

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 24 1977

DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC **
Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Sheffield on*
Charles C. Canon Ranch

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Sheffield

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 16

STATE
Texas

CODE
48

COUNTY
Pecos

CODE
371

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. Mickey Canon
STREET & NUMBER
Charles C. Canon Ranch
CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Sheffield

STATE
Texas 79701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pecos County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Fort Stockton

STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Texas Historic Engineering Site Inventory
DATE
1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech University

CITY, TOWN
Lubbock

STATE
Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill is located on the Charles C. Canon Ranch west of the town of Sheffield, Texas. The windmill and well are located in the corral area near the ranch headquarters.

The Railroad Eclipse Windmill was made of wood, cast iron, and steel. The wheel had a total of two hundred and thirty-two wooden blades, which were bolted in sections to a wooden wheel frame. The head, or operating portion of the windmill, located at the top of the wooden tower, was made of cast iron and steel and used babbitted bearings. Attached to the head were two tails, one for speed control and the other for on-off control. Both of these tails were of wood reinforced with small amounts of cast iron and steel.

The original tower was replaced with a newer "telescoped" tower in 1915. This tower remains in use at the present time. The windmill continued to serve the ranch for many years, but in time it was replaced by a power pump. In the early 1960's the mill was damaged by a severe windstorm. Then in 1964, Charles C. Canon, the son of the original builder of the mill, had the windmill completely restored and placed in operating condition over the original well.

At the present time the wooden parts of the mill are painted light green with black trim. The tower is painted white. The wheel of the mill is 22-1/2 feet in diameter. The wheel, cut-off vane, and regulator vane are composed mostly of wood with some cast iron and steel parts. The pump mechanism is likewise made of wood and cast iron.

Today, an electric motor is operating the plunger of the well beneath the windmill. The windmill is in excellent operating condition and could be connected to the plunger, providing ample water for ranch and livestock use. Since the windmill has been recently restored, no further work seems to be in order except for periddic maintenance. Due to the fact that the Eclipse Windmill is in near perfect condition, it may be one of the last working large windmills that can be observed.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" 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

1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Canon

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill is one of the few operable Railroad Eclipse Windmills remaining in the United States. These windmills were the largest commercially produced windmills in the United States and were used extensively along the railway routes through the arid Southwest. The Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill operated for many years as the primary source for water at the Canon Ranch headquarters.

One of the most important engineering achievements which influenced the development of West Texas and New Mexico was the windmill. Windmills have been used in Europe since before the 12th century. However, the European windmill, often 50 to 100 feet in diameter, was too large to be successfully used and transported in the West. Daniel Halladay, a mechanic from Connecticut, is credited with the invention of the first American windmill in 1854 which proved to be a marketable product. In 1857, the U.S. Wind Engine Company was formed for manufacturing the Halladay windmill.

The first windmills came to West Texas about 1881 with the coming of the railroads. A dependable supply of good quality water was necessary for steam locomotive boiler supply. Both the Southern Pacific and Texas & Pacific Railroads made use of the windmill for water supply. These railroads used windmills made by the Eclipse Windmill Company similar to the one located at the Canon Ranch.

In 1898 William Canon, the owner of extensive ranching interests west of the Pecos River in Texas, was determined to replace the mule-driven pump at his ranch headquarters with a wind-driven pump. He probably chose the large railroad-style Eclipse Windmill because of its ability to pump water from deep drilled wells. The model that he chose, a twenty-two and a half foot diameter windmill, was the largest ever constructed by the Eclipse Company.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carmichael, Joe M. "Water from the Wind." The Cattleman, XXXVI, No. 5 (October, 1949), pp. 23-25, 70. (Available at Texas Tech Library).

