1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: **PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD**

Other Name/Site Number: PALMITO (OR PALMETTO) HILL BATTLEFIELD

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: South of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Highway) Not for publication: ___

City/Town: Brownsville Vicinity: X

State: TX County: Cameron Code: 061 Zip Code: 78520

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property		Category of Property	
Private:	X	Building(s):	___
Public-Local:	___	District:	___
Public-State:	___	Site:	X
Public-Federal:	X	Structure:	___
		Object:	___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
____	____	buildings
1	____	sites
____	____	structures
____	____	objects
1	____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

Designated a
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK on
SEP 25 1997
by the Secretary of the Interior

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

_____ _____
Signature of Certifying Official Date

_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

_____ _____
Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

____ Entered in the National Register
____ Determined eligible for the National Register
____ Determined not eligible for the National Register
____ Removed from the National Register
____ Other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	DEFENSE	Sub:	Battle Site
Current:	AGRICULTURE LANDSCAPE	Sub:	Agricultural Field Unoccupied Land

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: N/A

MATERIALS: N/A
Foundation:
Walls:
Roof:
Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Palmito Ranch Battlefield retains exceptional integrity of setting, feeling, association and location, nearly 130 years after the battle which occurred on May 12 and 13, 1865. Occupying the southernmost tip of Texas, midway between tiny offshore Brazos Santiago (Brazos Island) and the city of Brownsville, the battlefield appears very much as it did when Federal and Confederate troops fought the last land engagement of the Civil War on its windswept and marshy plain.

Of the major geographic locations associated with the Battle of Palmito Ranch—including Fort Brown, Brownsville, Brazos Santiago, the Mexican cities of Matamoros and Bagdad, and the American village of Clarksville—only the battlefield itself remains in a relatively unaltered state since 1865. Neither Bagdad, Clarksville, nor the military depot at Brazos Santiago survive, while the town of Brownsville, itself much changed since the Civil War, has grown to engulf the remnants of Fort Brown. Matamoros is a bustling border city, now as then, but it bears little physical resemblance to the town it was in 1865. The land comprising Palmito Ranch Battlefield, on the other hand, remains virtually unchanged since the mid-19th century due to inhospitable topographic and climatic conditions and lack of development. Thus the landscape contributes to the battlefield's high level of historic integrity by conveying a strong visual sense of the area as it must have appeared during the Civil War.

The following description of the area, written by William Emory in his 1857 *Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey*, is essentially as accurate today as when Emory first ascended the Rio Grande in 1853:

> The entrance to the mouth of the Rio Bravo [Rio Grande or Rio Bravo del Norte] is over a bar of soft mud, varying from four to six feet deep, and the river within a few hundred yards of its mouth is not more than one thousand feet wide. The shore-line of the coast, scarcely broken by the action of the river, is formed of a series of low shifting sand-hills, with a scanty herbage. Inside these hills are numerous salt marshes and lagoons, separated by low belts of calcareous clay but a few feet above the level of the sea, and subject to overflow. The first high ground is Burrita, ten miles from the mouth, where there is a small settlement of Mexicans engaged in agriculture upon a very limited scale...
>
> Beyond Burrita, the river still pursues its serpentine course through alluvial soil, with an occasional patch of arable ground occupied by Mexican rancheros engaged in the cultivation of maize and the rearing of goats and chickens.
>
> At the Rancheria de San Martin, a mouth of the Rio Bravo, forty feet wide, opens on the American side into the Laguna Madre, allowing some of the water of the river to escape to the sea by the Boca Chica and the Brazos St. Iago [Brazos Santiago]. On the American side the road leading from the mouth of the river to Brownsville crosses this outlet at San Martin, over a substantial wooden bridge erected by the army.

> From this point upward to Brownsville the river makes a great bend to the South, and is so winding in its course that frequently the curves almost touch. The land on each side is level, and covered with a dense growth of heavy mezquite [sic], (Algaroba.) It is generally too high for irrigation, and the climate is too arid to depend with certainty upon rain for the purposes of agriculture. The vegetation is of a semi-tropical character, and the margin of the river, which is exposed to overflow, abounds in reed, canebrake, palmetto, willow, and water-plants, and would no doubt produce the sugar-cane in great luxuriance.[1]

With little exception, Emory's depiction of the area from Brazos Santiago, the base of Union operations, along the military road that parallels the Rio Grande to Brownsville and Fort Brown, held by the Confederates, was similar to that which the two forces encountered in 1864 and 1865.

The battlefield lies within a barren stretch of coastal plain, where the major vegetation consists of marsh plants and chaparral. A nearly flat expanse of salt marsh and sand dunes is alleviated slightly by a few scattered hillocks and spiked Palmetto trees that dot the landscape wherever the terrain rises a few feet above sea level (See Photos 1-5). A few miles inland from the coast, small thickets of trees and underbrush hug the Rio Grande as it bends back and forth toward the Gulf of Mexico. As the river approaches the Gulf, however, its banks become barren and flat until it empties into the sea. The climate is harsh and unpredictable, with extremely wet, stormy winters and hot, humid summers. These characteristics make the land unsuitable for extensive farming, grazing, or building development, and as a result, the battlefield remains remarkably similar in character to the way it appeared at the time of the battle.

This coastal point is also the target of frequent hurricanes and squalls. Numerous attempts at development—notably the Civil War boomtowns of Clarksville and Bagdad and a 1920s resort planned for Brazos Island—have ended in failure. The remains of early ranches and railroad camps, evidenced by small mounds of mid-19th century artifacts throughout the battlefield, attest to habitation further inland that also failed to thrive. Today, only a few permanent buildings stand at the periphery of the battlefield, primarily in the vicinity of Palmito Hill. Members of the Orive and Champion families retain ownership of much of Palmito Ranch as did their ancestors since before the Civil War.

The battlefield lies approximately midway between Brazos Island, a Union Army base of operations during the Civil War, and Fort Brown at Brownsville, the Confederate headquarters in South Texas (See Figure 1). As the Union troops marched towards Brownsville, they encountered Confederate outposts in the areas of White's Ranch and Palmito Ranch, and this initial resistance determined the placement of the battle. Later in the fighting, the Confederates launched their counterattack in the same vicinity, before driving the Union troops back towards Brazos Island. The most concentrated fighting took place in the area

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[1]Emory in Santos, Richard G. (compiler). *Early Visions of the Lower Rio Grande*. Munguia Printers, San Antonio: 1983, pp. 58-59.

nominated as the Palmito Ranch Battlefield. Small hillocks, or lomas, currently dot the battlefield area, and were present at the time of the conflict. These small increases in elevation, none of which rise more than thirty feet above sea level, were important to both armies for gathering intelligence. Likewise, the dense thickets that grew on the hillsides provided both surveillance and cover.

According to eyewitness accounts of the battle, a few buildings were scattered throughout the plain when the fighting took place—principally ranch houses and auxiliary buildings. Praxedis Orive, an ancestor of the family that still owns part of the battlefield land, was a little boy when the battle occurred. Years later, he recounted to his grandchildren that he first heard the sounds of the battle from his family's ranch house and barnyard at Palmito Ranch. Later that afternoon, according to Orive, Union troops burned the ranch house as they passed through the area. The exact location of the house is unknown. The only surviving remnants of historic properties in the principal battlefield area are ruins, including the concrete steps, brick piers, and concrete foundation of a circa 1920 dwelling, and the adjoining ruins of a small concrete outbuilding. Both are atop Palmito Hill on property owned by the Orive family.

Of the key places and geographic locations germane to the battle, only the battlefield itself remains relatively unchanged today. The marshy soil and unpredictable weather conditions, subject to hurricanes and frequent storms, combine to create an unstable environment not well suited to extensive development. Other sites in the area associated with events leading to and including the battle have been significantly altered or are no longer standing. Soldiers vacated Fort Brown (National Historic Landmark 1960), the Confederate headquarters in Texas at the time of the battle, for the last time in 1944; today, Texas Southmost College owns and occupies the few remaining fort buildings. The city of Brownsville and the college itself have grown to surround the fort, which no longer retains its parade grounds. No buildings or structures survive at Brazos Santiago (National Register 1971), the Union post during the conflict and a recorded archeological site, although artifacts are occasionally uncovered after heavy storms. A hurricane shortly after the war permanently destroyed the once-bustling city of Bagdad, which saw its heyday during the Civil War years as a shipping point for Confederate cotton. However, some of the footings of the quickly erected frame buildings of Bagdad can be seen today.

Only five Civil War battlefields are documented in Texas; two of them are fragmented and designated "lost as complete battlefields" by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in its Civil War battlefield report. Of the five, the commission determined that only Palmito Ranch Battlefield exhibits a "good" level of integrity. Further, the commission listed Palmito Ranch Battlefield as the major site associated with the International Interpretive Theme of the Civil War.[2]

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[2]Civil War Site Advisory Commission. *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*. Prepared for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources, United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Interior. Washington D.C.; National Park Service, 1993, pp. 23, 32.

The battlefield has been used primarily for ranching since 1865, as it was in the years prior to the battle. Like nearby Palo Alto Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark (1960) of the Mexican War era, Palmito Ranch Battlefield's major geographical and topographical features remain intact. Little development, either urban or agricultural, has occurred within the battlefield itself or along the old Brownsville Road (Highway 4) to Boca Chica, which provides the only access to the battlefield. In addition, there is little peripheral development. As a result, Palmito Ranch Battlefield retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling and association to an outstanding degree.

Today the desolate, windswept landscape conveys a vivid historic sense of the battlefield as it was seen by the Union and Confederate soldiers in May 1865, when they finalized the long struggle to control this strategic region that was the life line of the Confederacy in its last days.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally: X Statewide:___ Locally:___

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B__ C__ D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A___ B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___

NHL Criteria: 1

NHL Theme(s): VI. The Civil War
C. War in the West
E. Political and Diplomatic Scene

Areas of Significance: Military
Commerce
Diplomacy

Period(s) of Significance: May 11-13, 1865

Significant Dates: May 12 and 13, 1865

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary

Palmito Ranch Battlefield (May 12-13, 1865) uniquely represents the crucial role of the Lower Rio Grande Valley to the Confederacy's pursuit of international recognition and economic viability during the American Civil War. The *Civil War Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields* (1993) identified Palmito Ranch Battlefield as the major site associated with the International Interpretive Theme.[1]

Although Palmito Ranch Battlefield is renowned as the site of the last land engagement of the Civil War, its greater significance derives from its strategic position at the mouth of the Rio Grande which defined the Confederacy's only international border. The economic and diplomatic machinations devised by Confederate and Mexican accomplices on both sides of the river allowed cotton and other Southern goods unchallenged, if suspect, access to the Gulf of Mexico and the foreign ships anchored offshore throughout the course of the war. The army that possessed the Rio Grande Valley controlled a key link in the Confederacy's economic lifeline, particularly in the waning years of the war when the Union naval blockades effectively closed other Southern ports. Further, command of the Lower Rio Grande Valley was vital to gathering intelligence regarding the French "interference" in Mexico, then evident and threatening at the border. As the war lingered on, Union strategists aspired to regain control of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, both to check French ambitions and to halt the Confederate trade that enabled its armies to continue the struggle. It was equally clear to the Texans who guarded the mouth of the Rio Grande that this strategic economic and diplomatic position should be held as long as possible, even though Confederate defeat appeared inevitable. Finally, when victorious Federal troops marched on Brownsville, issues of personal honor, self-promotion and fortune aggravated the war-long objective to control this point of land—regardless of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

The role played by the Lower Rio Grande Valley throughout the course of the Civil War was that of a vital economic outlet for Confederate cotton, a source of guns and ammunition from European dealers, and a vantage point from which to observe the movements of the French interventionists clustered at Matamoros, just across the river. Ultimately, the Battle of Palmito Ranch symbolized the Union's failure—despite its superior numbers and strength—either to stop the contraband trade or to quell the Confederate resolve to fight to the very end. It was the collapse of the Confederacy elsewhere that led finally to the surrender of this area—not the Union's military prowess.

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[1]Civil War Site Advisory Commission. *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*. Prepared for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources, United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Interior. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1993, p. 32.

Introduction

Synopsis of the Battle

The two-day battle, fought May 12-13, 1865, took place on a broad expanse of land halfway between Brownsville and Brazos Island. This approximately five-mile stretch of land is known as Palmito Ranch Battlefield. Union Colonel Theodore H. Barrett, commander of the U.S. forces stationed at Brazos Santiago (Brazos Island), instigated the battle on May 11, 1865, when he ordered an expedition of Union troops to cross onto the mainland and march in the direction of Fort Brown. These troops skirmished with increasing numbers of Confederates during the next two days, although the total number of Confederates was always well below the number of Union troops. Finally, on the afternoon of May 13, 1865, the Confederate Army, under the command of Colonel John S. (Rip) Ford, launched a spirited, two-pronged counterattack that eventually drove the Union troops back to Brazos Island.

Interpretation

Throughout the Civil War, but particularly in the last years of the conflagration, Southern and Mexican mercantile operations along the Rio Grande formed an alliance utilizing the river as a conduit for Confederate cotton and foreign supplies that were effectively halted elsewhere by Union blockade. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican War and determined the border between the two countries, established the river's neutral status. Provisions of the treaty declared the river an international stream, "... free and common to the vessels and citizens of both countries."[2] As such, Mexican vessels enjoyed safe passage both on the river and in the Gulf of Mexico, free from search or seizure by the United States Navy during a time when the Union blockade effectively stifled commerce along the entire Confederate coastline. With other ports cut off, Southern cotton dealers and merchants turned to Mexico and the Rio Grande to carry their products to market under a neutral flag. Cotton trains from Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana made their way across rugged terrain to the border towns of Brownsville, Roma and Rio Grande City, on the American side of the Rio Grande, where their goods were loaded onto steamboats and ferried downriver under Mexican flag. French and British ships also unloaded much needed Enfield rifles, ammunition and medical supplies onto lighters and steamboats flying Mexican flags but destined for Confederate troops. Thus, Southern control of the region surrounding the border, including the town of Brownsville near the mouth of the Rio Grande, as well as the upriver towns, became crucial not only to the regional economy but to an increasingly isolated Confederacy as well. As a result, the region became the focus of concerted Union and Confederate military efforts to control strategic positions at the mouth of the river to either promote or discourage the cotton/arms commerce.

In addition, both Confederate and Union strategists needed to keep abreast of French activities in Mexico and particularly along the border. Early in the Civil War, the South initiated discussion of a "treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation" with Mexico.[3] This was the

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[2]Irby, James A. *Backdoor at Bagdad: The Civil War on the Rio Grande*. Southwestern Studies Monograph No. 53. Texas Western Press: The University of Texas at El Paso: 1977, p. 5.

[3]Fielder, Bruce Martin. *The Mexican Connection: Confederate and Union Diplomacy on the Rio Grande, 1861-1865*. Masters thesis, North Texas State University, Denton: 1978, p. 2.

beginning of Confederate attempts to use Mexico as a port of entry for European goods as well as a means of obtaining European recognition.[4] The Confederate government succeeded brilliantly in obtaining trade concessions and cooperation from Mexico, its only international neighbor. Part of the Confederacy's success in attaining cooperation and assistance, if not official recognition, in Mexico can be attributed to its appointment of Jose Augustin Quintero as its emissary to the northern states of Mexico. During his diplomatic tenure in northern Mexico, the Cuban-born Quintero managed to "secure the Confederate-Mexico border trade, obtain favorable responses from various ruling parties in northern Mexico, and hamper the union agents' attempts to quell the border trade."[5] These were extraordinary achievements in the realm of foreign diplomacy for the fledgling Confederate States of America.

By that time, Mexico was embroiled in its own civil war as a result of British, French and Spanish bullying that eventually led to the French establishing a puppet government under Austrian Archduke Maximilian to rule the country at the head of the Imperialist party. With the Republican government of Benito Juarez occupied by the French in the interior, Confederate diplomacy wisely concentrated on the northern Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila. These states had strong economic reasons to support the Southern cause; the town of Matamoros, on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande which marked the international border, was the natural shipping and receiving point for any European-Confederate trade. As the war progressed and the Union blockade of other Confederate ports proved increasingly effective, European vessels frequented the Gulf waters at the mouth of the Rio Grande more and more often. By the end of the war and the Battle of Palmito Ranch, between 200 and 300 foreign ships—most of them flying French or English flags—could be counted within sight of the Rio Grande at any given time. Thus, while the Confederacy never received official foreign sanction, through its canny diplomacy and careful manipulation of the border trade, it garnered international attention, commerce and potential military assistance at the mouth of the Rio Grande. Control of the region, represented by the Battle of Palmito Ranch, was a major component of the Confederacy's international diplomatic and economic policy. The battlefield, therefore, represents a highly significant element in the interpretation of international themes during the Civil War.

Background

The Civil War in Texas

Texas seceded from the United States on February 1, 1861, under the authority of an ordinance passed by the newly-created Secession Convention, later confirmed by a popular vote on February 23. In that vote, the majority of the state's citizens expressed support for secession. Texas was among the first six states—all major cotton producers—to leave the Union and officially join the Confederate States of America in early March 1861. Soon after the formal transition, Major General D.E. Twiggs, commander of the Union military forces in Texas, surrendered all federal military supplies and posts to Texas Ranger and state agent, Ben

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[4] *Ibid.*

[5] *Ibid.*, p. ii.

McCullough. After that point, United States troops not already evacuated were then held as prisoners of war and Confederate troops commandeered Union forts.[6]

At the start of the Civil War, the Texas forces initiated several offensive maneuvers, principally in New Mexico Territory just west of Texas. Early in 1862, for example, Confederate Brig. Gen. H.H. Sibley led a force of Texas troops in the successful capture of Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Sibley was forced to retreat through the mountains following a defeat at Glorieta, New Mexico, on March 28, 1862. Most of these offensive engagements, however, were relatively minor events in the overall military campaigns of the Civil War.

A much more important aspect of the South's military strategy in Texas was the defense of its borders and ports from Federal attack. From the outset of the war, Federal forces struggled to gain control of Gulf Coast ports and thereby sever the state's flow of communication, funding and matériel. In October 1862, Federal troops seized the port of Galveston, a major population and trade center, but on January 1, 1863, General John B. Magruder launched a successful amphibious campaign to retake the strategic city. In September 1863, Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin commanded a Federal expedition to invade Texas from a strategic Gulf Coast pass at the mouth of the Sabine River. Union troops stormed into Sabine Pass with a massive array of force including more than 5,000 men and four gunboats, but Confederate soldiers, under the command of Lieutenant Richard "Dick" Dowling, repelled the invasion.[7]

Despite their inability to permanently occupy Texas port cities, Federal troops largely succeeded in their coastal blockade of Texas with the important exception of its southernmost tip where the Rio Grande formed the international boundary with Mexico. The unhampered flow of goods across the border and down the river under the guise of Mexican ownership presented a major breach in the otherwise effective blockade of the Texas coast. The only way the Union could hope to stifle the contraband border traffic and avoid a direct challenge to Mexican authority was to occupy the territory at the mouth of the river including Fort Brown. In November of 1863, an invasion force of more than 6,000 federal troops, the largest yet to invade the state, descended on South Texas. They were so successful in securing Brownsville and other points in the Rio Grande Valley that by January 1, 1864, the Union effectively controlled the entire Texas coast from the mouth of the Rio Grande, at Fort Brown, to the Matagorda Peninsula.

By mid-1864, however, the Confederates had begun rebuilding their strength in the South Texas area. Colonel John S. (Rip) Ford (1815-1897), who later played a decisive role in the defeat of Union troops at the battle at Palmito Ranch, recaptured Brownsville on July 30, 1864. By the middle of August 1864, Union soldiers had abandoned almost all posts in the Rio Grande area and along the Gulf Coast, presumably to concentrate their military strength in states to the east. In Texas, they remained only at Matagorda Peninsula, an island separating Matagorda Bay from the Gulf of Mexico, and at Brazos Santiago Depot, on the northern tip of

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[6]Webb, Walter Prescott, editor-in-chief. *The Handbook of Texas. Volumes I-III.* Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952, pg. 351.

[7]*Ibid.*

Brazos Island (See Figure 1). Following the Union withdrawals, the Confederacy controlled all of South Texas except for these two off-shore bases. By that time, however, the two armies had essentially ceased fighting in Texas with the exception of a few scattered skirmishes, as it had become increasingly apparent to both parties that further conflict in the state would do little to change the ultimate outcome of the Civil War. In the waning months of the Civil War, Union troops bided their time on Brazos Island, while Confederate troops held Fort Brown at Brownsville, about 22 miles up the Rio Grande from the Gulf coast. Both sides watched and waited as the war drew to a close. Confederate troops were not idle, however. They patrolled the vast ranchland along the South Texas coastal plain to protect the steady stream of cotton-bearing wagons on their way to Brownsville where their burden was ferried across the river to buyers in Mexico.

Cotton Smuggling on the Rio Grande

Of all the Texas coastal regions threatened during the war, the Lower Rio Grande Valley was the most significant area of military conflict, due to the strategic location of the Rio Grande as both the international border shared with Mexico as well as an entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. Access to ports was vitally important to the Confederacy during the Civil War, since the transatlantic shipment of cotton provided essential financing for their government and war effort. As one chronicler of the war notes:

> To an economist the history of the Confederate States centers about the government's attempts to secure the material means with which to carry on the war. The wealth of the South consisted chiefly of land and slaves, and its industries were almost exclusively agricultural.[8]

The South's "material means" to finance a war effort was cotton which had formed the basis of its plantation economy in the antebellum era.

At the start of the war, the Confederate strategists intended to withhold cotton from European textile mills—the main importers of Southern cotton—in hopes that they might drive the European governments to pressure the Union into allowing the Confederacy its independence. As the war dragged on, however, Confederate leaders realized that withholding cotton deprived their fledgling government of vital currency.[9] Union strategists recognized the importance of Texas ports to both the export of Confederate cotton and the import of medical and military supplies, and they set up a blockade around most southern ports, effectively sealing off Texas "from the balance of the world."[10] The Confederacy desperately needed to circumvent this barrier if it wished to export its cotton.

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[8]Schwab, John Christopher, A.M., Ph.D. *The Confederate States of America: A Financial and Industrial History of the South During the Civil War*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1901, p. 2.

[9]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865*. Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 11.

[10]Ford, Horn Salmon. *Rip Ford's Texas*. Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963, p. 328.

Confederate cotton farmers used different methods to slip through the blockade, depending on their location. Farmers east of the Mississippi River relied on their government for smuggling attempts. One South Texas historian notes:

> Planters in deep southeastern states were cut away from markets by the blockade. These planters sold their cotton, for there was no other outlet, to Confederate government cotton agents, and were paid, because there was no other money, in a Confederate currency which constantly depreciated. To dispose of the cotton thus acquired, the Confederate government fitfully depended upon the limited and uncertain operations of maritime blockade runners.[11]

On the other hand, cotton farmers in Confederate states west of the Mississippi (the Trans-Mississippi Department) were not obligated to sell their cotton to their government, and could instead attempt to smuggle the crops themselves. Western planters quickly learned the strategic importance of the twin cities of Brownsville and Matamoros to the trading and shipment of Confederate cotton. In fact, towns along the border historically engaged in smuggling as routine business. According to William Emory, whose 1853 boundary survey of the Rio Grande helped establish the international border, the upriver settlement of Roma (a National Historic Landmark) was a town made prosperous and beautiful by its residents' regular smuggling activities. He commented:

> As might reasonably be expected in any country where the duties on foreign goods amount almost to prohibition, smuggling ceases to be a crime, but is identified with the best part of the population, and connects itself with the romance and legends of the frontier.[12]

(Indeed, during the Civil War, activities of businessmen like Mifflin Kennedy, Richard King and Charles Stillman, whose combination steamboat and shipping operations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley transported cotton to foreign markets under Mexican flag, were considered patriotic to the Confederacy. This, despite the fact that Kennedy, King and Stillman and other smuggler/merchants in the border region grew rich from the lucrative cotton and contraband trade occasionally at the expense of the Confederacy.)

Premiere among the smuggler/merchants were Richard King, founder of the great King Ranch (a National Historic Landmark), and his partners Mifflin Kennedy and Charles Stillman. King was a steamboat captain who joined Mifflin Kennedy at the Rio Grande during the Mexican War, where the pair helped transport troops and supplies for Zachary Taylor's army. In 1850, follwing the war, Kennedy and King formed a steamboating partnership on the river. (King's success enabled him to purchase the 75,000 acre Santa Gertrudis Ranch, a former Spanish land grant.) Kennedy and King's partnership, which later expanded to include New Yorker Charles

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[11]Lea, Tom. *The King Ranch*. Volume One. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1957, p. 190.

[12]Santos, Richard G. (compiler). *Early Visions of the Lower Rio Grande*. Munguia Printers, San Antonio: 1983, p. 64.

Stillman, flourished and in 1861 they contracted with the Confederate government to supply European buyers with cotton. Theirs was the principal smuggling operation on the Rio Grande during the war and they used their considerable profits made from their wartime venture to enhance their land holdings. (Eventually the Santa Gertrudis Ranch, later named the King Ranch, became one of the largest ranches in the world).[13]

Under the watchful eye of Fort Brown and Brazos Santiago, the steamships of R. Kennedy and Co. plied the Rio Grande under Mexican flag. Brownville's proximity to the border and the Gulf Coast was crucial to merchants' schemes to evade the Union's naval barriers. The city lay across the Rio Grande from Matamoros, and traders in the Mexican city were sympathetic to the Confederate cause, as well as to their own economic gain. A complex, clandestine trade agreement was thus informally established between the Mexicans and the Confederates, whereby cotton from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri was transported across the Rio Grande to Matamoros, then shipped by wagon to Bagdad, Mexico, at the mouth of the Rio Grande. At that point, steamboats flying the Mexican flag carried the cotton to European ships moored beyond the reef in the Gulf. Prior to the war, the privately owned steamboats, nearly all of which belonged to the Kennedy-King-Stillman partnership, were registered in Brownsville. For the Confederate ruse to work, merchants changed the registry of their vessels, placing them under the neutral Mexican flag and under the command of Mexican friends. Federal forces knew they were being tricked, yet a challenge to the authority of one of the "Mexican" steamboats would risk a confrontation with Mexico and possibly another war on another front.[14]

In addition to facilitating the export of cotton, the Confederate-Mexican trade agreement enabled the importation of arms and other supplies necessary for the South to maintain an adequate defense and withstand the naval blockade. Ultimately, and ironically, these alliances extended across ideological boundaries to the financial houses and speculators of the Northeastern United States. Although the North and South were engaged in bitter war, merchants and financiers on both sides of the conflict, who learned to circumvent legalities and naval blockades, profited enormously from doing business with their enemies.[15] According to a contemporary article in the *Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph*:

> Some merchants largely engaged in the trade found it more satisfactory to have a relatively permanent arrangement of "straw-men" to conceal the actual parties in the trade. Such an arrangement called for a "loyal" citizen to buy and sell in

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[13]Webb, Walter Prescott, editor-in-chief. *The Handbook of Texas. Volumes I-III.* Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952, p. 959.

[14]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865.* Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 12.

[15]Graf, LeRoy P. *The Economic History of the Lower Rio Grande Valley: 1820-1875, Volume II.* Ph.D. Thesis, Harvard University, 1942. On file at the Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin, p. 556.

> New York, a "neutral" to carry on the operations in Matamoros, and "an avowed rebel" to purchase and export cotton from Texas.[16]

Confederate Colonel John S. (Rip) Ford, who would later lead the Confederate counter-attack at the Battle of Palmito Ranch, was instrumental in negotiating with the Mexican traders. According to Ford's memoirs, at the start of the war,

> [I] visited the merchants of Matamoros, particularly those of foreign countries, and insisted upon steps being taken at once to open trade with Europe and the Confederate States through Matamoros ... The consuls of Great Britain and Germany promised to aid in the matter, and they did. Cotton was hauled across Texas to Matamoros where it was traded for foodstuffs and war matériel. An immense trade opened up in a short while. Matamoros was soon crammed with strangers and filled with goods of every class.[17]

The Confederate government both suffered and benefitted by the Matamoros trade. Toward the end of the conflict, one observer summarized the role the Mexican town played in the war:

> Matamoros is to the rebellion west of the Mississippi what New York is to the United States—its great commercial and financial center, feeding and clothing the rebellion, arming and equipping, furnishing it materials of war and a specie basis of circulation in Texas that has almost entirely displaced Confederate paper. But it is not alone the Trans-Mississippi: The entire Confederate Government is greatly sustained by resources from this point.[18]

Colonel Rip Ford played an integral role, not only in establishing the clandestine South Texas trade route, but also in cloaking it from the Union and protecting those who used it. He regarded his role as a military commander in the Rio Grande Valley as twofold: first, his troops were to defend the area against Union military attacks, and second, they were to oversee the delicate trade relationship he helped establish between Mexico and the Confederacy. As one of his biographers noted, Ford saw his purpose "to be the nourishment and protection of the Rio Grande trade and the cultivation of friendly relations with Mexican authority in preparation for unhindered pursuance of that trade during the war emergency."[19] Thus, the presence and mission of the Confederate troops in South Texas was as much for economic reasons as it was for military security.

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[16]*Ibid.* Quotes from the New Orleans *Independent*.

[17]Ford, John Salmon. *Rip Ford's Texas*. Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963 p. 329.

[18]S.S. Brown to L. Wallage, January 13, 1865, *War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies Series I, vol. 48, pt. I:* 512-513. cited hereafter as *O.R.*

[19]Lea. Tom. *The King Ranch*. Volume One. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1957, p. 176.

Early in the war, Union leaders recognized that the Rio Grande had become the "back door" of the Confederacy, and they moved to end the cotton smuggling as it was feasible. The Rio Grande region military initiatives, including the taking of Brownsville in late 1863, were all part of Union attempts to wrest control of the Rio Grande and its potential for cotton shipping from the Confederacy. The continued presence of Union troops at Brazos Santiago and at other points along the South Texas coast was a direct result of the economic importance of the area to the Confederacy. Palmito Ranch's strategic South Texas location—midway between Fort Brown and Brazos Santiago—is centered in this important trade zone, which explains why the area had already seen military combat in 1863 and 1864, and why in May 1865 it again became the scene of intense fighting between the North and the South.

As the war drew to an end, cotton speculators, dealers and smugglers all knew their days were numbered. While most combatants, both Union and Confederate, likely looked forward to the end of hostilities, those who had the most to lose financially lamented the end of the "cotton times."

As Confederate defeat appeared imminent, Mifflin Kennedy wrote frantic letters from Matamoros urging his partner, Richard King, in the Texas interior to hasten delivery of a shipment of cotton to the border. He advised King to get the cotton downriver and out to sea before the War's end when Federal troops would doubtless seize the goods. King was not fast enough, and as Union troops prepared to commandeer Fort Brown from their base on Brazos Santiago, the partnership had a huge shipload of cotton upriver in Camargo, Mexico, waiting to steam out to sea.[20] They stood to lose a small fortune if the cotton were confiscated by Union troops as contraband. Their best hope of protection lay in the cavalry of John "Rip" Ford, second in command at Fort Brown, who had guarded Kennedy and King interests on the Rio Grande throughout the war.

The Trans-Mississippi Department After Appomattox

Although South Texas had seen little action outside of brief skirmishes during the spring of 1865, as news of the Confederacy's impending collapse came to the border, both Federal and Confederate troops remained vigilant. While General Robert E. Lee officially surrendered his troops to Union General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865, in Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, his announcement did not signal the absolute conclusion of the war, since each Confederate military department had to achieve its own separate peace. General Taylor, for example, in charge of Confederate forces in Mississippi and Alabama, did not surrender his troops to Union General Canby until May 4, 1865.[21] Texas was part of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate Army (Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and the Indian Territory), which had not yet surrendered as of May 12, 1865, the date of the Battle of Palmito Ranch. Several prominent Texans, including General Magruder and Governor Pendleton Murrah,

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[20]Cheesman personal communication, 1994.

[21]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865.* Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 18.

"vainly exhorted Texas soldiers to continue the struggle," despite Lee's surrender and the virtual dissolution of the Confederacy.[22]

Thus, by the middle of May 1865, despite the fact that most of the Confederate Army had surrendered, both armies still had troops on alert at their respective Texas posts. In the Rio Grande Valley, Union troops held only tiny Brazos Santiago (Island), off the Gulf Coast and within sight of Clarksville and Bagdad. Meanwhile, the Confederates retained control over the remainder of the Rio Grande Valley including Brownsville directly across the river from Matamoros and about 22 miles upriver (by road) from the coastal ports. Based at Fort Brown, established in 1846 by Brigadier General Zachary Taylor during the Mexican War, the Confederates determined to persevere until further notice. During the war, under the control of the Confederacy, the fort served as an essential link in the cotton smuggling operations.

