. Surveys

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

Boundary Certified:

Langley 5-24-66

Acting Director, OAHPS date

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Grant, U.S., Personal Memoirs, 2 vol., New York, 1885, Vol I.

Henry, Capt. W. S., Campaign Sketches of The War With Mexico, New York, 1847.

Ripley, R. S. (Brevet Major in the U.S. Army, First Lt. of the Second
Regiment of Artillery, etc) War with Mexico, New York, 1849.

Rivas, George L., The United States and Mexico, 1821-1848, 2 vol, New York,
1913, Vol II.

Smith, Justin H. The War with Mexico, 2 vol., New York, 1919, Vol I.

Tillotson, M. R., "Report on Proposed Fort Brown, Texas, National Historic
Park," 1947, NPS, HSS property files.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The boundary has been drawn to include the only portion of the battlefield which has retained any historical integrity. All structures on the site are nonhistoric and do not contribute to the significance of the landmark. Beginning at the southwest corner where Paredes Line Road crosses the Resaca the boundary continues southeast along the south bank of the Resaca, following the curve around north, then west to the point where it bends back eastward, then continuing in a line from this point to an intersection with Paredes Line Road, then south along this road to the point of beginning as shown on the U.S.G.S. map.

Parcel in question

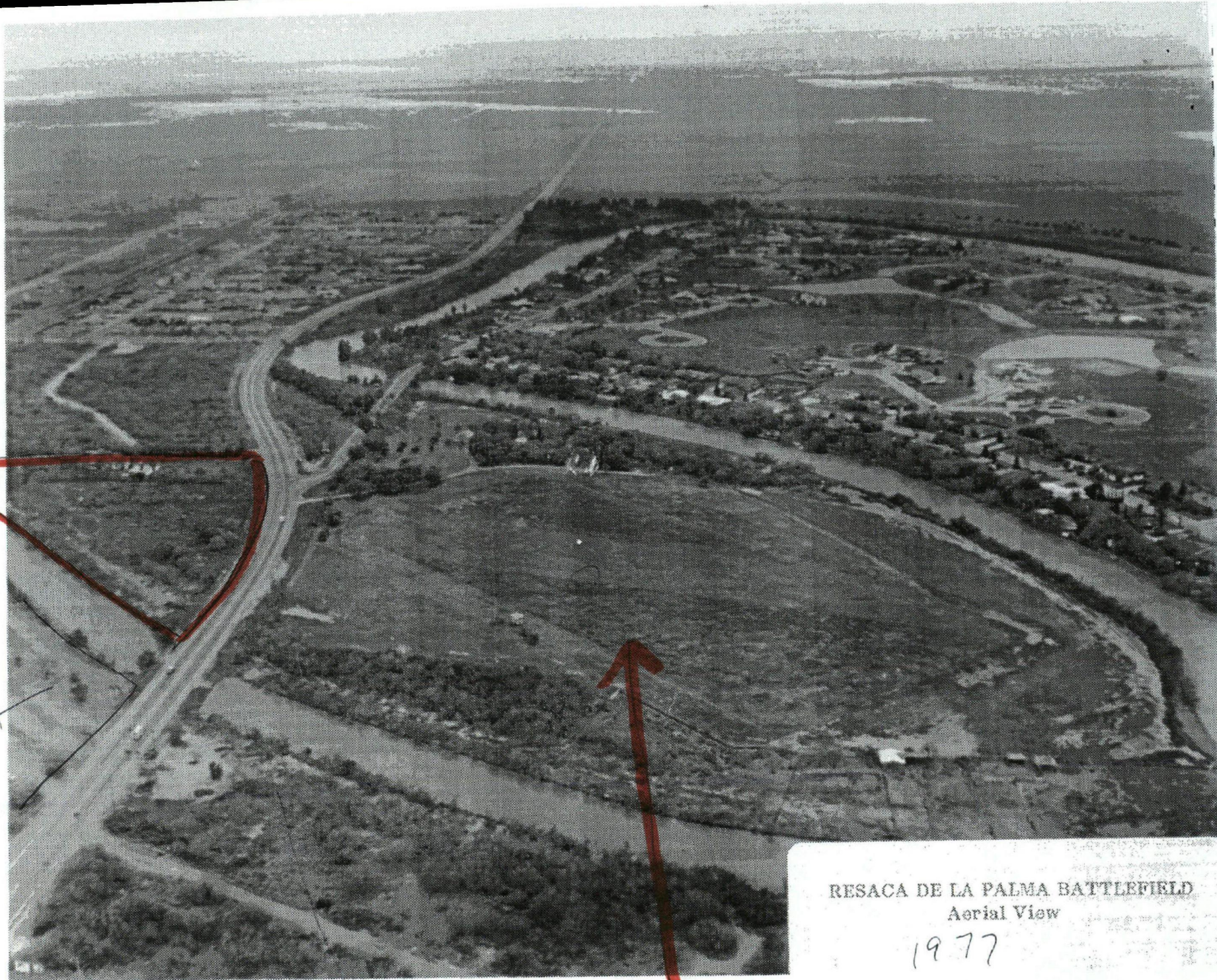
developed

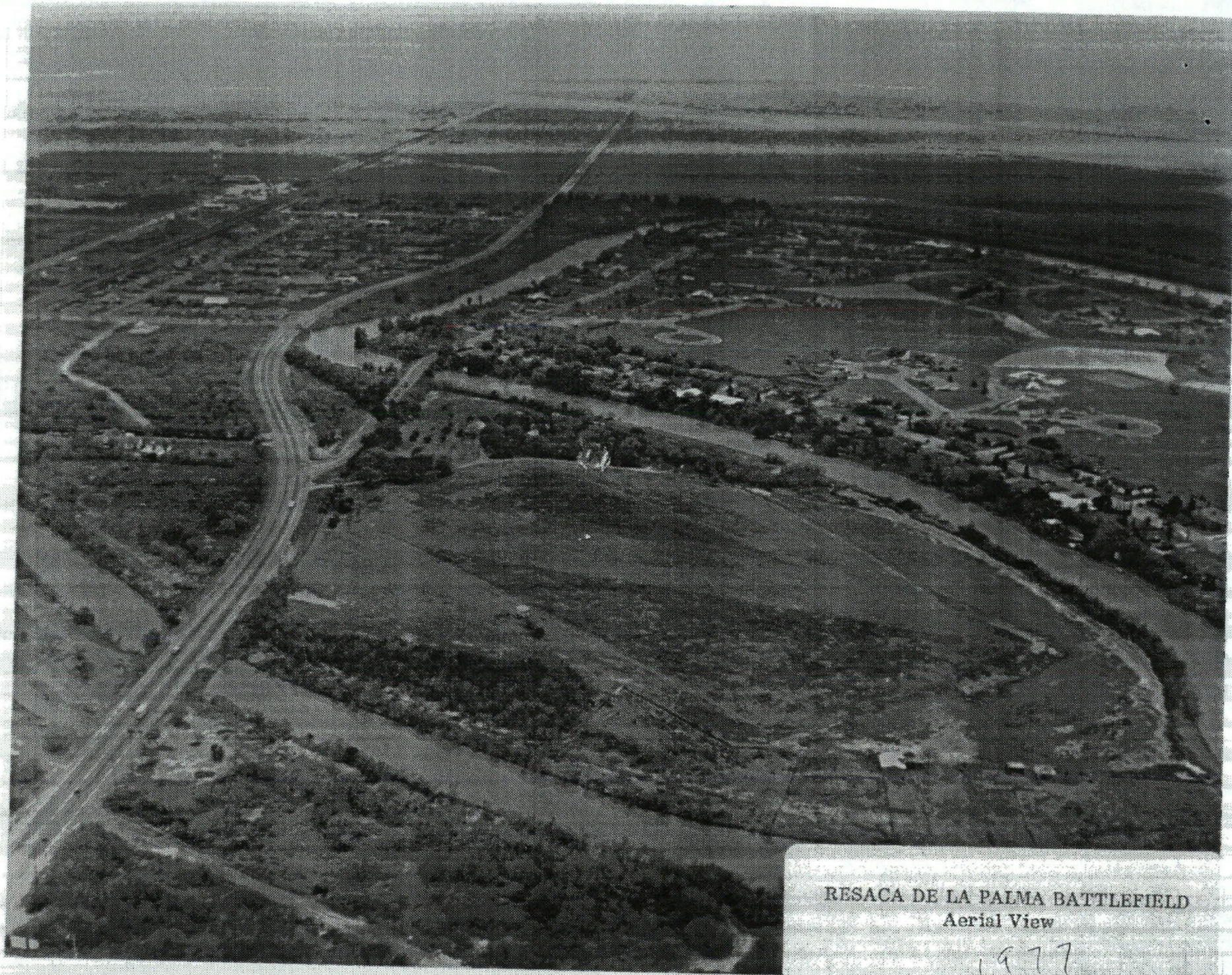
developed

core of battle field

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Aerial View

1977

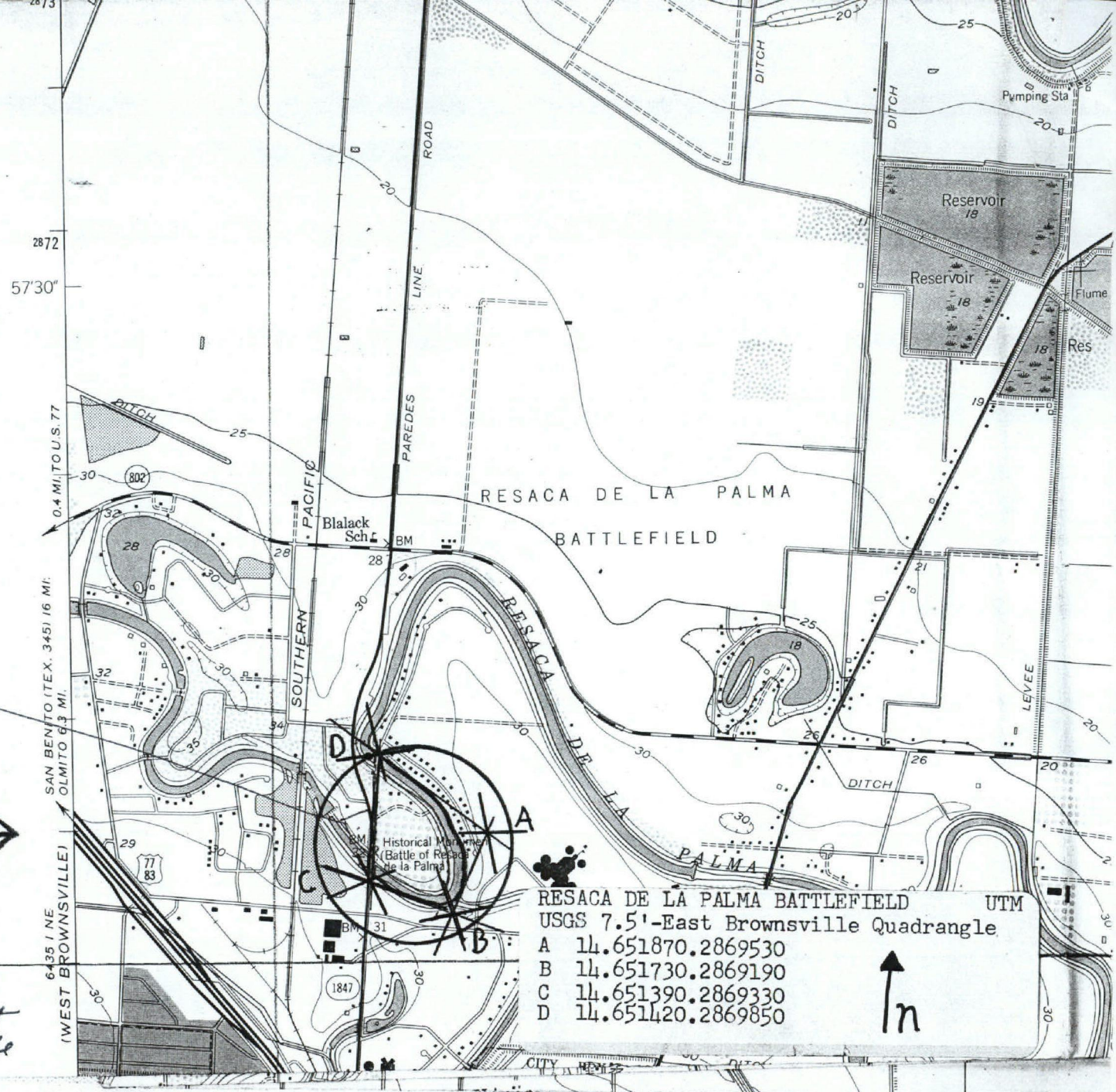




RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Aerial View

1977

This section is the
one in question,
the site of the
Chapparal
where heavy
fighting took
place - also
needed to buffer the
main core of the
battlefield from housing development across the resaca.



RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD UTM
USGS 7.5'-East Brownsville Quadrangle
A 14.651870.2869530
B 14.651730.2869190
C 14.651390.2869330
D 14.651420.2869850



Susan



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES --| ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cameron

STATE

Texas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, 1100 L Street NW.,
Washington, D.C. 20240

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

View of last remaining open section of battlefield.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES --|ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Cameron

STATE
Texas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, 1100 L Street NW.,
Washington, D.C. 20240

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

View of Resaca de la Palma looking west.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES --| ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Cameron

STATE
Texas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, 1100 L Street NW.,
Washington, D.C. 20240

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

View of Resaca de la Palma looking east.

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Aerial View



MADE BY KODAK
APR 77



76-155-296

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD BROWNSVILLE

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Aerial View





76-155-297

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD BROWNSVILLE

Polo Field



RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Aerial View

PRINT
MADE
BY
KODAK
R
APR 77

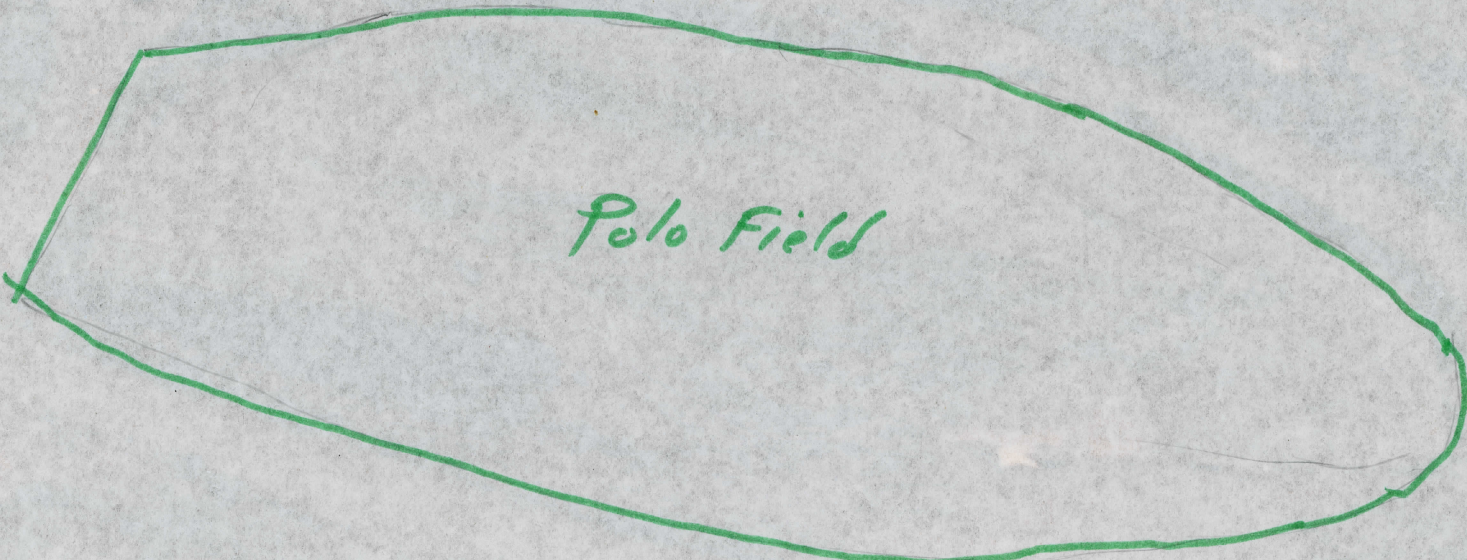


76-155-298

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD BROWNSVILLE



RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Aerial View



Polo Field

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Aerial View

PRINT
MADE
BY KODAK
R
APR 77



76-155-299

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD BROWNSVILLE



RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Polo Field



76-155-306

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD BROWNSVILLE



RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Commemorative Markers

PRINT
MADE
BY
KODAK
R
APR 77



76-155-311

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD BROWNSVILLE



RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Commemorative Markers



76-155-313

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD BROWNSVILLE



THE BATTLE OF
RESACA DE LA PALMA

WAS FOUGHT HERE MAY 9, 1846

AND THE DEFEAT OF THE MEXICAN ARMY
UNDER GENERAL MARIANO ARISTA BY THE
UNITED STATES TROOPS UNDER GENERAL
ZACHARY TAYLOR MADE GOOD THE CLAIM
OF TEXAS TO THE TERRITORY BETWEEN
THE NUECES AND THE RIO GRANDE

erected by the State of Texas
1936

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
Commemorative Markers



76-155-319

RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD BROWNSVILLE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cameron

STATE

Texas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, East Brownsville Quadrangle

SCALE

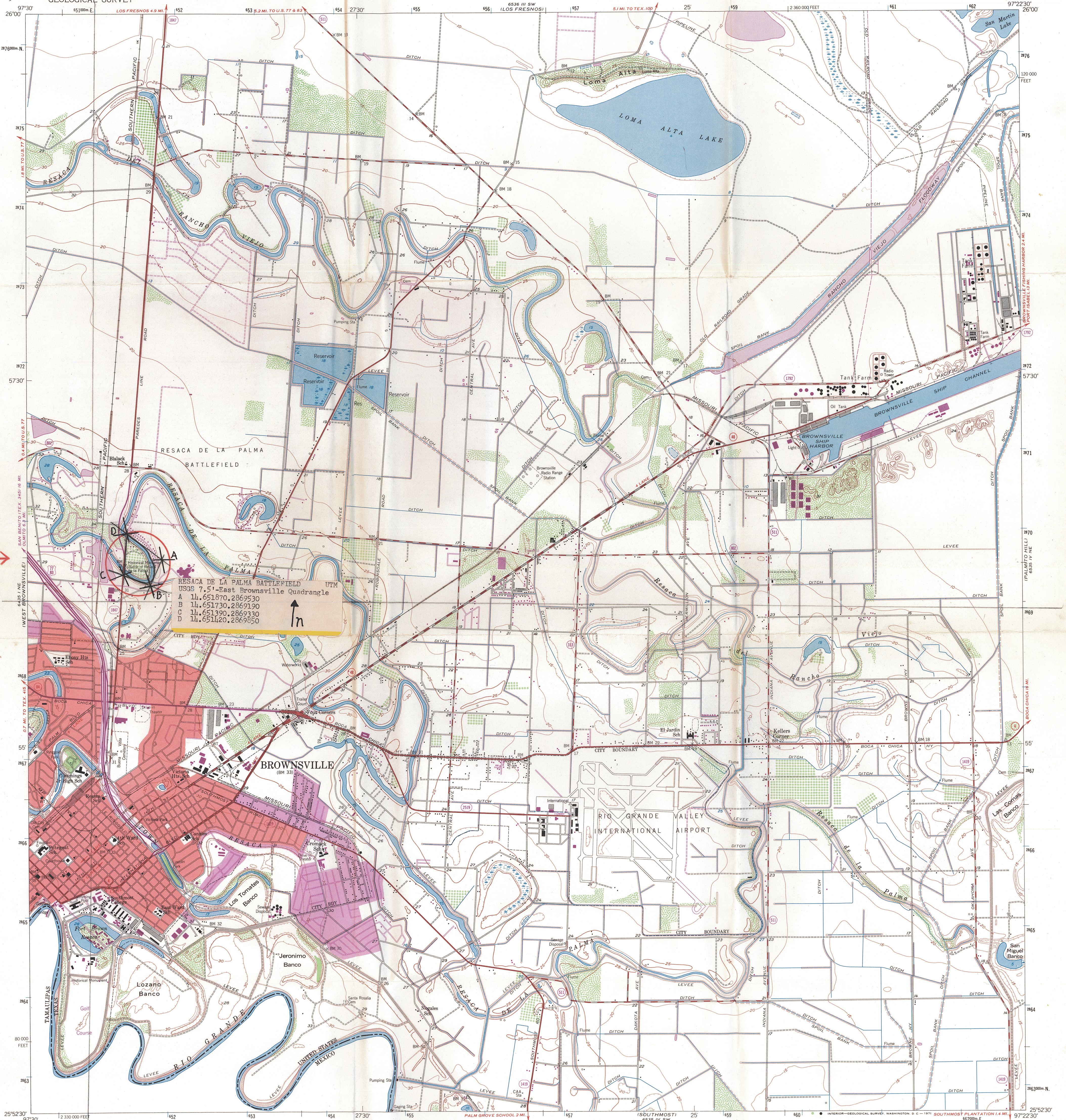
1:24,000

DATE 1955, photorevised 1970

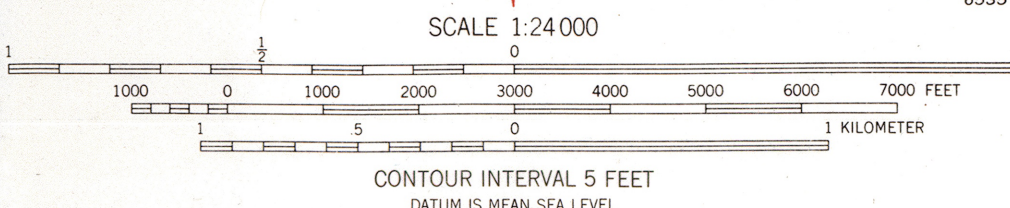
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD
USGS 7.5' East Brownsville Quadrangle
A 11.651870, 2869530
B 11.651730, 2869190
C 11.651390, 2869330
D 11.651120, 2869550