Jordan, Terry G. "Windmills in Texas." Agricultural History, XXXVII, No. 2 (April, 1963), pp. 80-85. (Available at Texas Tech Library).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 215180 3405020
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William L. Cumiford and Paul D. Hutchison, Research Assistants

ORGANIZATION

History of Engineering Program

DATE

10-11-76

STREET & NUMBER

Texas Tech University, P.O. Box 4089

TELEPHONE

(806) 742-3593

CITY OR TOWN

Lubbock

STATE

Texas 79409

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL x

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Smelt Salmeron

TITLE

DATE

February 5, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Charles A. Harrington

DATE 3-22-77
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Wathene Cole

DATE

9-22-77

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 FEB 24 1977

DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Repair List for Standard Windmills. October, 1934. Railroad Pattern.
16, 18, 20 and 22-1/2 Sizes. Fort Worth, Texas: F. W. Axtell
Manufacturing Co., 1934. (Available from T. Lindsay Baker, Lubbock,
Texas).

Repair List for Standard Windmills. October, 1934. Regular Pattern.
Sizes 9, 10, 12 and 14-Foot. Fort Worth, Texas: F. W. Axtell
Manufacturing Co., 1934. (Available from T. Lindsay Baker, Lubbock,
Texas).

77001465
Pecos

Property Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill

State Texas

Working Number 224.77.351

TECHNICAL

Photos 5
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 2.24.77

HISTORIAN

*accept
B Groves
5/10/77*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept
M. Hutz
4-29-77*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

*Structure is one of the last remaining
this type of windmill, it is especially
significant because it was one of the largest
ever built.*

HAER

Inventory X
Review ✓
1/77

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Cole
8-22-77*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Hanning
9.22.77*

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 11-1-77

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered SEP 22 1977

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FEB 24 1977

Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill
Sheffield, Tx, Pecos Co.