Although both the Federals and Confederates maintained armed forces in the area, by May 1865 leaders in both camps realized that the Civil War was essentially over, and that continued fighting in Texas would do little to change the final outcome of the War. In fact, until Colonel Theodore Barrett ordered 300 men to march on the town of Brownsville on May 11, both armies honored an informal truce agreement negotiated about two months earlier between Union General Lew Wallace and Confederate commanders General John E. Slaughter and Colonel Rip Ford.

Wallace, acting on orders from General Grant, had come to Brazos Island in February 1865, to negotiate a peace agreement with the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate Army. In addition, Grant hoped that Wallace might curtail "the international intrigue and trade at the Rio Grande."[23] Indeed, with the Civil War struggling to a close, Grant's suspicion of "international intrigue" in the form of French Imperial troops poised at the border in Matamoros, posed an entirely new dimension of concern for the Federal government.

French Interference

Throughout the war, but particularly at the outset and toward its conclusion, Union and Confederate leadership lobbied the nations of Europe for support and/or recognition. The foreign countries with the most direct bearing on the United States and the fledgling Confederacy involved the two dominant governments of Europe, England and France. Essentially an aristocracy, the South appealed to both England and France for support against the invading Yankees. Although the two monarchies were sympathetic to the Confederate cause, the institution of slavery, upon which the Southern cause was based, was anathema to both nations. Until 1862, though, the morality of slavery was not at issue and European countries threatened to enter the fray on one side or the other. Neither the Union nor the

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[22]Webb, Walter Prescott, editor-in-chief. *The Handbook of Texas. Volumes I-III.* Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952, p. 351.

[23]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865.* Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 17.

Confederacy could afford an extra enemy.[24] After Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, however, no European country dared rouse its own populace against a cause to end slavery and the threat of Confederate recognition lessened. England continued to build ships for the Confederate navy, however, and Napoleon III, Emperor of France, fomented his own intrigues on the Mexican border.[25]

Napoleon III encouraged the Confederacy and laid some ambiguous plans to assist it, but he would not act without the support of England. His real interest was in Mexico, where he set up a French puppet state headed by the Hapsburg Maximilian as Emperor of Mexico with the support of French troops. This step was taken in defiance of the Monroe Doctrine and at a time when the United States and Confederate States were distracted by the war. In fact, Maximilian's presence in Mexico shored sagging Confederate morale. Had Maximilian's hold on the throne been stronger, Napoleon would probably have aided the Confederacy from his base in Mexico. Meanwhile, the United States was aware of the French threat at the Texas border but could not spare the troops required to retake the region and hold it from the Confederates while continuing to prosecute the war in the East.

As the war came to an end, however, General Grant began to take preventive measures to prevent further trouble on the Rio Grande. Wallace made a special trip to effect peace at the border, partly because of the inevitability of the war's outcome, but primarily to focus undivided attention on the French machinations on the border.[26] With the war quickly drawing to a close, Federal strategists wished to maintain a strong and highly visible military presence at the border to discourage any ambitions that Maximilian or, more accurately, Napoleon III, might entertain either in assisting the Confederates or planning an invasion of South Texas in the confusion following surrender. Meeting in conference with Ford and Slaughter at Point Isabel on March 11, Wallace proposed a settlement of peace between the two sides. According to Ford's memoirs, Wallace "suggested that it was useless to fight on the Rio Grande, [and] that if the contending parties met and slaughtered each other it would have no effect on the final result of the contest."[27] Ford and Slaughter, while in concert with Wallace, could not formally sign any truce since they lacked the authority to do so from the Confederate government. They did, however, leave the meeting with the intention of honoring the terms of the truce, and fully expected the Federals to do the same.

The next day—March 12, 1865—General Wallace sent a letter to Slaughter and Ford specifically outlining the truce they had discussed earlier. The document, while acknowledging that neither party had the explicit authority of their respective governments to

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[24]Catton, Bruce. *The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War.* American Heritage Publishing Company: New York, 1982, pp. 250-51.

[25]*Ibid.*, p. 252.

[26]Irby, James A. *Backdoor at Bagdad: The Civil War on the Rio Grande.* Southwestern Studies Monograph No. 53. Texas Western Press: The University of Texas at El Paso: 1977, p. 46.

[27]Ford, John Salmon. *Rip Ford's Texas.* Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963, p. 388.

negotiate a settlement, nevertheless outlined specific propositions intended "to secure a speedy peace" between the Union and the Confederate's Trans-Mississippi Department.[28] In return for the Confederates' ceasing all military opposition to the Union, Wallace promised immunity. The agreement read, in part,

> The officers and soldiers at present actually composing the Confederate Army proper ... shall have ... a full release from and against actions, prosecutions, liabilities, and legal proceedings of every kind, so far as the Government of the United States is concerned: Provided ... they shall first take an oath of allegiance to same.[29]

Further, the agreement guaranteed safe passage to any Southerners who wished to leave the country rather than take such an oath.[30]

During the two months following the agreement, the Union and Confederate forces in South Texas honored the truce, actually a gentleman's agreement. By May 11, 1865, however, Wallace had returned to his post in the East, secure that he had established peace at the border.[31] Colonel Theodore H. Barrett, commander of the Union forces stationed at Brazos Santiago, disregarded Wallace's truce and ordered his troops to advance towards the Confederate stronghold at Fort Brown in Brownsville. The Federals soon encountered a Confederate outpost, and fighting erupted. Outraged at the Union transgression, Colonel Ford ordered retaliation, and the Battle of Palmito Ranch began.

The Battle of Palmito Ranch
Prelude to the Battle

Although the Union evacuated most of its troops from South Texas by 1864, they maintained bases on Brazos Island and Matagorda Peninsula for the duration of the war to support blockade ships along the Texas coast. Colonel Theodore H. Barrett of the 62nd U.S. Colored Infantry (U.S.C.I.), who himself had no combat experience prior to the engagement at Palmito Ranch, was one of the commanding officers stationed on the island, along with Brigadier-General E.B. Brown.[32] Lieutenant Colonel David Branson, also of the 62nd, assisted the commanders. The battle accounts of Barrett and Branson possibly provide some of the best

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[28] *O.R.*, p. 1281.

[29] *Ibid.*

[30] *Ibid.*

[31] Irby, James A. *Backdoor at Bagdad: The Civil War on the Rio Grande.* Southwestern Studies Monograph No. 53. Texas Western Press: The University of Texas at El Paso: 1977, p. 47.

[32] Widener, Dr. Ralph W. *The Last Land Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865.* Unpublished manuscript on file at Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas, p. 4.

descriptions of the early stages of the battle, since they were recorded almost immediately after the conflict—earlier than other accounts which survive today.[33]

The Union force on Brazos Santiago consisted of both black and white soldiers, men from the 62nd U.S.C.I. and the Second Texas Cavalry (unmounted). The latter were pro-Union Texas residents who joined the northern army at the start of the Civil War. Soon after the battle began, men from the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry (also known as the Morton Rifles), under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison, joined these troops. Altogether, the Union Army had more than 1,500 men in place at Brazos Santiago, although a somewhat smaller number actually participated in the Battle of Palmito Ranch.[34]

Confederate forces at Fort Brown were under the command of Colonel John Salmon (Rip) Ford and General James E. Slaughter. Ford was a South Carolina native who came to Texas in 1836. He served in the Texas Army for two years, and later, in 1847-48, was a member of the Texas Rangers during the Mexican War.[35] In 1849, Ford was made a captain in the Texas Rangers and patrolled the territory between the Nueces River and Rio Grande. He gained political as well as military experience as a Texas Ranger, serving as a delegate to the state's Secession Convention in 1861. That same year, he initiated the trade agreements between Mexico and the Confederacy that eventually led to the transport of Confederate cotton to European ships via Mexican-owned wagons and steamboats.[36]

Ford and his superior officer, General Slaughter, had an unusual working relationship according to several sources, including Ford's own memoirs. Although Slaughter was technically in charge of the soldiers, Ford actually commanded the troops, and it was Ford to whom the troops were loyal. They obeyed and respected him.[37] Slaughter seemed comfortable with Ford in command. Indeed, it would be Ford who soon led the Confederate troops' effective counterattack in the Battle of Palmito Ranch.

Significantly, the number of Confederate troops based at Fort Brown had shrunk dramatically in the weeks immediately preceding the encounter at Palmito Ranch. On May 1, 1865, the

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[33]Branson's account, in the form of a report to the headquarters of the 62nd, id dated May 18, 1865, just a few days after the battle, while Barrett's report to the headquarters of the Third Brigade dates to August 10 of that year.

[34]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865.* Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 1.

[35]It was during this tour of duty that Ford earned the name "Rip." Responsible for the writing of condolence letters to the families of soldiers killed in action, Ford would end all of his messages with the words, "May he rest in peace." After writing hundreds of such letters, Ford began to abbreviate this message "R.I.P." and soon afterwards acquired the nickname.

[36]Webb, Water Prescott, editor-in-chief. *The Handbook of Texas. Volumes I-III.* Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952, p. 617.

[37]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865.* Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 8.

Confederates counted approximately 500 troops in the Rio Grande area, but two weeks later, by the time fighting began, they had only about 300 men. Reasons for the sharp decline in Confederate strength are unclear, although Captain W.H.D. Carrington of Austin, a participant in the battle who detailed the conflict in his memoirs, suggested that a large number of Confederates deserted after hearing news of Lee's surrender one month earlier. His account, written in 1883, almost 20 years after the conflict, offered this explanation:

Other historians agree with Carrington's figure of 300, but suggest that the decrease in soldiers was due not only to deserters, but also to a large number of troops on furlough (due to the presumed truce and imminent end to the hostilities). Also, some soldiers fled across the Rio Grande to Mexico to escape capture by a victorious Union Army. Regardless of the reasons, most sources agree that the Confederates had only about 300 men at Fort Brown on May 12, 1865, far fewer than the 1,500 Union troops stationed at Brazos Santiago. The Southern forces appeared ill-prepared for the coming battle in South Texas.

Carrington's report is also important in that it defies the popular notion that the last battle occurred because Confederate troops, isolated in their remote South Texas outpost, had not yet learned of Lee's surrender. In fact, the many merchants, soldiers, speculators and opportunists on both sides of the border were well informed of the war's progress. Throughout the conflict, and particularly at its end, this vital strategic and economic locale had constant contact with foreign ships bearing the news of war.

The Last Battle: May 12-13, 1865

The following account of the battle is based principally upon the written accounts of four key participants. Colonel Barrett's and Lieutenant Colonel Branson's reports, mentioned above, provide the most detailed descriptions of the Union's initial advance towards Palmito Ranch. The memoirs of Colonel Ford and Captain Carrington of the Confederate Army cover the southern army's counterattack and the last stages of the battle.

On the evening of May 11, 1865, Union Colonel Barrett ordered an expedition of 250 men of the 62nd U.S.C.I., along with fifty men of the Second Texas Cavalry, all under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Branson, from Brazos Santiago [**A** figure 2] onto the mainland. Originally ordered to land at Point Isabel, just northwest of Brazos Santiago across the Laguna Madre, an intense storm thwarted the expedition and forced the troops to return to camp. At approximately 9:30 p.m., they made the crossing at Boca Chica—a narrow inlet at the southern tip of Brazos Island (See Figure 1). Upon reaching the mainland, the force marched all night, in the direction of Fort Brown.

At approximately 2:00 a.m., Branson's troops surrounded White's Ranch **[B]**, a small settlement east of Palmito Ranch, in hopes of capturing a Confederate outpost. They discovered, instead, that the outpost had been deserted one or two days prior to their arrival. Hiding themselves in a thicket of tall weeds, the troops camped out for the rest of the night on the banks of the river, approximately 1.5 miles above White's Ranch.[38]

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[38]Branson, Lt. Col. David. "Report to Headquarters, Sixty-second Regiment U.S. Colored Infantry: May 18, 1865." In *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.*

About 8:30 a.m., collaborators on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande spotted the Union camp and promptly brought the concealed soldiers to the attention of the Confederates. According to Branson, "At the same time soldiers of the Imperial Mexican Army were marching up that bank [on the Mexican side] of the river." The Imperial Mexican Army was sympathetic to the Confederate cause, and its presence no doubt caused concern amongst the Union soldiers. Branson continues, "I immediately started for Palmetto Ranch [**C**], skirmishing most of the way with the [Confederate's] cavalry, and drove them, at noon, from their camp, which had been occupied by about 190 men and horses, capturing 3 prisoners, 2 horses, and 4 beef cattle, and their ten days' rations, just issued."[39] Union soldiers confiscated the supplies and materials they could carry. They burned the rest.

The Confederate forces with whom Branson's troops had skirmished were members of Gidding's Regiment under the command of Captain Robinson, a Confederate cavalry officer. Colonel Ford notes in his memoirs that, on the afternoon of May 12, he received a message from Robinson that "the Yankees had advanced, and he was engaged with them just below San Martin Ranch." Ford sent a message back to Robinson urging the captain to hold his ground, and that Ford would bring reinforcements as soon as possible.[40] After the brief skirmishing at Palmito Ranch, Branson and his Union troops retreated to the hill nearby to rest and feed their animals. At approximately 3 p.m., however, the Confederates appeared again with reinforcements. Branson considered the Federal's position on Palmito Hill to be "indefensible," so he led his troops back to White's Ranch for the night, "skirmishing some on the way."[41] At White's Ranch, Branson sent a message to Barrett requesting additional support.

At daybreak the next morning (May 13, 1865), Branson and his men were joined at White's Ranch [**D**] by 200 men of the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert G. Morrison. Colonel Barrett also joined the troops and assumed command of the enlarged Federal force.

Barrett, in his report to Union headquarters, recalled his activities that morning:

> I at once ordered an advance to be again made in the direction of Palmetto Ranch [**E**], which, upon the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Branson, had been reoccupied by the rebels. The enemy's cavalry were soon encountered. Driving them before us, we reached the ranch by 7 or 8 a.m., and again compelled the rebels to abandon it. Such stores as had escaped destruction the day previous were now destroyed, and the buildings which the enemy had

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Series I, Volume 48, Part I. Published under the direction of Daniel S. Lamont, Secretary of War. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1896, p. 268.

[39]*Ibid.*

[40]Ford, John Salmon. *Rip Ford's Texas.* Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963, p. 389.

[41]*O.R.*, p. 288.

> turned into barracks were burned, in order that they might no longer furnish him convenient shelter. A detachment was here sent back to Brazos Santiago with our wounded and the prisoners and captures of the day previous. The remainder of the force was ordered to advance. Nearly the entire forenoon was spent in skirmishing. The enemy, though taking advantage of every favorable position, was everywhere easily driven back.[42]

Meanwhile, Ford had difficulty organizing the main body of the Confederate troops for battle. Much of the disarray can be attributed to the reduced force and ambivalence in the face of imminent defeat (or of Lee's surrender). Regardless of the cause, Ford's troops were ill-prepared for battle, and after receiving Robinson's request for assistance on the afternoon of the 12th, Ford had to act quickly to assemble a defensive force. The majority of Ford's troops would not be ready and in place for battle until late the following afternoon. Ford arrived on the parade grounds of Fort Brown on the morning of May 13, 1865, and waited for General Slaughter to lead the Confederates to battle. Slaughter did not appear, however, and around 10:00 a.m. Ford "placed himself at the head of the troops present and marched to a short distance below San Martin Ranch."[43]

Some Southern troops had already assembled near Palmito Ranch, however, and it was these Confederate outposts with whom Barrett's force skirmished in the early afternoon on May 13. One particularly "sharp" engagement pushed these Confederates west of Tulosa Ranch [**F**], back towards Fort Brown. Barrett described the incident:

> In this engagement our forces charged the enemy, compelled him to abandon his cover, and, pursuing him, drove him across an open prairie beyond the rising ground completely out of sight. The enemy having been driven several miles since daylight, and our men needing rest, it was not deemed prudent to advance farther. Therefore, relinquishing the pursuit, we returned to a hill [at Tulosa Ranch] about a mile from Palmetto Ranch, where the Thirty-fourth Indiana had already taken its position.[44]

Tulosa Ranch is southwest of Palmito Ranch and approximately twelve miles from Boca Chica. Once at Tulosa, Barrett and his men rejoined the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, who, as Barrett mentioned in the passage above, anticipated fighting and had already established a skirmish line. The Union soldiers made preparations for renewed fighting atop the hill.

By about 4:00 p.m., Colonel Ford and his troops had reached a point just below San Martin Ranch [**G**]. The Union Army at Tulosa Ranch was in sight, although not yet aware of the Confederates' presence. Ford issued directions for a two-pronged attack:

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[42]*O.R.*, p. 266.

[43]Ford, John Salmon. *Rip Ford's Texas*. Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963, p. 390.

[44]*O.R.*, p. 266.

> ... Having made reconnaissance and determined to attack, [Ford] directed Captain Jones to place one section of his battery in the road under Lieutenant Smith, another under Lieutenant [William] Gregory on the left, supported by Lieutenant [Jesse] Vineyard's detachment. The other section was held in reserve. The guns were directed to move in advance of the line. Captain Robinson was placed in command of the main body of cavalry -- Anderson's battalion under Captain D.W. Wilson on the right by consent, and Giddings' battalion on the left. Lieutenant Gregory had orders to move under cover of the hills and chaparral, to flank the enemy's right, and if possible to get an enfilading fire. Captain Gibson's and Cocke's companies were sent to the extreme left with orders to turn the enemy's right flank. Skirmishers were advanced.[45]

According to Barrett's account, the Confederates opened fire on the Federals simultaneously from the front and the side:

> ... The rebels, now largely re-enforced, again reappeared in our front, opening fire upon us with both artillery and small-arms. At the same time a heavy body of cavalry and a section of a battery, under cover of the thick chaparral on our right, had already succeeded in flanking us with the evident intention of gaining our rear. With the Rio Grande on our left, a superior force of the enemy in front, and his flanking force on our right, our situation was at this time extremely critical. Having no artillery to oppose the enemy's six 12-pounder field pieces, our position became untenable. We therefore fell back, fighting [I]. This movement, always difficult, was doubly so at this time, having to be performed under a heavy fire from both front and flank.[46]

While the main body of the Union troops fell back, 110 men were deployed as skirmishers under the command of Captains Miller and Coffin and Lieutenants Foster and Mead. The effectiveness of this skirmishing force is uncertain. Branson recalls that, "They kept the enemy at a respectful distance at all times and did their duty in the best possible manner."[47] Ford, however, writes that he "saw the enemy's skirmishers, which were well-handled, left without support by the retreating main body, and ... [Ford] ordered an advance. Very soon Captain Robinson charged with impetuosity. The Confederates captured the Yankee

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[45]Ford, John Salmon. *Rip Ford's Texas*. Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963, p. 390.

[46]*O.R.*, p. 266.

[47]*O.R.*, p. 266.

skirmishers while the enemy troops retreated at a run."[48] Barrett confirmed the capture of some 48 Federal skirmishers.[49]

In addition to the difficulties the skirmishers faced, the main body of Union troops rapidly broke into disarray, forced to retreat from an "untenable" defensive position at Tulosa. The 62nd U.S.C.I. had been ordered to cover the Union forces as they fell back [J], but, according to Captain Carrington, "Branson's negro regiment was quickly demoralized and fled in dismay."[50] Carrington described the Federals' frantic retreat and frustrated attempts to escape the superior Confederate forces:

> The Indiana troops [34th Volunteer Infantry] threw down their arms and surrendered; most of Hancock's company escaped; retreating through the dense chaparral. The entire force of the Federals commenced to retreat; Ford's fierce cavalry charges harassed them exceedingly. The artillery moved at a gallop. Three times, lines of skirmishers were thrown out to check the pursuit; these lines were roughly handled and many prisoners captured.[51]

Colonel Barrett, understandably, described the Federals' hasty retreat as occurring in a more orderly fashion: " ... The entire regiment fell back with precision and in perfect order, under circumstances that would have tested the discipline of the best troops. Seizing upon every advantageous position, the enemy's fire was returned deliberately and with effect. The fighting continued three hours."[52] As the Union soldiers quickly retreated towards the east, one group of troops was cut off from any escape route by a bend in the Rio Grande. The Confederates captured or shot many of those who ran, yet most escaped. Carrington noted the unfortunate fate of some who braved the river crossing: "It is greatly to be regretted that several who attempted to swim the river to escape capture were drowned. Several swam across and were immediately slain and stripped by Mexican bandits, and thrown into the river."[53] This was not confirmed by any official record, however.

The Confederates pursued the Union troops in a northeasterly direction for approximately seven or eight miles. Ford described their efforts:

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[48]Ford, John Salmon. *Rip Ford's Texas.* Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963, p. 391.

[49]*O.R.*, p. 266.

[50]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865.* Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 21.

[51]*Ibid.*

[52]*O.R.*, p. 266.

[53]Carrington, Capt. W.H.D. "The Last Battle—The Last Charge, and the Last Gun Fired in the War." Chapter XLI in *History of Texas, Volume II: From 1685 to 1892,* by John Henry Brown. Austin: Jenkins Publishing Company, 1970, p. 434.

> Our guns pursued at the gallop; the shouting men pressed to the front. Occupying the hills adjacent to the road, Confederates fired in security from behind the crests. The enemy endeavored to hold various points, but were driven from them. The pursuit lasted for seven miles, the artillery horses were greatly fatigued (some of them had given out), the cavalry horses were jaded. Ford was convinced the enemy would be reinforced at or near the White House [at White's Ranch]. For these reasons he ordered the officers to withdraw the men.[54]

The Union troops were driven back to Cobb's Ranch [**K**], approximately two miles from Boca Chica, where they could cross over to their base on Brazos Island. Ford then ordered his troops to halt. Carrington speculated as to why Ford discontinued the pursuit at this critical point, when the Confederates were so successfully driving the Federals back towards the Gulf Coast:

> If Ford had more troops he would doubtless have placed himself between the enemy and Brazos Island, but with his small force of less than three hundred men, he said "the undertaking would be too hazardous." He thought the Federals would be reinforced from Brazos Island, as they knew from the sound of approaching artillery, and from couriers that Barret [sic] was defeated, and Ford's force would have been between two bodies of enemies, each numbering as many as five to one.[55]

After withdrawing from the pursuit, the Confederates retreated a short distance. At this time, General Slaughter arrived. According to Ford, Slaughter assumed command and sent a messenger to Ford directing the colonel to "resume the pursuit." The Federals, at this point,

> had commenced to double quick by the left flank across a slough through which a levee had been thrown up about three hundred yards long [**L**]. The slough was an impassable quagmire for any character of troops except upon the narrow levee. General Slaughter saw the movement and scarcely pausing for a moment, ordered the pursuit to be resumed; ordering Carrington to press the rear guard of the enemy. His idea was to strike the rear guard so as to cut it off before reaching the levee; but the rear guard was in a hurry. Although Carrington's troopers were comparatively fresh and spurred their horses up nearly to their best running capacity, the enemy gained the levee when they were about two hundred yards from the main body of the enemy who had formed a line of battle at the farther end of the levee among the sand hills. Carrington immediately formed the Confederate troopers into line on the edge of the slough then covered with tide water. While doing this he saw General

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[54]Ford, John Salmon. *Rip Ford's Texas*. Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963, p. 391.

[55]Schuler, Louis j. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865*. Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 21.

> Slaughter dash forward into the water in front, and emptied his six-shooter at the retreating foe. The Federal line formed on the other side of the slough was three hundred yards off from the Confederate troopers. A heavy skirmish fire was kept up for nearly an hour across the slough. The enemy though in full view shot too high. They were, as we thought, five or six times as numerous as the Confederates.[56]

Ford himself refused to join in the resumed pursuit of the Federals, protesting that the horses were too tired and that the Union would be reinforced as soon as they were within range of Brazos Island. In his memoirs, he described the above action as a minor coda to the overall Battle of Palmito Ranch. According to Ford, Slaughter merely sent skirmishers in the Union Army's direction, and the Federals responded by sending out skirmishers of their own. Both sides then engaged in firing—for "perhaps ten minutes," according to Ford, rather than Carrington's "nearly an hour"—and then Slaughter withdrew his skirmishers.

Regardless of how long this fighting took place, it undoubtedly occurred at or immediately following sunset. Most members of the Union Army forged their way back to Boca Chica and then to Brazos Island. The Confederates also withdrew a short way, with Slaughter announcing his intention to camp nearby at Palmito for the night. Ford, however, insisting that the Union Army still might receive reinforcements and return during the night, moved his troops to a point about "eight miles higher up," and encamped there.[57]

That evening, as both armies retreated from the site of the final skirmishing, a shell from a ship stationed nearby, possibly *SS Isabella,* exploded between the two armies. Although details of this story vary, most accounts contend that this was the last shot of the Battle of Palmito Ranch, the last land battle of the Civil War.

Aftermath of the Battle

Historians still debate the number of casualties for each side. First hand reports report light casualties for both armies. Barrett reports 111 Federal casualties total, a number that includes both killed and wounded men, as well as those the Confederates captured. Rip Ford, in his handwritten memoirs, recalled that the Confederates only sustained seven casualties during the conflict; all seven men were wounded, he reported, and not killed. However, Stephen B. Oates, the editor of *Rip Ford's Texas*—the edited, organized version of Ford's manuscripts compiled in 1963—believes that about thirty Federal troops were killed and 113 more were taken prisoner, out of a total fighting force of 800. Oates theorized that the Confederates lost about the same number, although their total fighting force was much smaller, about 300.[58] According to numerous accounts, many Union troops died when they tried to swim across the Rio Grande in their panic to flee the conflict.

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[56]*Ibid.*, p. 22.

[57]*Rip Ford's Texas*. Stephen B. Oates, editor. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1963, p. 392.

[58]*Ibid.* p. 390.

Not all those who crossed the river in the aftermath of the battle were Union soldiers, however. Confederate General James Slaughter and several men in his command, reportedly upon hearing of Lee's surrender from some of the captured Union soldiers, crossed the river to Matamoros just prior to the Union occupation of Fort Brown on June 20, 1865. Once in Mexico, Slaughter conveyed the remaining Confederate military supplies and artillery under his command to the Imperial Mexican Army over Ford's objections.[59] Slaughter, who refused to surrender to the Federals, apparently planned to join with the Mexican Imperialists in the hope that the Confederates could reorganize and mount an offensive with French support. Neither Rip Ford nor the majority of his Cavalry of the West was interested in pursuing such a scheme. In fact, Ford refused an offer of civilian-disguised lancers from Imperialist General Mejia to hold Brownsville against the Federal troops.[60] It was clear to Ford and most of his men that the war was over for the South, despite their resounding victory at Palmito Ranch.

Victory notwithstanding, the Battle of Palmito Ranch did nothing to alter the ultimate course of the war. It did, however, herald an intriguing aftermath. Ford and Slaughter, always at odds over who held command on the Rio Grande, parted on less-than-friendly terms after the battle. When Ford discovered that Slaughter had sold Confederate artillery to Mejia and apparently planned to keep the 20,000 pesos he received in payment, he confronted the general at gun point and demanded that he return the money. Ford disbursed some of the money among troopers remaining in Brownsville, as back pay. He kept $4,000—albeit less than he was owed—for himself. General E. Kirby Smith surrendered the Texas troops of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate Army in Galveston on May 26, 1865,[61] the same day Slaughter turned over his command to Ford before fleeing into Mexico. Ford immediately dismissed his Calvary of the West and, as a precaution, took his own family across the border with Mejia's consent. When the Federal troops marched into Brownsville, they met no opposition.[62]

On May 29, the Confederates evacuated Brownsville, but not before sending a large shipment of cotton across the river.[63] Probably belonging to the partnership of Kennedy and King, it was the last shipment of the war era. The next day, Federal troops led by Brig. Gen. E.B.

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[59]Pipkin, Maurice. *An Early History of Cameron County*. MA, Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville, Texas, 1940, p. 111; Fehrenbach, T.R. *Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans*. New York: The MacMillian Company, 1968, p. 390.

[60]Fehrenbach, T.R. *Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans*. New York: The MacMillian Company, 1968, p. 391.

[61]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865*. Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 18.

[62]Fehrenbach, T.R. *Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans*. New York: The MacMillian Company, 1968, p. 392.

[63]Coalson, Polly Ann. *The Rio Grande Campaign: 1863-1965*. Masters thesis, Texas A&I University, 1991, p. 73.

Brown occupied Fort Brown and Brownsville where they captured about five hundred bales of cotton, several hundred head of cattle, some horses and mules.[64]

The entire Trans-Mississippi Department formally surrendered on June 2, 1865.[65] In the month that followed, a number of prominent Confederates crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico. Some feared reprisals; others hoped to join Slaughter's ill-conceived plan to launch a renewed offensive against the victorious Union.[66] As long as Maximilian retained his tenuous position in Mexico, Confederate officers flocked to his capital for refuge. They tried to establish a colony of Confederate soldiers and their families on the Mexican Gulf coast but their plans failed to fully materialize. Maximilian, struggling to keep his floundering government afloat, could offer no assistance, and the Confederates themselves felt uneasy and unwelcome in the foreign land. When the Union offered paroles and amnesty to the Confederate ex-patriots in July 1865, most returned north. Rip Ford and his family were among them. After Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the Federal government moved Phil Sheridan and 50,000 troops to occupy Brazos Santiago and the border forts and discourage any French/Mexican Imperialist or Confederate aspirations along the border.[67] Sheridan courteously received Ford who then helped repatriate other former Confederates.[68] At the same time, Secretary of War Seward filed a formal protest against French troops in Mexico and Napoleon withdrew his soldiers—those at the border were evacuated through Brownsville—leaving Maximilian to his fate. The Mexican liberals, or Juaristas, ultimately gained control of the government over the Imperials.

The poor showing of the Union Army at Palmito Ranch was an embarrassment and commanding officers attempted to shift the blame for the loss on the shoulders of Lieutenant Colonel Robert G. Morrison. The Federals conducted a courtmartial of Morrison in July 1865, charging him with "disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, abandoning his colors," and displaying "conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline." However, the prosecution lacked substantial evidence against Morrison and he was acquitted in September of that year.[69] Morrison's acquittal closed the official record on the Battle of Palmito Ranch. The event itself became regarded as a postscript in the history of America's bloodiest war.

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[64]*Ibid.*

[65]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865.* Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 18.

[66]Ferhenbach, T.R. *Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans.* New York: The MacMillian Company, 1968, p. 392.

[67]Catton, Bruce. *The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War.* American Heritage Publishing Company: New York, 1982, p. 253.

[68]Ferhenbach, T.R. *Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans.* New York: The MacMillian Company, 1968, p. 392.

[69]Kent, Lt. Richard. "General Court Martial Orders, No. 1." September 5, 1865. In personal files of Charles Morris, Harlingen, Texas, p. 1.

The Battle in Retrospect

As stated above, General Lew Wallace, along with General Slaughter and Colonel Ford, arranged an unofficial truce between the Texas forces of the Union and Confederate armies during March 1865. Since both parties apparently negotiated the truce in good faith, it remains unclear as to what prompted the Union Army to advance on Fort Brown, instigating the Battle of Palmito Ranch and clearly violating the understanding.

Civil War Historians have advanced two theories to explain the Union's actions. The first of these theories involves Union Colonel Theodore Barrett and seeks to understand his motives for launching the attack. Barrett's motives remain undocumented. Presumably, Barrett instigated the attack while Brigadier General Brown was absent from Brazos Santiago on other business. However, unlike Ford, Carrington, Branson, and the other key figures of the battle, Barrett had no prior military experience. The first theory states that Barrett triggered the conflict out of a personal desire for combat experience. With the end of the Civil War rapidly approaching, Barrett perhaps felt that time was growing short for him to gain actual combat experience that might later prove invaluable if he hoped for advancement in the U.S. armed forces. Perhaps Barrett triggered the Battle of Palmito Ranch for personal reasons, hoping that a quick battle would enhance his fledgling reputation as a soldier.[70]

Historian J. Schuler, in his booklet *The Last Battle*, presented a more plausible theory as to why the Union descended upon the Confederacy in South Texas. Schuler contends that the decision to attack came not from Barrett, but from his commanding officer, Brigadier General E.B. Brown.