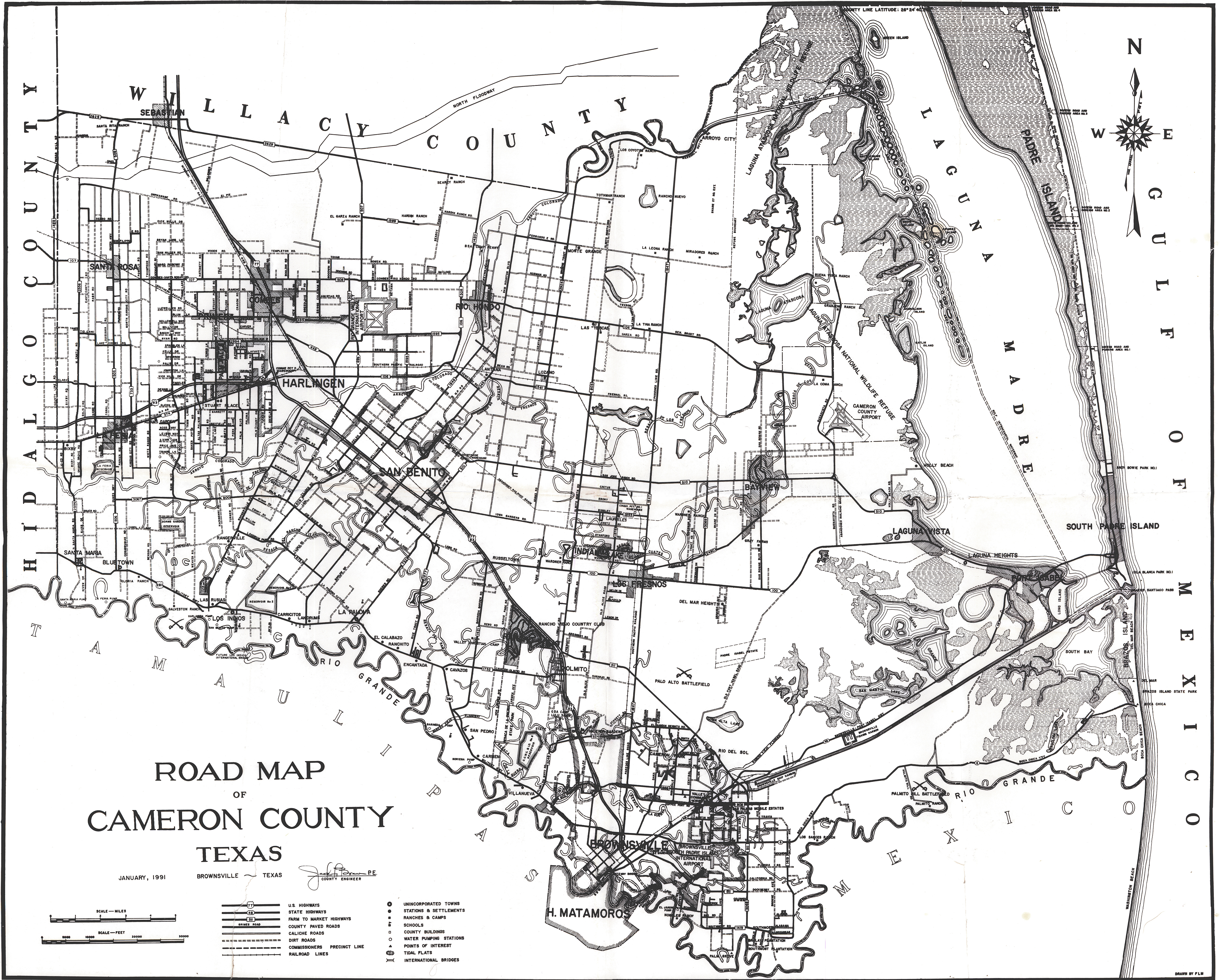
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

EAST BROWNSVILLE, TEX.
NW/4 FORT BROWN IS QUADRANGLE
N2552.5—W9722.5/7.5

1955
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6535 IV NW—SERIES V882

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Culture and drainage in part compiled by U.S. Coast and
Geodetic Survey from aerial photographs taken 1950
Topography from 1930 map by USGS, revised by
planetable surveys 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled by from aerial photographs
taken 1970. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

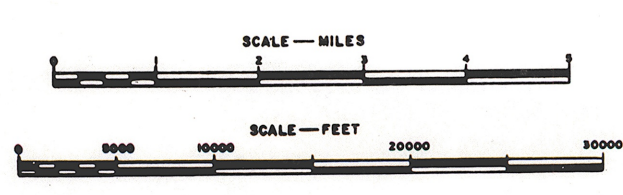


ROAD MAP
OF
CAMERON COUNTY
TEXAS

JANUARY, 1991

BROWNSVILLE TEXAS

John P. Brown PE
COUNTY ENGINEER



- U.S. HIGHWAYS
- STATE HIGHWAYS
- FARM TO MARKET HIGHWAYS
- COUNTY PAVED ROADS
- CALICHE ROADS
- DIRT ROADS
- COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCT LINE
- RAILROAD LINES
- UNINCORPORATED TOWNS
- STATIONS & SETTLEMENTS
- RANCHES & CAMPS
- SCHOOLS
- COUNTY BUILDINGS
- WATER PUMPING STATIONS
- POINTS OF INTEREST
- TIDAL FLATS
- INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES

*Gen
Proposed*

11-6-33

*Palo Alto
x Resaca de la Palma*

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received your letter of November 1, forwarding the request of the Honorable Milton H. West, House of Representatives, dated October 15, in regard to the study and investigation of battlefields of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Palmito Hill, Texas.

I have referred the matter to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, with the request that an investigation be made of these areas as soon as it can be arranged conveniently. A copy of my letter of this date to Congressman West is attached for your reference.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Interior.

Incl. 794749.

VBC:RMS.

11-9-33

Hon. Milton E. East,
House of Representatives.

Palo Alto
x Resaca de la Palma

My dear Mr. East:

I have received by reference your letter of October 29 to the Secretary of War. The study and investigation of battlefields for commemorative purposes is now the duty of the Department of the Interior, as was indicated in the letter of the Secretary of War to you dated November 1.

We shall be glad to investigate the battlefields of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Palmito Hill, Texas, as soon as it can be done conveniently. I have accordingly referred the matter to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, for attention.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Interior.

WEC:RMS.

CC-Secretary of War.

Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Palmito Hill
Battlefields.

General:

Location: Near Brownsville, Texas, in Cameron County.
Area:

General Characteristics:

- (a) Scenic:
- (b) Historical: Palo Alto, the first battle of the Mexican War; Resaca de la Palma, the second battle, and Palmito Hill, the last battle of the Civil War fought 30 days after Lee's surrender.
- (c) Geological:
- (d) Recreational:
- (e) Biological:

Accessibility:

Interested Hon. Milton H. West.
Individuals:

Reports In a letter of Oct. 25, 1932, to Secretary Kern
Hon. Milton H. West stated that these three battle-
fields deserve study for commemorative purposes.
and Secy. Kern referred his letter to Secy. Ickes who
referred it to this Service. 3-12-34

Action: No action has been taken. 7-25-34 JLB.

TEXAS

PALO ALTO, RESACA DE LA PALMA, AND
PALMITO HILL BATTLEFIELDS.

BATTLEFIELD SITES.

*Mr. E. E. Talbot
Palo Alto
Resaca de la Palma
Brownsville, Texas*

October 5, 1933.

Mr. E. E. Talbot,
Vice-President and General Manager,
Chamber of Commerce,
Brownsville, Texas.

*Palo Alto
x Resaca de la Palma*

Dear Mr. Talbot:

Reference is made to your letter of September 12 regarding the battlefields of Palo Alto and Resaca de las Palmas near Brownsville, Texas.

As you know from our letter of September 6, the Nation-wide Historic Sites Survey is being conducted chronologically and thematically. At the present time we are preparing a report on seventeenth century French and Spanish sites for presentation to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. In accordance with the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935, this Board passes on the eligibility of sites for consideration as national historic sites.

It is not possible now to state definitely when we may be able to make a study of Palo Alto and Resaca de las Palmas, but when the opportunity is presented we shall consider the problems associated with these two battlefields.

It is interesting to know that the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Junior High School of Brownsville, are gathering information and relics connected with the military events which occurred in their neighborhood.

Your continued interest in these sites is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Francis S. Ronalds,
Acting Supervisor of Historic Sites.

AFS:ed

Palo Alto & Resaca de las Palmas

September 8, 1939.

*Palo Alto
& Resaca de las Palmas*

Mr. W. E. Talbot,
Vice President and General Manager,
Chamber of Commerce,
Brownsville, Texas.

Dear Mr. Talbot:

Reference is made to your letter of August 18 regarding the battlefields of Palo Alto and Resaca de las Palmas near Brownsville, Texas.

These historic areas are extremely interesting, and have been listed for study in connection with the Historic Sites Survey now being made with the view of determining which sites are of national significance. This survey is being conducted chronologically and thematically, and the Palo Alto and Resaca de las Palmas areas will be studied when the appropriate theme is reached in our survey.

It is most kind of you to offer your assistance, as well as that of Judge and Mrs. Davenport, in our study of these battlefields, and you may be sure that, when opportunity permits, we will be only too happy to take advantage of your knowledge of the subject.

Your interest in these sites is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Francis S. Ronalds,
Acting Supervisor of Historic
Sites.

aps:ds

*Palo Alto
Resaca de la Palma
Texas*

October 23, 1939.

Hon. Milton E. West,

House of Representatives.

My dear Mr. West:

Reference is made to your telephonic conversation of October 18, regarding the interest of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce in the creation of national monuments at the sites of the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de las Palmas, Texas.

We do not have sufficient data on hand to evaluate properly these areas for national monument purposes. In order to secure sufficient information, we have requested the Regional Director at Santa Fe, New Mexico, to investigate the areas and submit a report thereon for presentation to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. When this Board has studied and considered these sites, you will be notified of its action.

A copy of our letter to the Regional Director, Region Three, is attached.

Sincerely yours,

Francis S. Ronalds,
Acting Supervisor of Historic Sites.

Enclosure 1004889.

cc-Region III. (detached)

aps:hm

October 23, 1939.

*Palo Alto
x Resaca de la Palma*

Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region III:

There is enclosed a copy of our reply to Congressman Milton M. West, concerning his request that we study the sites of the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de las Palmas, Texas, with the purpose of considering their possible eligibility for national monument purposes.

It is requested that you have a report prepared on these sites for presentation to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments.

Acting Supervisor of Historic Sites.

Enclosure 1004890.

cc-Hon. Milton M. West. (detached)

aps:hm

December 16, 1939.

Mr. Sidney Kring,
President, Rio Grande Valley
Secretaries Association,
Harlingen, Texas.

*Palo Alto
x Rosaca de la Palma*

Dear Mr. Kring:

Your letter of November 4, regarding the desirability of a study of the battlefields of Palo Alto and Rosaca de las Palmas, near Brownsville, Texas, has been referred to us by the Regional Director, Region Three, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

We believe that a study of these battlefields is highly desirable, and have requested the Regional Office at Santa Fe to have such a study made with the view of presenting the two areas to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments at its next meeting. This board is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations regarding the national significance of areas suggested as possible national historic sites under the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666). If the Board recommends classification of a proposed site as of national significance and the Secretary of the Interior approves the recommendation, such a site is eligible for consideration as a national historic site.

Your interest in these battlefields and your willingness to cooperate in their preservation is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Kelly,
Acting Supervisor of Historic Sites.

cc-Region Three.

Palo Alto & Resaca

March 11, 1940.

VIA AIR MAIL

Palo Alto
x Resaca de la Palma

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region III.

Attention: Regional Historian.

Reference is made to our letter of October 23, 1939, to Representative Milton E. West, concerning the battlefields of Palo Alto and Resaca de las Palmas, Texas.

You will recall that reports on these areas are needed for presentation to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. As Dr. Menzies has already visited these sites, it is requested that he prepare, as soon as possible, brief historical statements regarding them.

Ronald F. Lee,
Supervisor of Historic Sites.

APS:vl

←
PROPOSED PALM ALTO, ROSA DE LA PALMA, AND PALMITO
HILL BATTLEFIELDS, NATIONAL HISTORICAL
MONUMENT, TEXAS.

LOCATION: The three battlefields are located near Brownsville,
Texas, in Cameron County.

HISTORY
AND
REMARKS:

Letter dated October 25, 1933, from Hon. Milton E. West,
House of Representatives, to Geo. H. Dern, Secy. of War,
stating the three battlefields deserve study for commemora-
tive purposes.

The battlefields of Palo Alto, the first battle of the
Mexican War; Rosa de la Palma, the second battle, and
Palmito Hill, 18 miles below Brownsville, the last battle
of the Civil War, fought thirty days after Lee's surrender.

Secretary Dern referred this letter to Secretary Iches,
and thence to this Service.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION THREE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

March 19, 1940.

Memorandum for the Director:

Reference is made to Mr. R. F. Lee's memorandum of March 11 to Dr. Neasham requesting brief historical statements regarding the battlefields of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Texas.

The following recommendations and suggestions covering the above-mentioned sites are submitted by Dr. Neasham:

1. The historic sites of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma are worthy of classification and designation as national historic sites because of the importance which they played in the Mexican War. These sites, located near Brownsville, Texas, are of battles fought on May 8 and 9, 1846, respectively, the forces of the United States being commanded by General Zachary Taylor. As a result of winning these battles, the United States Army was assured a successful entrance into Mexico, and, in addition, the prestige of the United States was heightened at home and abroad. The final result was, of course, the addition of a vast amount of territory to the United States.
2. Although these sites are worthy of national distinction, it is suggested that careful consideration be given to what effect national classification and designation would have upon the present program of the President to promote international good will and friendship with Mexico and Latin America upon cultural lines. National historic sites such as these, so close to the border of Mexico and emphasizing the defeat of Mexico, might not add to a feeling of friendship, at least from the Mexican point of view. It is suggested, therefore, that the Department of State be consulted before national recognition of these sites is given.
3. Should the Washington Office, the Advisory Board, the Secretary's Office, and the Department of State agree that classification and designation of these sites is proper, it is suggested that national historic site markers be erected upon the sites to commemorate these battles. Perhaps a cooperative agreement may be made with the State of Texas to preserve the sites further.

*Palo Alto
x Resaca de la Palma*

Texas

*035
Palo Alto*

4. Should it be determined that national recognition of these sites may complicate relations with Mexico, it is suggested that Texas should acquire the sites as state historic sites, in which case the Service can help preserve them upon a co-operative basis.

The recommendations and suggestions of Dr. Neasham are concurred in by the undersigned. Because of the large amount of work which the Regional Historian is doing in this Region, this report is necessarily brief. Should a standard report of longer length be desired, it will be transmitted at the earliest opportunity. It is believed, however, that sufficient information is contained in the Washington Office to determine further the merits and history of the sites of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma.

Regional Director.

12-22
May 1, 1940.

Palo Alto
X Resaca de la Palma

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region III,

Attention: Dr. Henry Henshaw.

We are planning to present at the next meeting of the Advisory Board the battlefields of Resaca de las Palmas and Palo Alto. It is therefore urged that the reports on these areas earlier requested be sent to this office in the very near future.

Alvin P. Stauffer,
Chief, Research and Survey Section

fr:mob

May 6, 1940.

Palo Alto
x Resaca de las Palmas

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region III:

Attention: Regional Historian Newsham.

Reference is made to our memorandum of May 1, 1940, regarding the reports on the battlefields of Resaca de las Palmas and Palo Alto.

Through an oversight, the reports earlier submitted did not pass across my desk. It has been brought to my attention that these reports are available. Therefore, it will be unnecessary for you to submit any further information.

Alvin P. Stauffer,
Chief, Research and Survey Section.

FJR:bg



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release to PM's, DECEMBER 19, 1960

ADDITIONAL SITES RECOMMENDED FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS

Seventy additional sites have been declared eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

The sites possessing exceptional historic and archeological value are among 111 described in six new "theme studies" in the National Park Service series covering all the major periods of human history in America. The six studies are: Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830; The Civil War, 1861-1865; and four sub-themes under Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries; entitled: The Santa Fe Trail; The Cattlemen's Empire; Military and Indian Affairs; and The Texas Revolution and the War with Mexico, 1820-1853.

National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said that, of the 111 sites, 41 are already represented in the Park Service and the remaining 70 sites have been recommended by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments as eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status.

The National Registry of Historic Landmarks was approved by Secretary Seaton and established by the National Park Service in October of this year. Five theme studies covering the English, French, and Spanish Exploration and Settlement; the Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775; and The Advance of the Frontier, 1763-1830 were announced. A total of 124 sites were recommended, with 92 declared eligible for Landmark status and the remainder already in the National Park System or having received Federal recognition.

The National Registry of Historic Landmarks is designed to recognize and endorse the preservation and protection of structures and sites now administered by States, other public agencies, or historical societies and to encourage private owners of historic landmarks to maintain them.

The Registry is an outgrowth of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings program of the National Park Service. This program was authorized by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, which provided for a "survey of historic and archeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States."

Administrators of sites found eligible for Landmark status may apply to the National Park Service for such recognition and will receive a certificate. Arrangements are also being made to make available a suitable marker.

Descriptive summaries of the sites in the presently announced theme studies are attached. A list of themes under study is also attached. Additional studies will be announced from time to time. The various theme studies may later be published for public distribution. Only reading copies are currently available.

x x x

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

List of Themes, Subthemes, and Special Studies

- I. Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers
- II. Early Indian Farmers
- III. Indian Villages and Communities
- IV. Spanish Exploration and Settlement
 - Special Study: Spanish Colonial Sites in the Panama Canal Zone
- V. French Exploration and Settlement
- VI. English Exploration and Settlement to 1700
- VII. Dutch and Swedish Exploration and Settlement
- VIII. Contact with the Indians
- IX. Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775
- X. The War for Independence
- XI. The Advance of the Frontier, 1763-1830
 - Subtheme: The Lewis and Clark Expedition
 - Special Study: Lincoln State Park and Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial
- XII. Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830
- XIII. Political and Military Affairs, 1830-1860
- XIV. The Civil War, 1861-1865
- XV. Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898
 - Subthemes: The Santa Fe Trail
 - The Mining Frontier
 - The Cattlemen's Empire
 - The Farming Frontier
 - Military and Indian Affairs
 - Special Study: Fort Bowie
 - " " Fort Davis
 - The Texas Revolution and the War with Mexico, 1820-1853
 - The Fur Trade Era
 - Special Study: The Bailly Homestead
 - Overland Migrations of the Trans-Mississippi West
 - Great Explorers of the West
 - Transportation and Communication
 - Special Study: Promontory Summit (Golden Spike)
 - Special Study: The Hubbell Trading Post

- XVI. Indigenous Peoples and Cultures
- XVII. Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture
- XVIII. Travel and Communication
- XIX. Development and Conservation of Natural Resources
- XX. The Arts and Sciences
 - Subthemes: Education
 - Architecture
 - Literature, Painting, and Sculpture
 - Inventions and Scientific Discoveries
- XXI. Political and Military Affairs after 1865
 - Special Study: Fort De Soto
 - " " Hawaii
 - " " Alaska
- XXII. Social and Humanitarian Movements.

Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830

In the study of Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830, 34 sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Twenty-six of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks as follows:

1. Maryland State House, Annapolis, Maryland. This was the meeting place of the Continental Congress 1783-1784; scene of the ratification of the Treaty ending the Revolutionary War and of General George Washington's resignation as Commander-in-Chief; scene of the conference which resulted in the calling of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. State owned.
2. Old State House, Hartford, Connecticut. An architectural monument, this is an early public building designed by Charles Bulfinch and one of the best restored civic structures of the Federal period. Owned by the city of Hartford.
3. Massachusetts State House, Boston, Massachusetts. This famed architectural monument is called the master work of Charles Bulfinch. It is a superb example of civil architecture in the early years of the Republic. State owned.
4. City Hall, New York City. This structure, which has considerable architectural significance, tells the story of municipal administration in New York City, and is associated with important political and military affairs and public figures since its erection in 1811. Owned by the city of New York.
5. United States Capitol, Washington, D. C. This structure has been the seat of the Congress of the United States since 1800, with one brief interruption. It is not only a key structure associated with the historic development of the Nation, but is also a building of architectural and artistic interest. Federal ownership.
6. The White House, Washington, D. C. Considered to be the most important residence in the United States, the White House has been the home of every president since the administration of John Adams in 1800. Federal ownership.

7. Octagon House, Washington, D. C. The Octagon, built in 1798-1800 is a superb example of an 18th century colonial town house. It was designed by Dr. William Thornton, architect of the U. S. Capitol. Occupied temporarily in 1814 by President Madison, after the destruction of the White House, it was the scene of the signing of the ratification of the Peace Treaty ending the War of 1812. Owned by the American Institute of Architects.

8. Decatur House, Washington, D. C. This architectural monument is one of the finest examples of a Georgian town house in Washington, and for a short time it was the home of naval hero Stephen Decatur. Owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States.

9. Tudor Place, Washington, D. C. This structure, of great architectural significance, had important historical associations with the families of George Washington and Robert E. Lee. Privately owned.

10. St. John's Episcopal Church, Washington, D. C. This notable example of late Federal architecture was designed by the American architect Benjamin Latrobe. Because of its situation on Lafayette Square, opposite the White House, this Church has served many of the Presidents and has become known as "The Church of the Presidents." Owned by St. John's Parish.

11. Old City Hall (District Court House), Washington, D. C. One of the finest examples of Greek revival architecture in Washington, this structure is one of the earliest Federal buildings erected in the city, and George Hadfield, one of the architects of the Capitol, designed the structure. Scene of notable trials of national interest. Federal ownership.

12. Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia. Home of George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of Patriot forces during the Revolution and outstanding statesman, serving as first President of the United States. Owned by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

13. Monticello, near Charlottesville, Virginia. A classic example of American architecture, Monticello was the home of President Thomas Jefferson. This structure was a place of pilgrimage for the great and humble who admired Jefferson's character and accomplishments. Owned by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation.

14. Gunston Hall, Fairfax County, Virginia. This structure, a colonial architectural gem, is a living monument to George Mason, noted for his constitutional papers of basic importance in American history, including the "Virginia Declaration of Rights" of 1776, which was in part an inspiration for the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Bill of Rights. Owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and administered by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.
15. Montpelier, Orange County, Virginia. This important structure was the home of President James Madison for 76 years, including 19 years of his retirement after he served as President of the United States. Privately owned.
16. Oak Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia. This striking historic residence is a monument to the memory of President James Monroe. The structure has an important relationship to the famed Monroe Doctrine issued during Monroe's last term in the White House, and existing records show that he outlined the ideas for this great state paper in a letter written from Oak Hill. Privately owned.
17. John Marshall House, Richmond, Virginia. For 45 years, this was the home of the famed Chief Justice, John Marshall, during his distinguished judicial career, sessions of the Court were so held that Marshall was to spend much of his time at this structure in Richmond, where many of his important opinions on constitutional questions were undoubtedly written. Owned by the city of Richmond.
18. The Hermitage, near Nashville, Tennessee. For over 40 years, during which Andrew Jackson rose from a frontier militia commander to the Presidency, he made his home at the Hermitage. Owned and administered by the Ladies Hermitage Association, Nashville, Tennessee.
19. Ashland, Lexington, Kentucky. Home of the distinguished American political leader, Henry Clay, the present structure appears to have been in part reconstructed after his death in 1852. Owned by the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation.
20. Fort Hill, Pickens County, South Carolina. This structure, the home of John C. Calhoun during the last 25 years of his life is a fitting memorial to the great American political leader. Owned by the State of South Carolina, it is located on the campus of Clemson Agricultural College, and is administered by the John C. Calhoun Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

21. Grouseland, Vincennes, Indiana. The home of William Henry Harrison, 1804-1812, during which period he was Territorial Governor of Indiana, and a foremost defender of white settlement against the Indian tribes attempting to block westward expansion of the United States. From "Grouseland," in September 1811, Harrison undertook the offensive which reached its climax at the Battle of Tippecanoe, which destroyed the forces of the famous Indian leader, Tecumseh; a victory which influenced the campaign of Harrison for the Presidency thirty years later. Owned and administered by the Francis Vigo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Vincennes, Indiana.

