Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

		-4-
	STATE:	
	Texas	
34	COUNTY:	
	El Paso	
	FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB	23 197

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	NAME								
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	AND/OR HISTORIC:			PHIST US SEC.	I S BELLS				
	Site of Hart's Mill								
2	LOCATION								
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	El Paso								
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	PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)								
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	☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Pair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed
CONDITION	(Check One) (Check One)
	Altered Unaltered Moved V Original Site

Today, the visible remains of Old Fort Bliss are a pair of large, two-story adobe officers' quarters, which are now used as apartment buildings, two long structures identified in Old Forts of the Southwest as barracks buildings, and La Hacienda restaurant, formerly Simeon Hart's residence, which was used as an officers' club for the fort.

The two-family quarters buildings are two-story structures of double-laid adobe brick structured on a raised cut-stone basement. This pair of structures which are similar but not identical, are T-shaped with the T-stem projecting to the rear. The buildings have simple architectural detailing throughout. The massing of the structures, the architectural detailing and the progression of spaces--each Victorian in style--are closely related to the plain masonry buildings of other military dependent housing in the Texas fort series built by the United States government.

The entranceway into each of the quarters have single doors with sidelights and transoms. Three low gables on the main or east facades accentuate the pairs of windows and doors. Originally, one-story verandas extended the width of the buildings. When the quarters were made into apartments, the long verandas were replaced with small gabled porches covering only the two doorways in the center of the main facade on both buildings.

The barracks buildings are very plain, long adobe structures on rubble stone foundations. Only the corner blocks are of cut stone. The buildings are parallel and have a regular rhythm of a window and a door opening into each of the narrow barracks chambers.

A thorough archeological investigation of the site is expected to reveal numerous ruins of Old Fort Bliss structures and the remains of Simeon Hart's mill, the site of which is adjacent to the present La Hacienda Cafe. The large stucco-covered restaurant building was constructed within the walls of Simeon Hart's residence "Molino."

Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
El Paso	
FOR NPS USE ONL	-Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

4. (contd.)

(Barracks) Mr. Oscar Casas, 1401 Hawthorne Street El Paso, Texas 048



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	▼ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole and Known) 1851	(mill) c. 1885	(barracks)
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Approp	priate)	y seasons.
Abor iginal	☐ Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
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Agriculture			
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture	一个一个一个一个
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☐ Architecture			
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first United States military post in what is now El Paso was established in February, 1848, and "in September, 1849, Major Jefferson Van Horne arrived with regimental head-quarters and six companies to defend against Indian raids and to maintain American authority in the territory recently acquired from Mexico by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo " (Handbook of Texas, p.620). The post was officially named in 1854 for Colonel William Wallace S. Bliss, assistant adjutant general and General Zachary Taylor's adjutant general during the Mexican War.

At this time the American settlement on the north side of the Rio Grande consisted of four scattered establishments known as Hart's Mill, Smith's Ranch, Magoffinsville, and Stephenson's (or Concordia) Ranch.

The United States military establishment of Fort Bliss has occupied a number of different locations and was abandoned several times in the first decades after its founding. The Smith Ranch site, Magoffinsville site and the Concordia site were all on land leased by the United States government. The fourth location, and the first fort site which the federal government purchased was established on 135 acres at Hart's Mill in 1878. It was on this site that the first permanent establishment was to be built.

Hart's Mill, which was located at the strategic site of the actual pass through the mountains along the Rio Grande between the United States and Mexico, had been settled in 1851 by Simeon Hart.

Hart settled in 1850 in what was to become El Paso and built a flour mill in 1851. Hart's Mill, powered by water impounded on the Rio Grande, was a large mill with a capacity of one hundred barrels daily, supplying flour for the vast territory east to San Antonio, south to Rosales in Mexico, and west to Tucson, Arizona (Handbook of Texas, p.781). With an interruption during the Civil War, Hart successfully operated his mill until his death in 1874.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conger, Roger N., et. al. 1966. Frontier Forts of Texas. Waco: Texian Press.

Hart, Herbert M. 1964. Old Forts of the Southwest. Seattle: Superior Publishing Company.

Webb, Walter Prescott, ed. 1952. The Handbook of Texas. Austin: Texas Historical Association.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	1
Texas	
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El Paso	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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(Number all entries)

8. (contd.)