> The bulging warehouses at Brownsville, with some two thousand bales of cotton earmarked for consignees in Matamoros, was the primary cause for the breaking of the truce on May 12, by the Federal troops at Brazos Island, then under the command of Brigadier General E.B. Brown ... Brown had been persuaded by the Yankee cotton speculators at Matamoros, anxious to unload their cotton before the Confederate collapse, that the cotton could be seized by the Federals and sold as contraband, and the rebels at Brownsville would offer no resistance to the capture of the city and the cotton stored there. The plan took no account of Rip Ford, the man of integrity; the man who believed in the pledged word of the Wallace truce.[71]

According to Schuler, the Union either overestimated the faith the Confederates placed in the truce agreement, and would therefore not fight even when directly challenged, or else they underestimated the fighting strength of the troops defending Fort Brown commanded by

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[70]Weidner, Dr. Ralph W. *The Last Land Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865*. Unpublished manuscript on file at Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas, p. 4.

[71]Schuler, Louis J. *The Last Battle in the War Between the States: May 13, 1865*. Brownsville: Springman-King Company, 1960, p. 18.

Rip Ford. Regardless, the Union's inability to correctly predict the response of the Confederates to an attack ultimately led to the Union's defeat in the Battle of Palmito Ranch.

Cotton elicited previous conflict in the area. In November 1863, for example, immediately prior to the imminent Union occupation of Fort Brown, Confederate General Bee ordered more than 200 bales of unshipped cotton burned rather than let the precious commodity fall into Yankee hands. The resulting fire destroyed all of Fort Brown and much of the surrounding areas of Brownsville.[72] The incident suggests the importance of cotton in the series of south Texas Civil War battles fought as much for economic as for miliary reasons. The Confederacy's shipments of cotton through south Texas certainly influenced the location of the Battle of Palmito Ranch, and the immediate presence of stockpiles of cotton in Brownsville in May 1865 perhaps provided the impetus for the Union to launch an attack on the south Texas city, although the Civil War was essentially finished.

Conclusion

Palmito Ranch Battlefield is certainly noteworthy as the final episode—the last land engagement—of the great American Civil War, arguably the most significant and defining event of the nation's history. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (NR 1993) for this historic association.

More important, however, is the battlefield's national significance, which is more complex than its role as a historic milestone. While the Battle of Palmito Ranch did nothing to affect the outcome of the war, it is representative of the war-long struggle between the North and South to control southern ports and manipulate foreign diplomacy for economic and military advantage. Moreover, the battle for the mouth of the Rio Grande symbolized the Union's failure to check the flow of contraband along the international border with Mexico. That vexation, coupled with the potential booty and recognition to be had in capturing the great stores of cotton reputed to be held in Brownsville, may have compelled young Colonel Barrett to march against the remaining Confederate forces in violation of the Wallace agreement.

Due to the Union's successful blockade of southern ports, the mouth of the Rio Grande had become the focal point of foreign trade—a lifeline to the Confederacy by the last years of the war—thus adding an international dimension to the military and economic objectives. Beyond the immediate concerns of the American Civil War, the border region also presented unique diplomatic and potentially volatile military challenges, as well. The presence of French, Belgian and Austrian troops in an alliance with the Mexican Imperialist Army at the border encouraged the Confederates and heightened Union anxiety over possible hostilities with Mexico at the conclusion of the war. Both the Union and Confederate leadership realized the strategic value of maintaining Mexican alliances on the border and occupation of the Lower Rio Grande Valley was paramount to that goal.

Finally, the war-long struggle for control of the border culminated in the last battle at Palmito Ranch. The battle was both a final, symbolic gesture of Southern defiance in the face of inevitable Northern domination, as well as one last ploy in the ongoing private (and not-so-

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[72]Banks 1983:34, p. 34.

private) economic ruse that played out along the international border—regardless of stated or intended military and political aspirations.

Ultimately, the legacy of Palmito Ranch lies less in its incidental distinction as the final battle of the Civil War, than as a part of the ongoing North-South struggle to secure a strategic economic and diplomatic position on the Lower Rio Grande—the gateway to Mexico. It also serves as a symbol of Confederate resolve; it was the Union's last, unsuccessful wartime attempt to seize control of the region and close the Confederacy's backdoor to Mexico. Even after the battle, the Lower Rio Grande served as a final avenue of retreat for recalcitrant Confederates hoping to reorganize in Mexico with Imperialist support—a possibility that prompted General Grant to fortify the border at the end of the war. The outcome of the battle simply confirmed that the diplomatic and economic alliances made at the border often operated independently of political or military objectives. It also highlighted the Confederacy's obdurate unwillingness to concede defeat—even though they were vastly outnumbered and almost certainly knew that the war was lost. In that respect, then, the battle presaged the difficulty with which the South would be repatriated into the Union.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_X_ Previously Listed in the National Register.
___ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
___ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
___ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #_____
___ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #_____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State Agency
___ Federal Agency
___ Local Government
___ University
___ Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 5,991 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	680344	2873953	**B**	14	680350	2871740
C	14	666383	2866853	**D**	14	666354	2871973

Verbal Boundary Description:

Please refer to the accompanying map, which is based on official topographical maps of the United States Geological Survey, for a precise depiction of the boundaries of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield.

The southern boundary of the battlefield follows the current course of the Rio Grande which separates the state of Texas from Mexico to the south, while State Highway 4 (the Boca Chica Highway) marks the northern boundary. The western boundary roughly follows a line extending southward from Loma del Muerto to the Rio Grande, and the eastern boundary roughly follows a line extending southward from the westernmost tip of Verdolaga Lake to a point on the Rio Grande midway between Tarpon Bend and Stell-Lind Banco No. 128. (See the accompanying map in Appendix A for a thorough depiction of the battlefield area.)

Beginning at a point on the U.S. bank of the Rio Grande immediately south of Loma del Muerto, proceed due north approximately one mile to the intersection of the Boca Chica Highway and Loma del Muerto. Then proceed east along the south edge of the Boca Chica Highway, approximately 4.5 miles, to a point on the highway due south of the easternmost tip of Verdolaga Lake. Then proceed due south to the Rio Grande. Then proceed west along the U.S. bank of the Rio Grande approximately 4.5 miles to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries for the Palmito Ranch Battlefield encompass the large expanse of land where the most intense fighting of the conflict took place. Since the battle consisted of a series of moving skirmishes, the battlefield itself covers a large area approximately five miles long.

The southern boundary of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield follows the current path of the Rio Grande, since the river formed one border for all fighting. Also, the river is the international boundary line between the United States and Mexico.

The western boundary of the battlefield roughly follows a line extending from the Loma del Muerto southward to the Rio Grande. This line approximates the point at which the Confederate reinforcements, led by Colonel John S. (Rip) Ford, arrived at the scene of the battle on the afternoon of May 13, 1865. This boundary also approximates the position of "San Martin Ranch," referred to by officers of both armies in written accounts of the battle. The Boca Chica Highway (State Highway 4) forms the northern boundary of the battlefield. Although some scattered fighting may have taken place north of this line, most of the conflict was concentrated much closer to the Rio Grande. The placement of the boundary at the highway allows for the inclusion of a broad expanse of land north of the river, providing a visitor to the site with a good sense of the large area in which the running battle occurred.

The battlefield's eastern boundary roughly extends from the westernmost tip of Verdolaga Lake southward to a point on the Rio Grande just east of Tarpon Bend and just west of Stell-Lind Banco No. 128, as shown on the accompanying map. This line marks the approximate location of a small levee referred to in written, first-hand accounts of the battle as the scene of the final skirmish, and the place where the Confederate Army ceased its pursuit of the Union troops on the evening of May 13, 1865.

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PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
White's Ranch vicinity, facing north
Photo #1: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
White's Ranch vicinity, facing north
Photo #1: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
VICINITY of BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 5

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Union vantage point of main battle area, facing northeast
Photo #2: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Union vantage point of main battle area, facing northeast
Photo #2: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
VICINITY of BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 5

2

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Looking towards Tulosa Hill, facing southeast
Photo #3: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Looking towards Tulosa Hill, facing southeast
Photo #3: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
VICINITY of BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 5

3

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Military Road near Tulosa Ranch site,
facing south
Photo #4: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Military Road near Tulosa Ranch site,
facing south
Photo #4: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
VICINITY of BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 5

4

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Vantage point of retreating Union troops, facing west
Photo #5: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Vantage point of retreating Union
troops, facing west
Photo #5: Terri Myers, 1992

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
VICINITY of BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 5

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MOUTH OF RIO GRANDE QUADRANGLE

TEXAS–CAMERON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 MOUTH OF RIO GRANDE 15' QUADRANGLE

6536 III SE (LAGUNA VISTA)
6536 II SW (PORT ISABEL)
6536 II (PORT ISABEL) 1:62 500

Loma Pelona
Loma del Burro
Loma de los Tequios
LOS MONTES
Loma de la Lena Seca
MADRE
LAGUNA
Loma de las Vacas
Verdolaga Lake
Mesa del Gavilan
Boca Chica Bay
Boca Chica Beach
Shifting Sand Dunes
GULF OF MEXICO
Loma de la Pita
HIGHWAY
BOCA CHICA
BROWNSVILLE 17 MI.
Loma de la Estrella
Loma de los Ebanitos
Port Isabel Reservoir (Aban'd)
LEVEE
Tarpon Bend
RIO GRANDE
Stell-Lind Banco No 128
UNITED STATES
MEXICO
TEXAS
TAMAULIPAS
Mouth of Rio Grande
A
B

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Zone 14

A 680344 2873953
B 680350 2871740

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
SOUTH of HIGHWAY 4 (BOCA CHICA HIGHWAY)
VICINITY of BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES: REFER TO NOMINATION FORMS MAP 2 of 2

MAR 3 1983

6535 IV NE (PALMITO HILL)
6535 I (MOUTH OF RIO GRANDE 1:62 500)

97°15′ 676 677 678 679 12′30″ 680 681 682 683 10′ 684 685 686 97°07′30″
25°52′30″
26°00′
57′30″
55′
2 420 000 FEET
2 450 000 FEET
687000m.E.
2876000m.N.
2864000m.N.
2876 2875 2874 2873 2872 2871 2869 2868 2867 2866 2865 2864 2863
120 000 FEET
80 000 FEET

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and IBC

Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 1288

Culture and drainage in part compiled by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey from aerial photographs taken 1948
Topography from 1929 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
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue

Water stages vary in this area with meteorological conditions
Approximate limits of occasional inundation shown by dashed blue lines
where mean high water is undetermined for lack of visual evidence
Dotted blue lines indicate the approximate limits of low water

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked

MN
GN
0°47′ 14 MILS
8½° 151 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
1 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 0 .5 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IS 1 FOOT AND IN LAGUNA MADRE IS LESS THAN ½ FOOT

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

TEXAS
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

2597-443

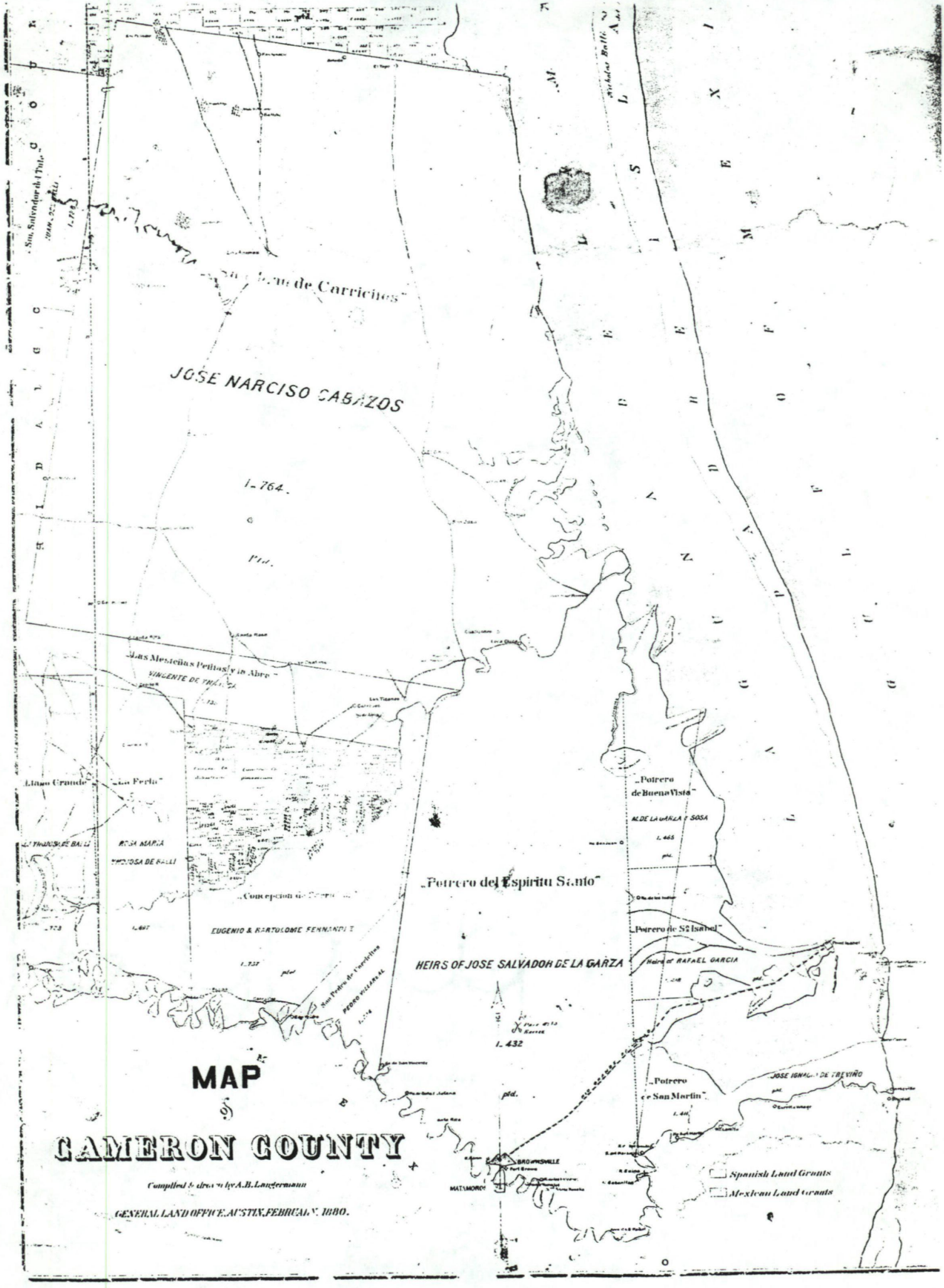
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty Light-duty
Unimproved dirt
State Route

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1970

MOUTH OF RIO GRANDE, TEX.

NW/4 MOUTH OF RIO GRANDE 15' QUADRANGLE
N2552.5—W9707.5/7.5

1955
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6535 I NW-SERIES V882


JOSE NARCISO CABAZOS
L. 764.
Potrero del Espiritu Santo
HEIRS OF JOSE SALVADOH DE LA GARZA
Potrero de Buena Vista
Potrero de St Isabel
Potrero de San Martin
Heirs of RAFAEL GARCIA
EUGENIO & BARTOLOME FERNANDEZ
Las Mesteñas Pellas y la Abra
Linao Grande
La Feria
L. 432
MAP
OF
CAMERON COUNTY
Compiled & drawn by A.B. Langermann
GENERAL LAND OFFICE, AUSTIN, FEBRUARY 1880.
Spanish Land Grants
Mexican Land Grants

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PALMITO HILL QUADRANGLE
TEXAS–CAMERON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 FORT BROWN 15' QUADRANGLE

6536 III SW (LOS FRESNOS)

6536 II SE (LAGUNA VISTA)

6536 II SW (PORT ISABEL)

PADRE ISLAND 12 MI.
PORT ISABEL 8.4 MI.

BROWNSVILLE 10.8 MI.
BROWNSVILLE 2 MI.

BOCA CHICA BEACH 6.7 MI.

6535 IV NW (EAST BROWNSVILLE)

BROWNSVILLE 8.6 MI.

6535 I NW (MOUTH OF RIO GRANDE)

San Martin Lake
Goose Island
SAN MARTIN LAKE
SPOIL BANK
LEVEE
BROWNSVILLE FISHING HARBOR
GOOSE ISLAND PASSING BASIN
BROWNSVILLE SHIP CHANNEL
Light
Yacht Basin
Loma de los Lobos
Loma de las Yeguas
Loma del Potrero Cercado
Loma del Divisadero
Laguna Madre
Loma Pelona
Loma Tia Tules
Loma del Macho
Loma Tio Alejos
Loma del Cenizal
Loma de la Jauja
Loma de la Estrella
Loma de la Montuosa
Loma de la Montuosa Chica
Loma de Muerto
Battle of Palmito Hill (Historical Monument)
BOCA CHICA HIGHWAY
PALMITO HILL BATTLEFIELD
Old Palmito Ranch
Old Tulosa Ranch Site
Palmito Hill
Palmito Ranch
Cem.
Caja Pinta Banco No 80
El Rincon Banco No 126
Los Sauces Ranch
CAA Radio Range Station
Las Conas Banco
San Miguel Banco No 88
Oil Well (Inactive)
Pumping Sta.
RIO GRANDE
UNITED STATES
MEXICO
TEXAS
TAMAULIPAS
BM
Spot elevations

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Zone 14

C 666383 2866853
D 666354 2871973

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and IBC

Culture and drainage in part compiled by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey from aerial photographs taken 1948. Topography from 1929 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
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Water stages vary in this area with meteorological conditions
Approximate limits of occasional inundation shown by dashed blue lines where mean high water is undetermined for lack of visual evidence
Dotted blue lines indicate the approximate limits of low water

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 34 meters south and
26 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

MN
GN
0°44'
13 MILS
7°
124 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1980 and other source data
This information not field checked. Map edited 1983

SCALE 1:24 000
1 MILE
7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS LESS THAN ½ FOOT

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

TEXAS
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

2597–434

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

PALMITO HILL, TEX.
NE/4 FORT BROWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N2552.5—W9715/7.5

1955

PHOTOREVISED 1983
DMA 6535 IV NE–SERIES V882

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1984

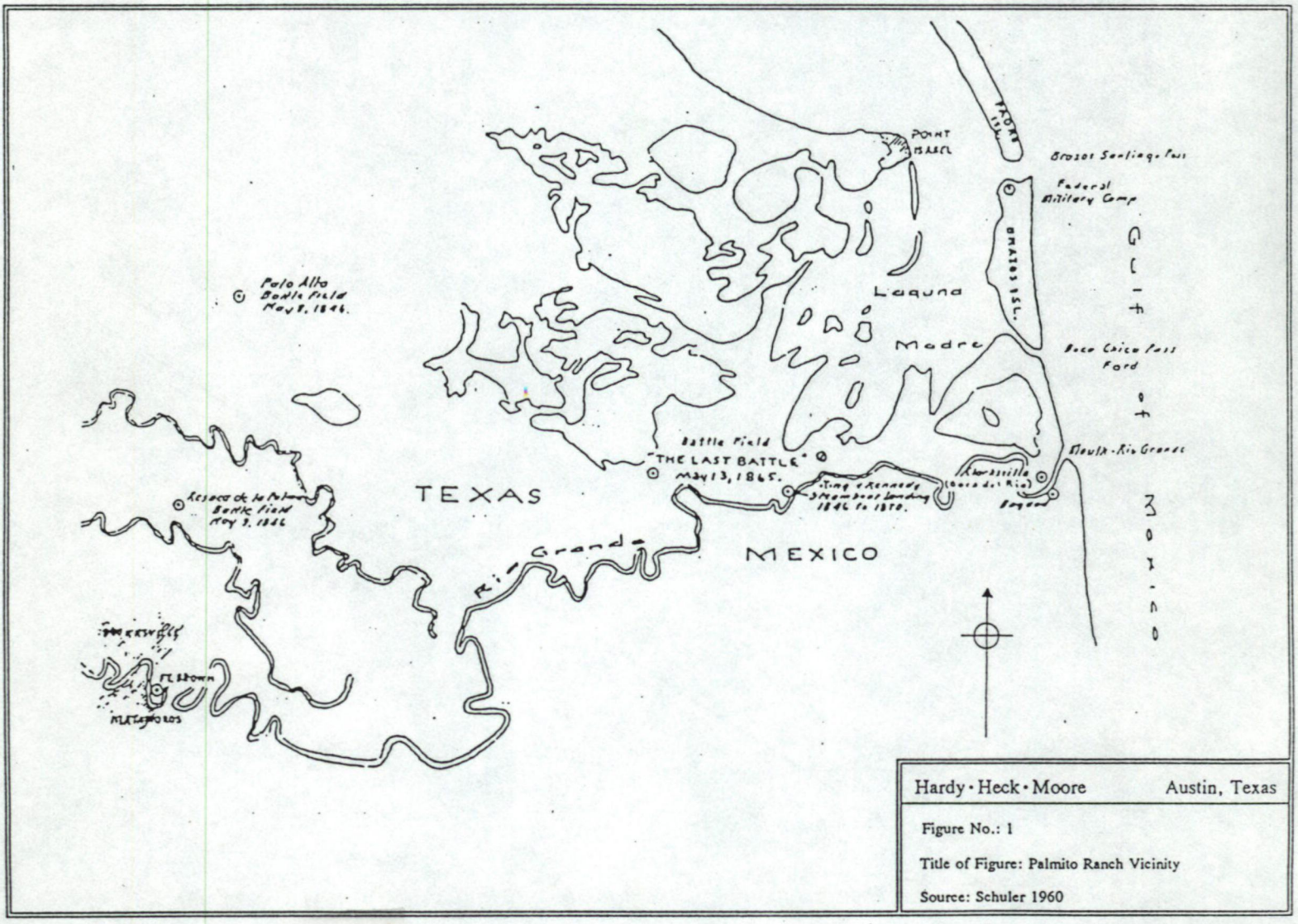
PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
SOUTH of HIGHWAY 4 (BOCA CHICA HIGHWAY)
VICINITY of BROWNSVILLE CAMERON CO. TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES: REFER TO NOMINATION FORMS

MAR 3 1993

NPS MAP 1 of 2

MAR 3 1993

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Hardy · Heck · Moore Austin, Texas

Figure No.: 1

Title of Figure: Palmito Ranch Vicinity

Source: Schuler 1960

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
Cameron County, Texas
Figure #1

RECEIVED 2280
APR 2 1 1997
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD

Other Name/Site Number: Palmito (or Palmetto) Hill Battlefield

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: South of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Highway) Not for publication: ___

City/Town: Brownsville Vicinity: X

State: TX County: Cameron Code: 061 Zip Code: 78520

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property		Category of Property	
Private:	X	Building(s):	___
Public-Local:	___	District:	___
Public-State:	___	Site:	X
Public-Federal:	X	Structure:	___
		Object:	___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
____	____	buildings
1	____	sites
____	____	structures
____	____	objects
1	____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

_____ _____
Signature of Certifying Official Date

_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets ___ does not meet the ~~National Register~~ NHL criteria.

Curtis Tunnell 4-14-97
Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ Entered in the National Register _____
___ Determined eligible for the _____
National Register
___ Determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
___ Removed from the National Register _____
___ Other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: **PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD**

Other Name/Site Number: PALMITO (OR PALMETTO) HILL BATTLEFIELD

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: South of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Highway) Not for publication: ___

City/Town: Brownsville Vicinity: X

State: TX County: Cameron Code: 061 Zip Code: 78520

duplicating copy

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property		Category of Property	
Private:	X	Building(s):	___
Public-Local:	___	District:	___
Public-State:	___	Site:	X
Public-Federal:	X	Structure:	___
		Object:	___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
____	____	buildings
1	____	sites
____	____	structures
____	____	objects
1	____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

Designated a NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK on SEP 25 1997 by the Secretary of the Interior

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

_____ _____
Signature of Certifying Official Date

_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

_____ _____
Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

____ Entered in the National Register
____ Determined eligible for the National Register
____ Determined not eligible for the National Register
____ Removed from the National Register
____ Other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	DEFENSE	Sub:	Battle Site
Current:	AGRICULTURE LANDSCAPE	Sub:	Agricultural Field Unoccupied Land

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: N/A

MATERIALS: N/A
Foundation:
Walls:
Roof:
Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Palmito Ranch Battlefield retains exceptional integrity of setting, feeling, association and location, nearly 130 years after the battle which occurred on May 12 and 13, 1865. Occupying the southernmost tip of Texas, midway between tiny offshore Brazos Santiago (Brazos Island) and the city of Brownsville, the battlefield appears very much as it did when Federal and Confederate troops fought the last land engagement of the Civil War on its windswept and marshy plain.

Of the major geographic locations associated with the Battle of Palmito Ranch—including Fort Brown, Brownsville, Brazos Santiago, the Mexican cities of Matamoros and Bagdad, and the American village of Clarksville—only the battlefield itself remains in a relatively unaltered state since 1865. Neither Bagdad, Clarksville, nor the military depot at Brazos Santiago survive, while the town of Brownsville, itself much changed since the Civil War, has grown to engulf the remnants of Fort Brown. Matamoros is a bustling border city, now as then, but it bears little physical resemblance to the town it was in 1865. The land comprising Palmito Ranch Battlefield, on the other hand, remains virtually unchanged since the mid-19th century due to inhospitable topographic and climatic conditions and lack of development. Thus the landscape contributes to the battlefield's high level of historic integrity by conveying a strong visual sense of the area as it must have appeared during the Civil War.

The following description of the area, written by William Emory in his 1857 *Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey*, is essentially as accurate today as when Emory first ascended the Rio Grande in 1853:

> The entrance to the mouth of the Rio Bravo [Rio Grande or Rio Bravo del Norte] is over a bar of soft mud, varying from four to six feet deep, and the river within a few hundred yards of its mouth is not more than one thousand feet wide. The shore-line of the coast, scarcely broken by the action of the river, is formed of a series of low shifting sand-hills, with a scanty herbage. Inside these hills are numerous salt marshes and lagoons, separated by low belts of calcareous clay but a few feet above the level of the sea, and subject to overflow. The first high ground is Burrita, ten miles from the mouth, where there is a small settlement of Mexicans engaged in agriculture upon a very limited scale...
>
> Beyond Burrita, the river still pursues its serpentine course through alluvial soil, with an occasional patch of arable ground occupied by Mexican rancheros engaged in the cultivation of maize and the rearing of goats and chickens.
>
> At the Rancheria de San Martin, a mouth of the Rio Bravo, forty feet wide, opens on the American side into the Laguna Madre, allowing some of the water of the river to escape to the sea by the Boca Chica and the Brazos St. Iago [Brazos Santiago]. On the American side the road leading from the mouth of the river to Brownsville crosses this outlet at San Martin, over a substantial wooden bridge erected by the army.

> From this point upward to Brownsville the river makes a great bend to the South, and is so winding in its course that frequently the curves almost touch. The land on each side is level, and covered with a dense growth of heavy mezquite [sic], (Algaroba.) It is generally too high for irrigation, and the climate is too arid to depend with certainty upon rain for the purposes of agriculture. The vegetation is of a semi-tropical character, and the margin of the river, which is exposed to overflow, abounds in reed, canebrake, palmetto, willow, and water-plants, and would no doubt produce the sugar-cane in great luxuriance.[1]

With little exception, Emory's depiction of the area from Brazos Santiago, the base of Union operations, along the military road that parallels the Rio Grande to Brownsville and Fort Brown, held by the Confederates, was similar to that which the two forces encountered in 1864 and 1865.

The battlefield lies within a barren stretch of coastal plain, where the major vegetation consists of marsh plants and chaparral. A nearly flat expanse of salt marsh and sand dunes is alleviated slightly by a few scattered hillocks and spiked Palmetto trees that dot the landscape wherever the terrain rises a few feet above sea level (See Photos 1-5). A few miles inland from the coast, small thickets of trees and underbrush hug the Rio Grande as it bends back and forth toward the Gulf of Mexico. As the river approaches the Gulf, however, its banks become barren and flat until it empties into the sea. The climate is harsh and unpredictable, with extremely wet, stormy winters and hot, humid summers. These characteristics make the land unsuitable for extensive farming, grazing, or building development, and as a result, the battlefield remains remarkably similar in character to the way it appeared at the time of the battle.

This coastal point is also the target of frequent hurricanes and squalls. Numerous attempts at development—notably the Civil War boomtowns of Clarksville and Bagdad and a 1920s resort planned for Brazos Island—have ended in failure. The remains of early ranches and railroad camps, evidenced by small mounds of mid-19th century artifacts throughout the battlefield, attest to habitation further inland that also failed to thrive. Today, only a few permanent buildings stand at the periphery of the battlefield, primarily in the vicinity of Palmito Hill. Members of the Orive and Champion families retain ownership of much of Palmito Ranch as did their ancestors since before the Civil War.

The battlefield lies approximately midway between Brazos Island, a Union Army base of operations during the Civil War, and Fort Brown at Brownsville, the Confederate headquarters in South Texas (See Figure 1). As the Union troops marched towards Brownsville, they encountered Confederate outposts in the areas of White's Ranch and Palmito Ranch, and this initial resistance determined the placement of the battle. Later in the fighting, the Confederates launched their counterattack in the same vicinity, before driving the Union troops back towards Brazos Island. The most concentrated fighting took place in the area

---

[1]Emory in Santos, Richard G. (compiler). *Early Visions of the Lower Rio Grande*. Munguia Printers, San Antonio: 1983, pp. 58-59.

nominated as the Palmito Ranch Battlefield. Small hillocks, or lomas, currently dot the battlefield area, and were present at the time of the conflict. These small increases in elevation, none of which rise more than thirty feet above sea level, were important to both armies for gathering intelligence. Likewise, the dense thickets that grew on the hillsides provided both surveillance and cover.

According to eyewitness accounts of the battle, a few buildings were scattered throughout the plain when the fighting took place—principally ranch houses and auxiliary buildings. Praxedis Orive, an ancestor of the family that still owns part of the battlefield land, was a little boy when the battle occurred. Years later, he recounted to his grandchildren that he first heard the sounds of the battle from his family's ranch house and barnyard at Palmito Ranch. Later that afternoon, according to Orive, Union troops burned the ranch house as they passed through the area. The exact location of the house is unknown. The only surviving remnants of historic properties in the principal battlefield area are ruins, including the concrete steps, brick piers, and concrete foundation of a circa 1920 dwelling, and the adjoining ruins of a small concrete outbuilding. Both are atop Palmito Hill on property owned by the Orive family.

Of the key places and geographic locations germane to the battle, only the battlefield itself remains relatively unchanged today. The marshy soil and unpredictable weather conditions, subject to hurricanes and frequent storms, combine to create an unstable environment not well suited to extensive development. Other sites in the area associated with events leading to and including the battle have been significantly altered or are no longer standing. Soldiers vacated Fort Brown (National Historic Landmark 1960), the Confederate headquarters in Texas at the time of the battle, for the last time in 1944; today, Texas Southmost College owns and occupies the few remaining fort buildings. The city of Brownsville and the college itself have grown to surround the fort, which no longer retains its parade grounds. No buildings or structures survive at Brazos Santiago (National Register 1971), the Union post during the conflict and a recorded archeological site, although artifacts are occasionally uncovered after heavy storms. A hurricane shortly after the war permanently destroyed the once-bustling city of Bagdad, which saw its heyday during the Civil War years as a shipping point for Confederate cotton. However, some of the footings of the quickly erected frame buildings of Bagdad can be seen today.

Only five Civil War battlefields are documented in Texas; two of them are fragmented and designated "lost as complete battlefields" by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in its Civil War battlefield report. Of the five, the commission determined that only Palmito Ranch Battlefield exhibits a "good" level of integrity. Further, the commission listed Palmito Ranch Battlefield as the major site associated with the International Interpretive Theme of the Civil War.[2]

---

[2]Civil War Site Advisory Commission. *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*. Prepared for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources, United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Interior. Washington D.C.; National Park Service, 1993, pp. 23, 32.

The battlefield has been used primarily for ranching since 1865, as it was in the years prior to the battle. Like nearby Palo Alto Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark (1960) of the Mexican War era, Palmito Ranch Battlefield's major geographical and topographical features remain intact. Little development, either urban or agricultural, has occurred within the battlefield itself or along the old Brownsville Road (Highway 4) to Boca Chica, which provides the only access to the battlefield. In addition, there is little peripheral development. As a result, Palmito Ranch Battlefield retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling and association to an outstanding degree.