22. Hamilton Grange, New York City. Built in 1801, this structure was the only home ever owned by Alexander Hamilton, a major draftsman and proponent of the Federal Constitution, and foremost architect of American financial policy in the first critical years of the Federal Union. It is one of the few Federal period structures surviving in New York City. Owned by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

23. Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is the United States Government's oldest manufacturing arsenal and the site of the decisive defeat of rebellious farmers in Shay's Rebellion, 1786-87. Federal ownership.

24. United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. Established in 1802, the United States Military Academy has been in continuous existence since that time and is noted for training the officers who have developed and commanded the regular Army establishment of the United States. Troops have been stationed at West Point since January, 1778, making it the oldest permanently occupied military post in the country. Federal ownership.

25. Frigate Constitution, Boston, Massachusetts. This famed vessel, "Old Ironsides," is a stirring symbol of American naval history. Although extensively restored, it has retained its lines and characteristics, and has never lost its identity as a commissioned ship of the United States Navy. Launched in 1797, it was involved in the naval war with France, 1798-1800, and made a brilliant record in the War of 1812. Federal ownership.

26. Plattsburgh Bay, Plattsburgh, New York. Scene of the decisive victory of American naval forces over the British squadron, which won control of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812. Cumberland Head, overlooking the scene of this famed naval action, is owned by the State of New York.

In addition, eight sites are represented and interpreted in the National Park System, as follows:

1. Independence National Historical Park, Pennsylvania.
2. Federal Hall National Memorial, New York.
3. Adams National Historic Site, Massachusetts.
4. Fort Washington, National Capital Parks, near Washington, D. C.
5. Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial National Monument, Ohio.
6. Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland.
7. Chalmette National Historical Park, Louisiana.
8. Castle Clinton National Monument, New York.

The Civil War, 1861-1865

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments has recognized 39 sites as possessing exceptional value in this period of American history. Fourteen of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. These are as follows:

1. Confederate Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama. First Capitol of the Confederacy. Still used as Alabama State Capitol. State owned.
2. Fort Morgan, Mobile, Alabama. Commemorates the famous battle sealing off one of the last two Confederate ports. In this sea battle, Admiral Farragut uttered the famous words, "Damn the torpedoes - full speed ahead!" State owned.
3. Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois. This simple frame house saw the emergence of Lincoln from position of a small town lawyer to that of a national figure. State owned.
4. Lincoln Tomb, Springfield, Illinois. A moving memorial symbolizing the legacy of compassion, courage, and understanding which Abraham Lincoln left to the Union he preserved. State owned.
5. U. S. Grant Home State Memorial, Galena, Illinois. Presented to General Grant by the city in recognition of his military service, this was Grant's home before he became president; again in 1879, and for two years following. State owned.
6. Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial, Lincoln City, Indiana. The home of Abraham Lincoln in his early childhood. State owned.
7. Perryville Battlefield, Perryville, Kentucky. Climax of the Confederate invasion of Kentucky. State owned.
8. Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip, Louisiana. Failure of Fort Jackson to stop the Union Navy caused the Confederacy to lose New Orleans. Fort St. Philip also played a gallant part in the fight against Farragut's fleet in 1862. Privately owned.

9. Franklin Battlefield, Franklin, Tennessee. Here, General Hood shattered the Confederate Army of the Tennessee in their attacks on his strongly posted Union force. Owned by an association.

10. Confederate Capitol, Richmond, Virginia. For nearly four years, this building, designed by Thomas Jefferson, served as the Confederate capitol. State owned.

11. Five Forks Battlefield, Dinwiddie County, Virginia. Here Grant outflanked the Confederate Army to force Lee from the Richmond-Petersburg defenses. Privately owned.

12. Fort Monroe, Virginia. The nearest continuously-held Union stronghold to the Confederate capital. This fort witnessed the historic fight between the U. S. S. Monitor and the C.S.S. Virginia (Merrimac). Administered by the U. S. Army.

13. White House of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. Served as the Executive Mansion of the Confederacy during the nearly-four years of President Jefferson Davis' residence in Richmond. Owned by an association.

14. Lee Chapel, Lexington, Virginia. In this chapel, Robert E. Lee and members of his family are buried. The chapel also contains Lee's office as President of Washington and Lee University. Owned by the University.

In addition, 25 sites recognized as having exceptional value are already included in the National Park System. They are as follows:

1. Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, Kentucky.
2. Antietam National Battlefield Site, Maryland.
3. Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Virginia.
4. Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site, Mississippi.
5. Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Georgia and Tennessee.
6. Custis-Lee Mansion National Memorial, Virginia.
7. Fort Donelson National Military Park, Tennessee.
8. Fort Jefferson National Monument, Florida.
9. Fort Pulaski National Monument, Georgia.
10. Fort Sumter National Monument, South Carolina.
11. Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Virginia.
12. Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania.
13. Harpers Ferry National Monument, Maryland-West Virginia.
14. House Where Lincoln Died National Memorial, D. C.
15. Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Georgia.

16. Lincoln Memorial National Memorial, D. C.
17. Lincoln Museum National Memorial, D. C.
18. Manassas National Battlefield Park, Virginia.
19. Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas.
20. Petersburg National Military Park, Virginia.
21. Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia.
22. Shiloh National Military Park, Tennessee.
23. Stones River National Military Park, Tennessee.
24. Tupelo National Battlefield Site, Mississippi.
25. Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi.

The Santa Fe Trail - Westward Expansion and Extension of the
National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the subtheme study of the Santa Fe Trail in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, six sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Five of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks as follows:

1. Bent's Old Fort, Colorado. Built about 1833 on the north bank of the Arkansas River at the southern boundary of what was then the United States, this post was in the heart of the Southern Plains tribes and on the route of the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Until after the end of the Mexican War, it was easily the most important point on the Trail between the Missouri frontier settlements and the Spanish-Mexican settlements at Santa Fe and in the Rio Grande Valley. State owned.
2. Fort Larned, Kansas. Built in 1860-1861 by the United States Army, this post became the most important military establishment on the eastern part of the Santa Fe Trail and was a base for military protection of the Trail against hostile Southern Plains Indians during the 1860's and 1870's. Privately owned.
3. Raton Pass, Colorado. This defile through the Raton Mountains was one of the most difficult and yet important sites on the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. It became increasingly important during the Mexican War and in the period of the Civil War when hostilities of the Southern Plains Indians almost halted traffic over the more exposed Cimarron Cut-off Route eastward. State and private ownership.
4. Santa Fe (Plaza Area), New Mexico. The commercial and social center of the Plaza Area in Santa Fe, in the heart of the capitol of Northern Mexico, may be considered as the end of the Santa Fe Trail. State, city, and private ownership.
5. Wagon Bed Springs, Kansas. This spring, sometimes called Lower Cimarron Springs, on the Cimarron River afforded the first water during the dry season in the 60-mile stretch of the desert or Cimarron Cut-off Route of the Santa Fe Trail after crossing and leaving the Arkansas River. It was the objective and stopping place of all travelers over the Desert Route of the Trail. Private ownership.

In addition, one site is represented and interpreted in the National Park System. This is Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico.

The Cattlemen's Empire - Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the Cattlemen's Empire, subtheme study of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, five sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Four of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks, as follows:

1. Grant-Kohrs Ranch, Montana. This ranch in Deer Lodge Valley was one of the first in Montana, beginning about 1853, and in the succeeding decades of the 1860's, 1870's, and 1880's, its owner, Conrad Kohrs, became one of the most famous cattlemen of the Northwest and contributed significantly in breeding up the beef herds in that part of the country. Privately owned.
2. JA Ranch, Texas. This ranch with headquarters in the Palo Duro Canyon of the Texas Panhandle, was perhaps the most famous of several associated with Charles Goodnight, trail blazer, frontiersman, and great pioneer cattleman of the Southwest. With John A. Adair, he built the JA Ranch spread to 700,000 acres in the 1870's and ran 40,000 cattle. In subsequent years, this progressive cattleman improved the stock, introducing fine Hereford blood into the Longhorn herds, and organized Stockmen's associations to bring order into the Open Range industry. Privately owned.
3. Lincoln, New Mexico. One of the best preserved of the old cow towns, county seat of vast Lincoln County when it comprised nearly one-fourth of New Mexico, and center of the Lincoln County War which featured the Chisum, Tunstall, McSween, Billy the Kid faction against the Murphy-Dolan group and involved Lew Wallace, author of Ben Hur, which he was writing at the time. State and private ownership.
4. Tom Sun Ranch, Wyoming. An unusually well preserved ranch layout on the Sweetwater River near Devils Gate, on the Old Oregon Trail, and typical of the medium sized ranches of the Open Range period. Private ownership.

In addition, one site is represented and interpreted in the National Park System. This is Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, North Dakota. The Jackson Hole country in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, also has associations with the Cattlemen's Empire.

Military and Indian Affairs - Westward Expansion and extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the Military and Indian Affairs subtheme study of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, 12 sites in non-Federal ownership have been recognized as possessing exceptional value for the purpose of commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. These sites are the following:

1. Fort Bowie and Apache Pass, Arizona. Fort Bowie, established in 1862 by the California Volunteers during the Civil War to control a key water source in the Arizona desert, was a strategically located post in the pass through the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona on one of the early and important travel routes from the Rio Grande to California. It was located in the homeland of the Chiricahua Apache Indians, and during the 1860's, 1870's, and 1880's it was identified with the Chiricahua wars led by Cochise, Geronimo, Natchez, and other hostile leaders that spread terror throughout the Southwest. Federal and private ownership.
2. Hubbell Trading Post, Arizona. Dating from 1878, this post under the guidance of its founder, John Lorenzo Hubbell, became the most important trading post in the Navajo Reservation and through its influence caused rug weaving among the Navajos to become an ever increasing activity and means of economic livelihood. It has had a continuous, unbroken history of benevolent influence among the Navajos and is the oldest surviving post still among them. Privately owned.
3. Fort Smith, Arkansas. The first fort at the junction of the Poteau and Arkansas Rivers dates from 1817 and was established because of the removal of the Cherokees and other Indians from the Southeast to beyond the Mississippi adjacent to the powerful Osage tribe. A second fort was established here in 1838 and continued to play a part in the frontier history of the country and was a factor, including Judge Isaac Parker's Court, in Indian relations and law enforcement for the next half century. City of Fort Smith and private ownership.
4. Fort Larned, Kansas. Dating from 1859, this fort was the most important post guarding the northern part of the Santa Fe Trail, and for more than a decade was a base for operations against hostile Indians on the central plains, including Cheyenne, Kiowa, Arapaho, and Comanche. Privately owned.

5. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This post was established in 1827 and has been in continuous use ever since. Its original purpose was to guard the Santa Fe Trail and it was the starting point for supplying most of the western frontier military establishments beyond the Missouri, and was the base for many military explorations to the western plains and the Rockies. From it General Kearny's Army of the West set out for the conquest of New Mexico in the War with Mexico. It remains today one of the most important military establishments in the country. Federally owned, Army.

6. Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Established in 1819 at the strategically located juncture of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, this fort was one of the early western forts established after the War of 1812 to protect the western frontier and guarded a vast extent of territory reaching from the Missouri River to the Great Lakes. For more than a third of a century it was the most northwesterly military establishment in the United States. Indian Affairs with the powerful Sioux and Chippewa tribes for several decades were largely conducted from and under the protection of the fort. The Army abandoned the post in 1946. Federal ownership, Veterans Administration.

7. Fort Robinson and Red Cloud Agency, Nebraska. The Red Cloud Agency, established in 1871, was moved to this site in 1873, and was the storm center for the reservation Sioux during the 1870's and the focus of northern plains Indians-white relations during that period. Fort Robinson was established adjacent to the Agency in 1874 when it became evident that military protection was necessary for the Agency, and was the base for several Indian campaigns during the decade that saw widespread Indian hostilities on the northern plains. Fort federally and State owned; Agency site State owned.

8. Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. Established in 1824, this fort during the next decade and a half played a dominant role in receiving and caring for the Cherokee, Creeks, and Seminoles removed from the Southeast of the United States to the Indian Territory, and in attempting to keep the peace between them and the wild plains Indians. The fort was a key military post in the then Southwest for many years for military expeditions in the southern plains. Abandoned shortly before the Civil War, it was reoccupied during that war by Union troops and remained active until 1889. Two periods of construction are represented. Site of first fort, State owned; site of second fort, State and private ownership.

9. Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Established in 1870 to control the hostile southern plains tribes, particularly the Kiowa and Comanche, this fort was actively identified with the pacification and control of these tribes during the 1870's-1890's, and from 1870 to 1878 was the Kiowa-Comanche Agency. In 1911 the post became the Artillery School and is still active as one of the most important U. S. military establishments. Federally owned, U. S. Army.

10. Fort Belknap, Texas. Established in 1851 following the Mexican War when the Texas frontier was being ravished by Comanche-Kiowa raids, Fort Belknap became the key post in a chain of outer, border posts to protect the exposed frontier. During the 1850's and 1860's it bore the brunt of retaliatory action against the southern marauding tribes. Owned by Young County and administered by Fort Belknap Society.

11. Fort Davis, Texas. Established in 1854 in the Davis Mountains north of the Big Bend, this fort guarded the junction of the trails from San Antonio to El Paso and Santa Fe and maintained surveillance over the principal Rio Grande crossing sites used by hostile Indian war parties. The post was an important station on the southern overland route to California travelled by stage coaches and emigrants and played a continuing role in protecting the routes of travel in the trans-Pecos country. In 1879-1880 it played an important part in the costly campaign against Victorio and his War Spring Apaches. Privately owned.

12. Fort Phil Kearny and Related Sites (Fetterman Massacre, Wagon Box Fight, Bozeman Trail), Wyoming. Established in 1866 by Col. Henry B. Carrington at the eastern base of the Big Horn Mountains in the heart of the Sioux country north of the Oregon Trail to protect the Government Bozeman Trail to the Montana mining settlements, this fort was the focus of the Red Cloud War in the next two years which resulted in driving the military from the area and the abandonment of the Bozeman Trail forts, the only time hostile Indian action compelled the Government to relinquish control of an area it had set out to protect. Among the actions fought in the shadow of Fort Phil Kearny were the Fetterman "Massacre" in which Capt. William J. Fetterman and 80 men in his command were killed to the last man, and the Wagon Box Fight, one of the most noted engagements in the history of plains warfare. During the two years of its existence the post was held in a state of virtual siege by hostile Sioux. State and private ownership, with small Federal holding at Fetterman site.

The National Park Service presently administers six federally owned areas associated with Military and Indian Affairs, 1830-1898. The six established areas in the National Park System are the following:

1. Big Hole Battlefield National Monument, Montana
2. Custer Battlefield National Monument, Montana
3. Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Wyoming
4. Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico
5. Lava Beds National Monument (Captain Jack's Stronghold), California
6. Whitman National Monument, Washington.

The Texas Revolution and the Mexican War - Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the Texas Revolution and the War with Mexico, subtheme study of The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, nine sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value for the purpose of commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. These sites are the following:

1. The Alamo, Texas. In the Alamo, which was the chapel of the San Antonio de Valero Mission, established in San Antonio in 1718 by Franciscan Friars, Lt. Col. William B. Travis' force of 188 men were killed to the last man on March 6, 1836, when Santa Anna's Mexican army of about 3,000 men breached the walls. Among the killed defenders were frontiersmen James Bowie and David Crockett. "Remember the Alamo" became a battle cry among the Texans. State ownership; custodianship, Daughters of the Republic of Texas.
2. San Jacinto Battlefield, Texas. General Sam Houston on April 21, 1836, won the decisive engagement of the Texas Revolution against a numerically superior force of Mexicans under General Santa Anna, capturing the latter, and resulting in the independence of Texas from Mexico. State ownership; administered by the State Parks Board and the San Jacinto Museum of History Association.
3. Fort Brown, Texas. General Zachary Taylor's army constructed earthworks in March 1846 on the north side of the Rio Grande opposite the Mexican town of Matamoros. In the series of maneuvers and battles resulting in Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, a Mexican force besieged this fortification during Taylor's absence, and Maj. Jacob Brown, the commander, was mortally wounded in his successful defense of the works, which was subsequently named for him. A later and second fort was built nearby in 1868. City of Brownsville and private ownership.
4. Palo Alto Battlefield, Texas. On May 8, 1846, General Zachary Taylor engaged the Mexican army in this battle, a few miles north of present day Brownsville. It was the first sizeable battle of the war, resulting in the repulse of the attacking Mexicans, and led to their retreat toward the Rio Grande. Private ownership.

5. Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, Texas. The general engagement between Taylor's American force and the Mexican army, begun on May 8 at Palo Alto, continued the next day, May 9, 1846, at the Resaca de la Palma, a few miles closer to the Rio Grande. The Mexicans were defeated in this battle with considerable losses in artillery and personnel and fled back across the Rio Grande, ending the military action north of the Rio Grande in Texas in the war with Mexico. Private ownership.

6. Monterey Custom House, California. On July 7, 1846, Commodore John D. Sloat, commanding the Pacific squadron, raised the American flag over the Custom House at Monterey, the capital of California, and officially proclaimed the province as part of the United States. The building dates in part from 1827. State owned.

7. Larkin House, California. Important for both historical and architectural values, this house was built by Thomas O. Larkin in 1834-1835 and became the first American consulate in Mexican California. Commodore Sloat, and General Stephen W. Kearny, the first military governor of California, resided in the Larkin House, causing it sometimes to be called the first American capitol of California. State owned.

8. Sonoma Plaza, California. On June 14, 1846, a group of 33 Americans seized Sonoma, home of General Vallejo who was a dominant figure in north California, and raised in the plaza their homemade Bear Flag as the symbol of independent California after electing William B. Ide as president of the newly proclaimed republic. This beginning of the Bear Flag revolt preceded news in California of the official breaking out of war with Mexico. State and private ownership.

9. Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, New Mexico. General Stephen Watts Kearny raised the American flag over this historic old building, which dates from 1610, on August 18, 1846, following his entry into the capital of New Mexico, and proclaimed the province as United States territory, completing the conquest of New Mexico. State owned.

There are no historic sites in Federal ownership representing this subtheme of study.

EDUARDO VALENT, Treasurer

Brownsville, Texas

MRS. MARGERY DAVENPORT, Secretary
MRS. DALE WOOLDRIDGE, Assistant Secretary
242 E. WASHINGTON ST.

June 23, 1961

Mr. Robert M. Utley
U. S. Dept. of the Interior
Region 8, National Park Service
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Reference File L-30

Dear Mr. Utley:

We are pleased to furnish the information you requested in regard to the owners of the most significant portions of the Palo Alto and Mesaca de la Palma Battlefields. They are the following:

Mesaca de la Palma Battlefield

Mrs. Dorothy R. Michalis
Rm. 610, First Nat'l. Bank Bldg.
Brownsville, Texas

Mrs. J. K. Wells
1 Mi. Paredes Line Road
Brownsville, Texas

Palo Alto Battlefield

Mrs. Lucilla Bosio
1605 Garfield St.
Brownsville, Texas

Fort Brown Battlefield

City of Brownsville
Dr. J.C. George, Mayor
Brownsville, Texas

The Brownsville Historical Association would appreciate receiving duplicate copies of the Registered National Historic Landmark ownership certificates. We will place these certificates on display in our museum.

We wish to assure you and the owners of these sites, that our Association stands ready to cooperate with them and with you, to assist in any way to obtain the official historical site markers and to help in erecting them with appropriate ceremonies and to help maintain them.

Please keep us informed by sending us copies of all correspondence pertaining to the official marking of these historic battlefields.

Sincerely,

Brownsville Historical Assn.
By: H. L. Stobely, Pres.
H. L. Stobely



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Region Three

Santa Fe, New Mexico

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58

JUN 23 1961

Gen. J. J. Allen 1961

W. H. Allen
Director of L.

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Ownership Data for Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma
Battlefields, Texas

Attached are two copies of a letter from the President of the
Brownsville, Texas, Historical Society setting forth information
requested by the Washington Office some time ago:

Thomas J. Allen
Regional Director

Attachments

one copy attachment held by
HISTORIC SITE
J. J.

September 25, 1961

L58-IBH

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three
From: Chief Historian
Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Certificates and Markers for Palo Alto and
Resaca de las Palma

*Palo Alto + Resaca
de las Palma
+ R 3*

We are attaching copies of correspondence to Mrs. Bosio as the owner of Palo Alto Battlefield, and Mrs. Michalis and Mrs. Wells as owners of Resaca de las Palma Battlefield. Our correspondence follows along the lines you suggested in your memorandum of July 11.

We have invited these owners to apply for certificates only, and have sent them application forms.

As we have mentioned earlier, Palo Alto Battlefield, since there is only one owner, does not present any problem for awarding a certificate. The difficulty here seems to be that there is no structure or building on which the marker could be displayed, if the owner desires to have one.

We have explained to all of the owners of the above sites something about the placement of the markers, so that they might take into consideration where they will place them and what suitable maintenance and protection they can provide for them. We have asked all of them to notify you of their wishes in this matter.

It has been our policy in cases of dual ownership of a site, to award a certificate to each owner, but only one marker. We have accordingly told Mrs. Michalis and Mrs. Wells that they each might have a certificate, but that only one marker is available for a site. We have invited them to consult with each other as to whom should apply for the marker. This appears to be the best solution, since we have not learned which one, if either, should be considered as the principal owner.

We feel that it would be better for your Office to take whatever steps seem necessary with Mr. Stokely, President of the Brownsville Historical Society, in regard to aiding these people in seeing that the markers will be properly placed and maintained. Also, as suggested in your memorandum of July 11, you may wish to tell him that we cannot provide duplicate copies of the certificates for his museum. However, we see no objection to the owners lending them to the museum if they wish. The markers, we feel, should be displayed on the properties. We believe also that we should adhere as closely as possible to our policy of having the owners apply for the certificates and markers.

We appreciate your help in getting the names of these owners to us, and we regret that we were unable to follow-up with your suggestions before this time. We felt that in these particular situations, our regular form letter would not be satisfactory.

JOHN HERBERT E. KAHLER

Chief Historian

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg

Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L58

JUL 11 1961

*Palo Alto
x Rosaca de la Palma*

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Ownership of Palo Alto and Rosaca de la Palma Battlefields

We suggest the following procedure in the somewhat complex problem of conferring Landmark designations on these two sites:

1. That you send blank application forms of the old style (for certificates only) to the three landowners involved, and award certificates only to these people.
2. That in the covering letter you inform them of the availability of the bronze markers, but suggest that, inasmuch as (1) there is dual ownership of one site and (2) for both sites the plaque would have to be mounted on a specially prepared base financed by someone else besides the National Park Service (there are no buildings on which to mount them), the owners get together with Mr. Stokley and the Brownsville Historical Society and see if the Society would be willing to apply, on their behalf, for the markers; to agree to provide for suitable mounting of the markers; and thereafter to act as custodian of the markers.
3. That you send copies of the covering letters to Mr. Stokley; and also inform him that duplicate certificates cannot be furnished him, and that arrangements will have to be made by the Society with the owners for loan of the certificates for display purposes.

We realize that this is a cumbersome way to handle the problem, and you may well be able to devise a better one. It does seem, however, that whatever arrangement is adopted should if possible be predicated upon the Brownsville Historical Society acting as intermediary between the owners and the Service.