In 1878, the Hart's Mill site for Fort Bliss was purchased from Hart's heirs and his home, called "Molino," which has been remodeled into the present La Hacienda Restaurant, and the mill were apparently used and incorporated into the Fort Bliss complex. "Congress had appropriated \$40,000 for the new fort, but the contractor's bid ran \$160,000. The result was that the soldiers were told to handle the construction, and the further result was that as late as 1881 the department commander was complaining that because of frequent Indian escapades, the work of constructing Fort Bliss buildings was still a long way from complete " (Frontier Forts of Texas, p.33).

The Hart's Mill location of Fort Bliss also failed to be a permanent location for the military post. "The railroads, then at the height of their power and therefore more persuasive with Congress and the Texas Legislature than the military, desired a right-of-way through the Fort Bliss acreage " (Frontier Forts of Texas, p.33). Soon the Southern Pacific tracks and the Santa Fe tracks bisected the post's parade ground.

The Hart's Mill location of Fort Bliss was, during its fifteen-year existence between 1878 and 1893, strategically involved in some of the last Indian campaigns in the Southwest, including the Victorio uprising in 1879 and the campaign against Geronimo in 1885-1886. In 1893, Fort Bliss was moved to its final location five miles northeast of El Paso.

to roveal numer

NAME OF PROPERTY Old Fort Bliss DATE:
The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.
1. Name.
2. Location
3. Classification. Our staff is undear as to whether this is a site or should it maybe be a district? 4. Owner of Property.
5. Location of Legal Description.
6. Representation in Existing Surveys.
1 7. Description. The relationship of La Hacienda Cape to present definition of Old It. Bliss is not clear.
8. Statement of Significance.
9. Bibliography.
b. Acreage
11. Form Prepared By.
12. Certification.
Photographic Coverage.
Map Coverage. Please send a altailed map (handdrawn is 0.K) with soundanies and building, so that we may see their relationship to each other.
Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiatio of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy National Register criteri in full. Mank you, Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED: Toles & Thulan

7900135/ Paso PROPERT Old Fort Bliss -1878-1893 STATE RECEIPT DATE OF RECEIPT NUMBER REGISTER NUMBER: DATA PAGE FEB 23 1972 PHOTO (S) PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S) MAP (S) MAP DESCRIPTION (S) LOGGED 9/24/11 REVOW site, what function do barracks and officers quality serve in nomination of means HISTORIAN 1/17/12 ARCHEOLOGIST OK Chambers ARCHITECT Very rateresting. Recommend return. mullen 10/12/71 KERPER Name Bell says local georps plan to acquire of states restore WRITTER/EDITOR explain rate of Fact Blics. Do need make slow-10/4/71 ELLE 2-23 CHIEF, OAHP Maybe this should be Old Fort Bliss? 86 (0) EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR 10/5/71 4-4-72 Federal Register Entry · Annual Edition Entry Logged FEB 2 3 1972 FFB 2 3 1972 Card WORKING NUMBER . 9, 22.71.1 COMMENTS: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Nan Richard O. White

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SPECIAL

CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY
9/30/71



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Title: Old First Bliss

El Paso County, Jeras

Lo SE elevations of the two

remaining officers' quarters

at Old First Bliss,

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Site of Hart's	Mill				2 4 5	O.
2. LOCATION						g Pa
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NEGATIVE FILED AT: Ewing Waterho		nue, E	El Paso,	Texas	79902	
4. IDENTIFICATION						
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.						
Southeast elevations of	the	two 1	remainin	g offi	cers' quart	ers
at Old Fort Bliss						