Today the desolate, windswept landscape conveys a vivid historic sense of the battlefield as it was seen by the Union and Confederate soldiers in May 1865, when they finalized the long struggle to control this strategic region that was the life line of the Confederacy in its last days.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally: X Statewide:___ Locally:___

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B__ C__ D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A___ B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___

NHL Criteria: 1

NHL Theme(s): VI. The Civil War
C. War in the West
E. Political and Diplomatic Scene

Areas of Significance: Military
Commerce
Diplomacy

Period(s) of Significance: May 11-13, 1865

Significant Dates: May 12 and 13, 1865

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

5236 E. 14th St. #31
Brownsville Texas 78521
July 17, 1985

To: Bob
(A) From: Bentsen

JUL 24 1985

Dear Senator Bentsen,

I would like to know your thoughts on a National Cemetery and Park on the site known as "Palmito Hill Battlefield", located 12 miles east of Brownsville. This battle was fought one month after the Civil War ended with the loss of 200 lives.

As you know there is nothing in this area to attract tourists or sites of interest to those who do visit Brownsville. There was Fort Brown and an old convent that was torn down by our city forefathers. Phooey!

Appreciate your comments!

Sincerely,
Aloysius Lukas

LLOYD BENTSEN
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORK
JOINT ECONOMIC
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGEN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 5, 1985

Mr. Russell E. Dickenson, Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Dickenson:

I recently received the enclosed constituent inquiry, and I would very much appreciate your providing me with any pertinent information you might have regarding the matter.

Your kind assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Bentsen

Lloyd Bentsen

Enclosure

PLEASE REPLY TO:

961 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701
ATTN: Robert Jordan

Received in Congressional
Liaison Division

1 AUG 1985

61-16

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AUG 20 RECD

8/20/85

Memorandum

To: 400/418

From: **Congressional Liaison Division**
Room 3222

Subject: **Controlled Correspondence** (Sen. Lloyd Bentsen - NHS/Balmito Hill Battlefield)

Please process the attached correspondence as indicated below:

1. **Due in draft in 190 _____ for _____ signature.**

2. **Prepare in final for Director's signature and forward to 190 for surname by** August 28 **. (Copy for 190.)**

3. **Direct reply (in Region) due _____ .**
(with copy of final response to WASO-190.)

Any questions, please call (343-4332)

XXXXXXX **Carol Gilley - 343-1332**

Karen Myers

Margaret Pearson

Maury Shean

H34(418)

SEP - 4 1985

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

Dear Senator Bentsen:

Thank you for forwarding Mr. Aloysius Lukas' inquiry about the possibility of establishing a National Cemetery and Park at the Palmito Hill Battlefield.

As you know, units of the National Park System are ordinarily authorized by Act of Congress. When members of Congress request comments from the National Park Service regarding proposals for additions to the System, the National Park Service considers the historical significance and integrity of the property in question, the feasibility of administering it within the National Park System, and alternative means of preserving and protecting it. The National Park System Advisory Board has considered the historical significance of the Palmito Hill Battlefield. The Board concluded that it and several other Civil War sites should "be considered as possessing more than ordinary historical interest, but that they do not meet the criteria for 'exceptional value' in accordance with the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of 1935." Because of this, we do not believe that the Palmito Hill Battlefield would be suitable for addition to the National Park System.

The National Park Service does administer several National Cemeteries, but we do not have responsibilites for establishment of new National Cemeteries. Perhaps your constituent would be interested in contacting the Veterans' Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420 regarding his proposal.

As you may know, several other historic properties in and near Brownsville have been recognized by the Department of the Interior as possessing national significance, and have been designated as National Historic Landmarks. These are Fort Brown, the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, and the Palo Alto Battlefield. The last, of course, is also a National Historic Site, within the National Park System. I trust that this reply will prove helpful to you in responding to your constituent.

Sincerely,

/Sgd/Jerry L. Rogers

Associate Director

Copy to your Washington, DC Office

cc: 001 Reading File; 400 Reading File; 190 (w/copy of incoming);
418 OSC Palmito Hill Battlefield, Texas
LFeller:kkb:8/26/85; Feller Disk 10, Item 25

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276 (TELEPHONE) 512-463-6100 (FAX) 512-463-6095 (RELAY TX) 1-800-735-2989 (TDD)

June 24, 1994

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Re: Submittal of National Historic Landmark Nomination for Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Cameron County, Texas

Dear Mr. Bearss:

The Texas Historical Commission is pleased to submit a draft National Historic Landmark nomination for Palmito Ranch Battlefield. This draft was recently completed by historian Terri Myers of Hardy, Heck, Moore and Associates, with whom you have discussed the nomination both by telephone and in person.

As you know, the battlefield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. Ms. Myers has modified the original NR nomination as follows: Section 7 (physical description) was revised to focus on issues of physical integrity; Section 8 (statement of significance) was rewritten to focus on the area's diplomatic and economic significance and the international interpretive theme; Section 9 (bibliography) was enlarged; Section 10 (boundaries) was edited slightly.

The document we are submitting replaces the original National Register nomination, except for the auxiliary documentation which includes: photos, photo log, list of owners, battlefield maps and UTTM coordinates.

We also include letters of support for the nomination from noted historians: Michael Parrish, recent winner of the Jefferson Davis Award; and Norman Brown, professor of Texas History at the University of Texas at Austin. A letter from Noah Andre Trudeau, a writer and editor at National Public Radio, will be forthcoming.

We appreciate the interest you and the National Park Service have expressed in this nomination and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Curtis Tunnell
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc. Karl Komatsu, Chairman, Texas Historical Commission
John Nau, Commissioner, Texas Historical Commission
David Siegle, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dr. Sally R. Lancaster, The Meadows Foundation

Ownership information:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department
Larry Ditto, Coordinator
320 N. Main Street, Room A103
McAllen, TX 78501
512/630-4636

Bobby Lerma
1000 E. Van Buren
Brownsville, TX 78521

Praxides Orive
P.O. Box 191
Brownsville, TX 78520

Mrs. Frank Henggeler
24 Calle Retama
Apt. 102C
Brownsville, TX 78520

Daniel Orive
85 Laura Lane
Brownsville, TX 78521

Rev / Jim

The
although the battle itself is
not of national significance;
its relation to international tracks
+ diplomacy is of national significance.
The Sutes Commission on it report

to Congress recognized this

The site has exceptional integrity.

The nomination is well written, a
few editorial concerns are
identified in the margins of the
attached.

Ben: See +

shall we try to do this?

On the surface, this appears to be a skirmish
without consequences.

Several tests must be applied:
- compare to Tonkin Gulf & other small-scale
  - ~~effects~~ battles e.g. Sheridan's 50,000
- how was incident regarded in Washington
  (New & very frightened administration
- point in light of Texas tradition of
  - independence + nationhood, Mexican irredentism
- Last stand of the Confederacy
- compare to other nations where guerrilla
  activity has persisted for years

(A St. Albans

T. Michael Parrish 6322 Bon Terra Drive Austin, Texas 78731-3843

RECEIVED
JUN 2[illegible] 1994
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

20 June 1994

Dr. Mario Sanchez, Director
Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Project
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Dr. Sanchez:

I have read the proposal by Ms. Terri Myers, preservation consultant (Hardy-Heck-Moore & Associates), nominating the Palmito Ranch Battlefield as a National Historic Landmark. As a specialist on the Civil War and the history of Texas and the Southwest, I find her presentation authoritative, her arguments compelling, and her conclusions thoroughly convincing.

As the final important military engagement of the Civil War, the battle of Palmito Ranch offers dramatic proof of the Lower Rio Grande Valley's strategic, commercial, and diplomatic importance to the Western Hemisphere. Three nations--the United States, the Confederate States, and Mexico--struggled over the region throughout the war. The borderland strains, conflicts, and controversies between the United States and Mexico today are essentially a continuation of that struggle.

I fully endorse Ms. Myers' nomination and join her in urging the proper authorities to grant the Palmito Ranch Battlefield recognition and protection as a National Historic Landmark.

Sincerely,

T. Michael Parrish

cc: Terri Myers

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Austin, Texas 78712-1163 · (512) 471-3261 · FAX (512) 471-3540

June 20, 1994

RECEIVED
JUN 23 1994
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Dr. Mario Sanchez, Director
Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Project
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Dr. Sanchez:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Palmito Ranch Battlefield for National Historic Landmark status. It is one of only five documented Civil War battlefields in Texas and, because of climate and geography, retains a high degree of historical integrity. The site today is much as it was in 1865. The two other major battlefields in the state--Galveston and Sabine Pass--are compromised by commercial or industrial development.

Palmito Ranch was the last land battle of the Civil War. Coincidentally, the site is not far from Palo Alto National Historic Site in Brownsville--the first battle of the Mexican War of 1846-1848. Both sites illustrate the key role the lower Rio Grande Valley has played in relations between the United States and Mexico.

During the Civil War, the river defined the Confederacy's onlyinternational border and the trade in cotton and other goods across the river was of vital importance to the Confederacy, in light of the Union naval blockade of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from the Potomac to the Rio Grande. As the Landmark status proposal states, "Ultimately, the Battle of Palmito Ranch symbolized the Union's failure--despite its superior numbers and strength--either to stop the contraband trade or to quell the Confederate resolve to fight to the very end" (p. 8).

Sincerely yours,

Norman Brown

Norman D. Brown
Barbara White Stuart Centennial
Professor in Texas History

c. Terri Myers

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276 (TELEPHONE) 512-463-6100 (FAX) 512-463-6095 (RELAY TX) 1-800-735-2989 (TDD)

Tuesday, June 28, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Mr. Edwin C. Bearss**
Chief Historian, National Park Service

FROM: **Curtis Tunnell**
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

SUBJECT: **National Historic Landmark Nomination for Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Cameron County, Texas**

Enclosed please find another letter in support of the nomination of Palmito Ranch Battlefield as a National Historic Landmark to be attached to the nomination and support materials I sent to you June 27, 1994.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Dr. Mario Sanchez, Director
Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Project
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711

June 25, 1994

Dear Dr. Sanchez:

I am pleased to write in support of the nomination of the Palmito Ranch battlefield as a National Historic Landmark. As part of the extensive research I undertook on the battle for my most recent book, *Out of the Storm* (Little, Brown, 1994) I had the pleasure of visiting the site and seeing first hand the excellent condition of the land over which was fought the last battle of the Civil War.

While the military action that took place there on May 12 and 13, 1865, was powerfully symbolic of the profound national changes brought on by the conflict, that fact that it happened there at all is compelling evidence of the area's importance in both the economic and diplomatic aspects of the rebellion. With the Rio Grande considered a body of international water, it was imperative for the Federal government to enforce its total blockade of the Confederacy by land actions. This resulted in the grand invasion of 1863, and the later occupation of key areas along the Texas coast, including Brazos Santiago.

The reasons for such a sustained interest in this region is clear from the remarkable events that took place here in the period 1861-1865. There is the tremendous significance for the Confederacy of access, via Mexico, to the world cotton markets. Figures I have seen attest to the fact that more than 30,000 bales of cotton passed through just one fairly limited portion of this region in a month's time. Another sign of the economic importance of this region can be gleaned from the effort made by Confederate authorities to establish and maintain a stagecoach line into Brownsville. It is no wonder that a special Union emissary tried to talk this region of Texas out of the war in late 1864!

The diplomatic consequences of the U.S.-Mexican border also point up another reason why the Palmito Ranch battlefield is worthy of landmark status. From Judge Edward R. Davis's first raid into Confederate Texas from Matamorous in early 1863, the involvement of Mexican and French officials in the fortunes of the Confederacy and the United States form an important and sadly overlooked portion of that complex tapestry that is the Civil War.

The military action itself, which saw white and black troops marching together (an event that was unimaginable just three years earlier) is certainly far more indicative of the new America emerging from the bloody conflict than was the much better known and celebrated surrender at Appomattox Court House more than a month earlier.

Virtually all the roads in this grand story -- economic, diplomatic, and military -- either run through or stop at Palmito Ranch. I can think of no better area to serve as a centerpiece for presenting these important ideas to future generations of Americans.

Sincerely,

Noah Andre Trudeau
1021 Newton Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20017

cc: Terri Myers

HARDY • HECK • MOORE
& ASSOCIATES

October 17, 1994

Jim Charlton
History Division (418)
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Charlton,

Thank you for reviewing my draft of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Landmark nomination. After speaking with Dr. Mario Sanchez recently, I made the following changes to the document in your possession:

1. page 11 - clarification regarding the brief Confederate occupation of Albuquerque and Santa Fe.
2. page 17 - change date in second table to read March 1863 and March 1865.
3. page 24 and 25 - Documentation of knowledge of Lee's surrender prior to the last battle.
4. page 34 - removed redundant reference to Barrett's ambitions.

Probably the most interesting change is the addition of some recently surfaced information provided to me by Bruce Cheeseman, archivist at the King Ranch. He has been given some of Mifflin Kenedy's personal papers and is currently transcribing them for publication. He sent me transcripts of two letters which prove that Lee's surrender was known in the border area long before the last battle and I included the information on pages 24 and 25 to bolster Carrington's similar claim. As far as Bruce and I can tell, these are the only two pieces of evidence to that effect.

I have enclosed a disk (Word Perfect 5.1) containing the most current update of the nomination, dated November 13, 1994. Dr. Sanchez told me that you wished to add the ranks of military personnel mentioned in the nomination. If you make changes to the document on disk, however, I would need to get it back if further changes are requested of me.

Please call me if you have any questions or want to discuss any part of the nomination. Again, thank you for your consideration. We are very excited to be part of this process and contribute to the preservation of Palmito Ranch Battlefield.

Sincerely,

Terri Myers

Terri Myers, Historian
Hardy·Heck·Moore & Associates

enc.

2112 Rio Grande • Austin, Texas 78705 • 512/478-8014 • FAX No. 512/474-0954

H34(418) DRAFT

JHC
11/18/94

Dr. Mario Sanchez
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Mario:

As we discussed with you recently, this office is seeking to complete review of the Palmito Ranch National Historic Landmark nomination with an eye to presenting it to the next meeting of the National Park System Advisory Board.

We have a high opinion of this study, but would like to make certain minor revisions in it and add a modest amount of additional material. For that reason, it would be very helpful if we could get the nomination on a disk, as well as get some assistance in developing a little additional material to buttress the following points, which we believe will strengthen the case for the property's designation. We need such materials by the end of the first full week in December (December 9) if we are to make effective use of them.

--In terms of battle action, this engagement, when viewed against the Civil War as a whole, was little more than a skirmish. The fact that it was the "last action" is of relatively little consequence in itself. In addition to the battlefield's sterling integrity, its real importance is in the reaction to it, somewhat like other incidents that set off consequences, e.g., in itself the Tonkin Gulf incident was a minor naval engagement, but it had enormous consequences.

The case for the battle's importance in international trade and diplomacy is well made, but we would think that it would be greatly strengthened if the following points can be documented and are made up front:

--The battle raised the prospect of small-scale and guerrila action persisting in the aftermath of the war, rather than winding down quickly, as turned out to be the case. That, however, could not be assured at the time.

--Because it occurred in Texas, rather than elsewhere, the prospect of a resurgent Texas nationalism and Franco-Mexican irredentism had to be regarded seriously.

--The incident had to be considered by the new and very frightened Administration of Andrew Johnson. It ~~was associated~~ (led to) the posting of Sheridan's army of 100,000 in South Texas at a time when the soldiers would

surely rather have gone home and when normal logic would have suggested that they be permitted to do so.

In addition to documenting the above suggested additions to the statement of significance, a map showing the historic ranch sites and the historic river course in the area is highly desirable. Alternatively, it needs to be made clear that the river has not meandered, if that is the case.

We appreciate your help. We would be happy to work directly with the contractor if you wish.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Levy
Acting Chief Historian

cc: 001
400
413 Bearss
418 Palmito Ranch (NHL pending)
418 Levy
418 Henry
418 Charleton
SWRO (Mangum)
RMRO (Kendrick)

Hardy·Heck·Moore & Associates, Inc.
2112 Rio Grande
Austin, Texas 78705
Phone 512-478-8014 FAX 512-474-0954

FAX COVER SHEET

To: Jim Charlton Date: Dec. 8 1994

FAX: (202) 343-1244 From: TERRI Myers

Re: Palmito Battlefield Number of pages including cover: 4

MR. Charlton,
Attached are my REVISIONS, possible revisions and comments Regarding finalization of the Palmito nomination.

Thank you for all your assistance and support on this project. I look forward to hearing the outcome -

Terri Myers

MEMO

Date: December 8, 1994
To: Jim Charlton, historian
National Parks Service
From: Terri Myers, consultant

Subject: Palmito Ranch Battlefield

Mr. Charlton:

I have added two short paragraphs to the opening statement of significance to try to bolster the international significance of the battlefield. The conclusion included in this fax is an alternate to the original written with the same purpose. Please use them as you see fit.

To answer some specific points:

On page 5 - I have changed "westernmost" to read "the easternmost tip of Verdolaga". It is also changed in the boundary justification on page 39. It is correct on page 38 in the verbal boundary description.

On page 5 - I have eliminated the entire sentence about the change of the Rio Grande as it is misleading and implies that the course of the river has changed significantly. The small course changes that have taken place since the battle have not affected the major sites including White's Ranch, Toluca, Palmito Ranch, etc. I have only a poor copy of an 1870s map that I will send to you.

Regarding Gen. Philip Sheridan's assignment to the Rio Grande. The grand review was scheduled to take place May 23 and 24, 1865 but Gen. Weitzel ordered Sheridan and the 13th corps to Texas before the Grand Review. Sheridan was deeply disappointed but left immediately for the Rio Grande stopping by way of New Orleans where he added 9,500 cavalry troops. He arrived at Brazos Santiago by May 28, 1865 (sources Carl Coke Rister, Border Command: General Phil Sheridan in the West. Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1944: 10) and the Texas Almanac, 1985, page .

I found no specific references to an administration fear that Texas might not return to the Union or that it might reassume its Republic status. However, there are numerous references to Union suspicions regarding French interference in Mexico and its possible carry-over into Texas throughout the war, especially at the end when French artillery was used to push back Barrett's troops at Palmito Ranch. The fact that Gen. Slaughter and other Confederate officers fled into Mexico where they were favored with French and Mexican Imperialist support led to Sheridan's dispatch to the border. The cotton trade dried up immediately after the battle and the only reason to maintain 50,000 troops on the border was the possibility of Confederate resurgence and/or French/Mexican encroachment through Northern Mexico.

With Lincoln dead and conspiracy rumors - fact and fiction - abounding, the Johnson administration had to take the battle seriously. Quite possibly Sheridan's presence effectively discouraged a lingering state of guerilla warfare on the border. Because nothing came of the last battle does not mean that it was

not perceived as a threat -- both Confederate and foreign -- to the Texas frontier at the time.

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Palmito Ranch Battlefield (May 12-13, 1865) is significant at the national level under National Historic Landmark criterion 1 because it "is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and [is] identified with, or that outstandingly represents[s], the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained." The Civil War Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields (1993) identified Palmito Ranch Battlefield as the major site associated with the International Interpretive Theme (Civil War Advisory Commission 1993: 32). One of only five documented Civil War Battlefields in the state of Texas, it is the only one listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1993). Palmito Ranch Battlefield uniquely represents the crucial role of the Lower Rio Grande Valley to the Confederacy's pursuit of international recognition and economic viability during the American Civil War.

Although Palmito Ranch Battlefield is renown as the site of the last land engagement of the Civil War, its greater significance derives from its strategic position at the mouth of the Rio Grande which defined the Confederacy's only international border. The economic and diplomatic machinations devised by Confederate and Mexican accomplices on both sides of the river allowed cotton and other Southern goods unchallenged, if suspect, access to the Gulf of Mexico and the foreign ships anchored offshore throughout the course of the war. These same ships also provided the Confederacy with much needed guns and ammunition. The army that possessed the Rio Grande Valley controlled a key link in the Confederacy's economic and strategic lifeline, particularly in the waning years of the war when the Union naval blockades effectively closed other Southern ports. Further, command of the Lower Rio Grande Valley was vital to gathering intelligence regarding the French "interference" in Mexico, then evident and threatening at the border. As the war lingered on, Union strategists aspired to regain control of the Lower Rio Grande Valley both to check French ambitions and to halt the Confederate trade that enabled its armies to continue the struggle. It was equally clear to the Texans who guarded the mouth of the Rio Grande that this strategic economic and diplomatic position should be held as long as possible, even though Confederate defeat appeared inevitable. Finally, when conquering Federal troops marched on Brownsville, issues of personal honor, self-promotion and fortune aggravated the war-long objective to control this point of land -- regardless of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House more than a month earlier.

new

Within two weeks of the battle, the Johnson administration, shaken by President Lincoln's assassination and unsure of the tenuous peace, dispatched Gen. Philip H. Sheridan and 50,000 troops to protect the border region from a possible invasion of combined Confederate and Mexican/French Imperial forces. Sheridan's presence and troop strength underscored the administration's determination to enforce the Monroe Doctrine and to secure the frontier along the Mexican border from belated Confederate counterattacks.

Ultimately, the Battle of Palmito Ranch symbolized the Union's failure -- despite its superior numbers and strength -- either to stop the contraband trade or to quell the Confederate resolve to fight to the very end. It also served notice to the Johnson administration that a show of force was necessary to discourage

foreign ambitions on the Texas frontier in the uncertain post-war era. For these economic and diplomatic reasons the Battle of Palmito Ranch represents a significant international facet of the American Civil War.

CONCLUSION

Alternate conclusion

The extreme southern tip of Texas, represented by Palmito Ranch Battlefield, was a vital Confederate cotton-shipping mecca and port of entry for arms and supplies throughout the American Civil War, particularly in the last years when the Union naval blockade effectively closed most other southern seaports. Confederate cotton brokers and Mexican entrepreneurs cooperated in a lively contraband business up and down the Rio Grande -- the Confederacy's only international border -- and out into the Gulf on boats registered to Mexican citizens.

Possession of the land fronting the Rio Grande was also crucial to maintaining or discouraging French and Mexican Imperialist aspirations at the border. Sympathetic to the Confederates, the French-inspired foreign interference in Mexico clearly violated the principles of the Monroe Doctrine and threatened to prolong the war by bolstering Southern resolve. Worse, Union leadership feared that Confederate and Imperialist forces would unite to mount a new offensive from Mexico. As the Civil War drew to a close, the Union army marched on Fort Brown, at Brownsville, partly to establish an armed presence on the lower Rio Grande to discourage such intentions. However, the remaining Confederate troops at Fort Brown refused to surrender without a fight and the last battle of the Civil War was played out on the windswept saltmarsh at Palmito Ranch. Although the Battle of Palmito Ranch did nothing to determine the ultimate outcome of the war — indeed it took place more than a month after Lee and Grant met at Appomattox — it was the culmination of a war-long struggle to control this strategic economic and diplomatic position on the Texas-Mexican border.

Thank you,
Teri Myers

HARDY • HECK • MOORE
& ASSOCIATES

December 16, 1994

Mr. Jim Charlton
History Division (418)
National Parks Service
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Charlton,

Thank you again for your assistance with our nomination of Palmito Ranch Battlefield.

Enclosed are two poor photocopies of an 1878 "Chart of the Rio Bravo del Norte" [Rio Grande]. This is the oldest detailed map of the battlefield area that I could find. The taped maps are original copies made from a fragmented parchment map on file in the Hunter Room at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville. The second map is a photocopy of the taped original copies. I applied post-it notes on the second map next to the near-illegible words. All of the place-names important to the last battle were noted on the 1878 map: Whites Ranch, Tulosa Ranch, Palmito Ranch, and San Martin. Cobb's Ranch was evident on the fragmented original but that part of the map was terribly frayed and did not copy. All of these places remain extant today.

Also, I have enclosed an updated map of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield which should replace the original one that was submitted with the National Register nomination. We sent our original map to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) with a separate legend entitled "Key to Chronological Map Codes" (enclosed). The THC created the final map submitted with the NR nomination but the lettered legend is incorrect. The map shows items K and L but the key, which is printed on the map, shows only K but describes L. The updated version shows both K and L correctly in the key. I hope this isn't too confusing. I spoke with Dwayne Jones at the THC about it today and he said they would file a technical change for the NR nomination.

Again, thank you for your guidance. Please call or fax me if you have any questions about these maps.

Sincerely,

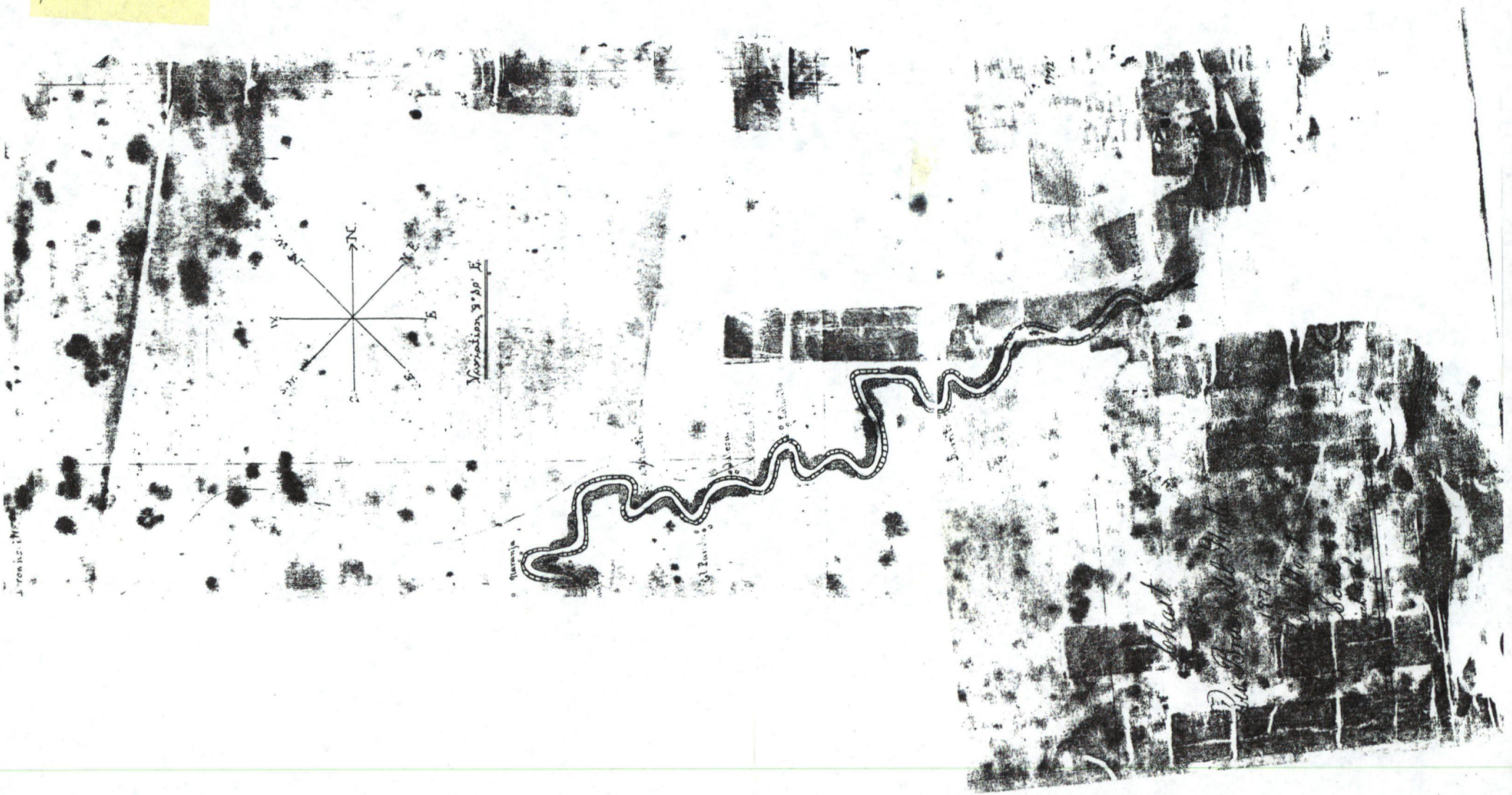
Terri Myers

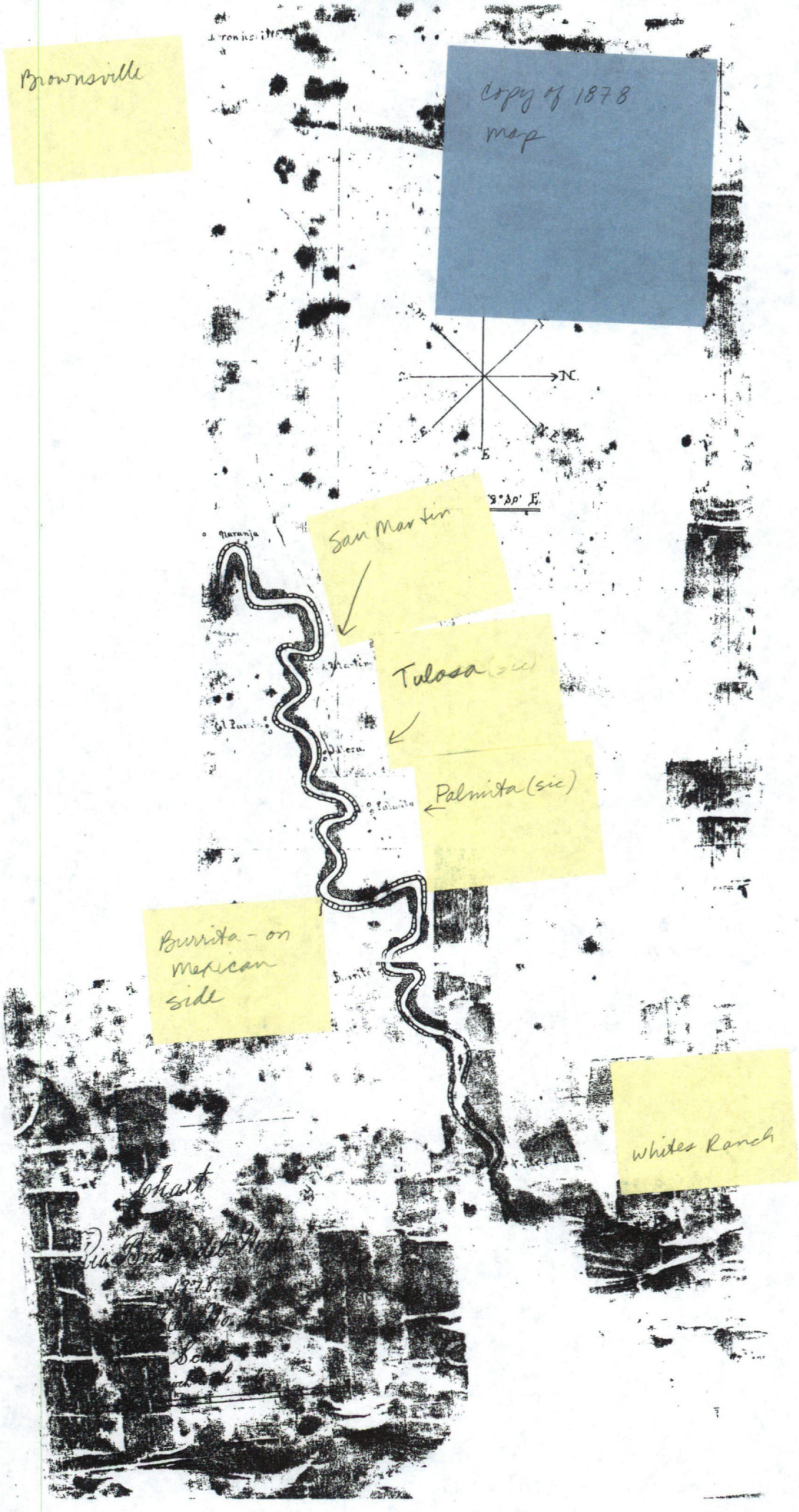
Terri Myers, Historian
Hardy·Heck·Moore and Associates

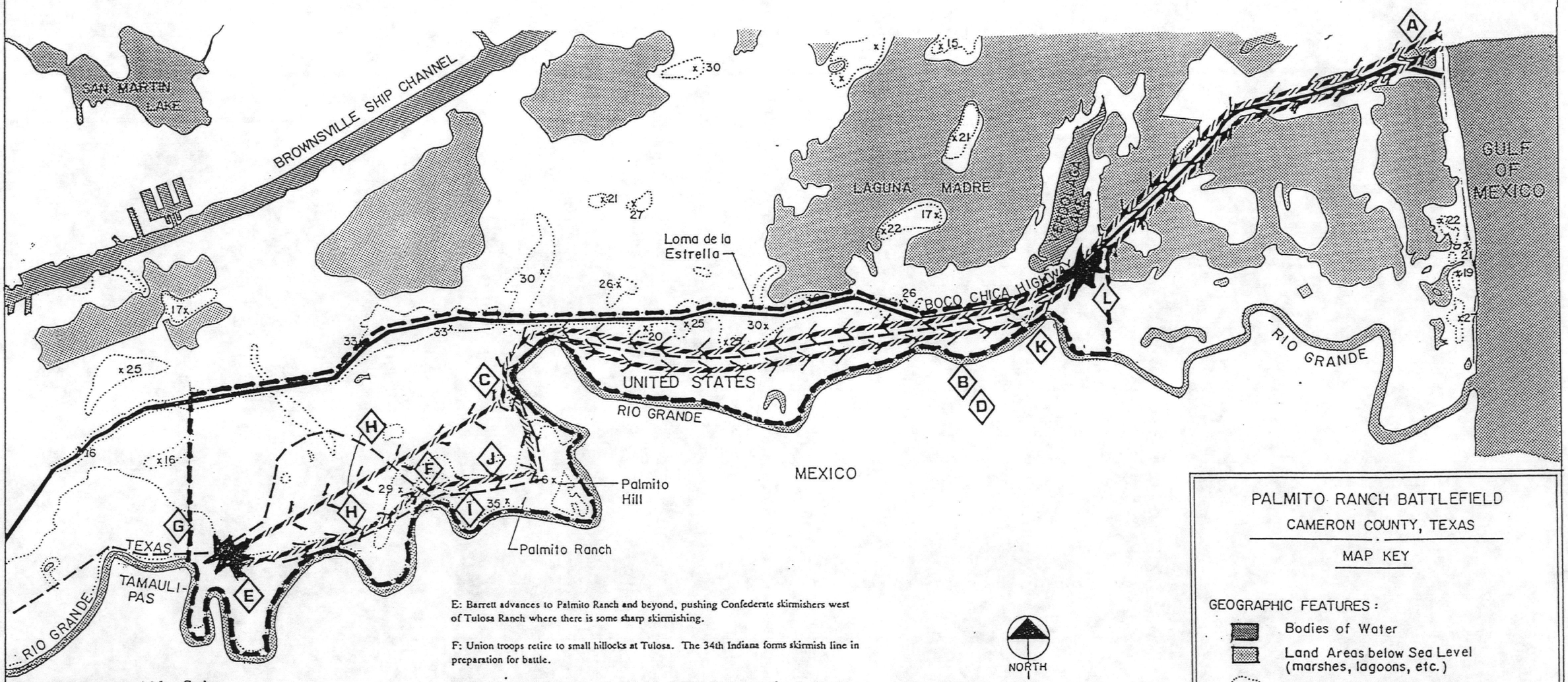
encs
cc: Dwayne Jones, THC

2112 Rio Grande • Austin, Texas 78705 • 512/478-8014 • FAX No. 512/474-0954

1878 fragment of battlefield map in 2 pieces




Brownsville
copy of 1878 map
San Martin
Tulosa (sic)
Palmita (sic)
Burrita - on Mexican side
Whites Ranch
N.
E.
Naranja
El Paso
Palmito
Johnston
Rio Grande
1878



Key to Chronological Map Codes

A: Lt. Col. David Branson, leading 250 men of the 62nd U.S. Colored Infantry (U.S.C.I.) and fifty men of the 2nd Texas Cavalry (unmounted), leaves the Union camp on Brazos Santiago on the evening of May 11, 1865. The expedition heads towards Brownsville.