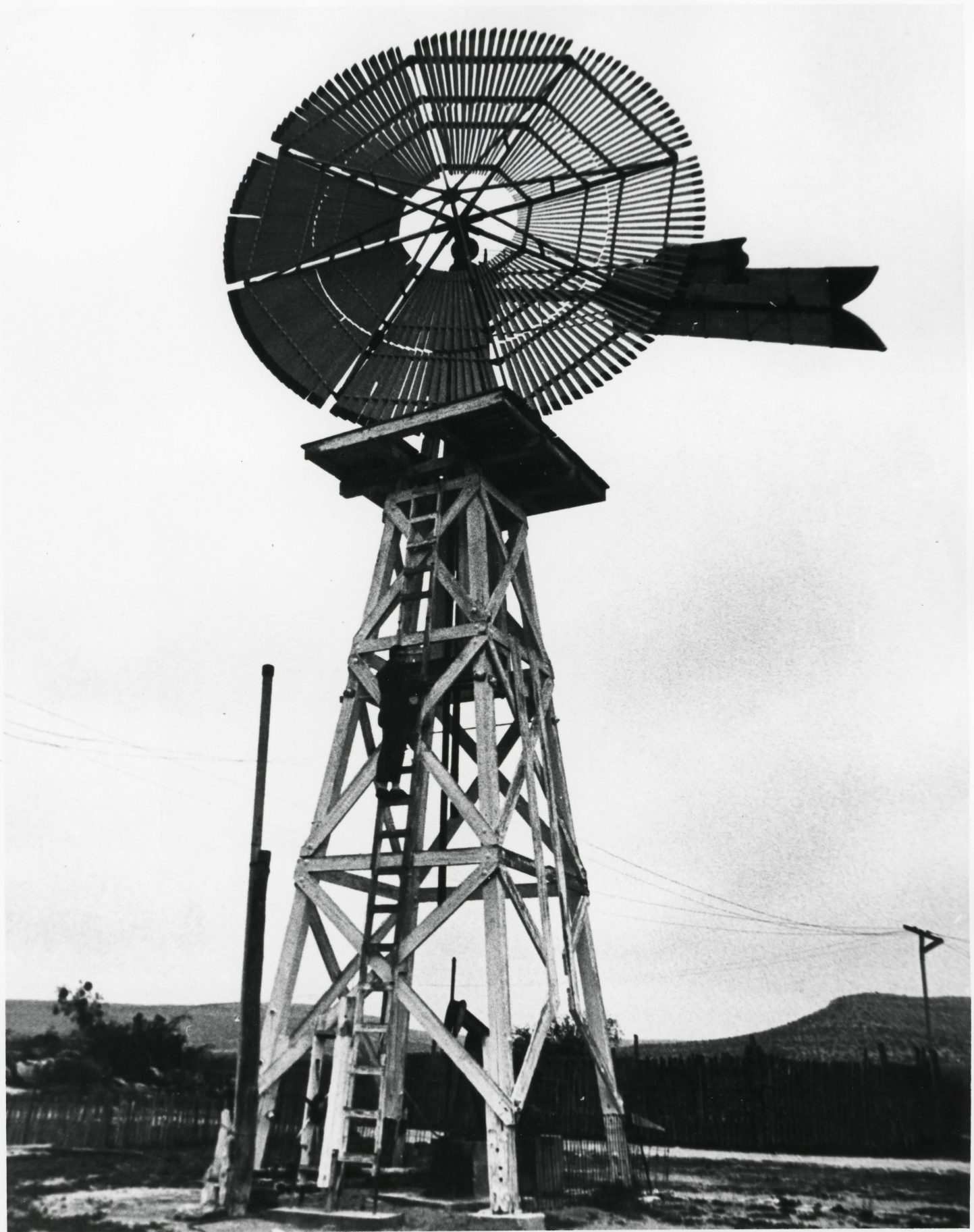
71

History of Engineering Program, C. E. Dept.
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Tx

Looking southwest to the Railroad Eclipse Windmill at
the Canon Ranch, Sheffield, Tx. The diameter of the
wheel is 22 1/2 ft.

SEP 22 1977

#1 865



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FEB 24 1977

Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill
Sheffield, Tx, Pecos Co.
1971
Texas Tech. University, Lubbock, Tx
History of Eng. Program, Dept. of C.E.

Looking south to a general view of the Eclipse
Windmill.

#2 95

SEP 22 1977

2



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FEB 24 1977

Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill
Sheffield, Tx., Pecos Co.
1976

History of Engineering Program, Dept. of Civil Eng.
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Tx

detail of regulator vane..

#3 95

SEP 22 1977



4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FEB 24 1977

Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill
Sheffield, Tex, Pecos Co.
1976

History of Engineering Program, Dept. of C.E.
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Tx

Detail of the rear of the wheel and main casting.

SEP 22 1977

4 075



5

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER FEB 24 1977

Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill
Sheffield, Tx, Pecos Co.
1976

History of Engineering Program, Dept. of C.E.
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Tx

Looking up at detail of the windmill from a profile
view.

SEP 22 1977 5065

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 24 1977

DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

X VICINITY OF

Sheffield

COUNTY

Pecos

STATE

Texas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, Texas, Sheffield
NW Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series (topographic)