Title: Loc. Manual Control of the Co

EWING WATERHOUSE 1304 MADELINE AVE! EL PASO; TEXAS 79902

Title: Old Fort Bliss

El Paso County, Texas

North elevation of

barracks building at

Old Fort Bliss.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

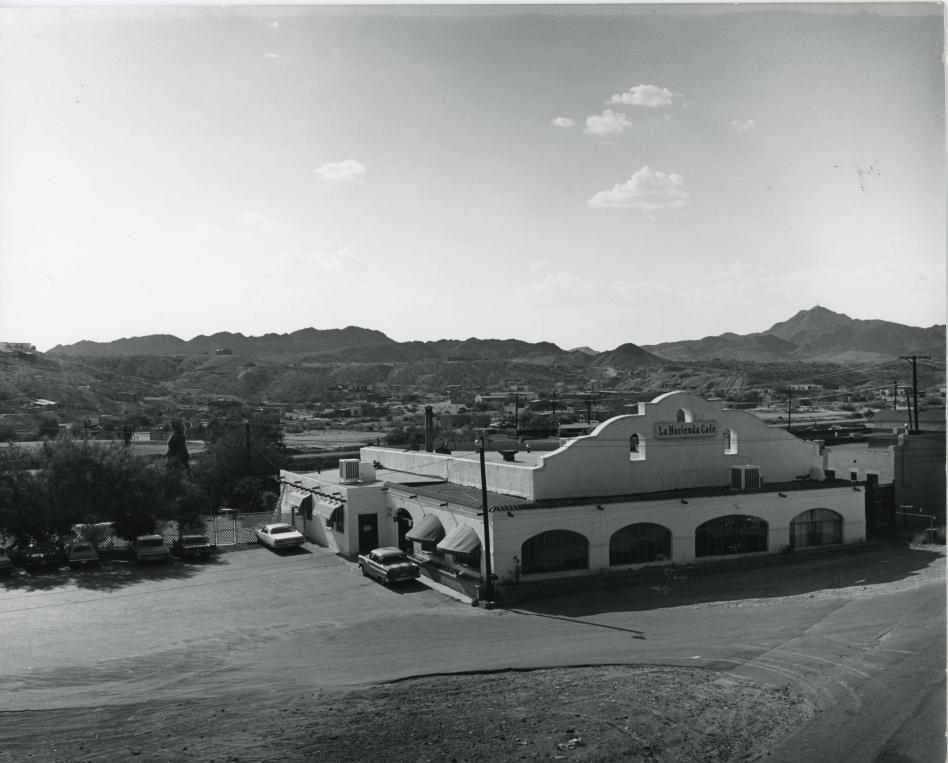
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ш ш S STATE Texas COUNTY El Paso FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Ewing Waterhouse		
DATE OF PHOTO: August, 1971		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Ewing Waterhouse		
1304 Madeline Aver	nue, El Paso, Texas 79902	
4. IDENTIFICATION		
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North elevation of barracks	s building at OId Fort Bliss.	



Title: Old Fort Bliss

El Paso County, Texas

Loc. SE elevation of La Facienda

Cafe which now occupies the site

of Hart's Mill. Hills bryond

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL RESISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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1304 Madeline Ave	nue, El Paso	o, Texas 79902			
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Mexico.					



(3)

Title: Old Fort Bliss

El Paso County, Jesus

Loc. North+east elevation of

one of the extant officers'

quarters.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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quarters.

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1. NAME Old Fort Bliss, 1878-1893 соммои: AND/OR HISTORIC: Site of Hart's Mill 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 1800 block Doniphan Street; property between Doniphan Street and Rio Grande, north of Franklin Canal CITY OR TOWN: El Paso STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE Texas El Paso 048 141 PHOTO REFERENCE Ewing Waterhouse PHOTO CREDIT: DATE OF PHOTO: August, 1971 NEGATIVE FILED AT: Ewing Waterhouse 1304 Madeline Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79902 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. North and east elevation of one of the extant officers'

Form 10-301 (July 1969)