B: Branson crosses Boca Chica and arrives at White's Ranch at 2:00 a.m. on May 12. Branson had hoped to surprise a Confederate camp at White's Ranch, but discover the Confederates have already retreated.

C: The Federals push toward Palmito Ranch, engaging about 190 Confederate cavalrymen in light skirmishing. Branson pushes the Confederates beyond Palmito Ranch. The Confederates are then reinforced, and the Union troops fall back to White's Ranch for the night.

D: At daybreak, May 13, Col. Theodore Barrett of the 62nd U.S.C.I. joins Branson at White's Ranch. Barrett brings with him reinforcements — 200 men of the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Lt. Col. Robert G. Morrison.

E: Barrett advances to Palmito Ranch and beyond, pushing Confederate skirmishers west of Tulosa Ranch where there is some sharp skirmishing.

F: Union troops retire to small hillocks at Tulosa. The 34th Indiana forms skirmish line in preparation for battle.

G: Confederate reinforcements under Col. John S. (Rip) Ford advance from the direction of San Martin.

H: Ford sends artillery and support to his left with the intent of turning the Union right flank. Additional artillery is used to pummel the front of the Union lines.

I: To prevent being outflanked on their right, Barrett retreats under the protection of his skirmish line. Forty-eight skirmishers of the 34th Indiana are captured, and many of the remaining 34th break and run through the three-quarter-mile skirmish line formed by the 62nd U.S.C.I.

J: The 62nd U.S.C.I. forms a three-quarter-mile skirmish line to prevent the Federal right flank from being turned.

K: Cobb's Ranch. Union Army is pushed back to here, just prior to final skirmish.

L: Scene of the final skirmish: Under cover of the 62nd U.S.C.I., the Union retreats toward Boca Chica, where the Federals briefly hold off the Confederates. Night falls, and the Union troops retreat toward Brazos Santiago and the Confederates return to Brazos Santiago.

NORTH

SCALE (approximate)

MILE: 1 1/2 0 1

FEET: -1000 0 3000 7000

HARDY·HECK·MOORE March 1992

Base Map : U.S. Geological Survey

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

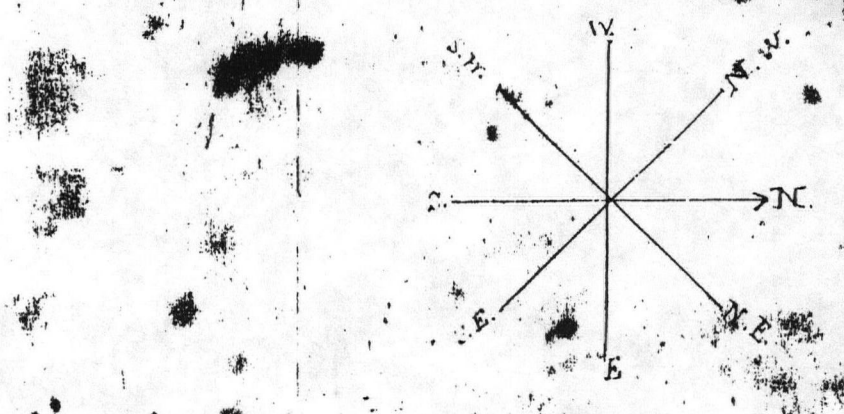
MAP KEY

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES :

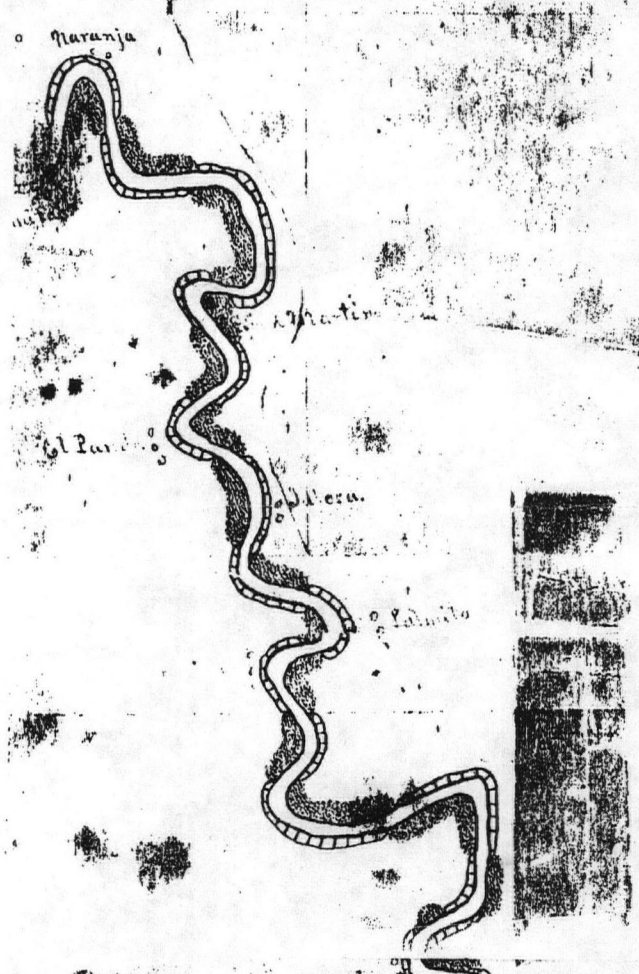
- Bodies of Water
- Land Areas below Sea Level (marshes, lagoons, etc.)
- Land Areas of 10' Elevation or more
- x — Highest Point of Lomas & Hills

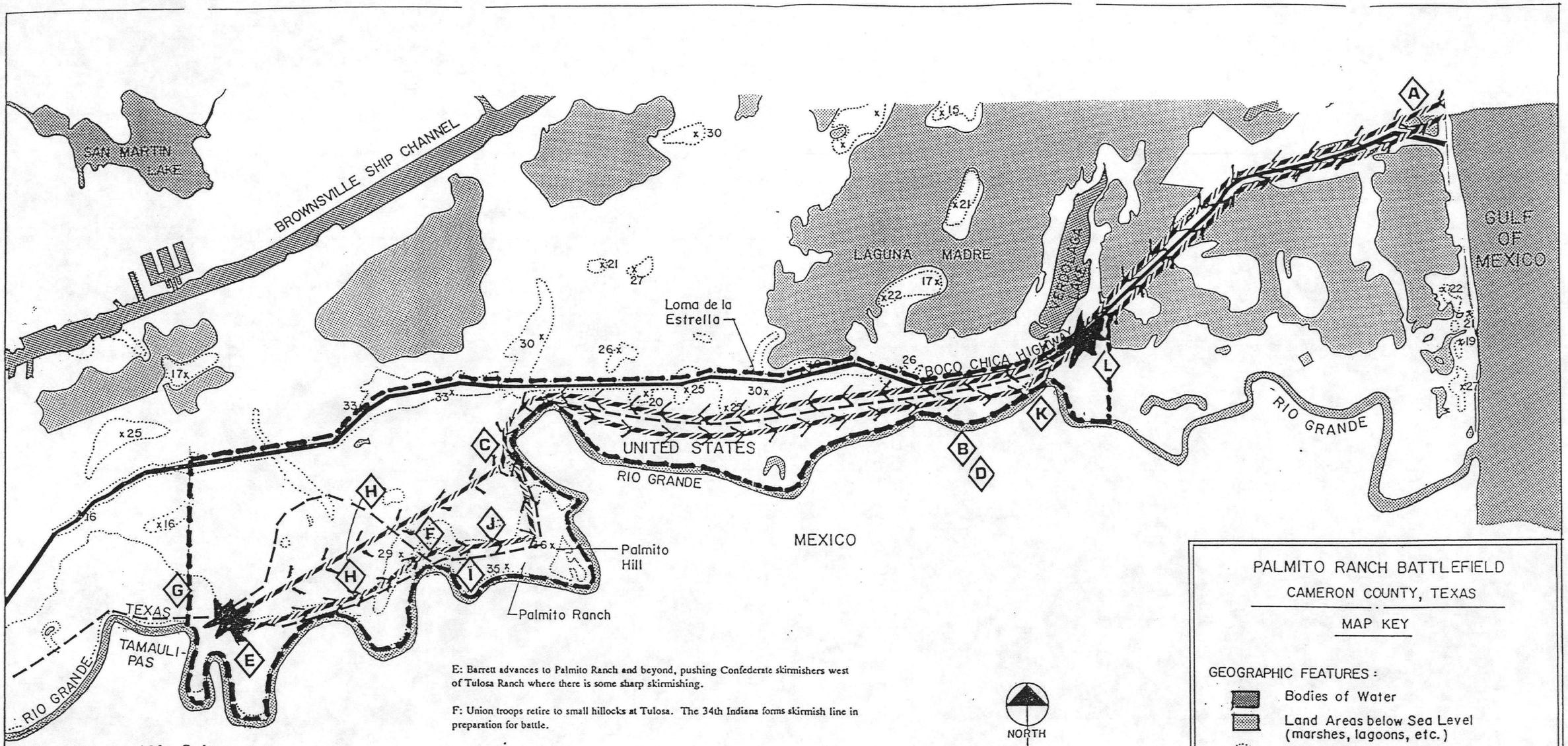
HISTORIC FEATURES :

- Historic Site Boundary
- A — Site Numbers (see inventory)
- Confederate Troop Movements (approximate)
- Union Troop Movements (approximate)
- Sites of Skirmishes



Variation 8°30' E.





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PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

MAP KEY

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES :

- Bodies of Water
- Land Areas below Sea Level (marshes, lagoons, etc.)
- Land Areas of 10' Elevation or more
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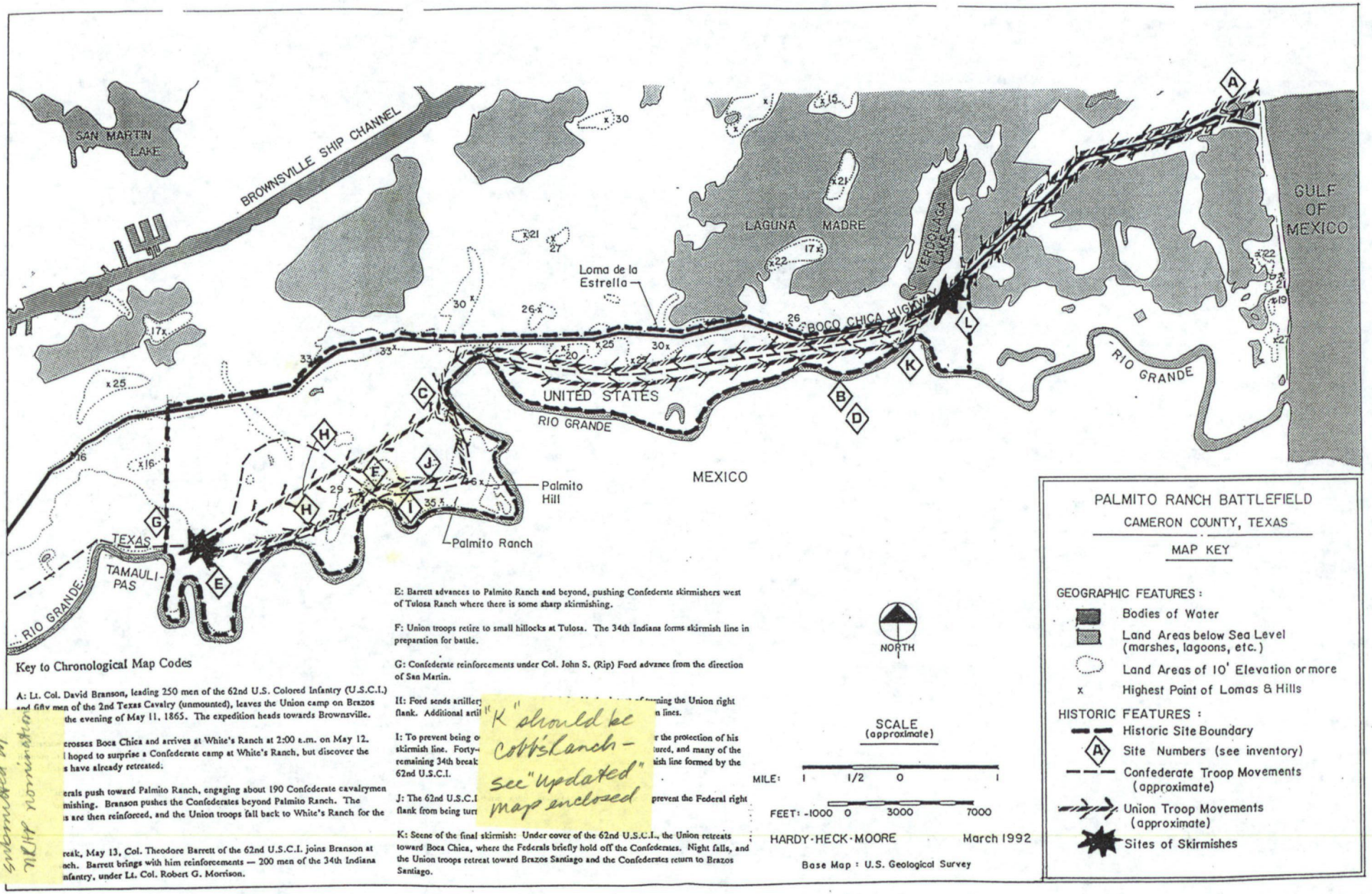

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I: To prevent being o… …r the protection of his skirmish line. Forty-… …tured, and many of the remaining 34th breakt… …ish line formed by the 62nd U.S.C.I.

J: The 62nd U.S.C.I… …prevent the Federal right flank from being turn…

K: Scene of the final skirmish: Under cover of the 62nd U.S.C.I., the Union retreats toward Boca Chica, where the Federals briefly hold off the Confederates. Night falls, and the Union troops retreat toward Brazos Santiago and the Confederates return to Brazos Santiago.

"K" should be Cobb's Ranch — see "updated" map enclosed

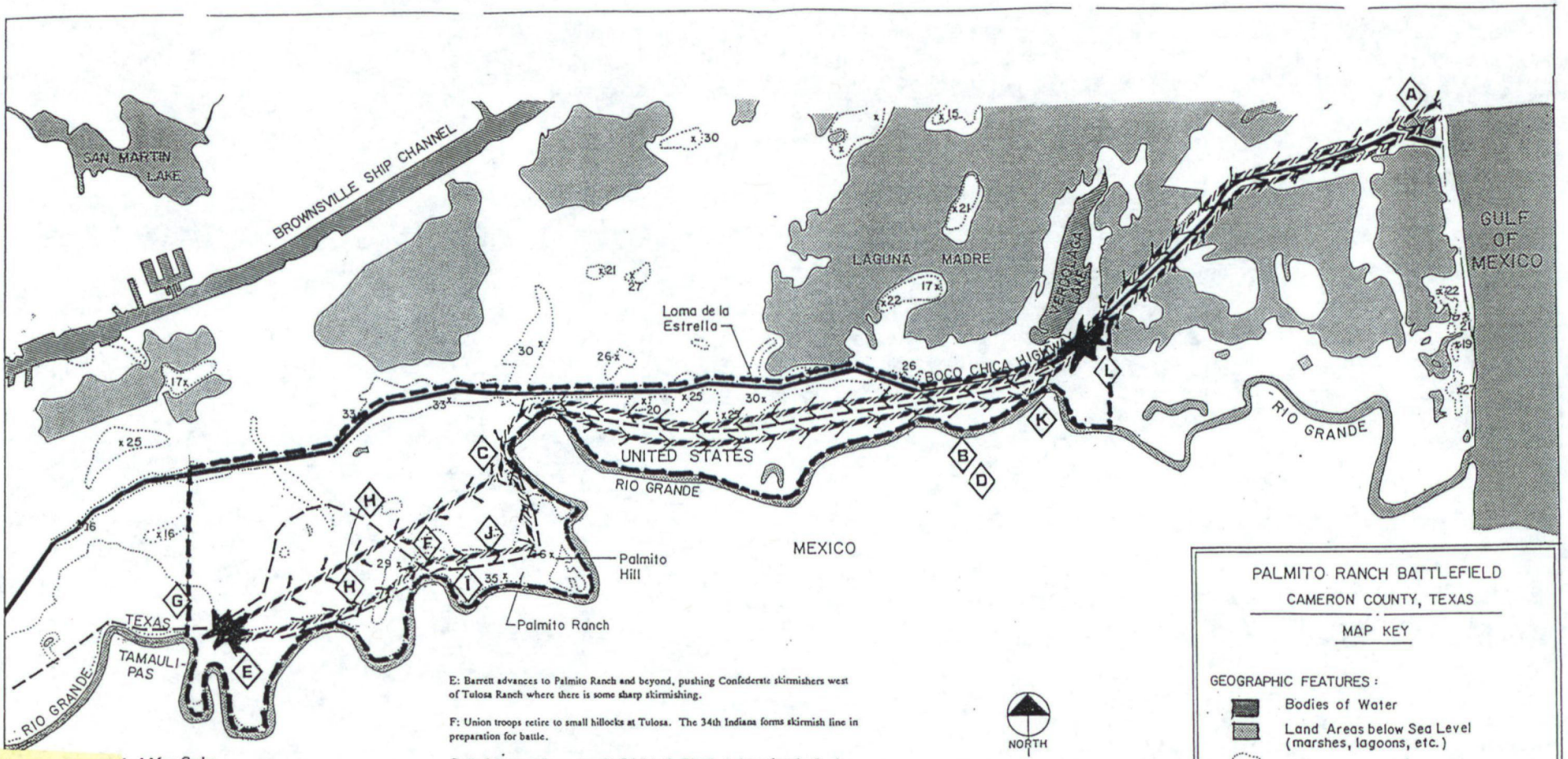
PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

MAP KEY

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES :
- Bodies of Water
- Land Areas below Sea Level (marshes, lagoons, etc.)
- Land Areas of 10' Elevation or more
- x Highest Point of Lomas & Hills

HISTORIC FEATURES :
- Historic Site Boundary
- (A) Site Numbers (see inventory)
- Confederate Troop Movements (approximate)
- Union Troop Movements (approximate)
- Sites of Skirmishes

original map of battlefield submitted w/ NRHP nomination



ical Map Codes

nson, leading 250 men of the 62nd U.S. Colored Infantry (U.S.C.I.) d Texas Cavalry (unmounted), leaves the Union camp on Brazos g of May 11, 1865. The expedition heads towards Brownsville.

oca Chica and arrives at White's Ranch at 2:00 a.m. on May 12. surprise a Confederate camp at White's Ranch, but discover the eady retreated.

toward Palmito Ranch, engaging about 190 Confederate cavalrymen Branson pushes the Confederates beyond Palmito Ranch. The n reinforced, and the Union troops fall back to White's Ranch for the ight.

D: At daybreak, May 13, Col. Theodore Barrett of the 62nd U.S.C.I. joins Branson at White's Ranch. Barrett brings with him reinforcements — 200 men of the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Lt. Col. Robert G. Morrison.

E: Barrett advances to Palmito Ranch and beyond, pushing Confederate skirmishers west of Tulosa Ranch where there is some sharp skirmishing.

F: Union troops retire to small hillocks at Tulosa. The 34th Indiana forms skirmish line in preparation for battle.

G: Confederate reinforcements under Col. John S. (Rip) Ford advance from the direction of San Martin.

H: Ford sends artillery and support to his left with the intent of turning the Union right flank. Additional artillery is used to pummel the front of the Union lines.

I: To prevent being outflanked on their right, Barrett retreats under the protection of his skirmish line. Forty-eight skirmishers of the 34th Indiana are captured, and many of the remaining 34th break and run through the three-quarter-mile skirmish line formed by the 62nd U.S.C.I.

J: The 62nd U.S.C.I. forms a three-quarter-mile skirmish line to prevent the Federal right flank from being turned.

K: Cobb's Ranch. Union Army is pushed back to here, just prior to final skirmish.

L: Scene of the final skirmish: Under cover of the 62nd U.S.C.I., the Union retreats toward Boca Chica, where the Federals briefly hold off the Confederates. Night falls, and the Union troops retreat toward Brazos Santiago and the Confederates return to Brazos Santiago.

NORTH

SCALE (approximate)

MILE: 1 1/2 0 1

FEET: -1000 0 3000 7000

HARDY·HECK·MOORE March 1992

Base Map : U.S. Geological Survey

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
MAP KEY

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES :
- Bodies of Water
- Land Areas below Sea Level (marshes, lagoons, etc.)
- Land Areas of 10' Elevation or more
- x Highest Point of Lomas & Hills

HISTORIC FEATURES :
- Historic Site Boundary
- A Site Numbers (see inventory)
- Confederate Troop Movements (approximate)
- Union Troop Movements (approximate)
- Sites of Skirmishes

Updated map 12/16/94

Key to Chronological Map Codes

Battle of Palmito Ranch: May 12-13, 1865

A: Lt. Col. David Branson, leading 250 men of the 62nd U.S. Colored Infantry (U.S.C.I.) and fifty men of the 2nd Texas Cavalry (unmounted), leaves the Union camp on Brazos Santiago on the evening of May 11, 1865. The expedition heads towards Brownsville.

B: Branson crosses Boca Chica and arrives at White's Ranch at 2:00 a.m. on May 12. Branson had hoped to surprise a Confederate camp at White's Ranch, but discover the Confederates have already retreated.

C: The Federals push toward Palmito Ranch, engaging about 190 Confederate cavalrymen in light skirmishing. Branson pushes the Confederates beyond Palmito Ranch. The Confederates are then reinforced, and the Union troops fall back to White's Ranch for the night.

D: At daybreak, May 13, Col. Theodore Barrett of the 62nd U.S.C.I. joins Branson at White's Ranch. Barrett brings with him reinforcements — 200 men of the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Lt. Col. Robert G. Morrison.

E: Barrett advances to Palmito Ranch and beyond, pushing Confederate skirmishers west of Tulosa Ranch where there is some sharp skirmishing.

F: Union troops retire to small hillocks at Tulosa. The 34th Indiana forms skirmish line in preparation for battle.

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H: Ford sends artillery and support to his left with the intent of turning the Union right flank. Additional artillery is used to pummel the front of the Union lines.

I: To prevent being outflanked on their right, Barrett retreats under the protection of his skirmish line. Forty-eight skirmishers of the 34th Indiana are captured, and many of the remaining 34th break and run through the three-quarter-mile skirmish line formed by the 62nd U.S.C.I.

J: The 62nd U.S.C.I. forms a three-quarter-mile skirmish line to prevent the Federal right flank from being turned.

K: Cobb's Ranch. Union Army is pushed back to here, just prior to final skirmish.

L: Scene of the final skirmish: Under cover of the 62nd U.S.C.I., the Union retreats toward Boca Chica, where the Federals briefly hold off the Confederates. Night falls, and the Union troops retreat toward Brazos Santiago and the Confederates return to Brazos Santiago.

Memo

To: Patty Henry

From: Robie Lange

Date: March 22, 1995

Subject: Review of Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL Nomination

The major question is whether the nationally significant phenomenon of the Confederacy's efforts to maintain economic viability is adequately addressed by an existing NHL (Fort Brown). I think the defense and surrender of a fort (over a period of time) represents this aspect of the Civil War even better than an isolated battlefield. However, if it can be established that the remaining cultural resources associated with Fort Brown no longer reflect this time period we could consider Ed's suggestion of adding Palmito Ranch to the existing NHL. This would require some recrafting of the nomination. If we decide to move forward with a Fort Brown/Palmito Ranch boundary expansion we should look to the property's supporters to make the necessary changes.

Although the nomination starts out stating that the battle is not nationally significant, the preparers provided an overly detailed discussion of the battle. It should be clear that the details of the battle are not nationally significant. Rather than delete whole paragraphs, this section (pp.26-33) should be rewritten in a more condensed fashion. To correct this skew, I recommend cutting this section in half. Also, the conclusion section should be edited to remove some of the redundancies.

Is the mention of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's (SWSAC) identification of five battlefield sites (p.7, par.2) sufficient for a comparative analysis of properties associated with this nationally significance story? First of all, the five sites are not specifically identified. Secondly, the CWSAC focus was limited to battlefields; a contributing factor in the oversight of the comparative role of Fort Brown. Finally, do we accept the CWSAC's criteria and interests as adequately representative of NHL considerations?

I concur with all of your comments. My only other question is whether we can accept figure #2 in its oversized format?

cc: Lange

HARDY • HECK • MOORE
& ASSOCIATES

April 19, 1995

Dr. Mario Sanchez
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 | # of pages ▸ 2

To CAROL SCHULL	From MARIO SANCHEZ
Co. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Co. T.H.C.
Dept. NATIONAL REGISTER	Phone # 512/463-5754
Fax # 202/343-1836	Fax # 512/475-4872

Dear Mario,

Here is an accounting of various conversations and correspondence regarding the completion of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Landmark nomination.

October 7, 1993 - I telephoned Mr. Bearrs, then Chief Historian for the National Park Service, to ask what further documentation was required to nominate Palmito Ranch Battlefield as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). He replied that we needed to demonstrate the site's economic and diplomatic importance at a national level of significance. He thought this could be demonstrated by documenting the site's strategic role in the Confederate cotton trade and Federal efforts to curtail it at the mouth of the Rio Grande. In addition, he thought it important to show its role in the continuing French/Imperialist intrigue at the border and to define what this represented for both Federal and Confederate governments. This aspect, he said, could be highlighted by the Union efforts to establish a strong presence in the region after the war. Mr. Bearrs said a good diplomatic history of the Civil War should substantiate this and suggested Bernard Bailyn as a starting point.

I consulted Bailyn and proceeded to address these aspects of the battle in a draft NHL nomination that I submitted to you in April 1994.

October 17, 1994 - Letter to Jim Charlton (copy enclosed) accompanying a computer disk and hard copy of the revised nomination containing changes suggested by Mr. Charlton in a phone conversation.

November 28, 1994 - Upon conferring with Mr. Charlton by phone, he faxed me a letter (copy enclosed) drafted by Benjamin Levy, Acting Chief Historian, outlining the points that required further documentation. The draft letter addressed to Dr. Sanchez was dated November 18, 1994. For expediency sake, Mr. Charlton faxed me the letter so that I could make necessary changes to meet the deadline for the February Advisory Board meeting.

The fax letter stated that the NPS office was "seeking to complete review of the Palmito Ranch National Historic Landmark nomination with an eye to presenting it to the next meeting of the National Park System Advisory Board" (then scheduled for February 1995). The letter further stated "We have a high opinion of this study, but would like to make certain minor revisions in it and add a modest amount of additional material. For that

reason, it would be very helpful if we could get the nomination on a disk, as well as get some assistance in developing a little additional material to buttress the following points . . . We need such materials by the end of the first full week in December (December 9) if we are to make effective use of them". In addition to the suggested documentation the letter requested a map showing the historic ranch sites and the historic river course.

I informed you of the need to supply this information by the week of December 9, 1994, and set out to comply with the conditions set forth in the Benjamin Levy letter. I had already supplied Mr. Charlton with a computer disk of the nomination and he informed me that he would type in any additional information that I gathered to avoid confusing different disk versions of the nomination. I conducted further research, clarified some information in the text, removed redundancies and contradictory statements and rewrote the introductory paragraph in the statement of significance.

December 8, 1994 - I faxed a Memo (copy enclosed) to Jim Charlton that included the above-mentioned changes to be made in the nomination and an alternate concluding paragraph for the statement of significance. I also spoke with Mr. Charlton by phone to make sure he received the fax and that my changes were clear. Mr. Charlton acknowledged this and reminded me that he needed a list of property owners and political office holders in Cameron County in order to meet the notification requirements for the February Advisory Board meeting. I followed up with a second fax containing that information and a reference that he requested from the Texas Almanac. Mr. Charlton assured me that I had addressed all concerns. I told him that I was still looking for maps to document the historic ranch locations and course of the Rio Grande - to show that it had not substantially changed course since the battle. Mr. Charlton replied that I needed to get that information to him by December 23, 1994 if it was to go out in the mailing to the board.

December 16, 1994 - I sent copies of an 1878 "Chart of the Rio Bravo del Norte" which depicted historic ranches and an updated map of Palmito Ranch Battlefield (copy of letter enclosed). As per Mr. Charlton's request, these maps were to be presented along with the nomination at the February meeting of the Advisory Board.

At that point, I understood that I had complied with all staff requirements and that the nomination would be heard at the February meeting of the Advisory Board. The draft letter letter from Benjamin Levy, in particular, led me to believe that the nomination was well-received by staff and I had only to clarify or strengthen certain points in the text to fulfill their expectations. My revisions were accepted by Mr. Charlton and I was asked for no further documentation after my last correspondence on December 16, 1994.

Please let me know if I can clarify any of this "history" further.