George W. Miller
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

L58-IBH

SEP 28 1961

Mrs. Dorothy H. Michalis
Room 610
First National Bank Building
Brownsville, Texas

Dear Mrs. Michalis:

We wish to inform you as one of the owners that Resaca de las Palma Battlefield, Texas, has been selected as a historic site of exceptional value (national significance), in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

The Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935, has approved Resaca de la Palma Battlefield as eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status.

The enclosed folder explains how the selection of sites is made through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings and evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments.

The Landmarks Program is administered through our Regional Offices. Certificates and markers are prepared in this Office and sent to the proper Regions for presentation to the owners.

A certificate and a marker are available free of cost for each landmark. It is our policy, however, in case of dual ownership to provide a certificate for each owner, but only one marker for the site. Accordingly, we are enclosing application forms for the certificate. If you wish to apply for the certificate, the forms should be completed in triplicate. Two copies should be returned to us. You may wish to keep the third copy as a part of your own records. As soon as we receive the completed forms, we will have a certificate prepared for you.

We are sending certificate application forms also to Mrs. J. K. Wells, who we understand is the other owner of the battlefield site.

As mentioned above, a small bronze marker (plaque), about 17"x18" is also available to the owners of sites designated as landmarks. The marker is usually attached to the walls of the historic structure, or displayed in some appropriate manner on the historic property. It may be fastened by four screws or bolts to a boulder, or to a masonry shaft or monument, also. So far as practicable, it should be located in such a way that it will be protected from vandalism, and yet be readable by the public. Except for the name of the site, the texts of the landmark markers are all the same, as follows:

(name of site)
Has been designated a
Registered National
Historic Landmark

Under the Provisions of the
Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935
This site possesses exceptional value
in commemorating and illustrating
the history of the United States

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1961

As we do not know which owner should apply for the marker, if one is desired, or whether you might wish to apply jointly, will you kindly consult with Mrs. Wells on this matter and make your wishes known to our Regional Office. Please write to Regional Director Thomas J. Allen, Region Three Office, National Park Service, Box 1728, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

We will be happy to have you participate in the Landmarks Program.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE

Assistant Director

Enclosures

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Three. Detached
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg 9-22-61

SEP 28 1961

L58-IBH

Mrs. J. K. Wells
1 Mi. Paredes Line Road
Brownsville, Texas

Dear Mrs. Wells:

We wish to inform you as one of the owners that Resaca de las Palmas Battlefield, Texas, has been selected as a historic site of exceptional value (National significance), in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

The Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935, has approved Resaca de la Palma Battlefield as eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status.

The enclosed folder explains how the selection of sites is made through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings and evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments.

The Landmarks Program is administered through our Regional Offices. Certificates and markers are prepared in this Office and sent to the proper Regions for presentation to the owners.

A certificate and a marker are available free of cost for each landmark. It is our policy, however, in case of dual ownership to provide a certificate for each owner, but only one marker for the site. Accordingly, we are enclosing application forms for the certificate. If you wish to apply for the certificate, the forms should be completed in triplicate. Two copies should be returned to us. You may wish to keep the third copy as a part of your own records. As soon as we receive the completed forms, we will have a certificate prepared for you.

We are sending certificate application forms also to Mrs. Dorothy H. Michalis, who we understand is the other owner of the battlefield site.

As mentioned above, a small bronze marker (plaque), about 17"x18" is also available to the owners of sites designated as landmarks. The marker is usually attached to the walls of the historic structure, or displayed in some appropriate manner on the historic property. It may be fastened by four screws or bolts to a boulder, or to a masonry shaft or monument, also. So far as practicable, it should be located in such a way that it will be protected from vandalism, and yet be readable by the public. Except for the name of the site, the texts of the landmark markers are all the same, as follows:

(name of site)
Has been designated a
Registered National
Historic Landmark

Under the Provisions of the
Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935
This site possesses exceptional value
in commemorating and illustrating
the history of the United States

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1961

As we do not know which owner should apply for the marker, if one is desired, or whether you might wish to apply jointly, will you kindly consult with Mrs. Wells on this matter and make your wishes known to our Regional Office. Please write to Regional Director Thomas J. Allen, Region Three Office, National Park Service, Box 1728, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

We will be happy to have you participate in the Landmarks Program.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE

Assistant Director

Enclosures

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Three. Detached
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg 9-22-61

L58-IBH

July 6, 1961

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three

From: Acting Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Ownership of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma

Thank you for sending us a copy of Mr. Stokely's letter concerning the ownership of the above sites. We have noted that Mr. Stokely gives two owners for Resaca de la Palma and one owner for Palo Alto Battlefield.

Since only one owner is cited for Palo Alto Battlefield, the certificate and marker do not pose any particular problem, but in the case of the dual ownership for the principal portions of Resaca de la Palma, we will need your advice as to the certificate and marker for this site.

In the past, we had issued two certificates for a single site when there was about equal dual ownership, and we will prepare two certificates for Resaca de la Palma if you so desire. As for the marker, we feel that only one bronze plaque should be prepared for a site even though there may be more than one owner. The marker should go to the principal owner if there is no public group or agency involved. In cases where a State or other agency is a partial owner, we feel that the marker should be given to the State or agency. However, since the State is not involved here, we wonder which owner of Resaca de la Palma should be the recipient of the marker. In this case, we will have to tell one owner that his application form is for a certificate only. The present application forms are for both the marker and certificate.

We note also that Mr. Stokely has requested duplicate copies of the certificate for the above sites for the Brownsville Historical Association Museum. While we do not feel that this is necessary, we will be guided by your wishes in this matter.

We will appreciate any help you can give us.

157 CHARLES W. PORTER III

Acting Chief Historian

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg



The Senate of
The State of Texas
Austin

HUBERT R. HUDSON

BROWNSVILLE

COUNTIES

CAMERON
HIDALGO

October 6, 1961

Thomas J. Allen, Regional Director
Region Three Office, National Park Service
Box 1728
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have received a letter from Mr. Price, Assistant Director, concerning the National Landmark status of our land.

My mother, (Mrs. Dorothy H. Michalis) gave an acre of this land to the D. A. R. for a monument back in the late 30's. It sets near the edge of our property and is adjacent to that of Mrs. Wells.

I have been unable to contact Mrs. Wells as she is out of town. However, our families are close friends and I feel certain she would want to have the bronze plaque placed on the monument which is presently there, and approved by the Texas Historical Society, as well as other historical groups.

Please mail the plaque in care of my office here in Brownsville, First National Bank Building, and I will have the local historical society attach it to the monument, if that meets with Anne Well's approval.

Sincerely,

HRH Hudson

Hubert R. Hudson

P.S. There is a cannon on the site & a state historical marker also.

HRH:v

LS8

COMMITTEES:	
CHAIRMAN, STATE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE	
CHAIRMAN, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS	
VICE CHAIRMAN, JUDICIARY	
LABOR & MANAGEMENT RELATIONS	
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS	
FINANCE (APPROPRIATIONS)	
WATER & CONSERVATION	
PUBLIC HEALTH	
STATE AFFAIRS	
EDUCATION	
BANKING	

RECEIVED
OFFICE
RHH
10/10

Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L58

OCT 10 1961

Hon. Hubert R. Hudson

Brownsville, Texas

Dear Senator Hudson:

Thank you for your letter of October 6 concerning the designation of Resaca de la Palma Battlefield as a Registered National Historic Landmark. We believe the solution you propose to the problem of joint ownership is a fine one, and that the plaque would be most appropriate attached to the existing monument. We assume that you have, in accordance with Assistant Director Price's letter, made application to our Washington Office for the plaque. When it has been finished, we shall notify you.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

J. M. Carpenter
Acting Regional Director

Copy to: Director (2), w/two copies of Senator Hudson's letter

Received
OCT 10 1961

THE SENATE OF
THE STATE OF TEXAS
AUSTIN

Hubert R. Hudson

Brownsville

Counties

Cameron

Hidalgo

Conrad L. Wirth, Esq.
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

My mother Mrs. Dorothy H. Hudson Michalis (Mrs. Clarence G. Michalis of 800 Park Avenue, New York) is out of the county at the present time. She is joint owner of the Resaca de La Palma Battlefield with the Hudson Estate of which I am trustee under my father's will.

I have signed the enclosed copies and sent them in with this letter.

H. R. Hudson
District No. 27
Brownsville

C O P Y

OCT 10 1961

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the (owner, owners) of Resaca de La Palma located in
Brownsville (name of site) Cameron
(City) (County) (State) Texas

(I, we) hereby make formal application for a certificate ()
designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic
Landmark.

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation
that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as
having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic
Landmark status (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and
to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical integrity of this
important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I, we) agree to continue to use the
property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I, we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the
property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a
basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above
cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered
National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such
status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the
Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker
will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh R. Hudson
(*Dorothy H. Michalis*)

Sent to Reg. 3-2-62

L58 CHA

November 30, 1961

*Palo Alto
x Resaca de la Palma*

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three
From: Acting Chief Historian
Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Application Forms Received

*1940s
Palo Alto
Resaca de la Palma*

We are attaching copies of the Landmark application forms for the following sites:

1. Palo Alto, Texas
2. Resaca de la Palma, Texas

Please check these forms and let us know as soon as possible if any corrections or changes should be made in the site names as given, otherwise these will be the names as they will appear on the Landmark Certificates and Markers.

You may retain these copies of the forms for your files.

The owner of Palo Alto has asked for a bronze marker and we have listed it for manufacturing. Please let us know to whom the marker should be shipped when it is ready.

Porter III
Acting Chief Historian

Attachments 2

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:bfr 11/29/61

March 2, 1962

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three

From: Acting Chief Historian

Subject: Registered National Historic Landmark Certificates

We are enclosing three Registered National Historic Landmark Certificates as follows:

1. Glorieta Pass Battlefield, New Mexico
The owner has made application for a marker and we have already been advised by you as to whom it should be shipped when it is ready.
2. Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, Texas
Only one certificate is enclosed for this site. This certificate should be presented to Mrs. Dorothy H. Hudson Michalis through her son, H. R. Hudson, who signed the application and sent us a note to this effect, October 10, 1961 (copy enclosed). The other owner of this site, Mrs. Wells, has not yet returned the application forms we sent to her last September. You will also recall that we had asked these owners to make their wishes known to you about a marker. We recall that Mr. Hudson wrote to you in regard to this matter but evidently our copy has been misplaced. Will you kindly send us a copy of his letter to you of October 6, 1961.
3. Palo Alto Battlefield, Texas
An application for a marker has been received for this site. Please advise us if we should ship it to Mrs. Bosio when it is ready.

Acting Chief Historian

Enclosures 3

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:gb

Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L58

MAR 14 1962

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:

We are attaching, as requested in your memorandum of March 8, two copies of Senator Hudson's letter to us of October 6, 1961. You will note that the plaque for Resaca de la Palma should go directly to Senator Hudson at Brownsville. The plaque for Palo Alto should be shipped to Mrs. Lucille Bosio, 1605 Garfield St., Brownsville, Texas. Meanwhile, we shall write directly to these owners to ascertain their wishes regarding presentation ceremonies.

[SIGNED]

Thomas J. Allen
Regional Director

In duplicate

Enclosure

June 11, 1962

L58-CHA

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three

From: Chief, Division of History and Archeology

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Markers for Five Sites in your Region

We find that we have no information in regard to the wishes of the owners of the following sites to have a Landmark marker. The application forms received from these owners did not provide a space for requesting the marker. At the time the certificates were sent to you, we requested that you ascertain the wishes of the owners and let us know if a marker should be prepared.

1. Double Adobe, Arizona. Certificate sent to you March 23, 1961
2. JA Ranch, Texas. Certificate sent to you November 29, 1961.
3. Pecos Pueblo, New Mexico. Certificate sent to you April 11, 1961.
4. San Xavier del Bac, Arizona. Certificate sent to you March 23, 1961.

5. Resaca de la Palma, Texas. Certificate sent to you March 2, 1962. In this case we had asked that the owners let you know their wishes in regard to a decision as to which of the two should receive a marker (copy of correspondence to you). We have heard nothing further from them. Will you kindly look into this matter?

We would appreciate your advice as to whether markers should be prepared for the above sites as we are attempting to have another group manufactured by a commercial company. This will bring us up to date on our marker production.

We would also appreciate knowing the dates the certificates were presented, so that we may make the proper notation for our files.

(Sgd) Herbert E. Kahler

Chief, Division of
History and Archeology

C
O
P
Y

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

JULittleton:mg

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L58

June 27, 1962

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Markers for Five Sites in Region Three

Following is the information requested in Mr. Kahler's memorandum of June 11:

1. Double Adobe, Arizona. The certificate was presented to the (absentee) owner, Mr. Lloyd Golder, Catalina Estates, Route 4, Box 91, Tucson, by Dr. Emil W. Haury, Arizona State Museum, on May 21, 1961. We believe that no plaque should be installed at this site. There is nothing there for any but the professional archeologist to see, and there seems to be no point in awarding a plaque. Since no request has been received from Mr. Golder, we recommend that the matter be dropped.
2. JA Ranch, Texas. The certificate was mailed to the owner, Mr. M.H.W. Ritchie, JA Cattle Co., Paloduro Post Office, Texas, on December 5, 1961. On October 13, 1961, Mr. Ritchie wrote that he wished to see the text of the plaque before applying for it. We mailed him the text on October 19 and have heard nothing from him since. Inasmuch as he has manifested little interest in the Landmark program, and customarily spends his summers in Europe anyway, we recommend that no plaque be ordered until Mr. Ritchie applies on his own initiative.
3. Pecos Pueblo, N. Mex. At the request of the Museum of New Mexico, we are holding the certificate until the proposal to add Pecos to the National Park System is clarified. If Pecos becomes a National Monument, there will be no point in awarding a marker. We recommend that none be ordered for the time being.
4. San Xavier del Bac, Arizona. Superintendent Becker of Tumacacori discussed Landmark presentation arrangements with Fr.

COPY

Luis Baldonado, O.F.M., Route 3, Box 645, Tucson, in April 1961. Fr. Baldonado requested that the certificate be mailed to him (which was done on May 26, 1961) and that discussions concerning presentation be held after completion of the plaque. A plaque should therefore be ordered.

5. Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, Texas. Our memorandum of March 14, 1962, requested that the plaque be shipped to Sen. H. R. Hudson, 610 First National Bank Building, Brownsville. We are still holding the certificate pending an answer from Senator Hudson to our request of March 15 for his wishes in the matter of presentation. A letter of April 3, 1962, from A. B. Westbrook, City Manager of Brownsville, states that arrangements for a single presentation of certificates and plaques for Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Fort Brown are being coordinated by the Brownsville Historical Society and requests that further correspondence be addressed to the Director of the Society with copies to the owners of the three sites involved.

(sgd) George W. Miller

George W. Miller
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

COPY

January 18, 1963

L58-CHAH

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region

From: Acting Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Plaques for Sites Near Brownsville, Texas

Resaca de la Palma
x SW Reg
x Palo Alto

We have received a copy of your memorandum of December 11, 1962, to Mr. H. L. Stokely, President of the Brownsville Historical Association. In the memorandum you stated that you understood from the Washington Office that the Registered National Historic Landmark Plaques for Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma had been shipped to Brownsville. We believe this statement is in error. The Palo Alto plaque was shipped to Mrs. Lucille Bosio, 1605 Garfield Street, Brownsville, Texas, according to instructions received from you.

The Resaca de la Palma plaque has not yet been manufactured. See memorandums of January 11 on the order which is now under way. When the plaque for Resaca de la Palma is received, it will be shipped to Hon. Hubert R. Hudson, 610 First National Bank Building, Brownsville, Texas, with a copy of the letter to you. This is according to your instructions.

We are calling this matter to your attention in the event you are planning to take part in the ceremonies in which these two plaques may be featured.

Porter III

Charles W. Porter III

cc:
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg

DEC 19 1962

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEC 14 10 20 AM

Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L58

DEC 11 1962

Paul Kohler

Mr. H. L. Stokely, President
Brownsville Historical Association
P. O. Box 846
Brownsville, Texas

Dear Mr. Stokely:

We understand from our Washington Office that the Registered National Historic Landmark Plaques for Palo Alto and Resaca De La Palma Battlefields have been shipped to Brownsville. Awaiting this development, we have been holding the Landmark Certificates in this Office. But now, as advised by Mr. Westbrook, your city manager, we are sending them to you so that presentation ceremonies for the three Brownsville Landmarks can be planned. Fort Brown has already received both the plaque and the certificate; they were sent to the Mayor's Office.

From previous correspondence, it appears that you might want a representative from this Office to participate in the presentation ceremony. This we would be happy to arrange, should you still desire it.

It is indeed a pleasure for the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to recognize the historical significance of these important Landmarks in Brownsville. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas J. Allen
Regional Director

Enclosures (Landmark Certificates, 2)

cc:

Director

Mr. A. B. Westbrook, City Manager, City of Brownsville, P.O. Box 911
Brownsville, Texas

Mrs. J. K. Wells, 1 Mile Paredes Line Road, Brownsville, Texas

Mrs. Dorothy Machalis, c/o Mr. Hubert Hudson, First National Bank
Building, Brownsville, Texas

Mrs. Lucile Bosio, 1605 Garfield Street, Brownsville, Texas

The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, Brownsville, Texas

sent oct 9 - Palo alto - Resaca de la palma ordered 1-11-63

April 5, 1963

L58-CHAH

Hon. Hubert R. Hudson
610 First National Bank Building
Brownsville, Texas

Dear Mr. Hudson:

This is to inform you that we are shipping the Registered National Historic Landmark Plaque for Resaca de la Palma, Texas, to you today via Railway Express. We would appreciate it if you would advise us upon receipt of the plaque.

It is a pleasure to have you participate in our Landmark program.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Charles W. Porter III
Chief Historian

cc:
Regional Director, Southwest
Mr. Littleton ✓

JOLittleton:gb

KING RANCH, INC.
KINGSVILLE, TEXAS

September 13, 1963

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

My sister-in-law Mrs. Joseph K. Wells (Anne Shaw Wells) died April 5th of this year and I inherited her homesite which is the site of the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield. Amongst her papers was a letter from the National Park Service. I believe from you but am not certain, stating that her homesite was eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status, and attached to the letter was the blank form addressed to you for her to fill in and sign in order to comply with the conditions usual in these cases. There was a voluminous amount of correspondence and old papers in her home and it was while going through them that I read the above mentioned correspondence. Unfortunately, I cannot find it now so am writing to inform you that I am the owner of the land and would like very much to accept the offer that you made to my sister-in-law.

In view of your writing Mrs. Wells I do not suppose it is necessary for me to present proof of the authenticity of the battlefield, but if you so desire I can do so. Incidentally, on the highway immediately outside of my fence there is a granite marker placed there by the state of Texas and reading as follows:

"The Battle of Resaca de la Palma was fought here May 9, 1846 and the defeat of the Mexican Army under General Mariano Arista by the United States troops under General Zachary Taylor made good the claim of Texas to the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande.

"Erected by the State of Texas 1936."

Thanking you in advance for giving your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert C. Wells

RCW:VB

C O P Y

October 1, 1963

L58-CHAH

Mr. Robert C. Wells
King Ranch, Inc.
Kingsville, Texas

Dear Mr. Wells:

We have received your letter of September 13 concerning Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, Texas, and Acting Director Price has informed us of your telephone call of September 20. We are happy to enclose application forms for the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate. If you will kindly fill it out and return it to us, we will have the certificate prepared and sent to you through our Regional Office in Santa Fe.

It has been our policy in cases of dual ownership, such as Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, to issue a certificate to each owner. A certificate was prepared for Mrs. Dorothy H. Michalis, the other owner on March 2, 1962. The small bronze plaque was sent from our Washington Office on April 4 directly to Hon. Hubert R. Hudson, acting for Mrs. Michalis. We presume that the plaque was placed on the granite marker adjacent to your property. Only one plaque is provided for each Landmark site.

We appreciate your willingness to sell to the Federal Government the 34 acre tract you now own. In recognizing this area as a Registered National Historic Landmark, we have not given serious thought to its inclusion in the National Park System. We shall, however, be happy to explore this proposal through our Regional Office and will write to you further about this matter.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN M. CORBETT

John M. Corbett
Acting Chief, Division of
History and Archeology

Enclosure
cc:

Regional Director, Southwest. W/inc

Note: Will you kindly give us your opinion and advice concerning Mr. Wells' proposal to sell his portion of the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield?

Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg

Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L58

OCT 16 1963

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Letter from Robert C. Wells re: Resaca de la Palma
Battlefield

We find no indication in Mr. Wells' letter of September 13 that he contemplates selling his property. As we read the letter he is merely applying for Landmark designation. In any event this Office can see no justification for the Service purchasing this property.

(SIGNED)

J. M. Carpenter

In duplicate

Dr. Porter

October 21, 1963

Littleton

Telephone call From Senator Tower's Office re Resaca de la Palma, Texas

I called Mr. Friedheim as you suggested. He was away, and Mr. Towery returned his call. Mr. Towery said they would like to have any information that we might have on Resaca de la Palma regarding its importance, and its Landmark status. I told him of the Landmark status, and that I would also send him any correspondence we might have regarding the importance of the battle.

I will prepare a letter to Senator Tower giving this information and mark it for the attention of Mr. Towery.

John O. Littleton

act 23, 1963

158-CHAH

Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Tower:

In response to your telephone request, we are happy to provide you with the following information on the Battle of Resaca de la Palma near Brownsville, Texas. Resaca de la Palma Battlefield was recognized as a place of exceptional historical importance in the history of the United States, and was accorded Landmark status through the studies of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. This status was publically announced in a Departmental press release of December 19, 1960. Later a certificate and bronze plaque designating the site as a Registered National Historic Landmark were prepared and sent to Mrs. Dorothy E. Michalis, who is one of the owners of the historic battlefield site.

We are enclosing a very short description of the Palo Alto and the Resaca de la Palma Battlefields for your information. As these battles were important parts of the War with Mexico, they are, of course, adequately covered in histories of that war which may be found in most public libraries. One such work is The War with Mexico by Justin H. Smith, 2 Vols., New York, McMillan Company, 1919.

Here also is an excerpt from The Handbook of Texas, (published by the Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas, 1952). Volume 2, page 469.

The Battle of Resaca de la Palma, the second engagement of the Mexican War, was fought on May 9, 1846, when United States forces under Zachary Taylor engaged a superior Mexican force under Mariano Arista a short distance north of the present city of Brownsville. After turning the Mexican left flank, which resulted in

a disorderly flight, Taylor's men pursued the enemy to the Rio Grande. Mexican losses were 547 killed, wounded, or missing; American losses were 33 killed and 89 wounded.

We hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Corbett

John M. Corbett
Acting Assistant Director

Enclosures 2

cc:

Regional Director, Southwest
~~Reg. Director~~

JOLittleton:mg 10-22-63

L58-CHAH

THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

October 25, 1963

memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region
Acting Assistant
From: Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Letter from Robert C. Wells re: Resaca de la Palma
Battlefield

You are quite right that there was no indication in Mr. Wells' letter of his willingness to sell his property. There is, however, an indication of his proposal in our reply to him (copy to you) to which we respectfully called your attention.