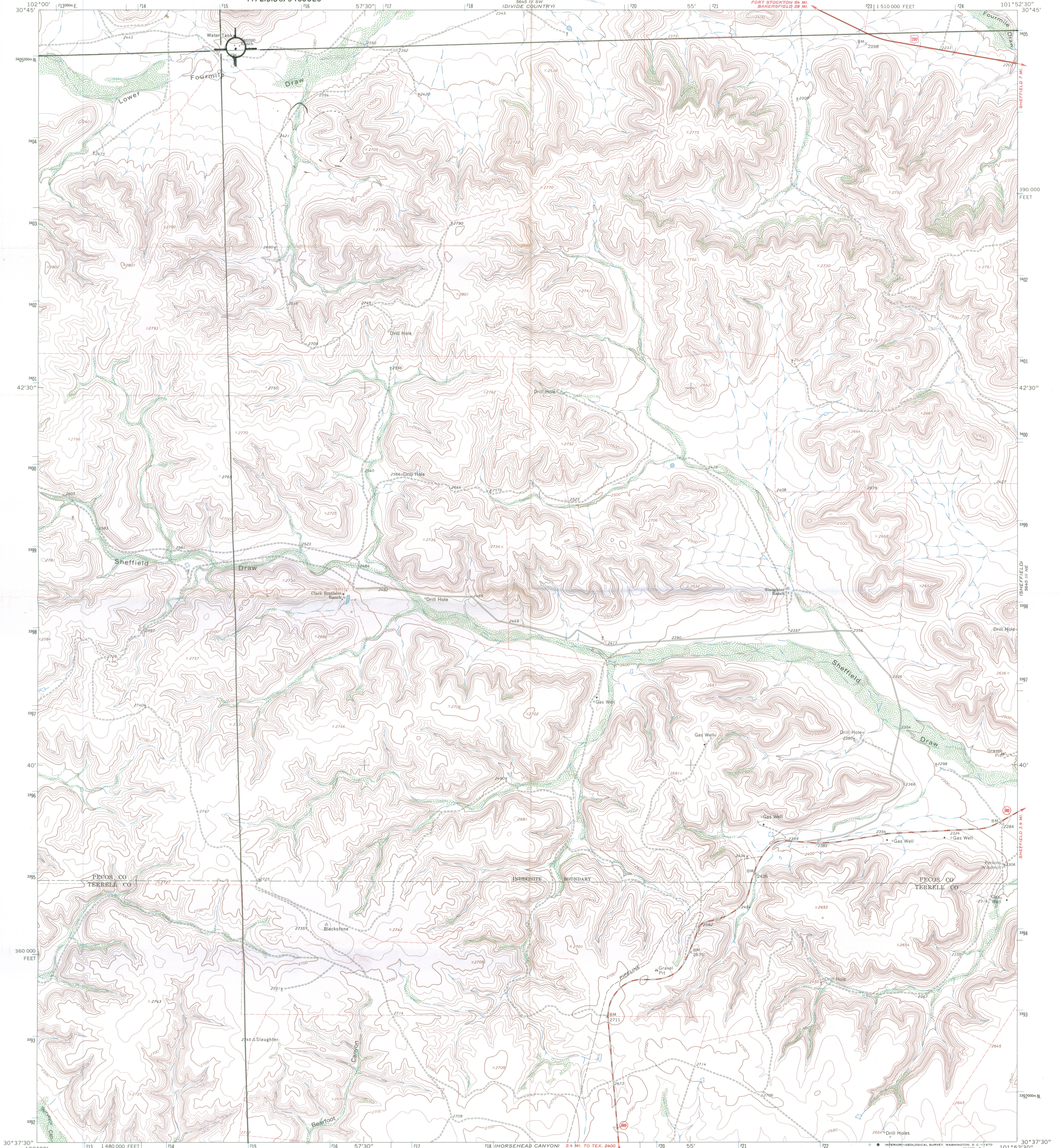
SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1967

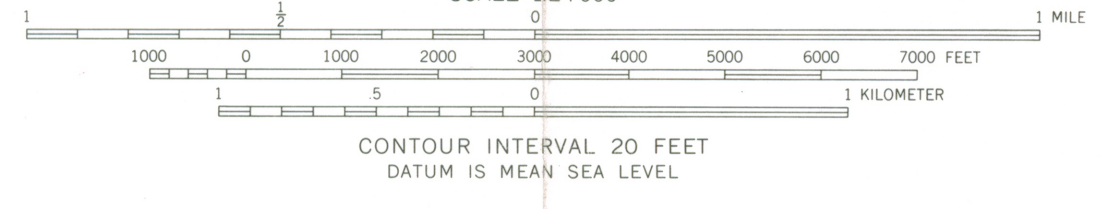
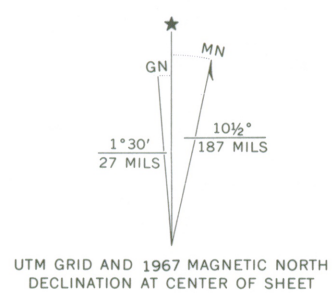
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



SHEFFIELD NW, TEX.
N3037.5-W10152.5/7.5
1967
AMS 5645 III NW-SERIES V882

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Texas Historical Commission

Box 12276, Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

Truett Latimer
Executive Director

January 11, 1977

Mr. Mickey Canon
Charles C. Canon Ranch
Sheffield, Texas 79781

Re: Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill

Dear Mr. Canon:



The above named site or structure will be considered by the Board of Review for the State of Texas for approval to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. This review is pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 rulemaking published in the Federal Register. The Review Board meets in Austin, Texas, on January 25, 1977.

The National Register, established by Congress in the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, was created to record the heritage of the nation as reflected in its architecture, archeological sites, and other historic places. Therefore, the Register is the official schedule of the nation's tangible cultural property which is worthy of preservation. By identifying these irreplaceable resources across the face of the land, we can build a future with both a rich environment and a visible continuity with the past.

The inclusion of an historic property on the National Register is primarily an inventory listing that in no way infringes upon the private property rights of the owners. National Register properties may or may not be open to the public, at the discretion of the owner. In addition, the property's inclusion on the National Register qualifies it to receive a matching grant-in-aid for preservation or restoration through the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service. To date, however, funding for this recently created matching grants-in-aid program has been at such a minimal level that only a very limited number of historic properties clearly demonstrating public benefit can be considered for grants. The inclusion also gives it a measure of protection from destruction in any federally funded or licensed projects, such as highway or reservoir construction.

Your interest in this program is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments concerning this selection process please write to the Texas Historical Commission, National Register department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe R. Williams".

Joe R. Williams, Director
National Register Programs
for Texas

cc: County Chairman

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **TEXAS**

Date Entered **SEP 22 1977**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill	Sheffield vicinity Pecos County
Mathews - Powell House	Queen City Cass County
Edgemont	Marshall vicinity Harrison County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
 Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
 Hon. Robert C. Krueger
 Hon. Sam B. Hall, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer
 Mr. Truett Latimer
 Executive Director
 Texas Historical Commission
 P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
 Austin, Texas 78711

Regional Director, Southwest Region

880 Mott 9/27/77

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4-29-77
Reviewer INITIALS: msz
NR DOE SEP 22 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Canon Ranch Railroad Eclipse Windmill

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: Of Sheffield on Charles C. Canon Ranch

CITY, TOWN: Sheffield CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 16th
STATE: Texas 48 VICINITY OF: Sheffield COUNTY: Pecos code: 371

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1, unknown-4, not applicable-7
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2, unknown-5, not applicable-8
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3, unknown-6, not applicable-9

CONDITION - EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR, DETERIORATED, RUINS, UNEXPOSED, Unexcavated, UNALTERED, ALTERED, Reconstructed, Excavated, ORIGINAL SITE, MOVED, Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted, Yes-unrestricted, No access, Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then - windmill

now - same

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC, AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE, ART, COMMERCE, COMMUNICATIONS, CONSERVATION, ECONOMICS, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, EXPLORATION, INDUSTRY, INVENTION, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, LAW/Gov't/politics, LITERATURE, MILITARY, MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, RELIGION, SCIENCE, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER (SPECIFY), entertainment, health, recreation, settlement, socio/cultural, urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

— William Cannon

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal Daniel Halladay - Corn mechanic credited w/ the invention of the 1st American windmill

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1915 - tower replaced

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1964 - restored

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

wood, cast iron, and ~~st~~ steel windmill

wheel - 22 1/2' diameter

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

One of the few remaining operable Railroad Eclipse Windmills in the US; these windmills were the largest commercially produced windmills in the U.S. and were commonly used along the railroad in the SW.; pumped water on the Cannon Ranch.