Sincerely,

Terri

Terri Myers, Historian
Hardy·Heck·Moore & Associates

encs

PHB 5/24/95

H3415(413)

MAY 25 1995

Dr. Mario Sanchez, Director
Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Project
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Dr. Sanchez:

I enjoyed talking to you about the National Historic Landmark nomination for Palmito Ranch Battlefield. We hope to be able to present the nomination to the Advisory Board as soon as it is reconstituted. We look forward to receiving the final nomination after the revisions we suggest below are made.

The argument for national significance for this property would be clarified by sharpening the focus of the nomination. The significance section (Section 8) is overly long and in some places repetitive. You will note in the enclosed copy of the nomination where we have marked places that could and/or should be deleted for clarity and conciseness.

Also, pages 26-33, the section which discusses the actual battle, should be rewritten in a more concise format. The proposed national significance for this property is its role in representing the international cotton trade carried out by the Confederacy, which is adequately addressed on pages 20-26. Therefore, the details of the battle itself are not necessary to document the national significance of this property. The preparers should aim to reduce this section by half.

There are several paragraphs in the sections on the "Aftermath of the Battle" and the "Battle in Retrospect" which could also be condensed. These are marked on the nomination. Finally, the conclusion section could use some editing as it is redundant in many places. The statement on the archeological significance of the site should be clarified as this site is not being nominated under Criterion 6 for its archeological potential.

On pages 23 and 24 there are two places (marked on the returned copy) where incidental information should be moved to a footnote rather than retained within the text.

The total acreage for this property needs to be determined and the UTM coordinates also. The National Register UTM coordinates are too numerous. As long as the figure enclosed by the UTM points includes all of the nominated property, the UTM points do not need to touch any point of the boundary. In this manner, the number of UTM coordinates can be reduced from an unwieldy 45 to a more manageable number.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss any of these comments, please contact Patty Henry (202-343-8163) of the NHL Survey staff.

Sincerely,

signed

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic
Landmarks Survey

Enclosure

cc: 023 Charleton
413 Shull
413 Bearss
413 Lange
413 Henry
413 PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD (NHL Pending)

FNP:PHenry:mg:05-19-95:revised:5/24/95
HENRY WP Disc No. 1:Palmito.rev

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H3415(418)

AUG 1 1994

Memorandum

To: Historian Charleton

From: Acting Chief Historian Levy Ben

Subject: Palmito Ranch Battlefield

The Assistant to the Director for Military History and Chief Historian, Emeritus, has concluded that this site merits recognition as a place of national significance. Please review the draft nomination form and let me know if you believe the case is made in the text. If not, please collaborate with Ed on an appropriate response, instructing the preparers on how to strengthen the form. Please convey to the state staff that we are undertaking review but cannot promise a date for the nominations presentation.

Attachment

cc: Levy
Henry

930002 LI 6/23/93

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

George W. Bush • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
Curtis Tunnell • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

September 27, 1995

RECEIVED 413
OCT 10 1995
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Re: Final Submittal of National Historic Landmark Nomination for Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Texas

Dear Ms. Shull:

As per your letter (H3415)413 to Dr. Mario Sánchez of my staff dated May 25, 1995, the Texas Historical Commission submits the above-referenced nomination with all the requested changes.

Nearly a year ago, the Commission made changes to this document that were requested by a previous staff. We ask that this final review process be expedited and that the nomination be presented at the next scheduled Advisory Board meeting. Please ensure that Mr. Edwin C. Bearss presents this nomination to the board. His expertise and his advocacy on behalf of this site will be an asset at that time.

P. O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276 • 512/463-6100 • Fax 512/475-4872 • TDD 1-800-735-2989

Attached please find the site maps with the original UTM coordinates. Your staff may reduce their number in accordance with established NHL standards. If necessary, a disk of the text can be provided to the reviewer.

We take this opportunity to inform you that we are considering completing a National Historic Landmark nomination for the Hispanic ranches of the South Texas border region in the coming year. Several exceptional examples of Spanish Colonial and Mexican period ranches remain in the area. These sites are all related to the Spanish settlements that were initiated on both banks of the lower Rio Grande in the 18th century.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in providing a smooth review process for Palmito Ranch Battlefield.

Sincerely,

Curtis Tunnell
Executive Director

cc. John L. Nau, III, Chairman, Texas Historical Commission
Sally R. Lancaster, The Meadows Foundation
Dan McNamara, The Conservation Fund
Larry Ditto, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
David Siegel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Carroll, National Park Service
Dwight Pitcaithley, National Park Service
Amy Dase, National Register Programs

TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Memorandum

TO: Robie Lange, National Historic Landmarks Survey

FROM: Mario L. Sánchez, Texas Historical Commission

RE: Updated list of owners for Palmito Ranch Battlefield

DATE: February 6, 1996

As per our telephone conversation today, I am sending you by federal express the attached list of owners for the battlefield. I have counted 121 owners, down from a previous 141. This list is based on the 1996 tax rolls of the Cameron County Appraisal District. In this latest list, Miguel Montes, who protested to the designation last May, does appear as an owner.

Also attached is a copy of the newspaper announcement of our public meeting last October. The price was $86.00. You may use *The Brownsville Herald* for your announcement. The address is:

The Brownsville Herald
1135 Van Buren
Brownsville, Texas 78520
ph: 210/542-4301
fx: 210/542-1961

As I stated in my conversation with you, the National Register Department of the Texas Historical Commission will be mailing individual letters to the owners. In this manner, we will be able to show that we tried our best to reach all individuals concerned. These letters will go out by March 6th in order to comply with your 60 day comment period.

If you have any questions, please call me at 512/463-5754.

LANDOWNERS/TAX ACCOUNT HOLDERS
PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD AREA
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTE: Prepared August 1996 based upon 1992 Cameron County tax roll information and information in the files of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NOTE -UPDATED AND ANNOTATED PER INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CAMERON CO. APPRAISAL DISTRICT 2·5·97 PER 1996 TAX ROLLS

Field Names:

Landowner Name/Tax Account Name	
Tax Account Street Mailing Address	NOTE: May be two lines.
Tax Account City and State	NOTE: One double entry.
Tax Account ZIP Code	NOTE: One double entry.
Tax Account Number	NOTE: May be multiple lines.
Tax Parcel Number	NOTE: May be multiple lines.
Short Legal Description	NOTE: May be multiple lines.

D&A Realty, Inc. **NOTE: Firm may be in bankruptcy.**
c/o Cecil McDonald
P.O. Box 6968
Laredo, Texas
78040 (or 78042-6968)
71-1500-1500-1000-00, 71-1500-1500-2000-00, 82-3000-4000-0800-00
R075051, R088847, R004677
NOTE: Some properties may be in foreclosure. Banco Cisneros No. 150, Undivided 1/2 interest in 19.8 acres, 7.9000 acres; Banco Cisneros No. 150, Undivided 1/2 interest in 19.8 acres, 9.9000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4 AN-8 N, 27.8000 acres

DeEsther Brabant
3724 Boca Chica Boulevard, Suite C
Box 197
Brownsville, Texas
78521
71-1500-1500-1010-00
R131478
Banco Cisneros No. 150, Undivided 1/2 interest in 19.800 acres, 2.0000 acres

Atlas Worthington Developers I
c/o Jack McClung
HC-Box 90
Port Isabel, Texas
78578
82-2500-0010-0010-00, 82-2500-0030-0010-00, 82-2500-0030-0020-00
R004675, R130449, R130452
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 1 Blk 1, Lot 1 Blk 3, Lot 2 Blk 3

LaVerne Sumner et ux.
USA Towers
One Towers Park Lane, Suite 1007
San Antonio, Texas
78209
82-2500-0010-0020-00, 82-2500-0010-0030-00, 82-2500-0010-0040-00, 82-2500-0010-0050-00, 82-2500-0010-0060-00, 82-2500-0010-0070-00, 82-2500-0010-0080-00, 82-2500-0010-0090-00, 82-2500-0010-0100-00, 82-2500-0010-0110-00, 82-2500-0020-0010-00, 82-2500-0020-0030-00, 82-2500-0020-0060-00, 82-2500-0020-0070-00, 82-2500-0020-0080-00, 82-2500-0020-0090-00, 82-2500-0020-0100-00, 82-2500-0020-0110-00, 82-2500-0020-0120-00, 82-2500-0020-0130-00, 82-2500-0020-0170-00, 82-2500-0020-0180-00, 82-2500-0020-0190-00, 82-2500-0020-0200-00, 82-2500-0020-0210-00, 82-2500-0020-0220-00
R130364, R130367, R130369, R130371, R130374, R145439, R130379, R130381, R130387, R130389, R004688, R130397, R130403, R130406, R130408, R130410, R130413, R130415, R130417, R130419, R130428, R130436, R130439, R130442, R130444, R130446
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 2 Blk 1, Lot 3 Blk 1, Lot 4 Blk 1, Lot 5 Blk 1, Lot 6 Blk 1, Lot 7 Blk 1, Lot 8 Blk 1, Lot 9 Blk 1, Lot 10 Blk 1, Lot 11 Blk 1, Lot 1 Blk 2, Lot 3 Blk 2, Lot 6 Blk 2, Lot 7 Blk 2, Lot 8 Blk 2, Lot 9 Blk 2, Lot 10 Blk 2, Lot 11 Blk 2, Lot 12 Blk 2, Lot 13 Blk 2, Lot 17 Blk 2, Lot 18 Blk 2, Lot 19 Blk 2, Lot 20 Blk 2, Lot 21 Blk 2, Lot 22 Blk 2

Roberto Garcia Rojano
Calle Reyna #54
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-2500-0020-0020-00
R130391
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 2 Blk 2

Vicente Saldivar
4510 Green Grove
Corpus Christi, Texas
78415
82-2500-0020-0040-00, 82-2500-0020-0050-00
R130399, R130401
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 4 Blk 2, Lot 5 Blk 2

Atlas Worthington Developers I
c/o Robert Alaniz
425 Tanglewood
Mission, Texas
78572
82-2500-0020-0140-00
R130421
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 14 Blk 2

Atlas Worthington Developers I
c/o Pete Alaniz
1004 Doherty
Mission, Texas
78572
82-2500-0020-0150-00
R130424
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 15 Blk 2

DIFF. OWNERS - R. PEDRAZA TO GET ADDRESS

Guadalupe S. Orozco
P.O. Box 365
Mission, Texas
78572
82-2500-0020-0160-00
R130426
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 16 Blk 2

Atlas Worthington Developers I
c/o Harvey Bruns
P.O. Box 425
Alamo, Texas
78516
82-2500-0030-0030-00
R130454
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 3 Blk 3

Barbara Neefe Hill
1205 Shirley Lane
Midland, Texas
79705
82-2500-0030-0040-00
R130455
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 4 Blk 3

Arthur G. Bromiley Living Trust
1144 Belthair
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-2500-0030-0050-00
R130457
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 5 Blk 3

• ROBERT D. LLOYD & ORPHA IRENE
THE LLOYD TRUST
1334 MILAM
BROWNSVILLE, TX 78521-5267

Stephanie T. Green
P.O. Box 136
Union Lake, Michigan
48387
82-2500-0030-0060-00, 82-2500-0030-0070-00, 82-2500-0030-0130-00, 82-4500-0090-0000-00, 82-4500-0100-0000-00, 82-5000-0010-0700-00, 82-5000-0010-0710-00, 82-5000-0080-0120-00
R130460, R130462, R130477, R049889, R049890, R136950, R136951, R145246
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 6 Blk 3, Lot 7 Blk 3, Lot 13 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Blk 9, 18.0000 acres; Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Blk 10, 18.5800 acres; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 70 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 71 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 12 Blk 8

International Bank, N.A.
P.O. Box 5900
Brownsville, Texas
78523
82-2500-0030-0080-00
R130464
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 8 Blk 3

Boca Chica Land Developers, Inc.
Boca Chica St., Rt. 55
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-2500-0030-0090-00
R130466
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 9 Blk 3

Petros Kyprios
4433 Denver Drive
Plano, Texas
75093
82-2500-0030-0100-00
R130473
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 10 Blk 3

E. Ray Strong et ux.
3744 Boca Chica #101-D
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-2500-0030-0110-00, 82-2500-0030-0120-00
R130471, R130475
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 11 Blk 3, Lot 12 Blk 3

Atlas Worthington Developers I
c/o Neil Saunders
6034 Club Oaks Drive
Dallas, Texas
75248
82-2500-0030-0140-00
R130479
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 14 Blk 3

John (Jack) P. Dahlen
3208 Silent Oak
Dallas, Texas
75234
82-2500-0030-0150-00
R130483
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 15 Blk 3

LERVERNE & THELMA SUMNER
P.O. BOX 9002
PORT ISABEL, TX. 78578

R & R Acct.
3074 Southmost Road
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-2500-0030-0160-00
R130485
Abst 6 - Fisherman's Paradise Lot 16 Blk 3

F. Carrington Weems III **NOTE: Not sure whether this property lies within the battlefield boundary.**
c/o First City Tower
1001 Fannin, Suite 1410 4440
Houston, Texas
77002
82-3000-1000-0580-00
R124893
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño, 128.589 acres, Undivided Interest 4% (in 3,214.73 acres)
Shares 1-4

Alexandra Locke Weems **NOTE: Not sure whether this property lies within the battlefield boundary.**
c/o First City Tower
1001 Fannin, Suite 1410
Houston, Texas
77002
82-3000-1000-0585-00
R124885
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño, 128.589 acres, Undivided Interest 4% (in 3,214.73 acres)
Shares 1-4

Brownsville Navigation District

P.O. Box 3070
Brownsville, Texas
78523-3070
*82-3000-2000-9000-00, ~~*82-3000-3000-1000-00, 82-3000-5000-0609-00~~
*R012858, *R012859, R012872
*Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 2 NPTNCOR, 6.3000 acres; *Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Shares 3-4, 9,028.7000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 6, 148.0000 acres

Outdoor Investment Realty, Inc.

602 North Victoria Road
RV #228
Donna, Texas
78537
82-3000-2000-9005-00
R086017
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Block 200, Tract 900, 16.08 acres

COAST BROADCASTING INC.
P.O.BOX 2010
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX. 78597

William Harney and Delia Garcia

9313 South Inglewood Avenue
Inglewood, California
90301
82-3000-2000-9005-05
R145722
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Part Shares 2-3, 2.5000 acres

(DELETED & COMBINED WITH 82.3000.3000.0033.00 BY COAST BROADCASTING INC.)

Fred Foote
602 North Victoria Road, RV #228
Donna, Texas
78537
82-3000-2000-9005-06
R146824
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 2 3.0 acres out of 38.81 acres, 3.0000 acres

Lazaro and Minerva Loera
c/o City Savings
P.O. Box 3330
Harlingen, Texas
78551-3330
82-3000-2000-9005-07
R156986
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 38.81) 2.5000 acres

DELETED
TO COASTAL BROADCASTING

Alma Rosa Couch
48 Woodhollow
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-2000-9005-08
R156988
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 38.81) 2.5000 Acres

DELETED
TO COASTAL BROADCASTING

Rio Grande Savings & Loan
P.O. Box 2468
Harlingen, Texas
78551
82-3000-2000-9005-09
R156989
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 2 (Pt. 38.81) 7.9000 acres

DELETED
TO COASTAL BROADCASTING

Catholic Diocese of Brownsville
P.O. Box 2279
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-2000-9006-00
R057079
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3, 12.6400 acres

Mary Gloria Peimbert
711 NW 11th Street
Minot, North Dakota
58701
82-3000-2000-9007-00 82-3000-3000-0045-00
R163225, R163224
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 3 (Pt. 22.64), 10.0000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.8000 acre

CHANGED TO —
COAST BROADCASTING

Sergio A. Cisneros et ux.
451 East Adams Street
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0010-00
R021617
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. 47.79 Share 3, 0.5160 acre

Rodolfo Saldaña et ux.
2406 Old Spanish Trail
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-3000-3000-0021-00
R156990
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 2.5100 acres

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING
82-3000-2000-9005

Eugenio Cantu, Jr.
1854 East Van Buren
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0022-00
R016305
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. 10,855.81 acres Share 3, 5.0000 acres

Ramon Couch
48 Woodhollow
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-3000-3000-0023-00
R156992
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.4130 acre

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING
82-3000-3000-0033-00

Rudy T. Garza
3221 South Staples #29
Corpus Christi, Texas
78411
82-3000-3000-0024-00
R044288
Abst 6 - J.Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 Pt. 47.79, 0.7390 acre

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING
82-3000-3000-0033-00

John R. Gibson, Sr., et ux.
Boca Chica Star Route Box 50
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0025-00
R045252
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 Pt. 47.79, 0.4820 acre

Paul J. Kozsuch
18 Ejido
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-3000-3000-0026-00
R064983
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 Pt. 47.79, 0.6030 acre

Jose F. Casas et ux.
4 Riverside Boulevard
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0027-00, 82-4500-0070-0002-00
R017928, R017929
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 Pt. 47.79, 0.8260 acre; Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 7, 1.0000 acre

Anthony De Ponce
Box 98 Boca Chica Branch
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0028-00
R028664
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. 10,855.81 acres Share 3, 0.9190 acre

John W. Moffitt
609 Cedar Drive
Copperas Cove, Texas
76522
82-3000-3000-0029-00, 82-5000-0080-0130-00
R068797, R145227
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. 10,855.81 acres Share 3, 2.8700 acres; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 13 Blk 8

Henry Corona, Jr.
654 West St. Charles
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0031-00
R156994
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.9540 acre

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING

Hector G. Gonzalez et al.
2534 East Jackson Street
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0032-00
R048187
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.8520 acre

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING

Outdoor Investment Realty, Inc

3505 Boca Chica, Suite 150
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0033-00
R086016
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño, Block 300, Tract 3, 25.845 acres

OWNERSHIP TO
TO COAST BROADCASTING
(See p. 6 FOR ADDRESS)

Jesus and Lily Abete
134 Bates
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0034-00
R000198
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.4120 acre

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING

Outdoor Investment Realty, Inc.
47 Tan Oak Circle
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-3000-3000-0035-00
R020059
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.4820 acre

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING

Albert N. Mendoza
2711 West Woodlawn Avenue
San Antonio, Texas
78228
82-3000-3000-0036-00
R077585
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.4820 acre

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING

Outdoor Investment Realty, Inc.
P.O. Box 8271
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0037-00
R054687
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 2.423 acres

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING

Felipe Cantu
45 Bernal South
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0038-00
R156995
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.4020 acre

Irma C. Gonzalez
Arroyo Del Tigre #95
Entre Calle
H. Matamoros, Tamaulipas, MEXICO

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING

82-3000-3000-0039-00
R048205
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 2.0000 acres

Ramon G. Sanchez
135 East Armstrong
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-3000-3000-0041-00, 82-5000-0080-0060-00
R000345, R145240
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 2.5000 acres; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 6 Blk 8

DELETED TO
COAST BROADCASTING

Stanley Patenaude

264 Palo Verde Drive
Brownsville, Texas
78521-2617
82-3000-3000-0042-00
R137542
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 3.0000 acres

DELETED
TO COAST BROADCASTING

Sandy Schultz
c/o Steve Bojczuk
928 Orange Avenue
St. Cloud, Florida
32769
82-3000-3000-0043-00
R138626
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt 47.79), 0.4820 acre

Guadalupe Acuna
English Manor
6419 Skyline #189
Houston, Texas
77057
82-3000-3000-0044-00 82-3000-3000-0046-00
R156996, R172018
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 2.5000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Block Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 38.81), 1.82 acres
DELETED - TO COAST BROADCASTING

Leticia Lerma
124 South Drive
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0047-00
R172022
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Block Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.500 acre

Pascual Morales et al.
2343 Southmost
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-3000-3000-0048-00
R177154
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. Share 3 (Pt. 47.79), 0.577 acre

D. F. Lerma **[Estate--Mr. Lerma is deceased.]**
1000 East Van Buren Street
Brownsville, Texas
78520-7145
82-3000-5000-0802-00, 82-3000-5000-0503-00, 82-3000-4000-0400-00
R067632, R067629, R067626
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 8, South of Channel, 156.1000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 5, South of Channel, 198.6000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4 AN-4, 256.210 acres

Carlota O. Lerma
1000 East Van Buren Street
Brownsville, Texas
78520-7145
82-3000-5000-0702-00, 82-3000-0401-00, 82-3000-5000-0301-00
R067631, R067638, R067628
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 7, South of Channel, 156.8000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 4, South of Channel, 204.0000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 3, South of Channel, 80.8000 acres

Betty F. Lerma
1000 East Van Buren Street
Brownsville, Texas
78520-7145
82-3000-4000-0801-00, 82-3000-4000-0801-10, 82-3000-4000-0701-00
R067636, R067637, R067635
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4 AN-8, 1.0000 acre; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4 AN-8, 94.0000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4 AN-7, 5.7200 acres

Gene Orive
68 Ivy Lane
Brownsville, Texas
78521-2433
82-3000-4000-0511-00
R085271
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. 129.074 acres Orive Reserve Shares 3 & 4, 54.381 acres

Daniel Orive
85 Laura Lane
Brownsville, Texas
78521-4126
82-3000-4000-0501-00, 82-3000-4000-0403-00
R085267, R085266
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. 129.074 acres Orive Reserve Shares 3 & 4, 64.5930 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4 AN-4 & AN-5, 23.4300 acres

Praxedis Orive, Jr.
534 Benden Circle
Brownsville, Texas
78521-2315
82-3000-4000-0101-10, 82-3000-4000-0101-00
R143250, R085290
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve & Banco #80 Pt. Share 4 Tract 1, 10.0000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve & Banco #80 Pt. Share 4 Tract 1, 11.0860 acres

Richard J. W. Nunez
2355 Barnard Road, Suite B (Another address: 2100 Boca Chica, Suite 503)
Brownsville, Texas (Another address: Brownsville, Texas)
78520-8625 (Another addresss: 78521)
82-3000-4000-0202-00
R126158
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve & Banco #80 Pt. Share 4 Tract 2, 20.8470 acres

Esperanza Callejas
Retorno Cerrada de Bezares #90
Mexico DF 11910 MEXICO

MIGUEL MONTES
9791 MEADOW VALLEY DR.
VIENNA, VA. 22181-3216

(SPLIT 10.459 ACRES WITH NEW ACCT)

82-3000-4000-0300-00, 82-3000-4000-0421-10

ANTHONY ZAVALETA
164 HONEYBEE
BROWNSVILLE, TX. 78520

R085282, R128883
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve & Banco #80 Pt. Share 4 Pt. Tracts 3, 4, & 5, 73.2080 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 4, 13.27 acres out of West Pt. of 23.27 acres, 13.2700 acres

John Y. Keane
74 Arien Court
Brownsville, Texas
78521-1513
82-3000-4000-0411-00
R063219
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4 AN-4, 20.3200 acres

Richard Buchholtz
3074 Southmost Road
Brownsville, Texas
78521-4789
82-3000-1000-0306-00
R100541
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Pt. 10,855.81 Pt. Share 1-2-3-4, 5.0100 acres

Heights of Texas FSB
Attn: ~~REO Tax Department~~ ATTN. SUSAN VICE
~~P.O. Box 7483~~ 2727 NORTH LOOP WEST, STE. 300
Houston, Texas 77008
~~77248-7483~~
82-3000-1000-0302-00
R096043
Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño, 9,425.756 acres out of 10,251.42 acres South Pt. of Shares 1-4, 8,988.536 acres

United States of America
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87103-1306
71-0800-0800-1000-00, 71-0800-0800-2000-00, 71-0800-0800-2002-00, 71-0800-0800-3100-00, 71-0800-0800-3200-00, 82-3000-4000-0200-00, 82-3000-5000-0106-00, 82-3000-5000-0201-00, 82-3000-5000-0110-00, 82-3000-4000-0600-00, 82-3000-5000-0111-00, 82-3000-4000-0421-00, 82-3000-6000-1401-00
*, *, *, *, *, *, R010988, R010990, R020108, R067627, R073053, R128932, R175096
Banco Caja Pinta No. 80, Pt. Tract 1, 23.820 acres; Banco Caja Pinta No. 80, Tract 2, 8.8300 acres; Banco Caja Pinta No. 80, Pt. Tract 2, 5.000 acres; Banco Caja Pinta No. 80, Pt. Tract 3, 1.220 acres; Banco Caja Pinta No. 80, Pt. Tract 3, 19.960 acres; Orive Reserve, Pt. Share 4 AN-2, 1.600 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 1 South of Channel, 334.3400 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 2 South of Channel, 169.7000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Share 5 Lot 1 South of Channel, 483.1260 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4 AN-6 & AN-4, 83.190 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño South of Highway 4 12.853 acres & 2.821 acres out of A. A. Champion Properties Share 5, 15.6740 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño Orive Reserve Pt. Share 4, 10 acres out of East 23.27 acres, 10.0000 acres; Abst 6 - J. Y. Treviño, 1,673.018 acres

Richard Paul and Valerie Ann Eckstrom **Note: Names and address from 1981 vesting deed.**
600 Davis Street
Port Isabel, Texas
78578
71-0800-0800-~~****-**-*~~ 2003-00
*
Caja Pinta Banco No. 80, Tract 2, 8 acres

Edwardo Gavito **Note: Information from contacts files.**
814 East 14th Street
Brownsville, Texas
78520
~~**-****-****-****-**~~ 82-3000-6000-0400-00
*
Gavito Reserve

Jose Gavito, Sr. **Note: Information from contacts files.**
523 East Madison
Brownsville, Texas
78520
-**-****-****-** 82-3000-6000-0500-00
*
Gavito Reserve

Vivian and Robert J. Gardner
Route 1, Box 256
Smithville, Texas
78957
-**-****-****-** 82-3000-4000-0700-10
*
Orive Reserve 30 acres out of Lot 7

J. P. Quezada **Note: Information from contacts files.**
25 Cobblestone
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-3000-4000-0710-00
*
JAMES & CAROL FOX
2122 ELVIS PRESLEY
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38106

Orive Reserve 12 acres, being 11.05 acres out of Lot 7 plus 0.95 acre accretion

Tomas Flores, Elias Flores, Elizandro Flores, and Ramiro Flores **Note: Information from contacts files.**
c/o Shear Pleasure
122 North 77
Harlingen, Texas
78550
-**-****-****-**
* 82-3000-4000-0700-11

JULIETA DE GOROSTIZA
538 PARKLAND DR.
BROWNSVILLE, TX. 78521-4233

Orive Reserve 1.00 acre out of Lot 7

Charles K. and Kathryn E. Sproat **Note: Information from tract (217) file.**
2302 East Sabine Street
Victoria, Texas
77901
-**-****-****-**
* 82-3000-4000-0704-00
Orive Reserve 8.0000 acres out of Lot 7

Sunny Dawn Enterprises, Inc. **Note: Information from tract (217) file.**
P.O. Box 667
Olmito, Texas
78575
-**-****-****-**
* 82-3000~4000-0706
Orive Reserve 9.166 acres out of Lot 7

HORACE & VIOLA BETTS
P.O. BOX 7624
AMARILLO, TX. 79114-7624

William Faulk, Trustee
~~P.O. Box 1551~~ 855 W. PRICE RD., STE. 5
Brownsville, Texas 78520-8718
~~78522-1551~~
82-4500-0010-0010-00, 82-4500-0010-0011-00
R009789, R009790
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Blk 1 SE 8.10 North 1/2, 8.1000 acres; Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Blk 1 NW 10. North 1/2, 10.0000 acres

Odelia G. Sanchez, Trustee
135 East Armstrong
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0010-0012-00
R009788
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 3.2300 acres

H. Omar Zarate
3724 Boca Chica
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-4500-0010-0013-00
R128906
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.7700 acre

Genovera Zarate
3724 Boca Chica
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-4500-0010-0014-00
R128903
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.7240 acre

Ruben D. Zarate
457 Lancer Lake
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-4500-0010-0015-00
R128942
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.6740 acre

Regulo Landez et ux.
2017 East 20th Street
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-4500-0010-0016-00
R066057
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.6260 acre

Daniel Treviño
Rt. 1, Box 196-C
La Feria, Texas
78559
82-4500-0010-0017-00
R117626
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.5790 acre

Roland Moody
2124 East Jackson Street
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0010-0018-00
R080196
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.5310 acre

Oralia Garcia, Trustee
2389 Coolidge
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0010-0019-00
R161175
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 1.0000 acre

Federico Solis et ux.
6620 Calvin
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0010-0100-00, 82-4500-0010-0101-00
R109473, R109474
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.8170 acre; Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.8650 acre

Alvino Olvera
87 Old Military Road
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0010-0102-00
R085066
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. South 1/2 Blk 1, 0.9000 acre

Angel A. Gonzalez et ux.
144 Honey Drive
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0050-0011-00, 82-4500-0080-0000-00
R047820, R046767
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 5, 2.0000 acres; Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Blk 8, 14.0200 acres

Rafael Gutierrez et ux.
1401 Butler
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0050-0012-00
R106413
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 5, 1.0000 acre

Maria Fidella Parano
4008 Frontage Road
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-4500-0050-0013-00
R086905
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 5, 1.0000 acre

Manuel Garcia
1165 Milam
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0050-0014-00
R041627
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 5, 1.0000 acre

Francisca Garcia
2325 East Tyler
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0050-0015-00
R040964
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 5, 1.0000 acre

Zenaida Badia
1100 SW 10th Avenue
Miami, Florida
33129
82-4500-0060-0020-00, 82-4500-0060-0040-00
R005236, R005237
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 6, 2.0000 acres; Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 6, 1.0000 acre

Juan C. Zamora
703 East 10th
Mercedes, Texas
78570
82-4500-0060-0030-00
R128681
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 6, 1.0000 acre

Carlos Garcia
102 East 25th Street
Chicago Heights, Illinois
60411
82-4500-0060-0050-00
R040557
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 6, 1.0000 acre

Cristobal Torres et ux.
215 Pearl Drive
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-4500-0070-0020-00
R116631
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 7, 1.0000 acre

Roberto D. Jimenez
224 Pearl Drive
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-4500-0070-0030-00
R061507
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 7, 1.0000 acre

LOURDES CASTRO
109 SIMPSON ST.
BROWNSVILLE, TX. 78520

Alicia Garcia
1607 East Fordyce
Kingsville, Texas
78363
82-4500-0140-0101-00
R040353
Abst 6 - Palmito Estates Pt. Blk 14, 1.0000 acre

Eddie McDonald
1207 Warbler Drive
Kerrville, Texas
78028
82-5000-0010-0620-00, 82-5000-0010-0630-00, 82-5000-0010-0640-00, 82-5000-0010-0650-00, 82-5000-0010-0660-00, 82-5000-0010-0670-00, 82-5000-0010-0680-00, 82-5000-0010-0690-00, 82-5000-0010-0720-00, 82-5000-0010-0730-00, 82-5000-0010-0740-00, 82-5000-0010-0760-00, 82-5000-0010-0770-00, 82-5000-0010-0780-00, 82-5000-0070-0010-00, 82-5000-0070-0020-00, 82-5000-0070-0030-00, 82-5000-0070-0040-00, 82-5000-0070-0050-00, 82-5000-0070-0060-00, 82-5000-0070-0070-00, 82-5000-0070-0100-00, 82-5000-0070-0110-00, 82-5000-0070-0120-00, 82-5000-0070-0130-00, 82-5000-0070-0140-00, 82-5000-0070-0150-00, 82-5000-0070-0160-00, 82-5000-0070-0170-00, 82-5000-0070-0180-00, 82-5000-0070-0190-00, 82-5000-0070-0200-00, 82-5000-0070-0210-00, 82-5000-0070-0240-00, 82-5000-0070-0270-00, 82-5000-0070-0280-00, 82-5000-0070-0300-00, 82-5000-0070-0310-00, 82-5000-0080-0020-00, 82-5000-0080-0040-00, 82-5000-0080-0050-00, 82-5000-0080-0070-00, 82-5000-0080-0080-00, 82-5000-0080-0090-00, 82-5000-0080-0100-00, 82-5000-0080-0160-00
R100542, R136968, R136969, R136970, R136971, R136972, R136947, R136949, R136952, R136954, R136955, R136956, R136957, R136958, R100543, R145192, R145193, R145194, R145195, R145196, R145197, R145200, R145201, R145202, R145203, R145204, R145205, R145206, R145207, R145208, R145209, R145210, R145211, R145214, R145217, R145218, R145220, R145221, R100544, R145238, R145239, R145241, R145242, R145243, R145244, R145248
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 62 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 63 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 64 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 65 Blk 1; Abst 6 -

Paradise Isle Lot 66 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 67 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 68 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 69 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 72 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 73 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 74 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 76 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 77 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 78 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 1 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 2 Blk 7,; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 3 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 4 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 5 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 6 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 7 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 10 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 11 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 12 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 13 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 14 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 15 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 16 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 17 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 18 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 19 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 20 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 21 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 24 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 27 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 28 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 30 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 31 Blk 7; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 2 Blk 8; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 4 Blk 8; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 5 Blk 8; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 7 Blk 8; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 8 Blk 8; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 9 Blk 8; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 10 Blk 8; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 16 Blk 8

Beatriz Fernandez Lind
3000 Old Highway 77
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-5000-0010-0750-00
R068226
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 75 Blk 1, 0.2200 acre

Atlas Worthington Dev., Inc.
P.O. Box 4374
Brownsville, Texas
78523-4374
82-5000-0030-0040-00, 82-5000-0090-1000-00
R082906, R100545
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 4 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Reserve Area (North)

Addie Bryant Foster
Rural Route 8, Box 8256-31
Manchester, Tennessee
37355-9808
82-5000-0050-0012-00
R038024
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 7 Blk 5

Maria del Refugio Lopez
635 West 14th
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-5000-0070-0080-00, 82-5000-0070-0090-00
R145198, R145199
Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 8 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 9 Blk 7

Leticia Gonzalez
815 Calle Fresnal
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-5000-0070-0220-00, 82-5000-0070-0250-00
R145212, R145215
Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 22 Blk 7; Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 25 Blk 7

Jose Angel Lopez
345 Avenida del Sol
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-5000-0070-0230-00
R145213
Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 23 Blk 7

Carmen Reyes
825 Calle Fresnal
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-5000-0070-0260-00
R145216
Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 26 Blk 7

Juan Viramontes
2874 Elena
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-5000-0070-0290-00
R145219
Abst 16 - Paradise Isle Lot 29 Blk 7

Carmen S. de Escudero
1530 Mission Bend
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-5000-0080-0030-00
R145237
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 3 Blk 8

David Blanton et ux.
14 Calle Cenizo
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-5000-0080-0110-00
R145245
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 11 Blk 8

William Gulley
4835 Paso Doble
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-5000-0080-0140-00
R145228
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 14 Blk 8

Walter F. Scott
278 South Grove Street
East Aurora, New York
14052
82-5000-0080-0150-00
R145247
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 15 Blk 8

William A. Faulk, Trustee
P.O. Box 1975
Brownsville, Texas
78522
82-5030-0130-0110-00
R076577
Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 11 Blk 13

JOSEPH CONNORS
P.O. BOX 5838
MCALLEN, TX. 78502

First Heights Bank FSB
2700 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 500
Houston, Texas
77056
82-5000-0080-0170-00, 82-5030-0130-0010-00, 82-5030-0130-0020-00, 82-5030-0130-0030-00, 82-5030-0130-0040-00, 82-5030-0130-0050-00, 82-5030-0130-0060-00, 82-5030-0130-0070-00, 82-5030-0130-0080-00, 82-5030-0130-0090-00, 82-5030-0130-0100-00, 82-5030-0140-0011-00, 82-5030-0310-0000-00, 82-8200-0010-0010-00, 82-8200-0010-0020-00, 82-8200-0010-0030-00, 82-8200-0020-0010-00, 82-8200-0020-0020-00, 82-8200-0020-0030-00, 82-8200-0020-0040-00, 82-8200-0020-0050-00, 82-8200-0020-0060-00, 82-8200-0020-0070-00, 82-8200-0020-0080-00, 82-8200-0020-0090-00, 82-8200-0020-0100-00, 82-8200-0020-0110-00, 82-8200-0020-0120-00, 82-8200-0020-0130-00, 82-8200-0020-0140-00, 82-8200-0020-0150-00, 82-8200-0020-0160-00, 82-8200-0020-0170-00, 82-8200-0030-0010-00, 82-8200-0030-0020-00, 82-8200-0030-0040-00, 82-8200-0030-0050-00, 82-8200-0030-0060-00, 82-8200-0030-0070-00, 82-8200-0030-0080-00, 82-8200-0030-0090-00, 82-8200-0030-0100-00, 82-8200-0030-0110-00, 82-

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Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Lot 17 Blk 8; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 1 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 2 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 3 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 4 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 5 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 6 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 7 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 8 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 9 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 10 Blk 13; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Lot 1-2 and West 48.11 acres Lot 3 Blk 14; Abst 6 - Paradise Isle Unit 3 Blk 31, 26.2980 acres; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 1 Blk 1, 4.8100 acres; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 2 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 3 Blk 1; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 1 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 2 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 3 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 4 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 5 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 6 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 7 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 8 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 9 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 10 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 11 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 12 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 13 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 14 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 15 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 16 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 17 Blk 2; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 1 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 2 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 4 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 5 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 6 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 7 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 8 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 9 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 10 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 11 Blk 3; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 1 Blk 4; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 1 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 2 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 3 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 4 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 5 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 6 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 7 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 8 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 9 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 10 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 11 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 12 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 13 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 14 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 15 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 16 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 17 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 18 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 19 Blk 5; Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 20 Blk 5

Gordon A. Kendall et ux.
5034 Boca Chica Boulevard
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-8200-0030-0030-00
R130331
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 3 Blk 3

DARL & PAULA SNYDER
SNYDER REVOCABLE JOINT TRUST
5304 DANIEL
BRIGHTON, MI 48116-9068

David Suissa
313 Queen Isabella Boulevard
Port Isabel, Texas
78578
82-8200-0040-0020-00, 82-8200-0040-0100-00
R130340, R130351
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 2 Blk 4; Lot 10 Blk 4

David Suissa
P.O. Box 2444
South Padre Island, Texas
78597
82-8200-0040-0070-00
R130346
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 7 Blk 4

Milton Clark
723 Pecore
Houston, Texas
77009
82-8200-0040-0030-00
R130341
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 3 Blk 4

John's Marine & Tackle, Inc.
713 Marina Drive, Box 475
Port Isabel, Texas
78578
82-8200-0040-0040-00
R130343
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 4 Blk 4

Frank M. Long
c/o John W. Moffitt
609 Cedar Drive
Copperas Cove, Texas
76522
82-8200-0040-0050-00
R130344
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 5 Blk 4

Charles Wolston
2102 Brown Street
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
82-8200-0040-0060-00
R130345
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 6 Blk 4

John F. O'Donnell
723 Pecore Street
Houston, Texas
77009-6244
82-8200-0040-0080-00, 82-8200-0040-0090-00
R130348, R130350
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 8 Blk 4; Lot 9 Blk 4

DENNIS JOSLYN
10777 WESTHEIMER RD., STE. 1155
HOUSTON, TX. 77042

Alma Bowman Zieger
1129 North Minnesota, FM 313
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-8200-0040-0110-00
R130353
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 11 Blk 4

T. Salinas and H. Gonzales
912 West Sixth
Weslaco, Texas
78596
82-8200-0040-0120-00
R130354
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 12 Blk 4

Ronald A. Pridham et ux.
c/o Mary Lopoz
5002 Viking Drive
Houston, Texas
77092
82-8200-0040-0130-00
R130356
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 13 Blk 4

John Ethan Olivarez
9702 La Branch
Corpus Christi, Texas
78410
82-8200-0040-0140-00
R130357
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 14 Blk 4

Charles J. Keller et ux.
2814 Clifford
Harlingen, Texas
78550
82-8200-0040-0150-00
R130359
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 15 Blk 4

WILLIAM O'DONNELL
119 SANTA ANA
RANCHO VIEJO, TX 78520

Janice O'Donnell
7330 Shadow Trail
San Antonio, Texas
78244
82-8200-0040-0160-00
R130361
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 16 Blk 4

Jeanine Manders
727 Pecore Street
Houston, Texas
77009-6244
82-8200-0040-0170-00
R130362
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 17 Blk 4

Susan Jones Miller
P.O. Box 3087
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-8200-0040-0180-00
R130363
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 18 Blk 4

Jose E. Chapa, Jr., P.C.
821 Nolana
McAllen, Texas
78501
82-8200-0040-0190-00
R130365
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 19 Blk 4

Dennis M. Sanchez, P.C.
Profit Sharing Trust
100 North Expressway 83
Brownsville, Texas
78521
82-8200-0040-0200-00
R130366
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 20 Blk 4

Michele Sanchez
717 North Expressway 83
Brownsville, Texas
78520
82-8200-0040-0210-00
R130368
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 21 Blk 4

Dewey Halbrook et al.
11518 East Apache Trail
Apache Junction, Arizona
85220
82-8200-0040-0220-00
R130370
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 22 Blk 4

Julaine Barnes
~~12267 Memorial Drive #48~~ 8222 KINGSBROOK #320
Houston, Texas 77024-3344
~~77024~~
82-8200-0040-0230-00
R130372
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 23 Blk 4

Russell and Mary L. Dahlman
7915 Warren Avenue
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
53213
82-8200-0040-0240-00
R130373
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 24 Blk 4

B. J. Heck and M. Collier
5619 Rutherglen
Houston, Texas
77096
82-8200-0040-0250-00
R130375
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 25 Blk 4

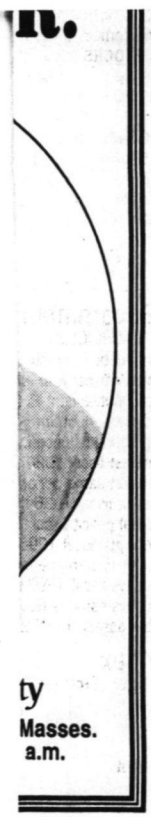
Daniel McKenna, Sr., et ux.
1103 East Miller
Donna, Texas
78537
82-8200-0040-0260-00
R130377
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 26 Blk 4

Michael McClung and Howard Cart
c/o David Suissa
~~313 Queen Isabella Boulevard~~ 410 PADRE BLVD., STE. K
~~Port Isabel, Texas~~ SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX 78597-6619
~~78578~~
82-8200-0040-0270-00
R130378
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 27 Blk 4

R. O. and R. L. McClung
H C 32 Box 230
Lawton, Oklahoma
73501
82-8200-0040-0280-00
R130380
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 28 Blk 4

ADDRESS
SAME AS ABOVE

James N. O'Donnell
119 Santa Ana
Rancho Viejo, Texas
78520
82-8200-0040-0290-00
R130382
Abst 6 - Tarpon Haven Lot 29 Blk 4



ty
Masses.
a.m.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Property Owners and Interested Parties

Palmito Ranch Battlefield

Please join staff members of the Texas Historical Commission
for a question and answer session on a
proposal to designate as a National Historic Landmark
the 1865 site of the last battle of the Civil War

7:00 PM, Wednesday, October 23, 1996
Historic Brownsville Museum
641 East Madison
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Bruce Aitken
210-548-1313

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Memorandum
(ONE PAGE)

TO: ROBIE LANGE 202/343-1244

FROM: MARIO SANCHEZ

RE: ELECTED OFFICIALS TO BE NOTIFIED ON NHL FOR PALMITO RANCH

DATE: FEB. 7, 1996

AS PER OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION YESTERDAY, BELOW PLEASE FIND THE ADDRESSES & NAMES OF OFFICIALS TO BE NOTIFIED —

1. GILBERTO HINOJOSA
   CAMERON COUNTY JUDGE
   CAMERON COUNTY COURTHOUSE 964 E. HARRISON
   BROWNSVILLE, TX. 78520

2. RENE O. OLIVEIRA
   TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
   P.O. BOX 2910
   AUSTIN, TX. 78769

3. EDDIE LUCIO
   TEXAS SENATE
   P.O. BOX 12068 — CAPITOL STATION
   AUSTIN, TX. 78711

— ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE THE ~~APPROXIMATE~~ ACREAGE FOR PALMITO RANCH IS ~~700-800 ACRES~~. 5,991 acres

— CALL ME AT 512/463-5754 IF YOU NEED ANY MORE INFORMATION.

— OWNERS TO BE NOTIFIED ARE THOSE LISTED IN YOUR FILES TO WHICH YOU MADE REFERENCE OVER THE PHONE.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Memorandum
(ONE PAGE)

TO: ROBIE LANGE 202/343-1244

FROM: MARIO SANCHEZ

RE: ELECTED OFFICIALS TO BE NOTIFIED ON NHL FOR PALMITO RANCH

DATE: FEB. 7, 1996

AS PER OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION YESTERDAY, BELOW PLEASE FIND THE ADDRESSES & NAMES OF OFFICIALS TO BE NOTIFIED —

HEO

1. GILBERTO HINOJOSA
CAMERON COONTY JUDGE
CAMERON COONTY COURTHOUSE 964 E. HARRISON
BROWNSVILLE, TX. 78520

2. RENE O. OLIVEIRA
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O.BOX 2910
AUSTIN, TX. 78769

Rep Solomon Ortiz

Kay Bailey Graham
Phillip Graham

Name o addres of Congressman

3. EDDIE LUCIO
TEXAS SENATE
P.O.BOX 12068 — CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX. 78711

— ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE THE ~~APPROXIMATE~~ ACREAGE FOR PALMITO RANCH IS ~~700-800 ACRES~~. 5,991 acres

— CALL ME AT 512/463-5754 IF YOU NEED ANY MORE INFORMATION.

— OWNERS TO BE NOTIFIED ARE ~~THOSE~~ LISTED IN YOUR FILES TO WHICH YOU MADE REFERENCE OVER THE PHONE. → 512 463 5755 or

Ownership information:

1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department
Larry Ditto, Coordinator
320 N. Main Street, Room A103
McAllen, TX 78501
512/630-4636

2 Bobby Lerma
1000 E. Van Buren
Brownsville, TX 78521

3 Praxides Orive
P.O. Box 191
Brownsville, TX 78520

4 Mrs. Frank Henggeler
24 Calle Retama
Apt. 102C
Brownsville, TX 78520

5 Daniel Orive
85 Laura Lane
Brownsville, TX 78521

H34(2280)

MAR 6 1996

Mr. Larry Ditto, Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department
320 N. Main Street, Room A103
McAllen, Texas 78501

Dear Mr. Ditto:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of the **Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Brownsville** for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark. We enclose a copy of the study report. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on an enclosure. This enclosure also specifies how you may comment on the proposed nomination if you so choose. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the National Park System Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee, which will then inform the full Advisory Board of the Committee's recommendations at the Board's meeting. The Secretary of the Interior will then be informed of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations governing the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4) and include other information on the Program. We are also enclosing a fact sheet that outlines the effects of designation.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

Enclosures

PROPERTY STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD

BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate this property at a meeting to be held on Monday, May 6, 1996 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 7000A, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Landmarks Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 1996, in Room 5160, Main Interior Building and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Owners of private properties nominated for NHL designation have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 65. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to designation may submit to Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127 a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the designation. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that the party owns. If a majority of private property owners object, a property will not be designated.

Should you wish to obtain information about these meetings, or about the National Historic Landmarks Program, please contact Historian Patty Henry at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127; or by telephone at (202)-343-8163.

If you have questions concerning the study, which was prepared by Ms. Terri Myers, you may contact Ms. Myers at Hardy, Heck, Moore and Associates, 2112 Rio Grande, Austin, Texas 78705; or by telephone at (512)-478-8014.

SIMILAR LETTERS SENT TO:

OWN: Mr. Larry Ditto, Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department
320 N. Main Street, Room A103
McAllen, Texas 78501

Mr. Bobby Lerma
1000 E. Van Buren
Brownsville, Texas 78521

Ms. Praxides Orive
P.O. Box 191
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Mrs. Frank Henggeler
24 Calle Retama
Apartment 102C
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Mr. Daniel Orive
85 Laura Lane
Brownsville, Texas 78521

HEO: Honorable Gilberto Hinojosa
Cameron County Judge
Cameron County Courthouse
964 E. Harrison
Brownsville, Texas 78520

SHPO: Mr. Curtis Tunnell
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

cc: Ms. Terri Myers
Hardy, Heck, Moore and Associates
2112 Rio Grande
Austin, Texas 78705

bcc: (IMFA) G. Kendrick
0001 RF
2612 OST
2200 RF
2280 Lange
2280 PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD (NHL Pending)

FNP:PHenry:mg:2/5/96
F:\NR-NHL\NOTICE.LTR\RANCH-2.LTR

H34(2280)

MAR 6 1996

Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchinson:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of the **Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Brownsville**, for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark. We enclose a copy of the study report. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on an enclosure. This enclosure also specifies how you may comment on the proposed nomination if you so choose. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the National Park System Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee, which will then inform the full Advisory Board of the Committee's recommendations at the Board's meeting. The Secretary of the Interior will then be informed of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations governing the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4) and include other information on the Program. We are also enclosing a fact sheet that outlines the effects of designation.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Carol D. Shull
for

Katherine H. Stevenson
Associate Director, Cultural Resources
Stewardship and Partnerships

Enclosures

PROPERTY STUDIED FOR
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD

BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate this property at a meeting to be held on Monday, May 6, 1996 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 7000A, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Landmarks Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 1996, in Room 5160, Main Interior Building and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Owners of private properties nominated for NHL designation have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 65. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to designation may submit to Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127 a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the designation. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that the party owns. If a majority of private property owners object, a property will not be designated.

Should you wish to obtain information about these meetings, or about the National Historic Landmarks Program, please contact Historian Patty Henry at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127; or by telephone at (202)-343-8163.

If you have questions concerning the study, which was prepared by Ms. Terri Myers, you may contact Ms. Myers at Hardy, Heck, Moore and Associates, 2112 Rio Grande, Austin, Texas 78705; or by telephone at (512)-478-8014.

SIMILAR LETTERS SENT TO:

Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Salmon P. Ortiz
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

bcc: (IMFA) G. Kendrick
0001 RF
2612 OST
2200 RF
2280 Lange
2280 PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD (NHL Pending)

FNP:PHenry:mg:2/5/96
F:\NR-NHL\NOTICE.LTR\RANCH-2D.LTR

Dear Mrs Shull —

I received the copy of the Study Report on Palmito Ranch Battlefield which I read with much interest. I found it to be accurate and well documented.

The Champion family hopes that it will be designated as a National Historic landmark.

Sincerely

Mary Champion Hengeler

3-21-1994

(Mrs Frank Hengeler)

T. Michael Parrish * 6322 Bon Terra Drive * Austin, Texas 78731-3843

8 April 1996

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

I support the nomination of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Brownsville, Texas, for designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The history of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West has been neglected too long. Americans, and especially young Texans, should be made aware of the significance of the "last battle of the Civil War." No action would dramatize the importance of the entire Texas coast in the overall strategy of the Civil War than to recognize and protect Palmito Ranch Battlefield.

I appreciate your serious consideration and effort toward achieving this nomination. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

T. Michael Parrish

RECEIVED 2280
APR 16 1996
NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HARDY • HECK • MOORE
& ASSOCIATES

April 19, 1996

Robie Lange
National Historic Landmarks Survey
National Park Service
Suite 310
800 North Capitol Street
Washington D.C. 20002

Dear Mr Lange,

Enclosed are the slides you have requested, a map of Palmito Ranch Battlefield, and a list detailing information for each slide, as well as their corresponding site numbers on the map.

As you know, these are our only copies of the slides. If it is possible for you to make copies of the slides, and send the originals back to us, it would be greatly appreciated. If that is not possible, return the originals to us, and we will have copies made for you.

If there is anything else that we can assist you with, please don't hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

Terri Myers

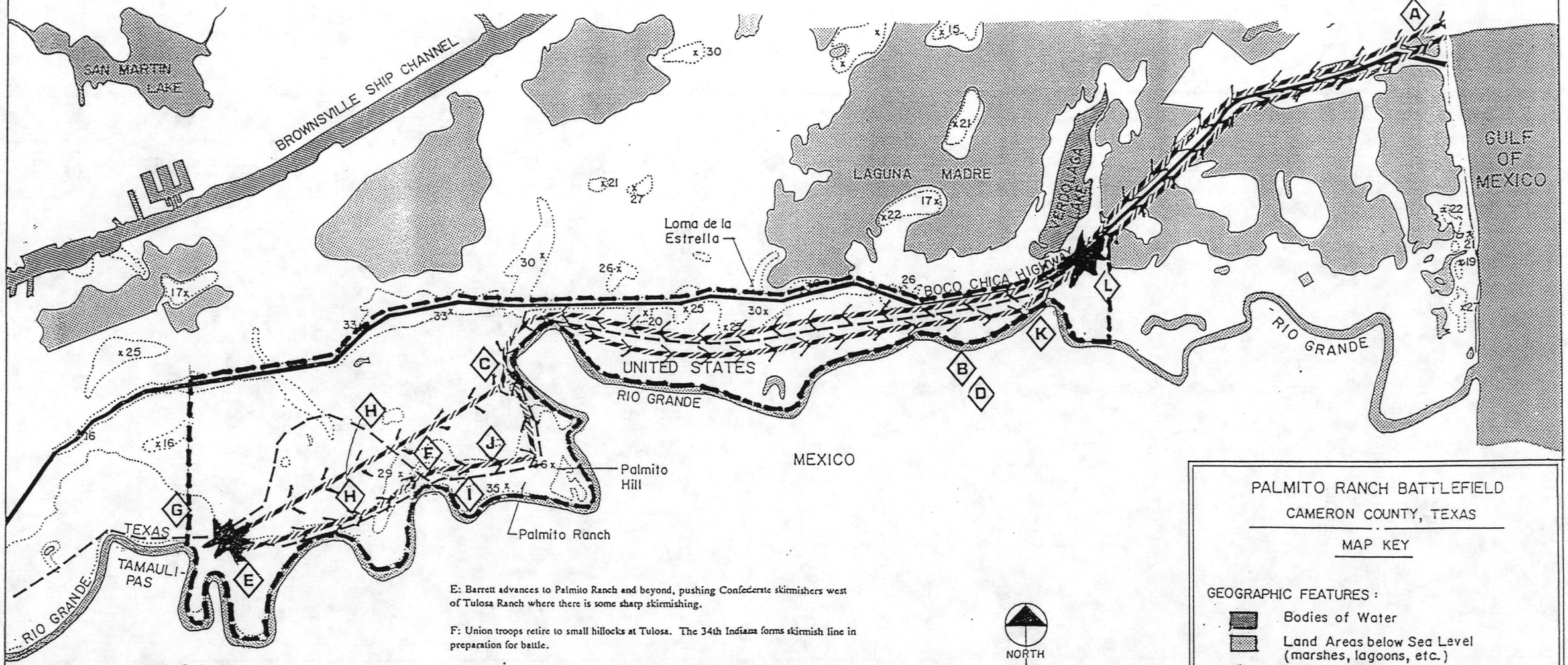
Terri Myers, Historian
Hardy•Heck•Moore & Associates

enclosure

1414 W. 6th Street • Austin, Texas 78703 • 512/478-8014 • FAX No. 512/478-8884

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
NOTES FOR SLIDES

SLIDE NUMBER	CAPTION	CORRESPONDING MAP SITE
2	Palmito Ranch—Southeast corner of field looking Northeast across battle field.	H
4	Palmito Ranch—High ground between river and field; southeast elevation.	H
8	Palmito Ranch—Looking west/southwest across flat ridge toward old house site.	E
9	Palmito Ranch possible house site—Rubble contained handmade bricks, china and pottery.	E
10	Palmito Ranch—Steps of old ranch, looking west.	E
12	Palmito Ranch—Outbuilding behing old house site; east elevation.	E
14	Palmito Ranch—Steps and fence; east elevation.	E
16	Palmito Ranch—Looking north/northwest across battlefield from house.	E to H
18	Tulosa Ranch—Looking south on military road.	F
20	Tulosa Ranch—Looking at tree line in far distance.	F
22	Tulosa Ranch—From military road looking up at hill.	F
23	Tulosa Ranch—Olive green glassware at top of hill.	F
26	Tulosa Ranch—Handmade bricks, pottery, glassware.	F
28	White's Ranch—From Rio Grande, looking north to White's Ranch.	B to D
30	Railroad Camp—Looking east towards Boca Chica.	D
32	Railroad Camp—Looking north at pot hole.	D
34	Boca Chica Slough—Looking west across slough.	L
36	Boca Chica Pilings—Looking northeast at pilings thought to be Sheridan's railroad.	L



Key to Chronological Map Codes

A: Lt. Col. David Branson, leading 250 men of the 62nd U.S. Colored Infantry (U.S.C.I.) and fifty men of the 2nd Texas Cavalry (unmounted), leaves the Union camp on Brazos Santiago on the evening of May 11, 1865. The expedition heads towards Brownsville.

B: Branson crosses Boca Chica and arrives at White's Ranch at 2:00 a.m. on May 12. Branson had hoped to surprise a Confederate camp at White's Ranch, but discover the Confederates have already retreated.

C: The Federals push toward Palmito Ranch, engaging about 190 Confederate cavalrymen in light skirmishing. Branson pushes the Confederates beyond Palmito Ranch. The Confederates are then reinforced, and the Union troops fall back to White's Ranch for the night.

D: At daybreak, May 13, Col. Theodore Barrett of the 62nd U.S.C.I. joins Branson at White's Ranch. Barrett brings with him reinforcements — 200 men of the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Lt. Col. Robert G. Morrison.

E: Barrett advances to Palmito Ranch and beyond, pushing Confederate skirmishers west of Tulosa Ranch where there is some sharp skirmishing.

F: Union troops retire to small hillocks at Tulosa. The 34th Indiana forms skirmish line in preparation for battle.

G: Confederate reinforcements under Col. John S. (Rip) Ford advance from the direction of San Martin.

H: Ford sends artillery and support to his left with the intent of turning the Union right flank. Additional artillery is used to pummel the front of the Union lines.

I: To prevent being outflanked on their right, Barrett retreats under the protection of his skirmish line. Forty-eight skirmishers of the 34th Indiana are captured, and many of the remaining 34th break and run through the three-quarter-mile skirmish line formed by the 62nd U.S.C.I.

J: The 62nd U.S.C.I. forms a three-quarter-mile skirmish line to prevent the Federal right flank from being turned.

K: Cobb's Ranch. Union Army is pushed back to here, just prior to final skirmish.

L: Scene of the final skirmish: Under cover of the 62nd U.S.C.I., the Union retreats toward Boca Chica, where the Federals briefly hold off the Confederates. Night falls, and the Union troops retreat toward Brazos Santiago and the Confederates return to Brazos Santiago.

NORTH

SCALE (approximate)

MILE: 1 1/2 0 1

FEET: -1000 0 3000 7000

HARDY·HECK·MOORE March 1992

Base Map : U.S. Geological Survey

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

MAP KEY

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES :

- Bodies of Water
- Land Areas below Sea Level (marshes, lagoons, etc.)
- Land Areas of 10' Elevation or more
- x Highest Point of Lomas & Hills

HISTORIC FEATURES :

- Historic Site Boundary
- A Site Numbers (see inventory)
- Confederate Troop Movements (approximate)
- Union Troop Movements (approximate)
- Sites of Skirmishes

RECEIVED 2280
MAY - 6 1996
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 28, 1996

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Shull:

I am writing at the suggestion of Ms. Terri Myers to lend whatever support I can to the efforts to have the **Palmito Rance Battlefield** designated as a National Historic Landmark. I have researched the actions there on May 12/13, 1865 fairly extensively for a chapter in my 1994 book, *Out of the Storm* (Little Brown), which examined the final months of the Civil War; and I will return to it for my next book, *Like Men of War*, which is a combat history of black troops in the conflict. As Ms. Myers' request, I wrote a letter of support early on in this process, and simply wanted to express to you my strong feeling that this is a site with significance to our understanding of the full course of the Civil War that should be preserved, and to extend an invitation to contact me if there is anything I can do to assist the landmark designation process.

Sincerely,

Noah Andre Trudeau
1021 Newton Street NE
Washington, DC 20017

AUSTIN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

110 WILD BASIN, SUITE 290
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746
(512) 306-9933

May 3, 1996

Carol D. Shull, Chief
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey Keeper,
National Register of Historic Places
United States Department of the Interior
National Parks Service
PO Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Re: Designation of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield as a National Historic Landmark

Dear Ms. Shull:

I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Austin Civil War Round Table. Our Round Table, located in the Capital city of Texas, is privileged to have more than 200 members. Our members range from common laborers to a Nobel prize winner. These diverse people are united by the common bond of their history and, specifically, the history of our great American Civil War. Consequently, we write this letter in support of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield being designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The Civil War has a special meaning to all Texans and all Americans. The sons of Texas relentlessly fought in all theaters of our great Civil War. From Gettysburg to Chickamauga to Mansfield to Galveston and Palmito, the sons of Texas left a legacy of courage and bravery surpassed by none. Due to Texas' location on the western border of the Confederacy, there were relatively few engagements fought in this state and those battles have been unsung. It is, therefore, right that at long last an important site in Texas receive recognition.

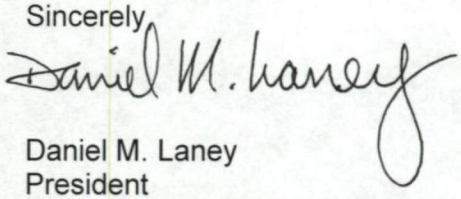
The Palmito Ranch Battlefield site located near Brownsville has importance not only as the last battle of the Civil War, but, also, the Brownsville area was a major source of commerce and supplies for the South. If it were not for this commercial distinction that the Brownsville area held, no battle would have been fought there. For without the commerce that occurred there, there would have been no reason for the Union forces to covet the area and no reason for the Confederates to defend it.

Accordingly, we believe the Palmito Ranch Battlefield deserves distinction as a National Historic Landmark. That designation on the soil of Texas would not only honor the gallant soldiers of Texas and those that bravely fought them, but it would also recognize the importance of the Brownsville area as an important commercial center of the South that became increasingly more critical as the War wore on.

We highly endorse the Palmito Ranch Battlefield in Brownsville becoming a National Historic Landmark.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. Laney
President
Austin Civil War Round Table

DML/wjk
f:\clients\acwrt\landmark.lt1

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

George W. Bush • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
Curtis Tunnell • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

6 May 1996

RECEIVED 2280
MAY 20 1996
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Carol Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Re: Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas—H34(2280)

Dear Ms. Shull:

On behalf of the Texas Historical Commission, I wish to recommend that the National Park System Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee approve nomination of Palmito Ranch Battlefield as a National Historic Landmark.

This vast area, almost 6,000 acres, encompassed the last land engagement of the Civil War, which consisted largely of moving skirmishes. The battlefield's national significance stems from its strategic position at the mouth of the Rio Grande, which defined the Confederacy's lifeline at its only international border. The Battle of Palmito Ranch is representative of the war-long struggle between North and South to control southern ports and manipulate foreign diplomacy for economic and military advantage. A final, symbolic gesture of Southern defiance, the battle was also the Union's last, unsuccessful wartime attempt to seize control of the region and close the Confederacy's backdoor to Mexico.

The nomination has full support of the Texas Historical Commission and I respectfully request a favorable determination at the committee's May meeting.

Sincerely,

Curtis Tunnell

P. O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276 • 512/463-6100 • Fax 512/475-4872 • TDD 1-800-735-2989

Daniel G. Orive
85 Laura Lane
Brownsville, Texas 78521
(210) 831-3030
(210) 541-9802

May 9, 1996

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ATTN: Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

Re: H34(2280)

Dear Ms. Shull,

The area you are considering converting into a park is where my grandfather was born and raised. Its the place where I grew-up and shared many memories with him. This ranch was acknowledged in the Family Land Heritage of Texas as being founded in 1872. I have copies of affidavits of heirship placing my ancestors there in the 1830's. Please enter my objection to converting my roots into a public park as I have plans of building my dream home on this hill which is part of my heritage.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Orive

Elizabeth Marie Orive
554 Shary Avenue
Brownsville, Texas 78521
(210) 544-4628
(210) 541-9802

May 9, 1996

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ATTN: Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

Re: H34(2280)

Dear Ms. Shull,

It is with mixed feelings and emotions that I am answering you in response to your letter dated March 6, 1996. I object to this listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36-CFR-65 as an owner, as a direct descendant to the property.

Sincerly,

Elizabeth M. Orive

Elizabeth Marie Orive

Gene G. Orive, Jr.
2313 Shidler Drive, Apt. 117
Brownsville, Texas 78521
(210) 546-7546
(210) 541-9802

May 9, 1996

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ATTN: Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

Re: H34(2280)

Dear Ms. Shull,

It is with mixed feelings and emotions that I am answering you in response to your letter dated March 6, 1996. I object to this listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36-CFR-65 as an owner, as a direct descendant to the property.