Mr. Wells' offer to sell his property was made in a telephone call to Assistant Director Price on September 20. The telephone call is mentioned in the first paragraph of our letter to Mr. Wells. There were no details of the proposal. He merely called Mr. Price and said he would like to sell the property to the National Park Service.

Our note on the copy of the letter you received asked for your opinion and advice. We promised to write Mr. Wells further after exploring the matter with your office. The one sentence of advice and opinion given in Acting Regional Director Carpenter's memorandum of October 16 to us is not adequate to frame a reply to Mr. Wells. There fore, we would appreciate further comment on this matter, and some reasons why you think that the Service would not be interested in this property. We will then write to Mr. Wells and give him the Service's opinion.

/s/ John M. Corbett

cc:
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg 10-24-63

W

KING RANCH, INC.

KINGSVILLE, TEXAS

MRS. THOMAS R. ARMSTRONG
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

ROBERT J. KLEBERG, JR.
PRESIDENT

RICHARD M. KLEBERG, JR.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

JAMES H. CLEMENT
VICE PRES. AND SECY.

October 30, 1963

TELEPHONE: LYRIC 2-6411

CABLE: KINGRANCH

L58-CHAH

Juc

Mr. John M. Corbett
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Corbett:

It was kind of you to enclose the application forms for the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate with your letter of October 1st. I would prefer not to fill in these forms in view of the information contained in the second paragraph of your letter under reply.

In addition to the information given in my letter of September 13th to Mr. Wirth, I believe that the battle took place at the location regarding which I have been writing you because of maps of the battle as for example the two contained in the following books:

"War with Mexico" by R. S. Ripley,
Brevet Major in the United States
Army, First Lieutenant of the Second
Regiment of Artillery, etc., in two
volumes published by Harper & Brothers,
82 Cliff Street, New York. 1849.

"Campaign Sketches of The War With Mexico"
by Capt. W. S. Henry, U. S. Army. Pub-
lished by Harper & Brothers, 82 Cliff
Street, New York. 1847.

A study on the ground of these maps and the 34 acres about which I wrote you would definitely show that the battle took place on those 34 acres though the shooting started when Taylor was northwest of this area. The battle did not take place to the north or northeast, in other words on the Hudson land.

Page 2

Mr. John M. Corbett

October 30, 1963

You refer to a bronze plaque sent to Hudson and say that you "presume that the plaque was placed on the granite marker adjacent to your property." The plaque was not placed there nor any other place that I know of, certainly not visible from the highway.

Please do not take this letter to be a request that you undo anything already done, and under no circumstances do I wish to stir up any arguments. I only wish to explain why I am not filling in the application forms, and once again wish to thank you for having sent them to me.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Wells

Robert C. Wells

RCW:VB



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico

NOV 1963

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58

OCT 31 1963

CHA

Mr. Littleton

By [Signature] Rea

1114

AIR MAIL
Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: NSHSB: Letter from R. C. Wells re: Resaca de la Palma
Battlefield

We cannot see why further comment, as requested by Dr. Corbett's memorandum of October 25, is needed, or why specific reasons need be listed, as also requested therein, for our assumption that the National Park Service would not be interested in buying this property. Rather, we cannot think of any good reason why it would be seriously considered and we do not understand why Mr. Wells was not informed at once that the offer by the Service, which he referred to, involved merely the recognition of the site with a certificate and a plaque attesting to its designation as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

The area has never previously been formally proposed or seriously considered, so far as we know, for addition to the National Park Service System. We find it hard to believe that you now intend to authorize and direct an investigation for that purpose by the Division of National Park and Recreation Area Planning. In writing to Mr. Wells in answer to his September 20 telephone call, you might wish to explain to him the procedures for investigation and study and evaluation and consideration of proposed areas, and mention that neither the Advisory Board nor the field historians of the Service have recommended the acquisition of the battlefield as a unit of the National Park System.

[Signature]
Jerome C. Miller

NOV 8 - 1968

L58-GHAN

NSHG 7B file

Mr. Robert C. Wells
King Ranch, Inc.
Kingsville, Texas

Dear Mr. Wells:

On October 1, Acting Chief, Division of History and Archeology, John M. Corbett wrote to you about your offer of September 13 to sell the 34-acre tract at the site of the battle of Resaca de la Palma to the Federal Government. Dr. Corbett's letter indicated that we would write to you further in connection with this offer after we had exchanged views with our Regional Office in Santa Fe.

We are now in a position to say that the National Park Service does not propose to recommend the site of Resaca de la Palma for Federal ownership. This is consistent, of course, with past action which evaluated the site for Registered National Historic Landmark status. In explanation, we should say that the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments evaluates historic sites for their national importance, and that was the process followed in the case of Resaca de la Palma. But eligibility for Landmark status does not carry any implication that Federal ownership is suggested. There has never been any action by the Advisory Board or the Department of the Interior that has contemplated such status for Resaca de la Palma.

We hope this clarifies for you the status of Resaca de la Palma Battlefield site in Departmental studies and plans. If there is any further information we can give you on this subject please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Thomas E. Flynn Jr.

ACTING ASSISTANT

ACTING ASSISTANT

Director

cc:

Regional Director, Southwest
Branch of History

REAppleman:jmw 11-7-63

NOV 12 1963

XX

20240

L58-CHAH

NSHS + B file

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest

From: ~~ACTING ASSISTANT~~ Director

Subject: Resaca de la Palma Battlefield Site

We understand from Acting Regional Director Miller's memorandum of October 31 concerning Resaca de la Palma in Texas that the Region is opposed to giving further thought to the possibility of recommending that the site of the battlefield Resaca de la Palma be considered for Federal ownership. We are glad to have this expression of viewpoint as it coincides with our own. We have already sufficiently stated the same attitude in a letter dated October 24, to Congressman Kilgore of Texas from Acting Assistant Director Corbett. You should have a copy of that letter by this time.

We do not know whether there is any connection between Congressman Kilgore's letter and Mr. Wells' recent letter. But before reporting to Mr. Wells specifically on his offer to sell the site of the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, which he now owns, we thought it best to check with you further, and that accounts for our memorandum of October 25 on this subject.

Now that we have acting Regional Director Miller's memorandum we shall write to Mr. Wells stating in effect that we have no intent to recommend the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield for Federal ownership.

(sgd) Thomas E. Flynn Jr.

cc:

Branch of History

REAppleman:jmw 11-7-63

Recd. Nov. 20.

K I N G R A N C H , I N C .

Kingsville, Texas

November 14, 1963

L58-CHAH

Mr Thomas F. Flynn
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Thank you for your letter of November 8 regarding the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield. I might explain that at the time I mentioned the matter to Mr. Corbett, I had received an offer to purchase and I thought that before I accepted the offer it might be well to find out if your Department had any interest in the matter and give you first choice.

I have sold the property to some Brownsville residents, Mr. Fausto Yturria and his two sons, Frank and Fausto, Jr.

Thanking you again for the information in your letter.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT C. WELLS (signed)

RCW:vb

COPY

CC: Southwest Region 12-4-43

NOV 19 1963

L58-CHAH

NSHS & B file

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest
From: Chief, Division of History and Archeology
Subject: Battle of Resaca de la Palma, Texas

There is enclosed a copy of Mr. Robert C. Wells' letter of October 30 commenting further on the site of the battle of Resaca de la Palma, 34 acres of which he owns. You will note that he contends the actual site of the battle is on hisland and not on that of Mr. Taylor to the North.

You will be interested in Mr. Wells' statement that the Registered National Historic Landmark bronze plaque issued by the Department has not been placed, to the best of his knowledge. Perhaps it will be possible for a member of your staff to check on this matter when in the vicinity on other or related business.

If your Office should have any future correspondence with Mr. Taylor about the marker or the site we suggest that you do not mention Mr. Wells, because, as you will note from the last paragraph of his letter, he does not want to become involved in any controversy in the matter.

b

SIGNED

Herbert E. Kahler

Enclosure

cc:

✓ Branch of History

REAppleman:jmw 11-18-63

DEC 3 1963

Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico

DEC 2 11 10 AM '63

L58

NOV 29 1963

CHA

Mr. Littleton
12/3/63

Mr. H. L. Stokely, President
The Brownsville Historical Association
Brownsville, Texas

Dear Mr. Stokely:

This letter is in reference to the designation of Fort Brown and Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma Battlefields as Registered National Historic Landmarks. Our records indicate that both the official Landmark certificates and the bronze Landmark plaques have been sent to Brownsville. (The certificates for Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma Battlefields were sent to you in December 1962; the certificate for Fort Brown was sent to the Mayor of Brownsville in March 1961; the plaque for Fort Brown was sent to the Mayor in April 1962; the plaque for Resaca de la Palma was sent to Mrs. Lucille Bosio in October 1962; and the plaque for Resaca de la Palma was sent to Mr. Hubert R. Hudson, representing Mrs. Dorothy H. Michalis, about July 1962).

As is indicated in previous correspondence with you and with authorities of the City of Brownsville, the Brownsville Historical Association has been designated the agency responsible for coordinating the presentation of the Landmark certificates and plaques for these three important historic sites. Not having heard from you in some time, and, naturally, being interested in the status of these Landmarks, we would appreciate your letting us know whether the official presentations have been made. If so, could you tell us who has custody of the certificates and where the plaques are mounted.

As we have indicated before, this Office will be happy to cooperate with you on the presentations, if they are yet to be made.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel B. Beard
Regional Director

cc:
Director (2)

December 16, 1963

Mr. Daniel B. Beard, Regional Director
United States Department of Interior
P. O. Box 1728
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Beard:

Thank you for your letter of November 29th, with reference to the designation of Fort Brown and Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma Battlefields as registered National Historic Landmarks.

The bronze Landmark plaques have been received and erected at the Battlefield sites. The Certificates for Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma Battlefields, which were sent to me are in my possession and ready to be hung in place in the rotunda of Jacob Brown Auditorium at the Fort Brown Memorial Center.

I regret to advise you that the Certificate for the Fort Brown Battlefield, which was sent to the mayor of Brownsville at the Brownsville City Hall, has been lost or misfiled. The mayor and City manager, as well as all others concerned, are greatly distressed; and we ask that you use your good offices to procure for us a duplicate of the Fort Brown Battlefield Certificate prior to the dedication ceremonies on January 11th.

Enclosed find photostatic copy of letter from C. C. Stewart, Chairman, Cameron County Historical Survey Committee, regarding a meeting to be held on January 10th with officials of the Texas State Historical Foundation. On the following day, January 11, 1964, the dedication ceremonies of the bronze plaques will take place, as well as the dedication of the landmark certificates in Jacob Brown Auditorium. There will be a business meeting at 10:00 A.M. on January 11th followed by a luncheon at Fort Brown Motor Hotel; and the dedication ceremonies will begin at 2:00 P.M.

On behalf of the Survey Committee, City Officials, and the Brownsville Historical Association, you and any officials of your department are cordially invited to attend and take part in these ceremonies. You are also invited to take part in the meeting on January 10th with the officials of the State Historical Foundation, and all other

Mr. Daniel B. Beard
United States Department
of Interior

December 16, 1963

2

interested parties.

We suggest that you write direct for hotel reservations at Fort Brown Motor Hotel, Brownsville, Texas, and send me a copy of your letter for hotel reservations so that I can make sure that your request is confirmed.

Appreciating your cooperation and trusting that you and other members of your department will be with us on this occasion, we are,

Sincerely yours,

BROWNSVILLE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

By: H. L. Stokely, President

cc:

Capt. C. C. Stewart, Chairman, Cameron CHSC
The Hon Ben Shepard, Pres., TSHSC
A. Gonzalez, Mayor of Brownsville, City Hall
B. Cox, Vice Pres., Brownsville Historical Assn.
Steve Bosio, Mgr., Brownsville Chamber of Commerce
Bill Rudd, Greater Brownsville Committee, City Hall.
Van Kennedy, Regional Director, TSHSC.

C O P Y

Padre Island National Seashore
P. O. Box 4012
Corpus Christi, Texas 78406

APR 25 1964

January 13, 1964

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region
From: Superintendent, PAIS
Subject: Dedication Brownsville Historic Sites

As requested I participated in the meeting of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and the Survey Committees of the several Southwest Texas Counties on January 11 at Brownsville. The meeting in the morning involved a series of reports by the several counties and finally a request that I present the three certificates and plaques. Since these were in various locations, none of which happened to be where the crowd (some 60 or 70) and I happened to be and since it was already 15 minutes past the scheduled lunch time, I restricted my brief remarks to general pleasantries.

The luncheon at the Ft. Brown Hotel was well attended and Mr. Hunter's address was fine although I am still slightly confused as to who was doing what to whom. I did gather there was much traffic in cotton and such, motivated perhaps as much by profit as patriotism.

Following lunch the group travelled to and dedicated the State Martens at Brownsville, Palmito Mill, and Brown Santiago. These dedications consisted of two brief talks at each site--one by a local historian and one by a local State Senator or Representative. Since I am neither a historian or a candidate for State office, I enjoyed the ride. In all it was a State and local show as it should have been. I gathered the group appreciated National Park Service participation and I enjoyed the lunch.

I was approached (run down is more nearly correct) by a Mrs. P. J. Scott, who gave me a bad time as to why National recognition had been accorded the Brownsville sites and not that epitome of National historical significance, Ft. Ringgold. Since I had not previously heard of Ft. Ringgold and since the question took the full time available, it was neither fitting or timely that I should answer. Regional Historian Wiley, I am sure, will have given Mrs. Scott. If I can be of further assistance, I will be glad to. I am sure of it. I'll pull you.

JAN 28 1964



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
JAN 27 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico

IN REPLY REFER TO:
158

JAN 21 1964

CHA 1/29/64
Mr. Lighter

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Dedication of Brownsville Landmarks

We enclose Superintendent Bowen's report of the presentation ceremonies at Brownsville, Texas, for the following Landmarks: Fort Brown, Palo Alto Battlefield, and Resaca de la Palma Battlefield.

Reading between the lines of Mr. Bowen's report, it is obvious that he enjoyed himself immensely at this affair. His sang-froid regarding the Fort Ringgold affair is especially noteworthy. *SV*

Mr. Bowen has previously remarked that in southeast Texas he is "Mr. Park Service". We plan to encourage this image in every way possible. And we hope that he will continue to volunteer for assignments such as this one. It is indeed commendable to find a Superintendent so interested in the Landmark Program, and so willing to immerse himself in county and municipal historical activities.

J. H. Carpenter
J. H. Carpenter

cc:
Supt., Padre Island

January 29, 1964

L58-OHAH

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region

From: Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Dedication of Brownsville landmarks

Thank you for your memorandum of January 21 telling us of the dedication of Brownsville landmarks and enclosing a copy of Superintendent Bowen's report.

From your memorandum and Mr. Bowen's report it is not quite clear as to whom the certificates and markers were presented. Were any of the owners or administrators of the three landmarks present? Do you know whether any of the markers were placed at the landmark sites before or during the ceremonies? We have noted that from copy of your letter, November 29, to Mr. H. L. Stokely that you had asked where the plaques were mounted.

Mr. Bowen mentions that after lunch he went with the group to dedicate the State Markers at Brownsville, Palmeto Hill, and Brazos Santiago. Are these the spots for the landmark plaques also? For our record of each landmark we need to know to whom the certificate and plaque were presented. It is also helpful if we know where the plaque is located.

We appreciate Mr. Bowen's help in the Landmarks program. Please convey our thanks to him.

/s/ Charles W. Porter III

cc:
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:gb

FEB 10 1964

Mr. Littleton

*copy
2/10*

145-41

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region
From: Acting Chief, Division of National Park System Studies
Subject: *Resaca de la palma.*
Battle of Resaca de la Palma, Texas

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution just received from the Texas State Historical Survey Committee which is self explanatory.

This site was the subject of a study report submitted to the Director on March 19, 1940, and is treated in a report on a proposed Fort Brown National Historical Park dated October 13, 1947, both of which were prepared in your Office. Neither of these reports favor establishment of Resaca de la Palma as an individual area.

Recently the owners were presented with a plaque designating the battle site as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

While we are inclined to feel this action should represent the extent of National Park Service participation, we would appreciate having your comments on the proposal.

J. F. Griffiths

Enclosure

cc:
CH / History

JLORT:mab 2/5/64

Padre Island National Seashore
P. O. Box 4012
Corpus Christi, Texas 78408

L58

February 11, 1964

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region
From: Superintendent, PAIS
Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings
Dedication of Brownsville Landmarks

The information requested in Chief Historian Porter's memo of January 29, subject as above, is mostly contained in Mr. Stokeley's letter of December 16 to you. I can add the following from observation.

Mr. Stokeley says the plaques have been received and erected at the Battlefield Sites. That takes care of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma (neither of which were visited during the dedication). At Fort Brown the concrete pedestal was in place but the bronze plaque had not been installed. I'm sure it has by now.

The two certificates were framed and mounted on the wall of the Jacob Brown Auditorium at the Fort Brown Memorial Center, as Mr. Stokeley stated. The third one was, as of the dedication, still "misplaced."

I inquired at the time, but was unable to ascertain, whether or not the property owners were in the audience. If so, no particular mention was made of them. You can clarify to whom the plaques and certificates were "sent" better than I--they were not "presented" to anyone formally, as noted, they were already in place here and there.

Perhaps this might be clarified by saying that the group was running their own show and really didn't know just how to work the N.P.S. into the program. I made their problem as easy as possible which seemed logical. You will note that the areas visited were (with the exception of Fort Brown) not the sites designated by the Service. Logical enough since, with 1965 approaching, they were concentrating on the Civil--not the Mexican War.

I hope the above will help to clarify the situation.

William L. Bowen

C O P Y

Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L58

March 3, 1964

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Brownsville Landmark Presentations

*Pesaca de la
Palma*

In response to your request for more specific information on subject presentations, we forward the enclosed copies of correspondence. We hope to hear from Mr. Stokely, with additional information, in the near future.

George W. Miller

In duplicate

C O P Y

THE BROWNSVILLE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Brownsville, Texas

March 5, 1964

Hon. Daniel B. Beard
Regional Director
National Park Service
United States Department of Interior
P. O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Resaca de la Palma

Your reference: L-58

Dear Mr. Beard:

Thank you for your kind letter of February 12 regarding the dedication of the three landmark plaques in Brownsville on January 11, and we wish to acknowledge receipt of the duplicate landmark certificate for Fort Brown, replacing the one that was lost.

We are pleased and grateful that Mr. Bowen took part in the dedication ceremony which was attended by members of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and local citizens.

In response to your inquiries, please be advised that Mr. Steven Bosio, Executive Vice President of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, was present representing his mother, Mrs. Lucille Bosio, who is the owner of the Palo Alto battlefield site, and several city officials were present representing the City of Brownsville, owners of the Fort Brown site. The owners of the Resaca de la Palma battlefield site were represented by several directors of the Brownsville Historical Association.

The landmark plaques are mounted at the three battlefield sites. The one at Fort Brown is located directly in front of the main entrance to Fort Brown Memorial Center on the Fort Brown Military Reservation. The other two are located on Paredes Line Road, one approximately two miles north of Brownsville and the other about seven miles north of Brownsville.

All three landmark certificates are framed and hung in the main foyer of the Jacob Brown Auditorium at Fort Brown Memorial Center, which property of course is owned by the City of Brownsville.

Regarding the custody of the plaques - regulations provide that these are the property of the owners of the land, who presumably would have custody of them. As to the custody of the certificates - they are located in a building owned by the City of Brownsville. They are framed and erected by the Brownsville Historical Association, which is a permanent non-profit organization established in 1947, and dedicated to the preservation of our historical heritage in this area.

I believe that our organization will always be in a position to keep your office informed regarding these historical plaques and certificates or any other matter concerning the history of this section of the country.

Appreciating your cooperation regarding these matters, we are

Sincerely yours,

BROWNSVILLE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BY: /s/ H. L. Stokely, President

HLS:mfr

cc: Mr. William Bowen
National Park Service
United States Department of Interior
Corpus Christi, Texas

C O P Y

L58-CNP

April 10, 1964

Mr. George W. Hill
Executive Director
Texas State Historical
Survey Committee
112 E. 18th Street
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Hill:

This is by way of follow-up to our February 10 letter concerning a memorial at the site of the Battle of Resaca de la Palma. We have now had opportunity to look into the matter further and would like you and the Texas State Historical Survey Committee to have the following information.

The battlefield sites of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Cameron County, Texas, were first studied by the National Park Service in 1940. The sites were considered to be worthy of national distinction, however, it was felt that national historic sites close to the border and emphasizing the defeat of Mexico would certainly not promote international goodwill and friendship with Mexico.

A supplemental study and report in 1947 concluded that it was unnecessary to acquire the battlefield sites but that it is important that they be permanently marked and that such permanent markers had already been erected and further action on the part of the National Park Service was not necessary. The sites of the Battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma were later studied in the National Survey of Historic Sites. This study was submitted to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments at its 42nd meeting in March 1960. The Board evaluated these sites as possessing exceptional value for the purpose of illustrating and commemorating the history of the United States, and this recommendation was accepted by the Secretary of the Interior.

These sites accordingly became eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status which entitled the owners of the sites, upon request to the Secretarial Landmark certificate and the Department's bronze Landmark plaque. The certificate and markers attesting Landmark status have been supplied.

The Board did not, however, recommend that either of these sites be considered for addition to the National Park System. Evaluation of the sites as eligible for Landmark status by the Board does not imply recommendation for Federal ownership as a national monument or national memorial.

We certainly appreciate your interest and that of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee in commemorating this historic site and wish to encourage appropriate action by the State of Texas or by local historical agencies.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ C. Gordon Fredine
Acting Assistant Director

cc:

Hon. Joe M. Kilgore, House of Representatives (detached)
Regional Director, Southwest

Mr. Melvin

Mr. Harrison (detached)

Mr. Kahler

CNP

JLOrr:ler 3/26/64

Rewritten: " :ler 4-10-64

C O P Y

FRANK D. YTURRIA
SUITE 500 BOCA CHICA TOWER
2100 BOCA CHICA BLVD.
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520
February 12, 1975

Mr. Horace Sheely
Chief Historic Sites Survey
1100 L Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Sheely:

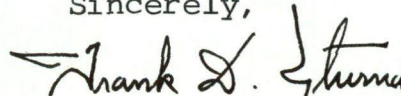
Patricia Heintzelman who is with the Landmark Review Project for the United States Department of the Interior gave me your name and address and suggested that I write directly to you regarding the historical site known as Resaca de la Palma Battlefield.

A number of years ago the plack issued by the Department of the Interior commemorating the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield fell into the hands of Mr. Hubert Hudson of this city. The plack was embedded into the brick wall of his swimming pool dressing room. Not only is the plack found in an undesirable location, but it is outside of the boundaries of the National Historic landmark area.

Since I am the owner of the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, I am writing to inquire if it is possible that your department retrieve the plack in order that it may be put in its proper place and for public view. If the original plack cannot be repossessed, perhaps a new plack could be issued.

Awaiting your reply to the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank D. Yturria", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank D. Yturria

FDY:klh

H3417-PS

February 25, 1975

*1 done
2-27-75*

Mr. Frank D. Yturria
Suite 500 Boca Chica Tower
2100 Boca Chica Boulevard
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Dear Mr. Yturria:

We regret very much to learn from your recent letter that the bronze marker designating Resaca de la Palma Battlefield a national historic landmark has not been placed within the historical site. So that this can be rectified promptly we are ordering a new marker for the battlefield and will have it delivered as soon as possible.

In the mean time, we will ask a representative of our Southwestern Regional Office to make inquiries as to what might be done to bring about a more appropriate placement of the existing marker.

We appreciate you bringing this situation to our attention and your continued interest in the preservation and interpretation of the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield.

Sincerely yours,

Horace J. Sheely, Jr.

Horace J. Sheely, Jr.
Chief, Historic Sites Survey

FNP:HJ Sheely:mdw 2/25/75

bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region) w/c inc.

Director's Reading File

DI

PS(HSS)-Sheely

PS(HSS)-Ross

HP - Texas - Resaca de la Palma
Battlefield

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PS(HSS)

100 - 100

February 29, 1975

[illegible]

We regret very much to learn from your recent letter that the bronze marker designating Roscoe de la Palma Battlefield a national historic landmark has not been placed within the historical site. So that this can be rectified promptly we are ordering a new marker for the battlefield and will have it delivered as soon as possible.

In the mean time, we will ask a representative of our Southwestern Regional Office to make inquiries as to what might be done to bring about a more appropriate placement of the existing marker.

We appreciate you bringing this situation to our attention and your continued interest in the preservation and interpretation of the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield.

CHERRY HILL

Horace J. Sheely, Jr.

Horace J. Sheely, Jr.
Chief, Historic Sites Survey

bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region) w/c inc.

H3417 Te
Resaca de la

FRANK D. YTURRIA
SUITE 500 BOCA CHICA TOWER
2100 BOCA CHICA BLVD.
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520
March 5, 1975

14 8

Mr. Horace J. Sheely, Jr.
Chief, Historic Sites Survey
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

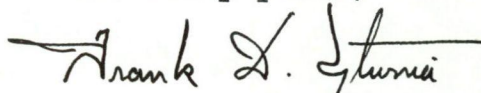
Dear Mr. Sheely:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 25th in regards to the bronze marker designating Resaca de la Palma Battlefield a national historic landmark. I am delighted that a new marker for the battlefield will be delivered as soon as possible.

I will be most happy to meet with your representative from your Southwestern Regional Office so that an appropriate placement of the new marker will be made.

Thank you for your assistance and interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Frank D. Yturria

FDY:klh

*he
Dorace had phoned first to
(~~the~~ inquire re: plaque)*

MAR 24 1975

Mr. Frank Yturria
2100 Boca Chica Blvd.
Brownsville, Texas

Dear Mr. Yturria,

It was nice to talk with you this morning. Thank you for returning my call.

To reiterate, I will let you know the moment the plaque is here. Then perhaps I can make a visit to Brownsville to assist with the planning of an appropriate dedication ceremony for the new placement. We regret that it has taken so long to rectify the earlier situation. Please let me hear from you if I can be helpful in the interim.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

Margaret Twyman
Historic Landmark Specialist

PSR

MT:blh:2-21-75

H30-PSH

Mr. Frank D. Yturria
Boca Chica Tower, Suite 500
2100 Boca Chica Blvd.
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Dear Mr. Yturria:

Your letter of May 16th was awaiting my return from a business trip early this week. It was thoughtful of you to tell me of your vacation plans.

I telephoned our Washington Office to ascertain the progress on the order for your new plaque only to learn that it is unlikely that the manufacturer will be able to complete it before your departure date of June 24th. This is regrettable.

Therefore, may I suggest that you advise me on your return to Brownsville and we will plan together for a suitable ceremony early in the Fall. I will be happy to arrange a trip to Brownsville whenever it will be convenient for you to discuss this matter in some detail and proceed with the dedication. Perhaps it will be a better time of year for such an event than June would have been. I hope so.

I look forward to hearing from you then after September 1 and trust you have a wonderful holiday!

With warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret G. Twyman
Historic Landmark Specialist

bcc:

Horace Shelly, WASO
Bill Brown, SWRO

FRANK D. YTURRIA
SUITE 500 BOCA CHICA TOWER
2100 BOCA CHICA BLVD.
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520

May 16, 1975

RECEIVED
NPS SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

MAY 20 1975

	Action	Date	Initial	Other
D				
DD				
A				
M				
PS				
PA				
OE				
EC				
Files				

Ms. Margaret Twyman
Historic Landmark Specialist
United States Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. Twyman:

I am writing to inquire if the bronze marker designating Resaca de la Palma Battlefield a national historic landmark has been received. You mentioned to me in your letter of March 24, 1975 that perhaps you would make a visit to Brownsville to assist in the planning of an appropriate dedication ceremony for the placement of the marker.

I wish to advise you that I am leaving on June 24th for a two month vacation and will be out of the country until September 1, 1975.

Awaiting your reply to the above.

Sincerely,

Frank D. Yturria
Frank D. Yturria

FDY:klh

14341



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SOUTHWEST REGION

P.O. Box 728

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-PSH

May 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM - BLUE ENVELOPE

To: Horace Sheely, WASO

From: Margaret G. Twyman, SWRO

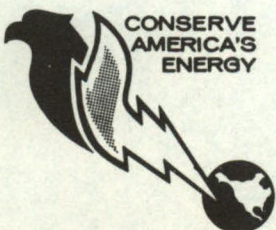
Subject: Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

Enclosed is the correspondence relating to this site which we discussed briefly on the phone yesterday. You will note that Mr. Yturria was written to in February that a new plaque was being ordered, and even with the cautionary note re: the possibility of it taking six months, he really had reason to expect that it might be ready by June. I could not believe it hadn't even been ordered when I checked with Michaels Art Bronze yesterday. Was that a slip-up? Is it among the new orders?

Please be SURE it is ordered for September delivery, Horace, won't you. This singular situation is one we should pamper a bit because of the unsavory background. Our public relations is hardly tip-top now...so we should bend every effort to take care of Mr. Yturria's request without any more delays.

Please tell me the status of this order, won't you, so I will know it is going to be available (with new certificate too?) no later than September first. Many thanks.

Enclosures



Save Energy and You Serve America!

005885

DL

United States Senate

REL 12 40 AM '76

Chris Steed
224-2934

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liason
Dept. of Interior

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

John A. Tower
U.S.S.

Form #2

FRANK D. YTURRIA
SUITE 500 BOCA CHICA TOWER
2100 BOCA CHICA BLVD.
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520

March 18, 1976

MAR 26 1976

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lloyd:

I recently read that Secretary of the Interior, Thomas S. Kleppe announced in early February almost \$22.3 million in matching grants for historic preservation projects throughout the country. This brings the total funding under the National Historic Preservation Act to date to \$72.7 million.

The money is administered by the office of Archeology and Historic Preservation and is used to assist in historic preservation surveys as well as to fund public and private acquisition and restoration of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

My family and I own the Historic Resaca de la Palma Battle Ground where General Zachery Taylor with the American Army defeated the Mexican Army under General Mejia and established once and for all the Rio Grande River as the boundary between Texas and Mexico. The battlefield comprises of some forty (40) acres of land, and has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the Interior Department.

Needless to say, my family and I have been tempted by Real Estate Developers to sell the property for commercial development. We can sell the property for a large profit but have hesitated to do so realizing that the Historic site would be lost to commercial development. It is our desire to sell this property to the Government with the understanding that it be preserved forever as an Historic Landmark. The acreage is surrounded by a beautiful resaca with trees and vegetation and would make a lovely park for the enjoyment of the people of Brownsville.

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
Page 2
March 18, 1976

I would appreciate your assistance in contacting the proper people at Interior or the office of Archeology and Historic Preservation regarding this matter.

With all best wishes and highest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Frank D. Yturria

FDY:klh

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

24 March 1976

Hon Thomas S Kleppe
Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D C 20240

Dear Mr Secretary

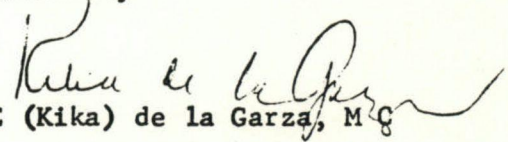
Attached is a letter I have received from Mr. Frank D. Yturria, Suite 500 Boca Chica Tower, 2100 Boca Chica Blvd., Brownsville, Texas, which I believe you will find self-explanatory.

This is to let you know that I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Yturria that the Resaca de la Palma Battle Ground should be perserved and declared as a National Historic Landmark.

With this in mind I would personally appreciate whatever advice and consideration you can give commensurate with your policies in order for the Government to purchase this land.

With my thanks and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely


E (Kika) de la Garza, M C

dal
attachment

JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA., CHAIRMAN

EDMUND S. MUSKIE, MAINE
JOSEPH M. MONTAYA, N. MEX.
MIKE GRAVEL, ALASKA
LLOYD BENTSEN, TEX.
QUENTIN N. BURDICK, N. DAK.
JOHN C. CULVER, IOWA
ROBERT MORGAN, N.C.
GARY HART, COLO.

HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.
JAMES L. BUCKLEY, N.Y.
ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT.
JAMES A. MC CLURE, IDAHO
PETE V. DOMENICI, N. MEX.

M. BARRY MEYER, CHIEF COUNSEL AND CHIEF CLERK
BAILEY GUARD, MINORITY CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 30, 1976


Mr. John H. Kyl
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs
Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Kyl:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I have received from Mr. Frank D. Yturria of Brownsville, Texas, for your review. I would certainly appreciate your sending me any pertinent information that you might have in this regard.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Bentsen

PLEASE REPLY TO:

912 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701

14092

In Reply Refer To:
H30-PD
ES-14092

Handwritten:
Bm
14 JS
file

APR 16 1976

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senator
912 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Senator Bentsen:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Mr. Frank D. Yturria concerning Federal purchase of his property, the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield.

New congressional legislation would be required to authorize Federal acquisition of this property and its administration as a unit of the National Park System. Should legislation be introduced we would, as our funds and priorities permitted, evaluate the feasibility of the proposed action in order to provide the basis for a Departmental report to the Congress. Our recommendations would necessarily be influenced by the fact that our funds and personnel are inadequate to properly care for our existing holdings, a situation making us reluctant to assume new responsibilities of this kind.

The National Historic Preservation Act grants mentioned by Mr. Yturria cannot be used for Federal acquisition of properties, but they can be applied to other public or private acquisition for preservation purposes. These grants are made to and through the States. For further information on this program in Texas and its possible application to his property, Mr. Yturria should contact the State Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas Historical Survey Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) John Kyl

John Kyl
Assistant Secretary for Congressional
and Legislative Affairs

Enclosure (Constituent's letter returned)
bcc: Mr. Truett Latimer, Texas SHPO) w/c of inc.

SIMILAR LETTER SENT TO: Senator John G. Tower (13656)
Representative E (Kika) de la Garza (13663)

cc: Senator Bentsen's Washington Office
bcc: Secretary's Files
Secretary's Reading File (2)
FW / CL
Regional Director-Southwest) w/c of inc.
D-Reading File

P) / PP)
PD-Mackintosh)
L-Curry)
LS)
FNP:EMackintosh:crb:4-12-76

With my compliments

Kika de la Garza

File

95TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 321

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1977

Mr. DE LA GARZA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield National Historic Site in the State of Texas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That in order to preserve and commemorate for the benefit
4 and enjoyment of present and future generations an area of
5 unique historical significance as one of only two important
6 battles of the Mexican War fought on American soil, the
7 Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the
8 "Secretary") is authorized to establish the Resaca de la
9 Palma Battlefield National Historic Site in the State of
10 Texas.

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act, the Secretary is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase, or exchange, not to exceed the required acres of lands and interests therein in the vicinity of the battle of Resaca de la Palma, on Paredes Lines Road in Brownsville, Texas. The Secretary shall establish the historic site by publication of a notice to the effect in the Federal Register at such time as he determines that sufficient property to constitute an administrable unit has been acquired. Pending such establishment and thereafter the Secretary shall administer the property acquired pursuant to this Act in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

SEC. 3. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

95TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 321

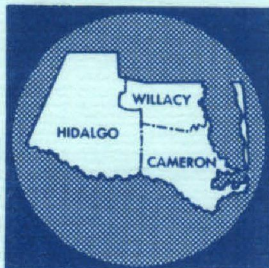
A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield National Historic Site in the State of Texas, and for other purposes.

By Mr. DE LA GARZA

JANUARY 4, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular
Affairs



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Mayor Ed Vela, President
Mayor R.D. "Bob" Youker, 1st Vice President
Judge Bill Rapp, 2nd Vice President
Mayor Ronald Case, Secretary
Mayor Cesar Gonzalez, Treasurer
Robert A. Chandler, Executive Director

April 6, 1977

Mr. George F. Emery, Acting Chief
Historic Sites Survey Division
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Emery:

Thank you very much for sending me the National Register Nomination Form for Fort Brown. I have sent a copy of it to the Texas Historical Commission.

Because your files appear to be more complete than those of the Texas Historical Commission, I have another request. If your files contain a copy of the Nomination Form for the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, also in Cameron County, I will forward a copy of it to the Texas Historical Commission. *(I NEED A COPY ALSO)*

The Development Council must be aware of the National Register properties and their boundaries. For this reason, your help is invaluable. If the boundary lines of Fort Brown should be altered, do inform us.

Sincerely,

Audrey Lea Crafton

Audrey Crafton
Regional Crafton

AC/ec



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58 (560)

April 21, 1977

Memorandum

To: Chief, Legislative Division

From: Acting Chief, Cultural Resources Management Division

Subject: H.R. 320, Palo Alto Battlefield NHS, and H.R. 321,
Resaca de la Palma Battlefield NHS

We recommend that the Service submit a favorable report on H.R. 320 if it is amended to remove the fifty-acre land acquisition ceiling now in the bill. We recommend that the Service oppose enactment of H.R. 321.

Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma were the only important battles of the Mexican War fought on United States soil. On May 8, 1846, General Zachary Taylor engaged the Mexican army at Palo Alto, a few miles north of present Brownsville, Texas. In this first major battle of the war, the attacking Mexicans were repulsed and started their retreat toward the Rio Grande. At the Resaca de la Palma the following day, the pursuing Americans captured the Mexican artillery and routed the infantry. The Mexicans fled across the Rio Grande, ending the military action north of that river in the Mexican War. The battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma demonstrated the superiority of American arms, gained the United States prestige at home and abroad, and cleared the way for the invasion of Mexico. Many regular officers who later became Civil War generals received their baptism of fire in these engagements, and Zachary Taylor later won the presidency almost wholly on his record in these and later battles in Mexico.

Palo Alto Battlefield was designated a national historic landmark in 1961. It retains much integrity over its area of some 8,000 acres. The 50-acre limitation on acquisition in H.R. 320 would be wholly inadequate for proper protection of this battlefield, so it is important that this limitation be removed or significantly raised if the bill is enacted. Since the Mexican War subtheme of the National Park System Plan is now unrepresented in the National Park System, the inclusion of Palo Alto Battlefield would fill a gap in the System's commemoration of American history.



Resaca de la Palma Battlefield was also designated a national historic landmark in 1961. However, development has encroached upon it so severely that it no longer retains the integrity essential to national significance. We understand that, when it is feasible to do so, the Southwest Regional Office will recommend withdrawal of the landmark designation from this area. The addition of Palo Alto Battlefield to the National Park System, moreover, would make the acquisition of Resaca de la Palma somewhat redundant. We therefore urge an unfavorable report on H.R. 321.

Henry A. Judd
Henry A. Judd



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SOUTHWEST REGION

P.O. Box 728

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

JUL 21 12 46 PM '77

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34-(SWR)PSP

JUL 18 1977

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Preservation of Historic Properties, WASO
Attention: Chief, Historic Sites Survey Division

From: Deputy Regional Director, Southwest Region

Subject: Removal of Landmark Status

Based on the enclosed report by Regional Historian, Richard Sellars, and with the added documentation in the enclosed pictorial views of the area, we recommend that National Historic Landmark status be removed from Resaca de la Palma Battlefield in Brownsville, Texas.

Over a period of years this area has been impacted increasingly by housing and industrial development, and the acreage (40) now claimed by the owner to be the site of the battle (claim in question - see number VI in report), is not, in our opinion, worthy of Landmark designation in its present irreversible condition. We believe that Palo Alto Battlefield, on the other hand, should be included in the Park system. It was the first of these two battles with the Mexicans under General Zachary Taylor and would thus commemorate the event in American history.

It is our understanding that Landmark status has not been removed from any Landmarks to date. Therefore, we are unfamiliar with procedures now under consideration for so doing. We would like to make several observations which may be helpful in determining the best way to proceed in this instance. The owners of Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, the Yturrias, are members of an old established family in Brownsville. They are large landowners and successful businessmen, of Mexican-American descent. It is also quite clear that they enjoy a personal relationship with Senator Lloyd Bentsen and with Congressman de la Garza. In view of the fact that the Bill (H.R. 321) was introduced at the personal urging of Frank Yturria, this suggests care in handling the matter. If the Southwest Regional Office can be helpful, I know you will call on us.

Enclosure

FNP:GF Emery:mdw:523-5295:9/21/77
bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region
001-reading file / 040
772-reading file / 772-Sheely

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

H3417-772

SEP 22 1977

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Legislation
From: Chief, Historic Sites Survey Division
Subject: Resaca de la Palma and Palo Alto National Historic Landmarks

Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum from the Acting Director, Southwest Regional Office, in which he recommends that (1) Palo Alto National Historic Landmark be taken into the National Park System and (2) Resaca de la Palma be denied continuation of its status as a national historic landmark. Also enclosed is a report of Regional Historian Richard W. Sellars, to which reference is made in Mr. Thompson's memorandum.

While the recommendations have merit, we believe that there is a more practical alternative. Surely, in the absence of an extensive acreage covering the entire battlefield of Resaca de la Palma, there is a property that would be of sufficient integrity to qualify as a "memorial site." Combining it with the approximately 6,000 acres of Palo Alto Battlefield, a case could be made for a "Palo Alto-Resaca de la Palma National (or International) Battlefield Park." The development plan for the park, including visitor center and interpretation, would focus virtually entirely on Palo Alto. Resaca de la Palma would be treated as an adjunct or associated memorial site and its history would be told at the Palo Alto site. There is ample precedent for this treatment in a number of our Civil War battlefields, especially Chickamauga and Chattanooga and Gettysburg, where memorialization or less significant events required the acquisition of "outlying" sites, often at some distance from the main scene of battle. While the sites are available for the visitor of special interest, they are not featured in the program of the park.

We believe that this would be a more practicable approach to the establishment of a historic site illustrative of a theme now absent in the National Park System. Conceivably, it could gain the support of all of the individuals noted in Mr. Thompson's memorandum, without compromising the integrity of the System.

(Signed)

George F. Emery

Enclosures

HP - Texas - Palo Alto Battlefield
X Reference - Texas - Resaca de la Palma

FRANK D. YTURRIA
SUITE 500 BOCA CHICA TOWER
2100 BOCA CHICA BLVD.
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520
October 14, 1977

NPS 5000-100
OCT 17 1977

	Adm	Info
D		
DD		
A		
O		
MD		
2	PSP	
3		
File		

Vily

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senator
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Lloyd:

Congratulations on your splendid efforts in the struggle to deregulate natural gas. It is long overdue coming. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by all of the citizens of this State.

I am in receipt of a letter dated September 22 from Mr. George F. Emery, Chief, Historic Sites Survey Division to Chief, Office of Legislation regarding Historic Battle Sites of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. I concur and agree with Mr. Emery's recommendation. I have also discussed his recommendation with the President of the Texas Historical Society and the President of the Brownsville Historical Society and they also concur with this approach. In addition, I had a very pleasant telephone conversation yesterday with Ms. Margaret Twyman of the United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has assured me that she feels that the National Park Service, Southwest Region will also concur with Mr. Emery's recommendation.

I know of your great interest in helping us preserve these historic battle sites and am happy to report to you that it looks like things are now moving in a favorable direction. Any further help and assistance you can offer to help Kika de la Garza with his legislation will be greatly appreciated by the people of this community.

With best wishes and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Yturria

FDY:klh

cc: Ms. Margaret Twyman ✓

FRANK D. YTURRIA
SUITE 500 BOCA CHICA TOWER
2100 BOCA CHICA BLVD.
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520

October 14, 1977

RECEIVED				
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE				
OCT 17 1977				
	Action	Info	Legal	Other
D				
DD				
A				
O				
10/17				
PSP				
3-11				
RUB				
10/13				
Viklund				

Honorable Kika de la Garza
United States House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20551

Dear Kika:

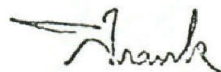
I am in receipt of a letter dated September 22 from Mr. George F. Emery, Chief, Historic Sites Survey Division to Chief, Office of Legislation regarding Historic Battle Sites of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. I concur and agree with Mr. Emery's recommendation. I have also discussed his recommendation with the President of the Texas Historical Society and the President of the Brownsville Historical Society and they also concur with this approach. In addition, I had a very pleasant telephone conversation yesterday with Ms. Margaret Twyman of the United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has assured me that she feels that the National Park Service, Southwest Region will also concur with Mr. Emery's recommendation.

We have all worked long and hard on this matter and I now hope that your House Bill's 320 and 321 will now quickly clear so that these historic sites can be preserved for the people of the nation. Needless to say, the citizens of this area are very pleased and grateful for your interest and efforts.

If you need any additional information or assistance please feel free to call me.

With kindest best wishes and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Yturria

FDY:klh

cc: Ms. Margaret Twyman ✓

OCT 25 9 26 PM '77

OCT 21 1977

L58 - (SWR)CRH

Mr. Frank D. Yturria
Suite 500 Boca Chica Tower
2100 Boca Chica Boulevard
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Dear Mr. Yturria:

We are in receipt of copies of your letters dated October 14, 1977, to the Honorable E. de la Garza and to the Honorable Lloyd Bentsen concerning Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma Battlefields. We also are in receipt of the memorandum dated September 22, 1977, from Mr. George Emery, Chief, Historic Sites Survey Division, to the Chief, Office of Legislation, National Park Service, also regarding these battlefields.

So that you may be fully aware of this office's position on these two historic sites, I feel I should clarify our thinking regarding their status both as National Historic Landmarks and as potential additions to the National Park System.

We now feel that National Landmark status can be continued for Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, and therefore are withdrawing our recommendation that Landmark status be rescinded. We recognize, as do you, that the historical integrity of the area has been very badly impacted, but feel that it nevertheless deserves recognition as a Landmark, barring further adverse impact upon the site.

The idea of maintaining Resaca de la Palma as a locally owned and managed park seems very worthwhile. Therefore, we encourage any interest in such an effort, recognizing that success would give the Landmark the protection it sorely needs. This office, however, remains opposed to the proposal that Resaca de la Palma be made part of the National Park System. In sum, we support the preservation of the site as a Landmark, but firmly recommend that the area not become a National Park or even an adjunct part of the Palo Alto park proposal.

Our recommendation that Resaca de la Palma not become a National Park is primarily based upon our conviction that the adverse impacts upon the area have been so great that the site fails to meet the standards for establishing park areas as now required by our Management Policies. Regarding the question of historical integrity, our Management Policies state that:

The attributes of historical association, integrity, and interpretive potential should all be present to a high degree at each historical area.