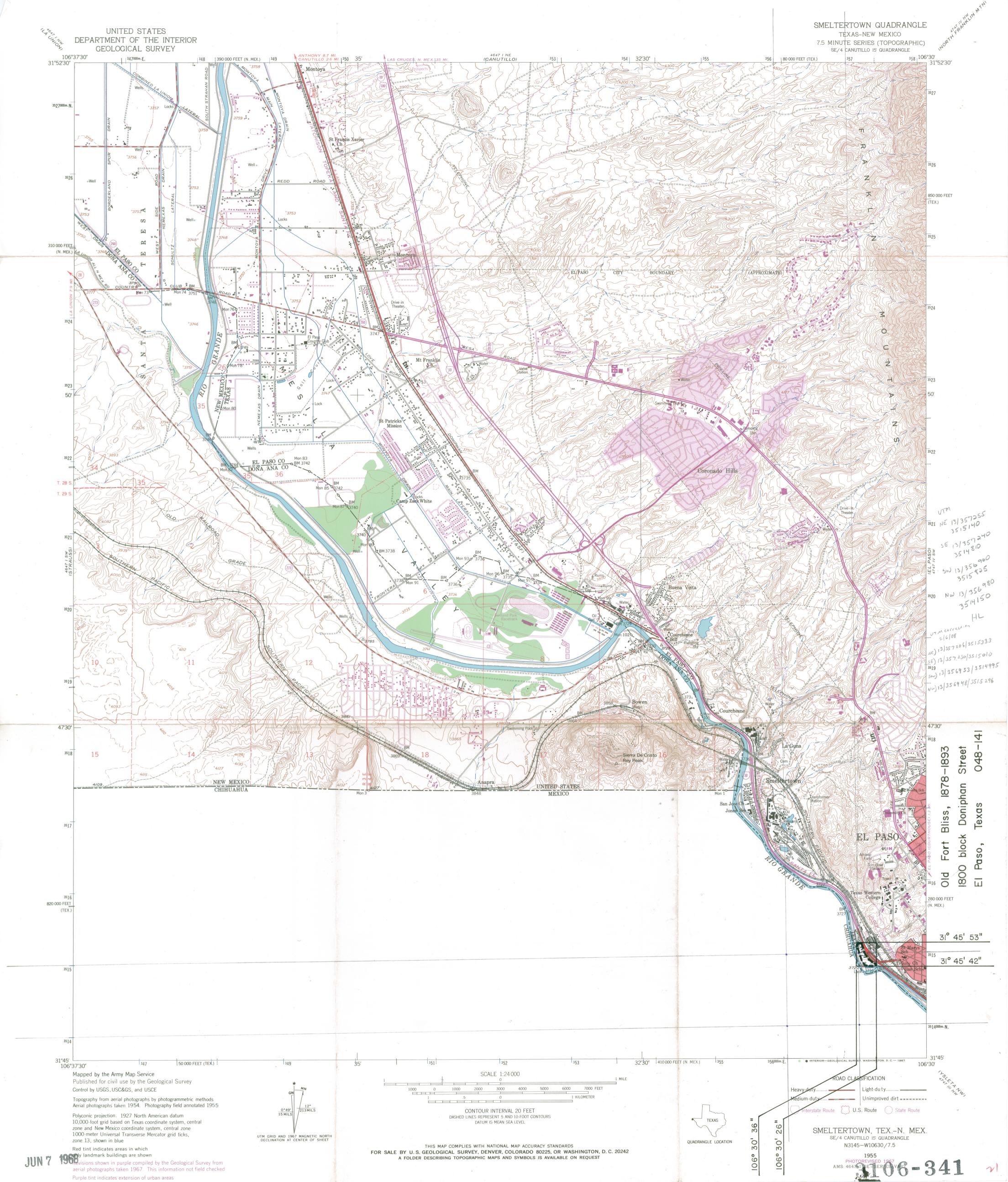
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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AND/OR HISTO	RIC: Site of Hart	's Mill				
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RICHARD C. WHITE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
322 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 202-225-4831

DISTRICT OFFICE:
Room 146 United States Courthouse
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901
TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 915-533-9351
EXTENSION 5330

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 10, 1972

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE #3

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEES:
DRUG ABUSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION

SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANPOWER AND CIVIL SERVICE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RETIREMENT,
INSURANCE, AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Honorable George B. Hartzog, Jr. Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear George:

Attached is a letter received from one of my constituents concerning a matter falling within the jurisdiction of your office.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter and furnishing me with a response upon which I may base my reply to Mr. Metz.

Your assistance in such matters is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Richard C. White

Member of Congress

Richard & Wh

RCW:bj

Enclosure



The University of Texas at El Paso

LIBRARY
OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

January 5, 1972

Hon. Richard C. White Member of Congress 322 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Dick:

I understand from the Texas State Historical Survey Committee in Austin that the application of the Harts Mill-Old Fort Bliss area for the National Register has been resubmitted to Washington. Would you expedite this matter if you can?

It has come to my attention that the Survey Committee has also nominated two or three other locations (such as the Lower Valley Missions) for National Register honors. We are pleased with all this, of course, but it is the Harts Mill-Old Fort Bliss site that is the most vital to us at the present time.

Hoping you had a nice Christmas, and wishing you a Happy New Year.

Yours very sincerely,

Leon C. Metz

University Archivist and

President

El Paso County Historical Society

Hon. Richard C. White House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. White:

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry in behalf of Mr. Leon C. Metz concerning matters related to the Harts Mill-Old Fort Bliss area of Texas.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will provide you a reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Director

cc: (LS)

FNP:MBCampbell:deh:1-12-72

To EAC Jang

DRAFT FBSarles: jm 1/17/72

H34-HR

Hon. Richard C. White House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Mr. Leon C. Metz concerning Old Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

The revised nomination form for this property was received here on January 5 and is now in process of review by members of the National Register staff. We will be happy to expedite our review of this nomination and will inform you of the result as soon as the review has been completed.

We appreciate your interest in the National Register program.