Sincerly,

Gene G. Orive, Jr.

Gene G. Orive, Jr.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

George W. Bush • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
Curtis Tunnell • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Mr. Daniel Orive
85 Laura Lane
Brownsville, Texas 78521

15 May 1996

Mr. Orive,

Our colleague and friend Terri Myers relayed your comments and questions about the National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination for Palmito Ranch Battlefield, and asked that we respond to your concerns.

The NHL program dates from 1935 as a nationwide standard for judging the contribution of a property to the nation's history. As you know, the National Park Service (NPS) in Washington, D.C., continues to administer the NHL program. The *National Register of Historic Places* (NR) dates from 1966 and generally follows the established "criteria" of the NHL program, but includes an administrative partnership with state preservation offices (in Texas, our Historical Commission, THC), and acknowledges properties of either national, *state or local significance*.

Both NHL and NR designations primarily recognize the significance of a property by an accepted national standard. Neither designation carries restrictions for the private property owner, or for properties owned by state and local governments. Only if federal grants or licenses are requested and obtained that directly affect the property, or if federal tax credits are requested and obtained for a private property , is the owner obligated to maintain a property or to obtain a THC staff review of alterations to the property.

Other historical designations, with different requirements and incentives, are available from the THC and local governments. The National Historic Landmark listing will not impair your ownership of private property. Such designation will recognize the significant event that occurred on the property, and affirm that the property--*at the time of designation*--appears much as it did during that historic event. Also, technical expertise from archeologists, historians and architects at THC and NPS is available to assist you with questions and maintenance of the property.

We appreciate your interest in our programs and this prestigious designation for Palmito Ranch Battlefield, of which you own a part. Please let us know anytime we may be of assistance to you in this worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,

Jim Steely, Director
National Register Programs

xc: Terri Myers, H-H-M
Carol Shull, NHL Program

P. O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276 • 512/463-6100 • Fax 512/475-4872 • TDD 1-800-735-2989

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor
John L. Nau, III • Chairman
Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. Its staff administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical, and cultural resources of Texas.

FACSIMILE

Miguel Montez
817-473-
3353

To: Robie Lang
From: Amy Dase
Date: 5-16-96
Fax Number: 202/343-1244
Number of pages (including cover sheet): 2
Comments: We hope this will suffice. He does not reference the other Drive letters; however, a little additional information from colleagues on our archeological staff confirms that the district, indeed, has only 5 ~~properties~~ owners. This is based on information provided to us by the U.S. F & W Service.

Carol Can he will you?
This looks close enough to meet our obligations . . . what do you think. Let's decide so we can send the package to the Secretary
RSL

P.O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276 • 512/463-6006 • Fax 512/475-3122 • TDD 1-800-735-2989

DANIEL G. ORIVE
85 LAURA LANE
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78521
PH. (210)541-9802

May 16, 1996

Texas Historical Commission:
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas

RE: Palmito Ranch Battle Fields

Dear Mr. Jim Stely,

I would like to thank you for your prompt attention given to my concerns over the designation of my property. As you know these include the prospect of my building improvements of this property on which my ancestors were born and raised.

In reference to the letter dated May 15, 1996 it is understood both NHL and NR designations primarily recognize the significance of a property by an accepted national standard. Neither designated carried restrictions for the private owner, or of properties owned by state and local governments. Only if federal grants of licenses are requested and obtained that directly affect the property, or if federal tax credits are requested and obtained for a private property, is the owner obligated to maintain a property or to obtain a THC staff review of alterations to the property.

With this in mind please consider removing my objection to placing the property in the National Register of historic places. If I may be of further assistance I may be reached at (210)541-9802.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Orive,
Property Owner

xc: Judge Gilberto Hinojosa,
Cameron County Judge

MARIO / FHL

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Memorandum

TO: Property owners and interested parties, **Palmito Ranch Battlefield**

FROM: Mario Sanchez, director Regional Heritage Programs 512-463-5754
Jim Steely, director National Register Programs 512-463-5868

DATE: 4 October 1996

RE: Public Meeting on designation of battlefield as a *National Historic Landmark*

Please join us for a question-and-answer session on a proposal to designate as a National Historic Landmark this 1865 site of the last battle of the Civil War.

7 p.m. Wednesday, 23 October 1996

Historic Brownsville Museum
641 East Madison
Brownsville, Texas 78520
210-548-1313

The National Historic Landmark (NHL) program dates from 1935 as a nationwide standard for judging the contribution of a property to the nation's history. Currently Texas boasts 40 NHLs, ranging from Mission Concepcion and Espada Aqueduct in San Antonio, to Fort Brown and Palo Alto Battlefield in Brownsville, to the Governor's Mansion and State Capitol Building in Austin, to the San Jacinto Battlefield and Battleship *Texas*, and most recently Roma's Historic District.

Historians with the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., administer the NHL program, in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission for sites in our state.

The NHL designation primarily recognizes the significance of a property by an accepted national standard. *The designation carries no restrictions for the private property owner,* nor for properties owned by state and local governments. Only if federal grants or licenses are requested and obtained that directly affect the property, or if federal tax credits are requested and obtained for a private property , is the owner obligated to preserve the property in a certain way, or to obtain a THC staff review of alterations to the property.

We recognize that you may have concerns about this proposed designation, and hope you will participate in this session. Feel free to contact us beforehand if you have questions or comments, and don't hesitate to call us anytime we may be of assistance. See you there!

TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
Curtis Tunnell • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

October 31, 1996

CS
F47
R87

Ask Lars
- Newspaper notice
- Notice other parties
- Federal Notice ?

Lars says we need to go thru Board since they did not have the opportunity to hear from all owners

Mr. Robie Lange
National Historic Landmarks Survey, Suite 310
National Register, History and Education
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Mr. Lange:

I am writing to inform you that on October 23, 1996, the Texas Historical Commission held a public meeting in Brownsville to inform property owners and interested parties of the proposed designation of Palmito Ranch Battlefield as a National Historic Landmark.

The Commission did its utmost in contacting the 141 owners in the tax rolls. Individual letters were sent, and the meeting was announced in *The Brownsville Herald*, as well as in the local access television station. No letters or telephone calls were received prior to the meeting.

On October 23rd, nine owners and their families were in attendance at the evening meeting. I made a presentation, as well as Jim Steely of the National Register Department and Terri Myers, our consultant for the nomination. Owners were informed of the nomination process and the fact designation does not interfere with property rights or property values. Among those present were Praxedis Orive, one of the largest landowners of the battlefield, and Daniel Orive, who wrote a protest letter last May when the nomination was first submitted to the Advisory Board. The next day, Ms. Myers accompanied Daniel Orive to his property and fears were laid to rest regarding possible interference of the designation with his ownership rights.

It is my opinion and those of my colleagues that this public meeting has cleared concerns on the part of property owners and that the nomination can, once again, be submitted to the Advisory Board for their consideration at their spring meeting. No letters of protest should be forthcoming at that time.

P. O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276 • 512/463-6100 • Fax 512/475-4872 • TDD 1-800-735-2989

We would be glad to help you with the notification process. In the meantime, I enclose several items from the recent meeting, including an agenda, notification letter and the list of attendees. If you have any further questions, you may call me at 512/463-5754.

Sincerely,

Mario L. Sánchez, Ph.D.
Director of Programs

cc. John L. Nau, III, Chairman, Texas Historical Commission
Bruce Aiken, Commissioner, Texas Historical Commission

TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
Curtis Tunnell • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

AGENDA

Public Meeting
Proposed
National Historic Landmark Designation
for
Palmito Ranch Battlefield
7:00 pm
Historic Brownsville Museum
October 23, 1996

7:00 pm	Welcome, Introductions, Purpose of the Meeting Mario L. Sánchez, Regional Heritage Programs Texas Historical Commission
7:05 pm	The National Historic Landmark Program James W. Steely, National Register Program Texas Historical Commission
7:10 pm	National Significance of Palmito Ranch Battlefield Terri Myers, Historian Hardy, Heck, Moore and Associates
7:15 pm	Question and Answer Period General Audience
8:00 pm	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks Mario L. Sánchez James W. Steely Terri Myers

P. O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276 • 512/463-6100 • Fax 512/475-4872 • TDD 1-800-735-2989

Palmito Ranch Battlefield
Public Hearing - October 23, 1996

Name	Address
1. Rodolfo R. Flores	1405 Boca Chica, 129 78520
2. Dr. Tony Zavaleta	164 Honey Bee La. Property Owner Palmito Hill
3. Roberto Garcia Rojano	
4. Ma del Refugio Loja	635 W 14 541-5281 Brownsville Tx
5 Praxedis Orive JR	534 Belden Circle Brownsville TX 78520
6 Guillermo E. Garza	3004 E. 14th Brownsville, Tx 78521
7. Daniel G. Orive Jr.	P.O. Box 3633 Brownsville, TX 78523

8. Daniel S. Ould 831-3038
541-9802
85 Laura Ln
Brownsville, TX

9. Larry Ditto 210-787-7861
Rt. 2 Box 202 A
Alamo, Tex 78516

NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TO CONSIDER NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATIONS

This notice is in reference to the notice that appeared March 7, 1997 in this newspaper concerning the possible designation of PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD in Cameron County, Texas, as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. The date of the meeting at which the National Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination for the property remains Tuesday, May 6, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 100, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC. **The meeting at which the nomination will be considered by the full Advisory Board HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED from Thursday, June 26, 1997 to TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1997** at 8:00 a.m. in the large Basement Buffet Room, Main Department of Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. Questions concerning this change may be directed to Kira Badamo of the National Historic Landmarks Survey at (202) 343-5279.

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON

Araceli Sandoval

bookkeeper of the Brownsville

NOTICE OF NATIONAL HI

appeared in the following issue

Acct. # 4711

Subscribed and sworn before
A. D. 1997.

NOTICE OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

The National Park Service is pleased to announce that a National Historic Landmark nomination study of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, has been completed. The public is invited to comment on this potential National Historic Landmark, as explained below in "Procedures for National Historic Landmark Designation."

The boundaries are set out as follows. The southern boundary of the battlefield follows the current course of the Rio Grande which separates the state of Texas from Mexico to the south, while State Highway 4 (the Boca Chica Highway) marks the northern boundary. The western boundary roughly follows a line extending southward from Loma del Muerto to the Rio Grande, and the eastern boundary roughly follows a line extending southward from Loma del Muerto to the Rio Grande, and the eastern boundary roughly follows a line extending southward from the westernmost tip of Verdolaga Lake to a point on the Rio Grande Midway between Tarpon Bend and Stell-Lind Banco No. 128. Beginning at a point on the U.S. bank of the Rio Grande immediately south of Loma del Muerto, proceed due north approximately one mile to the intersection of the Boca Chica Highway, approximately 4.5 miles, to a point on the highway due south of the easternmost tip of Verdolaga Lake. Then proceed due south to the Rio Grande. Then proceed west along the U.S. bank of the Rio Grande approximately 4.5 miles to the point of origin. Through its condition, integrity, and setting, the site retains its association with the Battle of Palmito Ranch.

National Historic Landmark designation follows three steps: study and preparation if a nomination by the National Park System Advisory Board; and a decision by the Secretary of the Interior on the Board's recommendations. This announcement provides notification of the Board's upcoming review of the study of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield. National Historic Landmark designation is a distinction awarded by the Secretary of the Interior to historic properties found to possess exceptional significance to the nation as a whole. This finding is based on an evaluative process established under criteria and procedures in the National Historic Landmarks Program regulations (36 CFR 65), described below.

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate this property at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 6, 1997, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 100, Ground Floor, 800 North Capital Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The Landmarks Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark Designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Thursday, June 26, 1997, in Washington, DC, and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Facilities to accommodate the public at these meetings are limited and time limits will need to be placed on any public comment to be offered. Anyone who wishes to be present, either as a speaker or as an interested observer, must accordingly make arrangements in advance with the staff of the National Historic Landmarks Survey at the address specified below.

Interested parties have the 60 days from the date of this notice to submit their views in writing, if they so desire. Comments and recommendations on the study are invited and will be submitted to the Landmarks Committee. Those comments, along with the nomination study and a report of the findings of the Landmarks Committee, will be presented to the full Advisory Board for review at the May 12, 1997 meeting. The Board will, at that time, make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for his decision about Landmark designation.

EFFECTS OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Under Federal law and regulations, National Historic Landmark designation does not change the legal right of a private property owner to take any action with respect to a Landmark property that may otherwise legally be taken. It does not require that the owner of property within a Landmark provide public access to that property. It also does not indicate an interest in acquisition of the property by the National Park Service.

Properties designated as National Historic Landmarks are listed in the National Register upon their designation, if they have not already been so listed. The National Register upon their designation, if they have not already been so listed. The National Register is the nationwide inventory of historic and prehistoric properties in public and private hands. The Register lists properties of state, local, and national significance that have been nominated by the states and federal agencies. In contrast, National Historic Landmarks possess national significance, and are designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

The National Register was designated to be and is administered as a planning tool. Federal agencies undertaking a project having an effect on a listed or eligible property must provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Advisory Council has adopted procedures concerning, *inter alia*, their commenting responsibility in 36 CFR Part 800.

If a property is listed in the National Register, certain special Federal income tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 revises the historic preservation tax incentives authorized by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Tax Recovery Act of 1978, the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, the Economic Recovery Tax Act. of 1981, and the Tax Reform Act of 1984, and as of January 1, 1987, provides for a 20 percent investment tax credit with a full adjustment to basis for rehabilitating historic commercial, industrial, and rental residential buildings. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions or for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures.

The following additional provisions of law apply only to Landmark properties:

Section 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470 *et seq.*), requiring that a Federal agency take certain steps should it be involved in an undertaking that may directly and adversely affect a National Historic Landmark, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Landmark, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on such undertaking. The Advisory Council has adopted regulations governing this review process in 36 CFR Part 800;

Section 9 of the Mining in the National Parks Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 1342, 15 USC 1980), which directs the Secretary of the Interior to submit to the Advisory Council a report on any surface mining activity which the Secretary has determined may destroy a National Historic Landmark in whole or in part, and to request the Advisory Council's advice on alternative measures to mitigate or abate such activity; and

Section 8 of the National Park System General Authorities Act of 1970, as amended (90 Stat. 1940, 16 USC 1-5), which requires the Secretary of the Interior to report annually to Congress on National Historic Landmarks that face known or anticipated damage or threats to the integrity of their resources.

PROCEDURES FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

At this time, interested parties have 60 days to submit their views in writing, if they so desire. Private owners may concur in or object to designation of properties nominated for National Historic Landmark status. Should a majority of private owners of a nominated property with multiple owners object by notarized statements to National Historic Landmark designation of that property, the Secretary may not designate the property. In that case, the Secretary reviews the nomination and makes a determination as to the eligibility of the property for National Historic Landmark designation.

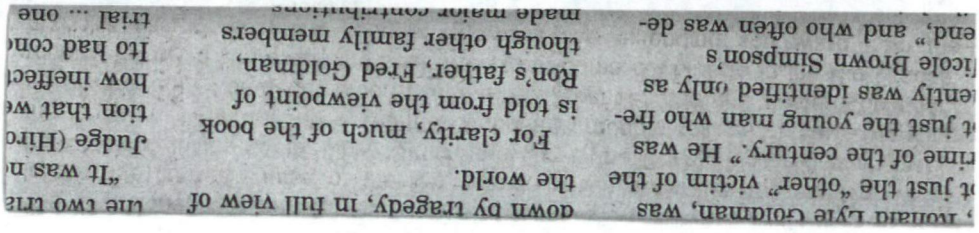
FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information about the procedures and criteria of this program, as well as copies of the National Historic Landmarks Program Regulations, are available from the National Historic Landmarks Survey, National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127, (202) 343-8163. Attn: Ms. Patty Henry.

Copies of the nomination study of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield will be mailed to interested parties upon request to the above address. They will also be available for the public to consult at the Historic Brownsville Museum, 641 East Madison, Brownsville, Texas (attention: Mr. Bruce Aiken, (210) 548-1313), during normal business hours.

Individuals who wish to comment on, concur in, or object to, the proposed nomination are advised to write to Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, Keeper, National Register of Historic Places at the address above. Any owner who wishes to object to the designation must indicate this objection, and also the fact and extent of ownership, in a notarized statement.

03/07/97



PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON

Araceli Sandoval, being duly sworn on her oath states that she is the bookkeeper of the Brownsville Herald and that the attached

NOTICE OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

appeared in the following issues March 7, 1997

Acct. # 4711.

Araceli Sandoval

Subscribed and sworn before me this 7th day of March A. D. 1997.

Olga Saldivar
NOTARY PUBLIC, Cameron County

OLGA SALDIVAR
Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 03-07-99

H34(2280) MAR 7 1997

Honorable Gilberto Hinojosa
Cameron County Judge
Cameron County Courthouse
964 E. Harrison
Brownsville, Texas 78711

Dear Judge Hinojosa:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of Palmito Ranch Battlefield in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). We enclose a copy of the nomination. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on an enclosure. This enclosure also specifies how you may comment on the proposed nomination if you so choose. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the National Park System Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee, which will then inform the full Advisory Board of the Committee's recommendations at the Board's meeting. The Secretary of the Interior will then be informed of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations governing the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4) and include other information on the Program. We are also enclosing a fact sheet that outlines the effects of designation.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
and Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

Enclosures

PROPERTY STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD
BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate this property at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 6, 1997 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 100, Ground Floor, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Landmarks Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Thursday, June 26, 1997, in Washington, DC, and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Owners of private properties nominated for NHL designation have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 65. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to designation must submit a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the designation. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that the party owns. If a majority of private property owners object, a property will not be designated. Letters objecting to or supporting nominations may be sent to Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

Should you wish to obtain information about these meetings, or about the National Historic Landmarks Program, please contact Historian Patty Henry at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127; or by telephone at (202) 343-8163.

If you have questions concerning the nomination, you may contact the preparer, Ms. Terri Myers, at Hardy - Heck - Moore & Associates, 2112 Rio Grande, Austin, Texas 78705; or by telephone at (512) 478-8014.

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

OWN: NOTIFIED BY NEWSPAPER

HEO: Honorable Gilberto Hinojosa
Cameron County Judge
Cameron County Courthouse
964 E. Harrison
Brownsville, Texas 78711

SHPO: Mr. Curtis Tunnell, Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

cc: Ms.Terri Myers
Hardy - Heck - Moore & Associates
2112 Rio Grande
Austin, Texas 78705

bcc: 1230 G. Kendrick
0001 Director
2200 Stevenson
2605 CCU
2280 Lange
2280 PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD (NHL PENDING)

FNP:PHenry:mg:2/26/97
F:\NR-NHL\NOTICE2D.LTR

H34(2280)

MAR 7 1997

Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchinson:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of Palmito Ranch Battlefield in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). We enclose a copy of the nomination. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on an enclosure. This enclosure also specifies how you may comment on the proposed nomination if you so choose. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the National Park System Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee, which will then inform the full Advisory Board of the Committee's recommendations at the Board's meeting. The Secretary of the Interior will then be informed of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations governing the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4) and include other information on the Program. We are also enclosing a fact sheet that outlines the effects of designation.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Greenberg for

Katherine H. Stevenson
Associate Director, Cultural Resources
Stewardship and Partnerships

Enclosures

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IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honrable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Salmon P. Ortiz
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

bcc: 1230 G. Kendrick
0001 Kennedy
2200 Stevenson
2605 CCU
2280 Lange
2280 PALMITO RANCH BATTLFIELD (NHL PENDING)

FNP:PHenry:mg:2/26/97
F:\NR-NHL\NOTICE.LTR

TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER, HISTORY & EDUCATION
MONETTE GRAHAM
PARK HISTORY
NATIONAL MARITIME INITIATIVE
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY

2 PAGES SENT INCLUDING COVER
ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
(202) 343-8175

TO: Gloria

FAX NO: (210) 546-8946

DATE: 4/9/97

SUBJECT

I spoke with you yesterday regarding this legal notice to put in Friday paper. I would like to put this on the Credit card

NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TO CONSIDER NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATIONS

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PUBLISHER'S AFFIDA

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON

Araceli Sandoval , being duly sworn on her oath states that she is the 04/11/97

bookkeeper of the Brownsville Herald and that the attached

NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

appeared in the following issues April 11, 1997

Acct.#4711 .

Araceli Sandoval

Subscribed and sworn before me this 11th day of April
A. D. 19 97.

Olga Saldivar
NOTARY PUBLIC, Cameron County

OLGA SALDIVAR
Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 03-07-99

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Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUN 24 1997

H3415(418)

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary

Through: Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks SEP 5 1997

From: Denis P. Galvin
Acting Deputy Director

Subject: Designation of Twenty-Two Properties as National Historic Landmarks: Request for Secretarial Action

At a meeting on June 10, 1997, the National Park System Advisory Board recommended designation of the following 22 properties as National Historic Landmarks:

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

1. ***BASTROP STATE PARK***, BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS
2. ***LAKE GUERNSEY STATE PARK***, PLATTE COUNTY, WYOMING
3. ***ST. CROIX RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA***, PINE COUNTY, MINNESOTA
4. ***MENDOCINO WOODLANDS***, MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
5. ***PINE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK***, HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA

ARCHITECTURE

6. ***SHELBURNE FARMS***, SHELBURNE, VERMONT
7. ***JOSIAH QUINCY HOUSE***, QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS
8. ***COLLEGE OF MEDICINE OF MARYLAND***, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
9. ***ISAAC BELL HOUSE***, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
10. ***HENRY WHITFIELD HOUSE***, GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT

MARITIME

11. ***ROSEWAY (SCHOONER)***, CAMDEN, MAINE
12. ***VICTORY CHIMES (SCHOONER)***, ROCKLAND, MAINE
13. ***BLOCK ISLAND SOUTH EAST LIGHT***, BLOCK ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND
14. ***LOUISVILLE MARINE HOSPITAL***, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

PREPARED BY: Patty Henry *TELEPHONE:* (202) 343-8163

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY

15. ***SCHOONMAKER REEF***, WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
16. ***VAN HISE ROCK***, SAUK COUNTY, WISCONSIN
17. ***MAZON CREEK FOSSIL BEDS***, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
18. ***DR. FISK HOLBROOK DAY HOUSE***, WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN

INDIVIDUAL TOPICS

19. ***FORT FREDERIK***, ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
20. ***ST. THOMAS SYNAGOGUE***, CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
21. ***PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD***, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

22. ***F. JULIUS LEMOYNE HOUSE***, WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

In accordance with National Historic Landmarks Program regulations, the Board reviewed the studies nominating these properties for Landmark status and found that the properties meet National Historic Landmarks Program criteria. The Board, therefore, voted to recommend that they be designated as National Historic Landmarks.

I recommend that you approve the Board's recommendations and designate as National Historic Landmarks the 22 properties listed above.

APPROVE: _____ DISAPPROVE: _____

DATE: SEP 25 1997 DATE: _____

ATTACHMENT

Ms. Lesta Moffett
National Historic Landmarks Coordinator
National Park Service/Southwest System Support Office
SWSO-PCS
1100 Old Santa Fe Trail
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728 Telephone: 505/988-6830

Dear Ms. Moffett:

As the owner(s) of PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD

located in east of Brownsville, CAMERON, TEXAS
(City) (County) (State)

(I, We) hereby am pleased to accept a bronze plaque identifying the property as a National Historic Landmark.

1. I am conscious of the responsibility that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having national significance and worthy of National Historic Landmark status.

2. (I, We) understand that you may request periodic inspection of the property by a representative of the National Park Service for the purpose of monitoring its integrity and the nature and degree of any threats thereto.

3. (I, We) agree that, should the Landmark designation ever be revoked in accordance with the procedures outlined in the National Historic Landmarks regulations, the bronze plaque will be removed and returned upon request by the National Park Service.

4. (I, We) further agree to affix the plaque in a suitable location in public view.

Sincerely,

Larry R Ditto for U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE 11-17-97
Owner's Signature Date

LARRY R. DITTO, REFUGE MANAGER
Name of Contact Person, if not Owner

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Rt. 2 Box 202A
Mailing Address (if P.O. Box, also include street address for shipping purposes)

Alamo, Texas 78516
City/State/Zip Code

Telephone Number

H3417(2280)

DEC 10 1997

Honorable Gilberto Hinojosa
Cameron County Judge
Cameron County Courthouse
964 E. Harrison
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Dear Judge Hinojosa:

I am pleased to inform you that Palmito Ranch Battlefield in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior designated this property a National Historic Landmark on September 25, 1997.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark automatically places a property in the National Register of Historic Places, if it is not already so listed, and extends to it the safeguards and benefits provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other Federal laws protecting historic properties.

Each Landmark is eligible to receive one bronze plaque to commemorate the property's designation. Unless specified otherwise by the owners, the plaque will bear the name of the property as it appears above. The plaque has a standard text, except for the name of the property (a maximum of two lines) and the year of designation.

The National Park Service will be pleased to assist owners who wish to arrange a ceremony for the presentation of the plaque. Such a ceremony should be scheduled a minimum of several months after notice of designation to provide time to cast the plaque and to arrange the participation of appropriate officials in the ceremony.

We are pleased to include Palmito Ranch Battlefield on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as significant representatives of our Nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

OWN: NOTIFIED BY NEWSPAPER

HEO: Honorable Gilberto Hinojosa
Cameron County Judge
Cameron County Courthouse
964 E. Harrison
Brownsville, Texas 78711

SHPO: Mr. Curtis Tunnell, Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

cc: Ms.Terri Myers
Hardy - Heck - Moore & Associates
2112 Rio Grande
Austin, Texas 78705

bcc: 1250 B. Spude
0001 Director
2200 Stevenson
2280 Lange
2280 PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD (NHL)

FNP:PHenry:mg:12/10/97
F:\NR-NHL\NOTICE3D.LTR

P.H 12/5/97
B Greenberg
for Stevenson
12/8/97
0002
12/11/97
12/15/97

DEC 15 1997

H3417(2280)

Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

I am pleased to inform you that Palmito Ranch Battlefield in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior designated this property a National Historic Landmark on September 25, 1997.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

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The National Park Service will be pleased to assist owners who wish to arrange a ceremony for the presentation of the plaque. Such a ceremony should be scheduled a minimum of several months after notice of designation to provide time to cast the plaque and to arrange the participation of appropriate officials in the ceremony.

We are pleased to include Palmito Ranch Battlefield on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as significant representatives of our Nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

Robert Stanton

Robert Stanton
Director

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honrable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Salmon P. Ortiz
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: 1250 B. Spude
0001 Stanton
2200 Stevenson
2605 CCU
2280 Lange
2280 PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD (NHL)

FNP:PHenry:mg:11/26/97
F:\NR-NHL\NOTICE3D.LTR

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 17 1998

H3415(2280)

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary

Through: Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: Director

JUL 29 1998

Subject: Rescission of One Property as a National Historic Landmark: Request for Secretarial Action

On September 25, 1997, you signed a memorandum designating the following 21 properties, which had been recommended to you by the National Park System Advisory Board, as National Historic Landmarks.

In accordance with National Historic Landmarks Program regulations, the Board reviewed the studies nominating the 21 properties listed below for Landmark status and found that the properties meet National Historic Landmarks Program criteria. The Board, therefore, voted to recommend that they be designated as National Historic Landmarks.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

1. ***BASTROP STATE PARK***, BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS
2. ***LAKE GUERNSEY STATE PARK***, PLATTE COUNTY, WYOMING
3. ***ST. CROIX RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA***, PINE COUNTY, MINNESOTA
4. ***MENDOCINO WOODLANDS***, MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
5. ***PINE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK***, HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA

ARCHITECTURE

6. ***JOSIAH QUINCY HOUSE***, QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS
7. ***COLLEGE OF MEDICINE OF MARYLAND***, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
8. ***ISAAC BELL HOUSE***, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
9. ***HENRY WHITFIELD HOUSE***, GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT

MARITIME

10. ***ROSEWAY (SCHOONER)***, CAMDEN, MAINE
11. ***VICTORY CHIMES (SCHOONER)***, ROCKLAND, MAINE
12. ***BLOCK ISLAND SOUTH EAST LIGHT***, BLOCK ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND
13. ***LOUISVILLE MARINE HOSPITAL***, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

PREPARED BY: Patty Henry *TELEPHONE*: 202/343-8163

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY

14. ***SCHOONMAKER REEF***, WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
15. ***VAN HISE ROCK***, SAUK COUNTY, WISCONSIN
16. ***MAZON CREEK FOSSIL BEDS***, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
17. ***DR. FISK HOLBROOK DAY HOUSE***, WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN

INDIVIDUAL TOPICS

18. ***FORT FREDERIK***, ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
19. ***ST. THOMAS SYNAGOGUE***, CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
20. ***PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD***, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

21. ***F. JULIUS LEMOYNE HOUSE***, WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

During the time that the memorandum was being transmitted to your office, Senator Leahy of Vermont contacted the National Park Service's Associate Director, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships and requested that the following property, ***SHELBURNE FARMS***, SHELBURNE, VERMONT, which had also been on the list of properties recommended for National Historic Landmark designation, not be sent forward for designation until further discussions could be held with the interested parties. This is a wholly appropriate request prior to designation, and one we honor when it is requested by any Member. Before we were able to effectuate this request, as a result of ministerial error, the package was signed, designating all 22 properties listed therein, erroneously including ***SHELBURNE FARMS***.

Because of the ministerial error, I am requesting that you void the September 25, 1997 memorandum and instead sign this memorandum. This memorandum will supercede that memorandum of September 25, 1997 with the effect of removing Shelburne Farms from the list of properties recommended for designation and making the National Historic Landmark designation of the remaining 21 properties effective as of **SEPTEMBER 25, 1997.**

The National Park Service will re-present the nomination for Shelburne Farms to the National Park System Advisory Board and provide an additional opportunity for local input.

I recommend that you approve the Board's recommendations and designate as National Historic Landmarks the 21 properties listed above effective as of **SEPTEMBER 25, 1997.**

APPROVE: _____ DISAPPROVE: _____

DATE: SEP 18 1998 DATE: _____

Form 10-317
(Sept. 1957)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO.
Texas	Theme XIV, Civil War, 1861-1865

3. NAME(S) OF SITE	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
Palmito Hill Battlefield	50

5. EXACT LOCATION (*County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet*)

Cameron County, Texas 4, 10.4 miles east of Brownsville city limits

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (*Also administrator if different from owner*)

Private

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (*Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant*)

The last land engagement of the Civil War, the battle of Palmito Hill took place over a month after Appomattox at a site about ten miles east of Brownsville, Texas. On May 11, 1865, Col. T. H. Barrett, federal commander at Brazos Island, sent about 300 Negro troops under Lt. Col. David Branson to occupy Brownsville. The next morning, near Palmito Hill, he engaged 150 Confederate cavalrymen. They retreated but, reinforced on May 13 by Col. John S. Ford and a battery of artillery, counterattacked and drove the Federals back to Brazos Island with a loss of 30 killed and wounded and 113 taken prisoners. Whether either or both of the opposing commanders knew that the war had ended has been a matter of conjecture and controversy.

The battlefield is typical of the wasteland that extends west from the Gulf to Brownsville and has probably not changed essentially since the Civil War. A Texas Centennial Commission marker, badly vandalized, stands on top of the low Palmito Hill beside the highway. The inscription reads: "At this site the last battle of the Civil War, known as Palmito Hill, was fought by Confederate troops, under Colonel John S. (Rip) Ford and Union forces on May 13, 1865, 34 days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox."

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (*Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works*)

J. L. and L. J. Stambaugh, The Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas (San Antonio, 1954); WPA, Texas Guide (New York, 1949); W. P. Webb, ed., Texas Handbook (2 v., Austin, 1952).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (*Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.*)

M. R. Tillotson, Report on Proposed Fort Brown, Texas, National Historical Park (Santa Fe: National Park Service, Feb. 28, 1947); and id, Supplemental Report on Proposed Fort Brown, Texas, National Historical Park (Santa Fe: National Park Service, Oct. 13, 1947)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES ☒ NO ☐	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (*Museum, farm, etc.*)	13. DATE OF VISIT
	Good	None	Oct. 23, 1958

14. NAME OF RECORDER (*Signature*)	15. TITLE	16. DATE
Robert M. Utley	Historian	Feb. 18, 1959

*DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10½ 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)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—74016-1

Palmito Hill Battlefield. Photo by Robert M. Utley, Oct. 23, 1958. Negative in Region Three Office, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.