Each historical area should contain sufficient land to preserve all significant historic or prehistoric features associated with the locality, and such additional lands as may be needed to protect the historic scene and provide unobtrusive sites for necessary development for proper management and appropriate public use.

It is our professional judgment that Resaca de la Palma does not meet the above criteria. By contrast, the Palo Alto Battlefield appears to have the significance and integrity to meet these criteria and therefore to become a National Park Service area. Any addition to the National Park System must, of course, be finally effected through proper legislative and executive action.

We believe that a distinction should continue to be maintained between National Historic Landmarks, which may be owned by an individual or agency (government or private), and the historic sites administered directly by the National Park Service. To this end, the criteria for establishing new parks has been set at a very high standard particularly as regards significance and integrity. We also recognize the great value of the National Landmark program, where the preservation of other historic properties of national significance is shared by the large community of responsible Americans who feel the obligation to help protect our cultural heritage.

We appreciate your interest in this program and hope we can be of assistance to you whenever you wish to dedicate Resaca de la Palma as a National Historic Landmark.

Sincerely yours,

~~By~~ Theodore R. Thompson

Acting Regional Director,
Southwest Region

cc:

Chief, Historic Sites Survey Division, WASO

Chief, Office of Legislation, WASO

Field Assistant to Regional Director

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

file:
Resaca de la Palma

TO : Chief, Office of Legislation, Attn: Eldon Royer DATE: OCT 31 1977

FROM : Chief, HSS Div., OAHF

SUBJECT: Propsed Nat. Hist. Site: Palo Alto & Resaca de la Palma NHLS

We do not know how my memorandum of Sept. 22 reached Mr. Yturria. The enclosed correspondence would be of interest, however, if you have not seen it.

George F. Emery
George F. Emery



5010-109

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

APR 12 1977

H3417-772

Ms. Audrey L. Crafton
Regional Crafton
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development
Council, Suite 207
First National Bank Building
McAllen, Texas 78501

Dear Ms. Crafton:

Thank you for your letter of April 6, 1977, requesting a copy of the National Register nomination form for the battlefield of the Resaca de la Palma, Cameron County, Texas.

When designated, the current standard form was not in use. We enclose, however, the data sheets available.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

George F. Emery
Acting Chief, Historic
Sites Survey Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

FNP:GF Emery:kr 4/11/77

bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region w/c inc.
001-Reading File
040
772-Reading File
✓772-Sheely w/c inc.

HP - Texas _ Resaca de la Palma

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 772



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SOUTHWEST REGION

P.O. Box 728

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58-(SWR)CRH

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OCT 25 9 25 PM '77

21 1977

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Preservation of Historic Properties
Attention: Chief, Historic Sites Survey Division

From: ~~Acting~~ Regional Director, Southwest Region

Subject: Resaca de la Palma National Landmark

This office has come to the decision that we will no longer recommend removing Landmark status from the Resaca de la Palma site. We feel that, unless the site is further impacted, it will adequately serve as a National Historic Landmark. The owner of the Landmark, Mr. Frank D. Yturria has been advised by letter of our position.

JP Thompson

cc:

Truett Latimer, Texas SHPO

Field Assistant to Regional Director

NHL



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHWEST REGION
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H3415 (SWR-PC)

JUL 19 1982

Mrs. Marion Y. Smith
Mr. Fausto Yturria, Jr.
One North Park Plaza
Brownsville, Texas 78521

Dear Mrs. Smith and Mr. Yturria:

It has come to our attention that you have recently acquired Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark (NHL).

Whenever we learn of new ownership of an NHL, we attempt to work with the new owners to develop a voluntary program of preservation for the property. To this end we are enclosing an article on tax incentives for the owners of historic properties and an explanation of the effects of NHL designation.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed material or the NHL program please contact Mr. Mark R. Barnes, Regional NHL Coordinator, (505) 988-6775.

Sincerely,

Septimie Shodiffer

for Margaret Pepin-Donat
Chief, Division of Cultural Programs

Enclosures

H3417(SWR-PC)

SEP 3 1982

Mr. Fausto Yturria, Jr.
One North Park Plaza
Brownsville, Texas 78521

Dear Mr. Fausto:

Thank you for your letter of July 28, 1982, concerning your development of the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark (NHL).

As per the the information we sent you in our previous correspondence, NHL designation does not prohibit a private property owner from developing his land when utilizing their own resources. However, if the owner of an NHL is going to be using any federal funds, licenses or permits in their development, the federal agency involved should be notified that they will be effecting an NHL so that they may meet their legal requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires that any federal agency effecting an NHL take into consideration, in consultation with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer, the effect of their action on the cultural resource prior to rendering assistance to a private development.

For this reason, if you anticipate that your development may require any federal involvement, we would urge you to immediately contact the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Curtis Tunnell, at the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, to jointly develop a preservation plan. By working out a plan to preserve some or all of the cultural resource with Mr. Tunnell's office, you will be saving yourself time and expense when you apply to a federal agency for assistance, and perhaps accruing tax incentives for yourself as discussed in our previous letter.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Mark R. Barnes, NHL Regional Coordinator, at (505) 988-6775.

Sincerely,

Margaret Pepin-Donat
Chief, Cultural Programs

H30(418)

FEB 13 1989

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region
Attn: Dr. Joseph Sanchez, Spanish Colonial Research Center

From: Associate Director, Cultural Resources

Subject: Draft of Dr. Joseph Sanchez' Article, "The Defeat of the Army of the North in South Texas: An Examination of Mexican Military Operations in the First Battles of the Mexican War"

I want to thank you for providing my office with a copy of the subject draft.

Chief Historian Bearss has read the draft, and, once again, I commend Dr. Sanchez on his dedication and hard work in preparing this monograph, principally based on manuscript sources found while accomplishing archival research in Mexico City. Use of these sources, particularly Campana Contra los Americanos, provides new perspectives to an understanding of Maj. Gen. Mariano Arista's tactics and the strategy of the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma.

In the margins of the draft, herewith returned, Mr. Bearss, whose specialty is military history of the mid-19th century wars and World War II, has made a number of editorial comments and suggestions that should be addressed before this report is distributed to the field.

If Dr. Sanchez has any questions on Mr. Bearss' suggestions, he should call the Chief Historian.

/Sgd/Jerry L. Rogers

Attachment

cc: 001 RF; 400 RF; 418 Palo Alto NB (NPS); Resaca de la Palma (NHL)
ECBearss:rd:2/1/89
Rdew disc 7; item 21

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : John

DATE: 10/24

FROM : Bill Brown

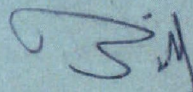
SUBJECT: Wells, Resaca de la Palma Caper

John, I wrote the memo of Oct. 16. All I had to go on was your memo to us and the attached ltr of Sept. 13 from Wells. I have diligently searched our files here for a copy of your Oct. 1 ltr to Wells mentioning a phone conversation, which would have clued me to the fact that there was something more in the wind than Wells said in his ltr of 13th. But we don't have a copy of your Oct. 1 ltr anywhere.

Go ahead and answer our Oct. 16 ltr officially and give us the scoop on Wells offer to sell and we'll write a different sort of reply.

Believe me, we are human out here; there was no desire to give you a poor reply or to put you in any kind of soup. We merely answered on what we had to go on--that's the full story.

Regards,



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Texas	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH." BEFORE THEME NO. Theme XV, Westward Expansion (Texas Revolution and War With Mexico)
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Resaca de la Palma Battlefield	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 50
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Cameron County, Parades Line Road, (Farm Road 1847) seven-tenths mile north of Brownsville city limits	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Private Mrs. Dorothy H. Michalis, Room 610, First Nat'l. Bank Bldg, Brownsville, Texas. Mrs. J. K. Wells, One Miles Paredes Line Road, Brownsville, Texas.	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

On May 9, 1846, following the Battle of Palo Alto, General Manuel Arista's Mexican forces took up a position in a ravine known as the Resaca de Guerrero. United States General Zachary Taylor moved into a parallel ravine to the north, Resaca de la Palma. Deploying his infantry through the chaparral, and sending his cavalry in a sudden charge down the road, Taylor captured the Mexican artillery and put the enemy's foot soldiers to rout. Arista abandoned his personal baggage, his mules, and most of his equipment; General Rómulo Díaz de la Vega was captured. American losses were reported as 39 killed and 82 wounded (from a force of about 2,300); official Mexican losses were 802. This was the final engagement of the Mexican War to take place on the Texas side of the Rio Grande. Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma were the largest and most important Mexican War battles fought on U.S. soil. They demonstrated the superiority of American arms, gained the United States great prestige at home and abroad, and cleared the way for the invasion of Mexico.

Today the battlefield merely suggests conditions as they were in 1846. The bend of the resaca, once dense with chaparral--wood and thorns--has been cleared, and a citrus orchard now covers much of the battlefield. A private estate also occupies some of the site. Both Resaca de la Palma and Resaca Guerrero, once filled in, are again full of water, and the tall palms that suggested the name of the resaca are still standing. A Texas Centennial Commission monument marks the site. It reads: "The battle of Resaca de la Palma was fought here May 9, 1846 and the defeat of the Mexican Army under General Manuel Arista by the United States troops under General Zachary Taylor made good the claim of Texas to the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande." A cannon mounted on a concrete base, placed by a commission headed by General James Parker about 1920 or 1921, stands next to the highway one-half mile north of the monument.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)
George L. Rives, The United States and Mexico, 1821-1848, 2 v. (New York, 1913), Vol. II.
Justin H. Smith, The War with Mexico, 2 v. (New York, 1919), Vol. I.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)
William R. Hogan, Special Report Covering the Proposed Resaca de la Palma National Historic Sites (Santa Fe, NPS, May, 1940). M. R. Tillotson, Supplemental Report on Proposed Fort Brown National Historical Park (Santa Fe, NPS, October, 1947).

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Poor	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Farm	13. DATE OF VISIT Oct. 23, 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Robert M. Utley</i>	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE Dec. 15, 1958	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/4 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma battlefields - Brownsville, Texas

The battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma were the only important battles of the Mexican War fought on American soil.

On May 8, 1846, General Zachary Taylor engaged the Mexican army at Palo Alto, a few miles north of present day Brownsville, Texas. It was the first sizeable battle of the war, resulting in the repulse of the attacking Mexicans and started their retreat toward the Rio Grande. The Americans followed, and the next day at the Resaca de la Palma, fighting resumed. Deploying his infantry through the chaparral and sending his cavalry in a sudden charge down the road, Taylor captured the enemy artillery and put the Mexican foot-soldiers to rout. With heavy losses in artillery and personnel, the Mexicans fled south across the Rio Grande, ending the military action north of the river in Texas in the Mexican War.

The battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma demonstrated the superiority of American arms, gained the United States prestige at home and abroad, and cleared the way for the invasion of Mexico. Many regular officers who later became generals in the Civil War received their baptism of fire in these engagements, and the American commander, General Zachary Taylor, later won the presidency almost wholly on his record in these and later battles in Mexico.

Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma battlefields sites, a few miles north of the city of Brownsville, Texas, are privately owned. The chaparral has been cleared from the Palo Alto site, and it is now pasture land broken by fence rows. The Resaca de la Palma site merely suggests conditions as they were in 1846. The bend of the Resaca has been cleared of chaparral and a citrus orchard and private estate cover the battlefield.

* * * * *

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

REPORT ON BIENNIAL VISIT

TO

Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, Texas

Theme: XV - Westward Expansion, Texas Revolution and War with Mexico

Date of Visit: November 13, 1969

Visited by: Michael J. Becker, Management Assistant

Condition: Fair to Good. I visited two state monument sites depicting the battlefield of Resaca de la Palma. Both sites were marked with granite monuments regarding the battlefield.

Site #1 (1/2 mile beyond the city limits of Brownsville) also included the Centennial Cannon placed by a Commission headed by General James Parker about 1920. Monument #1 was alongside of the road and was backed by a very fine fence. The private land demarcation consisted of a stone pillar and rail fence terminating with a stone wall immediately behind the State marker and cannon. The ground maintenance in this particular case was exceptionally good. Approximately one mile further down the road was Resaca de la Palma State Monument #2. It was easily visible from the highway and a small turnout had been handmade for access to the Monument. The grounds keeping was not in really bad condition. At State Monument #1 the battlefield was composed mostly of open field. There was what appeared to the inspector a foreign object which was apparently an old time handstand located right in the middle of the battlefield. I was unable to ascertain where it came from or a reason for its presence. As far as could be ascertained, both Monuments Nos. 1 and 2 were located within the State Highway right-of-way and were presumably maintained by the State Highway Department.

Operation: The Brownsville Historical Association maintains a loose control on properties within their jurisdiction with the exception of Fort Brown.

Special Problems: I was unable to contact anyone associated with the Brownsville Historical Association during my visit so this ended up as a "do-it-yourself" inspection. At Resaca de la Palma (Sites Nos. 1 & 2) there was no Department of Interior plaque available to the public. Late the night before I left I was finally able to contact the Treasurer of the Society, Mr. Eduardo Valent, and questioned him as to the absence of the landmark. He told me that he thought a Mr. Hubert Hudson had managed to get possession of the plaque and it is presently mounted at the swimming pool at his residence, which is located on a portion of the battlefield. This same question was reiterated by Mr. Fausto Yturria,

President of the Brownsville Association, in a letter received since returning from the field trip. This particular situation brings up a somewhat slightly sticky legal point. When these plaques are turned over to the landowners involved, do they still remain Government property?

We believe this question will have to be answered in this case so as to make the bronze plaques available to the public.

Suggestions Offered: None.

Michael J. Becker

Signature



RESACA DE LA PALMA BATTLEFIELD, Texas. Palm trees outline bend of Resaca de la Palma, where Mexican and American troops clashed on May 9, 1846. Cannon was placed by Parker Commission. National Park Service photograph, 1959

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
BIENNIAL VISIT REPORT

SITE Resaca de la Palma Battlefield

LOCATION Brownsville, Texas

DAY(S) VISITED February 4, 1977
Month Day(s) Year

VISITED BY Richard W. Sellars
(Name)

Regional Historian
(Title)

Southwest Regional Office
(Address)

505- 988-6501
(Phone Number)

PERSON(S) CONTACTED, WITH TITLE(S) none

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Name Richard W. Sellars

Title Regional Historian

Signature Richard W. Sellars

Date July 11, 1977
(by M. Twyman)

REPORT

- I. Did you have any difficulty making contact with the owner or administrator in advance of your visit? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please describe:
Did not attempt to contact owner due to sensitivity of the situation, i.e. area is being considered for inclusion into National Park System, but the area is also very badly impacted, to the extent that removal of Landmark status is recommended.
- II. Did you feel that your visit was welcome? _____ not welcome? _____
If not, please describe circumstances:

NA
- III. Was the material provided by SWRO ample and helpful? Yes X No _____
If not, please explain:
- IV. Approximately how long did you spend at the site? 1 hour
(photographer spent additional time getting pictures)
- V. Please describe the condition of the site (structure(s), grounds, furnishings, etc.). The landmark is presently a large open, mowed field surrounded by small clumps of trees. The area is encircled by the resaca and, on one side, a local highway. The Landmark boundaries are approximately contiguous with the boundaries of a polo field. Records indicate that an orchard existed in the area prior to the polo field. The ground in this area has thus been greatly disturbed at least twice in the recent past, i.e. in the development of the orchard, and the development of the polo field.
- VI. Based on the reasons for the original designation, is it your opinion that the integrity of the site is being adequately maintained? Yes _____ No X
If no, please explain: The encounter at Resaca de la Palma was a running battle which covered probably several thousand acres. Thus the 40 acre Landmark contains only a small portion of the original battlefield. As noted, the Landmark grounds have been significantly disturbed at least twice during the recent past. Furthermore, the lands surrounding the Landmark (lands
- VII. Please describe in detail the management of the site (owner-managed, employee-managed, government-managed, etc.):

Believed to be owner managed.
- VIII. In your opinion, is the site management adequate? Yes _____ No _____ If you have any reservations, please describe:
The site management is adequate only in the sense that no further damage is presently being done to the Landmark to add to the earlier impacts of the orchard and polo field.

VI. continued.....

which were also part of the battlefield) have been even more impacted with highways, railroads, housing developments and dredging operations. As a result, there is virtually no historical integrity left in the area, either within the Landmark boundaries, or in the surrounding lands where the battle also occurred. Destruction of the site is so extensive it is doubtful if an archeological survey could determine the true and exact extent of the original battlefield.

- present claimed
- IX. Is the site used for commercial purposes? Yes _____ No X If yes, does this present any problems related to maintaining the integrity of the site? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please describe:

It represents only a small portion of the original battleground.

- X. Please describe any financial problems related to the site:

- XI. What other problems did you encounter, if any?

NA

- XII. What specific suggestions, if any, did you make to the owner or administrator?

NA

- XIII. What follow-up action do you suggest for the SWRO and/or others?

That the Southwest Region recommend that the NHL designation be removed (see attached memorandum)

- XIV. Is there any urgency regarding the suggested action? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please clarify:

Only to avoid the possibility that it will again be proposed as a National Historical Park.

- XV. If this site is being managed under the terms of a signed agreement, has the plaque been mounted? Yes _____ No XX If yes, describe exact location. If no, please explain why it has not been accepted or not been mounted. Also, describe location of the Certificate.

Questions?

(See attached memorandum)

(PLEASE ENCLOSE PHOTOS, CLIPPINGS, COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE, OR ANY OTHER MATERIALS WHICH WILL SUPPLEMENT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE REPORT)



Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, Texas. Photo by
by Robert M. Utley, Oct. 23, 1958. Negative in
Region Three Office, National Park Service,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

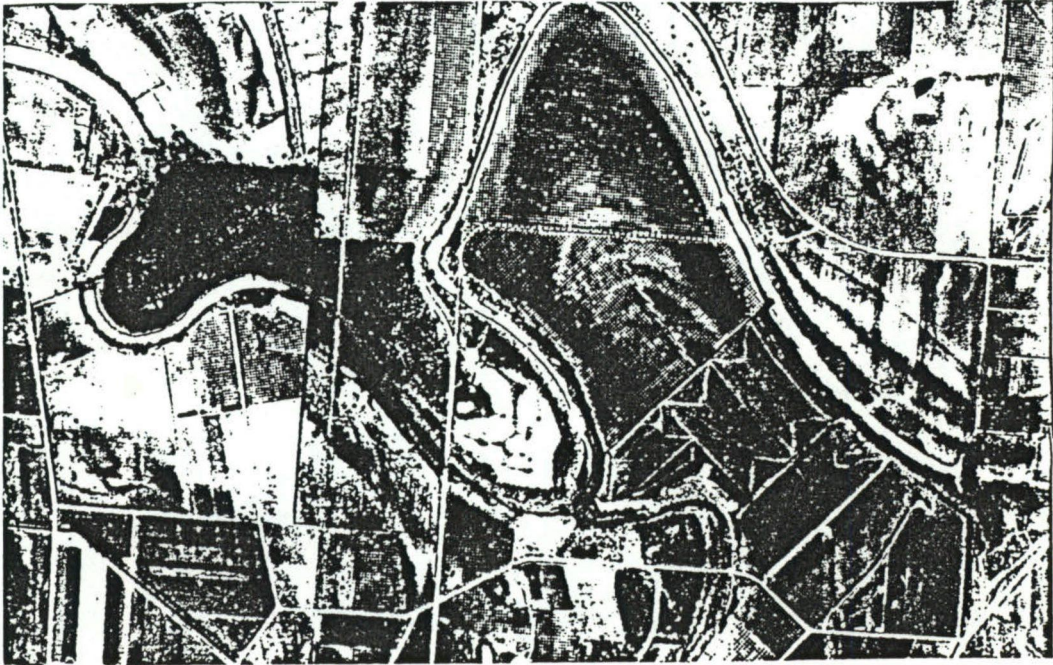


Fig. 2

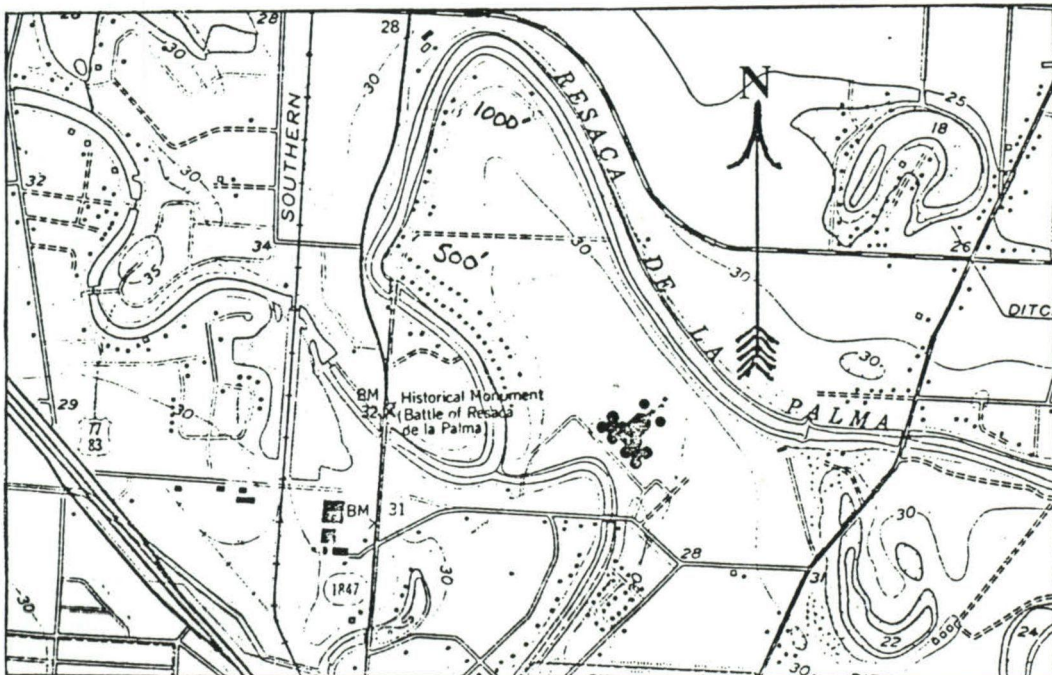


Fig. 3

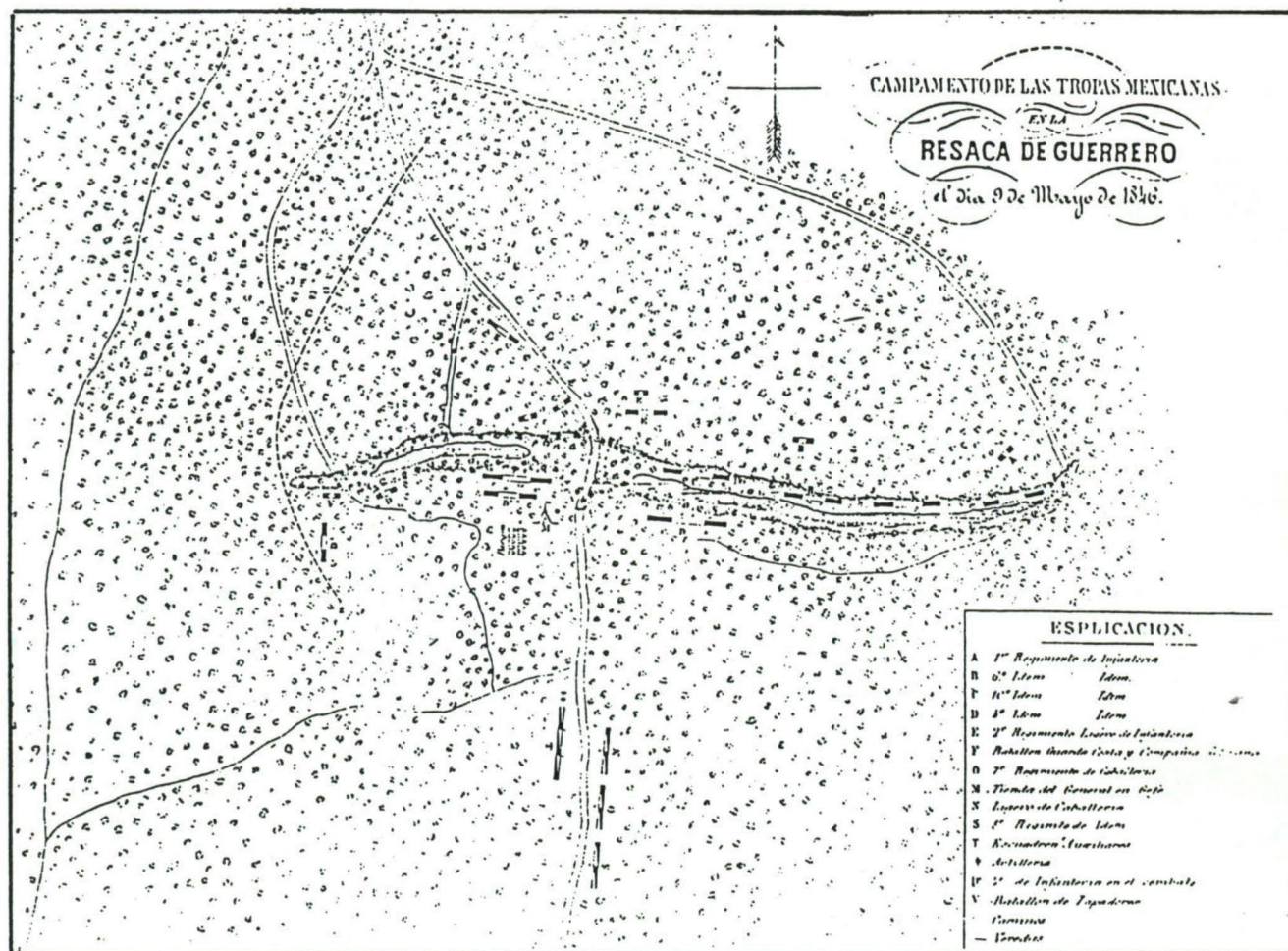


Fig. 8

Resaca De Guerrero. Map taken from the
book Campana Contra los americanos del
Norte. 1846

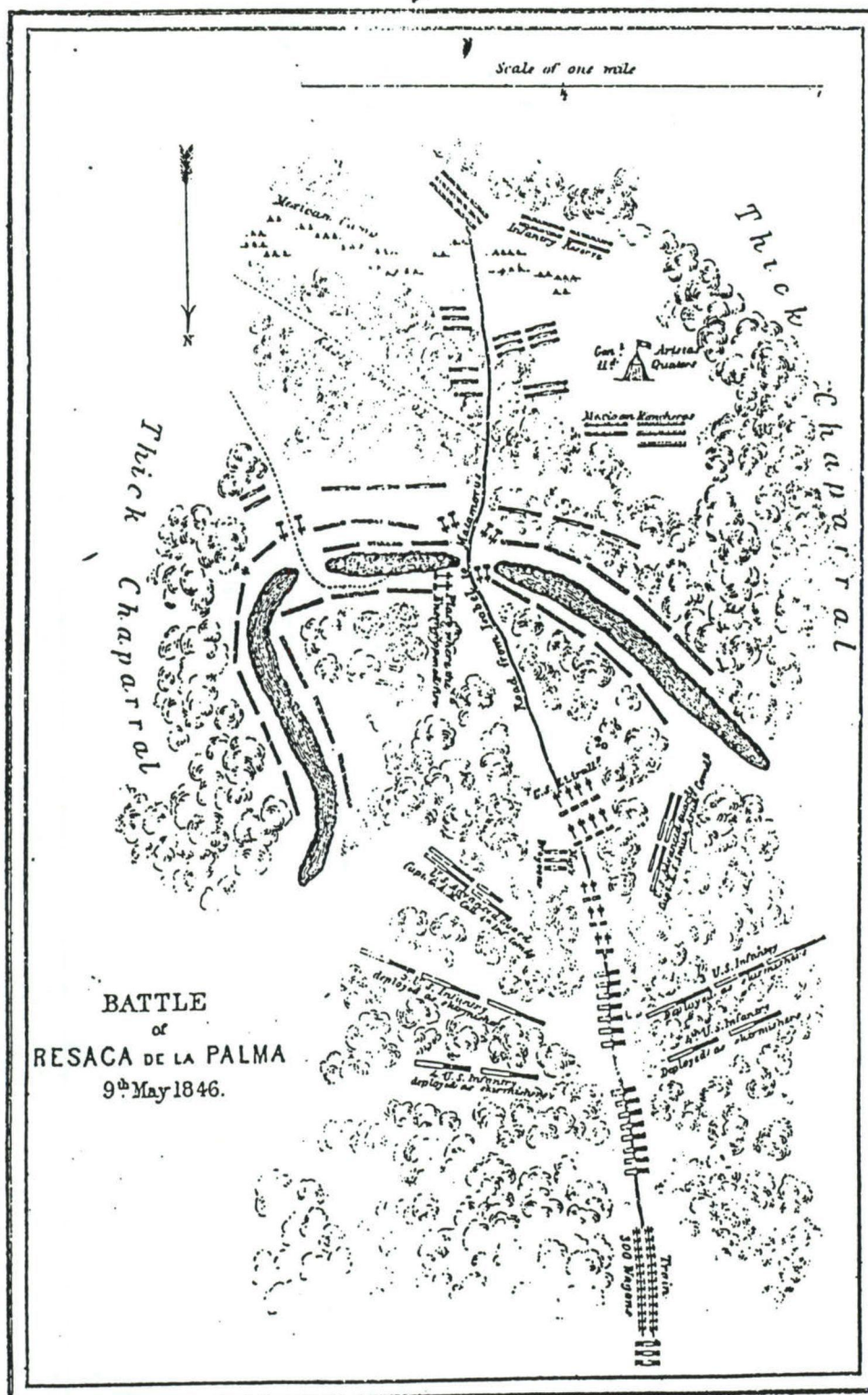


Fig. 9

Map showing the battle of
Resaca de la Palma

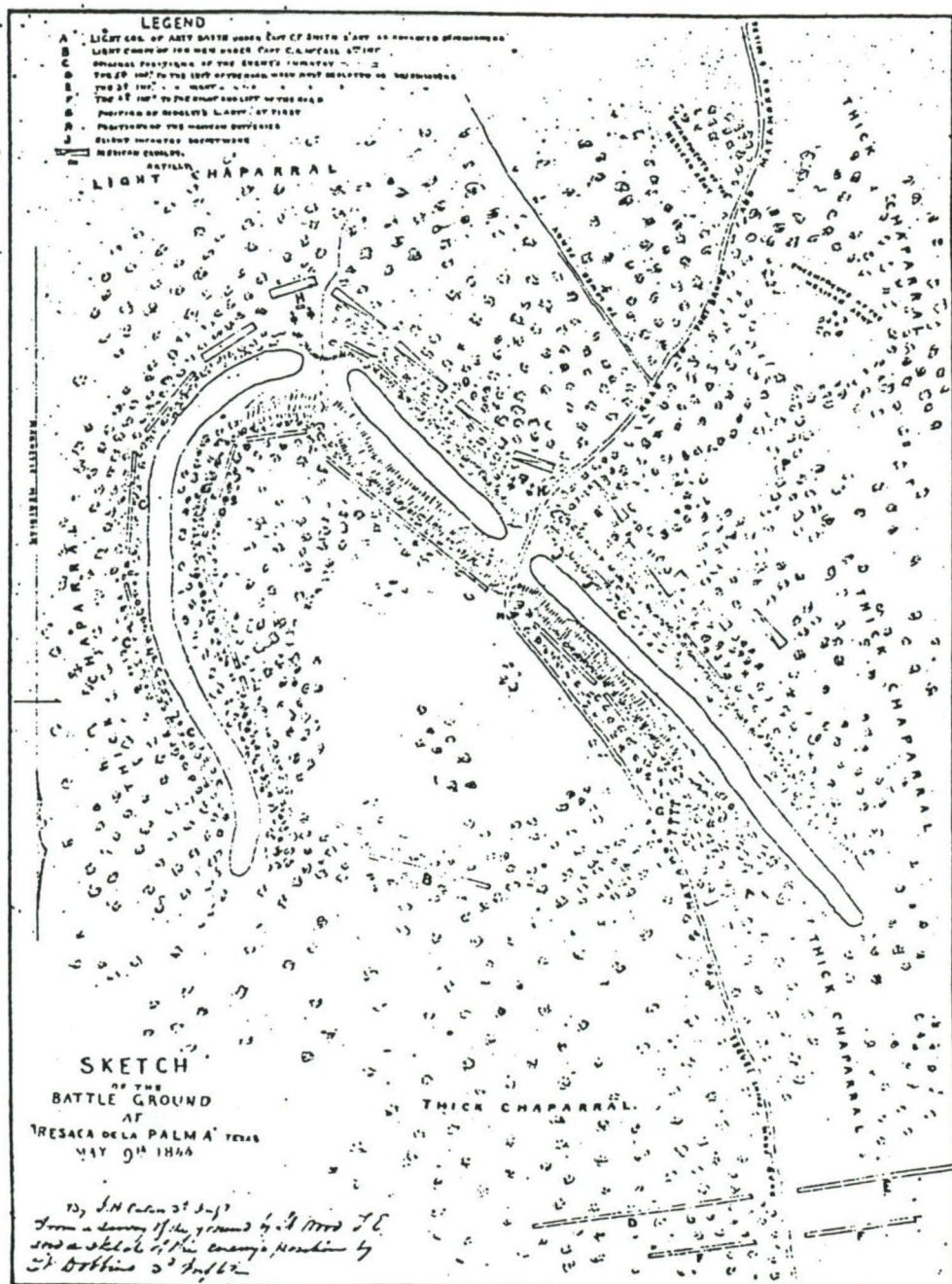


Fig. 10

Map showing the battle of
Resaca de la Palma.

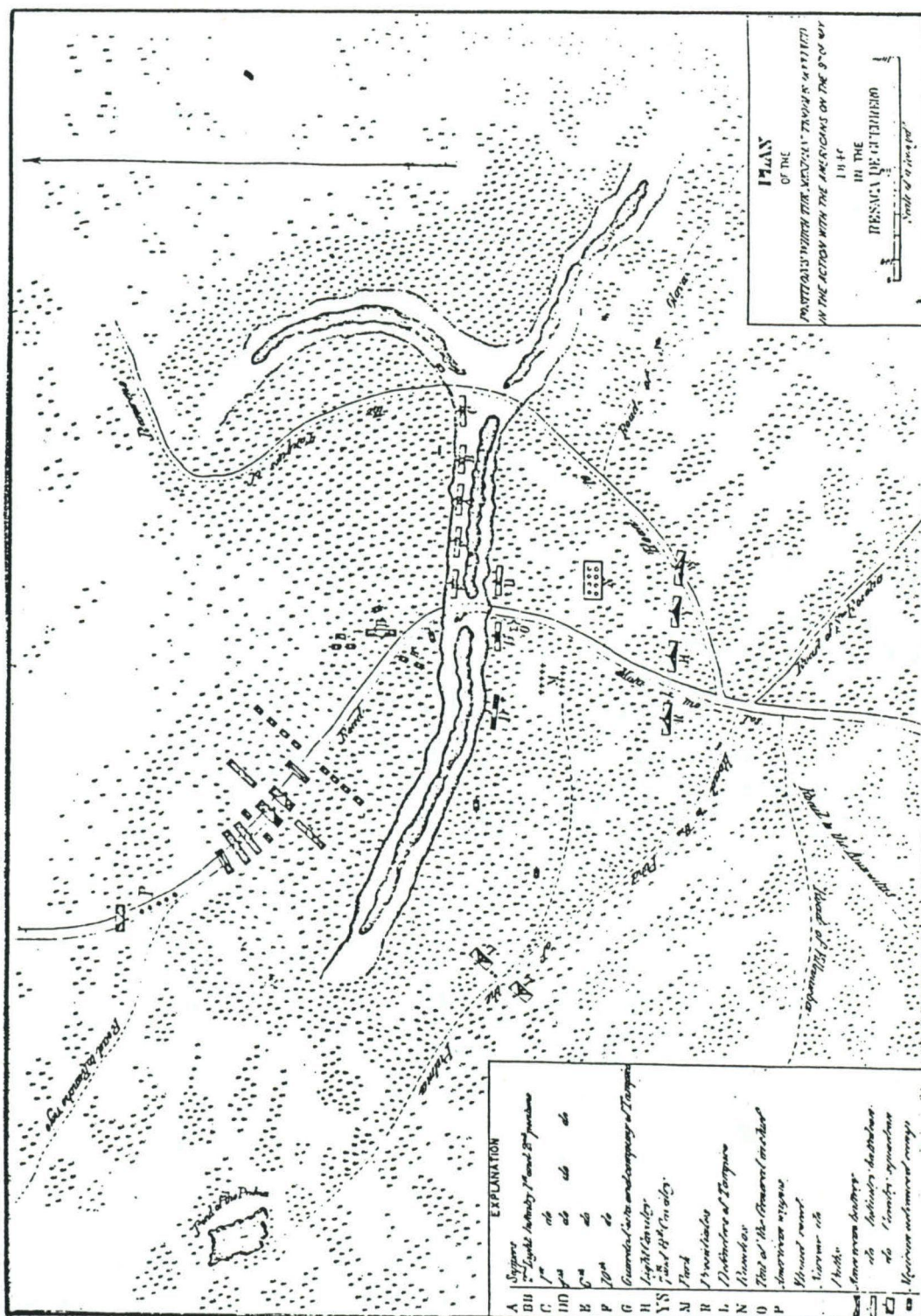


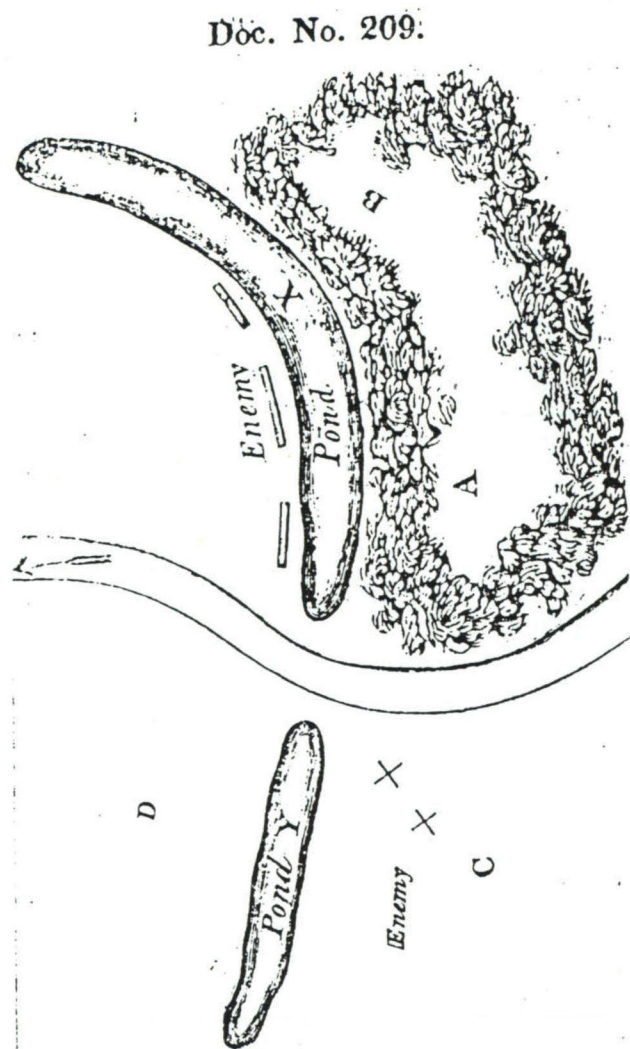
Fig. 12

Plan of the Positions which the
Mexicans Troops Manned in the
Action with the Americans on the
9th of May 1846 in the Resaca de
Guerrero.

Alcaraz: 1850



Fig. 50A



CAMP OF THE ART. BATT., 1ST BRIGADE,
Near Matamoros, Mexico, May 13, 1866.

to be received intelligence from his advanced
~~position~~ Chaparral or thick brush was

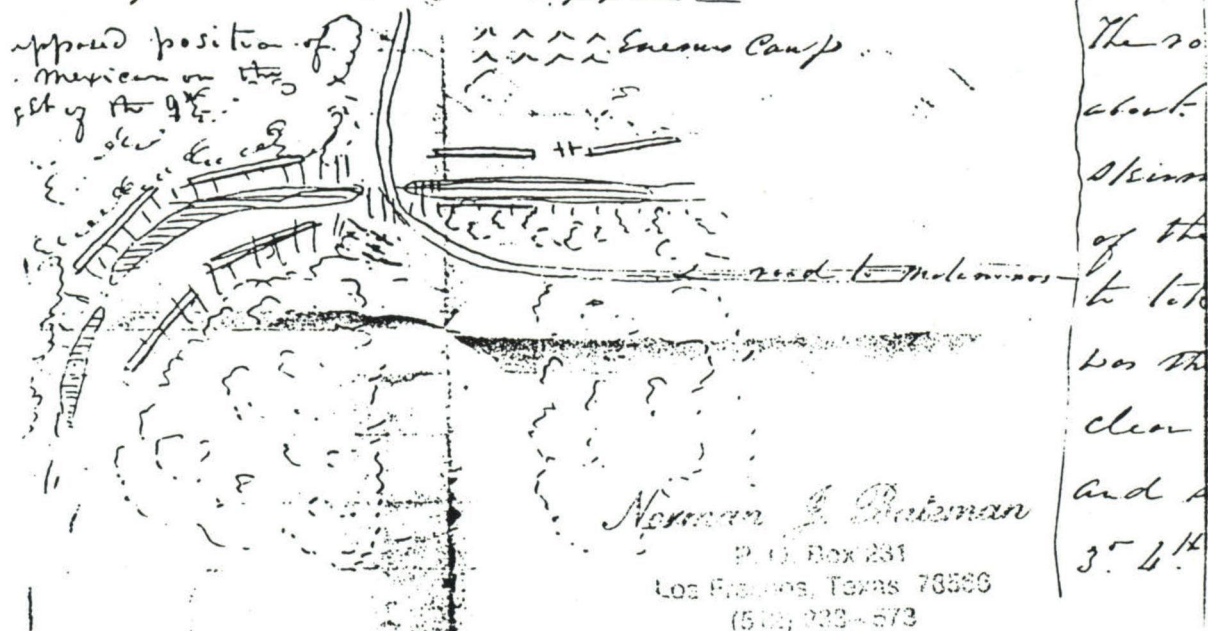


Fig. 51

This sketch of Resaca de la Palma was done by Lt. J. M. Scarritt. It was drawn on the body of a letter sent to Col. Totten describing both the battle of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma.

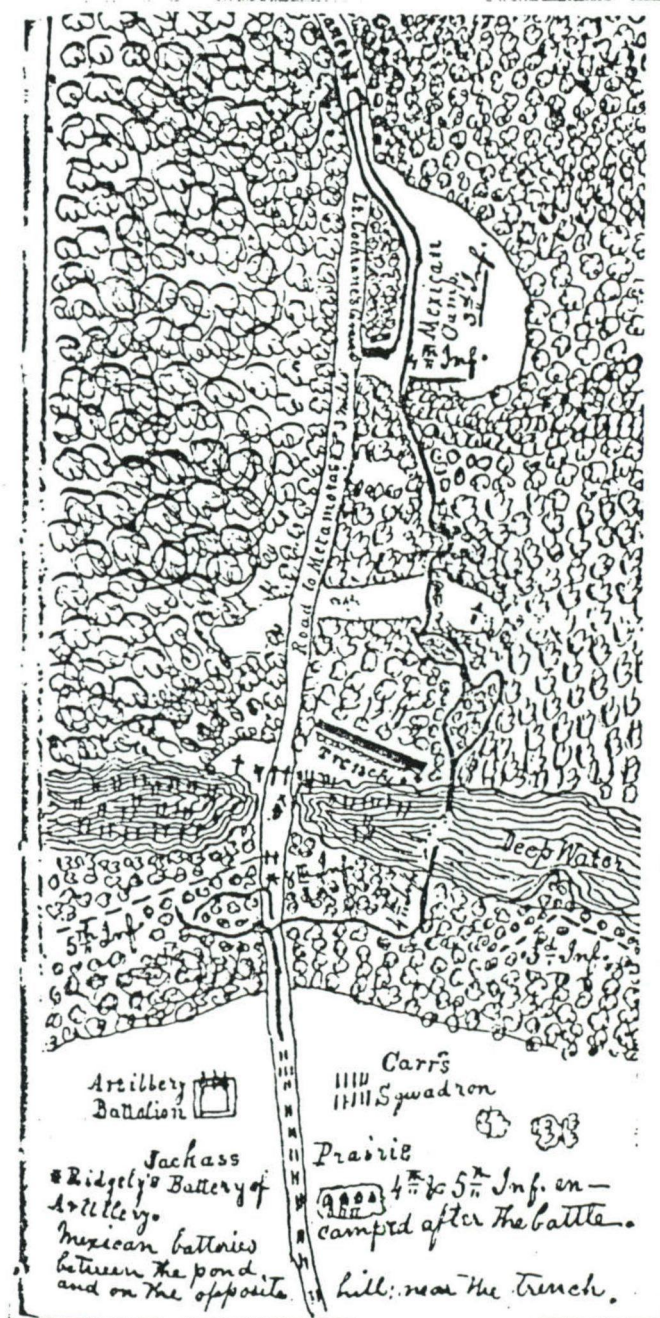


Fig. 52

This sketch shows the American and Mexican positions at the beginning of the battle. It is likely that this sketch was made on the battlefield.

portions of the relative parts of the fields, or the course of the road. This is furnished to make the latter more intelligible.

Although the cattle trails are numerous near the Resaca, there are few which may be called practicable for troops. The rapid growth of the chaparral causes the boughs of different trees to interlock, and soon closes up the road; the cattle then seek new routes to the water; which accounts for the multiplicity of them.

In such trails as above soldiers were compelled to crawl on hands and feet, of course, they could not advance as rapidly as those in more favored paths. This will account for a regiment, deployed as skirmishers, being broken into so many small parties, and as the Enemy were scattered over the whole field, each party found itself engaged as soon as it approached the Resaca de la Palma.

(the watering place of the proprietor, Palma.) and unable to form a junction with the body of the Regiment and carry out its orders in a map.