Sincerely yours,

Director

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical
Survey Committee, P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Stateon, Austin, Texas
78711 w/cy inc.
Director, Southwest Region w/cy inc.
LS-Mr. Melvin w/cy inc.
I- Mr. Winge
HR w/cy inc.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

WHITE HOUSE, CONGRESSIONAL, OR SECRETARIAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: HR

FROM: Division of Legislative Services (LS)

SUBJECT: Pres., SW.

CONTROL NUMBER:

SUSPENSE DATE: Jan. 18

The attached correspondence is forwarded for the preparation of a draft reply. In the event the above suspense date cannot be met, please furnish me an interim draft reply on of before that suspense date, and include reasons for the delay and an estimate as to the date a final reply may be expected.

All draft replies must be surnamed by the Chief of the Division preparing the draft. It will be optional with that Division Chief as to whether his Assistant Director should also surname the draft.

For NPS signature XXXXX
For Secretarial signature

Ira Whitlock

PLEASE LEAVE THIS MEMO ATTACHED TO THE CORRESPONDENCE

WASO-31 (6/71) USDI - NPS

Hon. Richard C. White House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

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cc: LS)

FNP:MBCampbell:deh:1-12-72

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
322 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 202-225-4831

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ROOM 146 UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901
TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 915-533-9351
EXTENSION 5330

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

January 10, 1972

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE #3

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEES:

Drug Abuse in the Armed Services
Transportation
Survivor's Benefits

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANPOWER AND
CIVIL SERVICE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RETIREMENT,
INSURANCE, AND HEALTH BENEFITS

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Sincerely yours,

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RCW:bi

Enclosure



The University of Texas at El Paso

LIBRARY
OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

January 5, 1972

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L'eon C. Metz

University Archivist and

President

El Paso County Historical Society

al paso

H3h-HR

JAN 28 1972

Hon. Richard C. White House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

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We appreciate your interest in the National Register program.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) JOSEPH C. RUMBURG, JR.

Acting Deputy Director

ee:

Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director

Texas State Historical Survey

Committee

P.O. Box 12276

Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711)w/c of inc.

Director, Southwest Region)

I - Mr. Winge

)w/c of inc.

FNP:FBSarles:maj:1/25/72

F. SARles

W. Mortach

L. Connelly

J. Wood 1/25

Muchin 1-26

Meliy 1/2/2 for# Whoward 1/27

(BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR)

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Entered FEB 23 1972

Name

Location

Mission San Francisco de la Espada

San Antonio Bexar County

Mission San Juan Capistrano

San Antonio Bexar County

Rocky Dell (41 OL 4)

Adrian

Oldham County

Hardeman House

Austin

Travis County

Old Fort Eliss, 1978-1893

El Paso

Carcia Pasture Site (41 CF 8)

El Paso County

Port Isabel Cameron County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower

Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.

Hon. Henry B. Gonzales

Hon. Potert D. Price

Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle

Hon. Richard C. White Hon. Eligio de la Garza

Committee Post Office Box 12276 Capitol Station

Texas State Historical Survey

State Liaison Officer Mr. Truett Latimer

Executive Director

Austin, Texas 78711

NRowland: mm Director, Southwest Region



Office of the Director

El Paso Centennial Museum

THE MUSEUM OF
The University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, Texas 79968

3 July 1975

Mr. W.M. Reeves
O.A.H.P. - M.P.S. - U.S.D.I.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Reeves,

Alton Briggs, Texas Antiquities Committee, Austin, asked me to send these photos directly to you for inclusion in the file on archeological sites nominated to the National Register from the Easternmost Two Sections of Castner Range, Fort Bliss, El Paso County, Texas.

The identification of the photos is on the back of each. If futher infomation is needed, please write or call.

Rex E. Gerald, Ph.D.

Director

H34-PR Dr. Rex E. Gerald Director, The Museum of the University of Texas at El Paso El Paso, Texas 79968 Dear Dr. Gerald: Thank you for your recent letter and the accompanying photographs of archeological sites in the two easternmost sections of Castner Range, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. The photographs and the accompanying descriptions were very helpful in reaching a decision on a determination of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register on sites in this area. As you know from your telephone conversation with Bill Reeves in the National Register office, we are retaining the photographs so that they may be included in a National Register nomination that the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer will soon be forwarding to the National Park Service. We appreciate your cooperation on behalf of historic preservation. Sincerely yours, Ronald M. Greenberg For William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register cc: Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Survey Committee Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station

Autin, Texas 78711 w/c inc.

Director's Reading File

PR-w/c inc.

FNP: W Reeves: fdf 7-31-75

Regional Director, Southwestern Region w/c inc.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR