UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
COMMON:
Hot Springs
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hot Springs, Texas

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
W of Rio Grande Village
CITY OR TOWN:
Big Bend National Park
STATE: Texas

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
- Site
- Structure
- Object

OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes
- No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. AGENCY
U. S. Government, National Park Service, Department of Interior
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Southwest Regional Office
P. O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Brewster County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Alpine
STATE: Texas

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE OF SURVEY: 1964
- Federal
- State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE: DC
CODE: 11
PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original Appearance: Perhaps the first structure at Hot Springs was a stone tub carved in a flat layer of rock which caught the waters from the spring and enabled man to use the waters for bathing purposes.

Some time prior to the arrival of the Langfords a dugout had been constructed and subsequently abandoned. This was rehabilitated and served as the Langfords' first home. Shortly thereafter Langford erected a one-room adobe house on a bench overlooking the site. A stone addition, roofed with river cane and corrugated metal and containing two more rooms, was added a year later. Langford also constructed a substantial stone bathhouse at the site of the springs, containing rock tubs plastered with cement. There were also a number of cane and brush bathing shelters at a second spring, downstream from the area. Due to bandit raids and general border unrest, the Langfords left Hot Springs in 1912. When they returned 14 years later in 1927 Langford apparently discovered that the bathhouse had either been destroyed or at least was badly disintegrated. He immediately rebuilt it, but of a somewhat smaller and less substantial construction, being roofed only with canvas. He also constructed at this time a store and a motor court. Only these last two structures remain today.

Present Appearance: Both the store and the motor court are currently being restored by the NPS to their original appearance.

The store is a one-story stone structure approximately 28 x 12 feet in dimension. The walls are constructed of native stone set in earth mortar and painted with a natural limestone mortar. The roof is trussed rafter construction with wood sheathing and corrugated metal roofing. The interior walls are plastered and pointed and, at least during Maggie Smith's occupancy, a celotex or similar material was used as a ceiling attached to the bottom chord of the roof trusses.

The cabins consist of a row of seven attached one-room units, each approximately 11 x 15 feet in size. Of stone construction, the one-story structure has a wood-framed roof with rolled mineral-surfaced roofing. A flagstone terrace along the south side and east and west ends was originally covered by a porch or ramada. The interior of the walls were plastered and the exposed wood joists and wood trim were painted. Four of the rooms contain hand-painted murals.

Two other structures still remain on a hillside across Tornillos Creek to the west. However, these structures were not part of the Langford operation. These are a frame and adobe shack constructed as temporary quarters for a postman, and a stone residence constructed by Charles Livingstone of Alpine, Texas. Both are now in a state of ruin.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Columbian</th>
<th>16th Century</th>
<th>18th Century</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th Century</td>
<td>17th Century</td>
<td>19th Century</td>
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1909-1952

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aboriginal</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Music</td>
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<td>Other (Specify)</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Hot Springs" or "Boquillas Hot Springs," as they were at one time known, had apparently been known to the Indians and other inhabitants of the region for some time before J. O. Langford acquired the place in 1909. Reputed to have medicinal qualities, this was just the place Langford, a man of poor health, was seeking. He developed the area as a health and recreational resort, and continued to operate it as such until 1942 and the establishment of Big Bend National Park, with the exception of a 14-year period between 1912 and 1927 when border unrest made the area unsafe. The influx of tourists initially attracted to the Big Bend area by Langford's resort was to a great degree responsible for movement to establish the area as a National Park. Langfords establishment was the first such resort to attract visitors in sizeable numbers. As an early and important center of tourism for an area which soon became a major National Park, Hot Springs has local significance.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Casey, Clifford B., The Boquillas-Hot Springs Area, Unpublished Manuscript, Big Bend National Park, 1970

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
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<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>103° 00' 00&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 115

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

STATE:          CODE:          COUNTY:          CODE:
STATE:          CODE:          COUNTY:          CODE:
STATE:          CODE:          COUNTY:          CODE:
STATE:          CODE:          COUNTY:          CODE:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  David G. Battle, Historical Architect
BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Park Service, Department of Interior, Southwest Regional Office
P. O. Box 728
PHONE: (505) 988-6501
CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe
STATE: New Mexico

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is □ National □ State □ Local.

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:
Keeper of The National Register

Date

GPO 938-449
2. Location:

Hot Springs is located approximately two miles west of Rio Grande Village at the confluence of Tornillos Creek and the Rio Grande River. It is reached by about one mile of dirt road which joins Park Route 2 where it crosses Tornillos Creek.

7. Description:

Few traces of the original springs now remain, having been reclaimed by the meanderings of the river, and appearing only occasionally with the fluctuation of the stream.

9. Bibliography:


Langford, J. O., *A Homesteader's Story*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME
COMMON: HOT SPRINGS
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hot Springs, Texas

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
(see continuation sheet)
CITY OR TOWN:
Big Bend National Park
STATE:
Texas
CODE: 48
COUNTY:
Brewster
CODE: 043

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: David G. Battle
DATE OF PHOTO: February 12, 1972
NEGATIVE FILED AT:
National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe, N. M.

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Postman's Shack, foreground, and Livingston residence in background. View from southeast.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
**1. NAME**

COMMON: **HOT SPRINGS**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Hot Springs, Texas**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  

(see continuation sheet)

CITY OR TOWN:  

Big Bend National Park

STATE:  

Texas

CODE COUNTY:  

48 Brewster

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: **David G. Battle**

DATE OF PHOTO: **February 12, 1972**

NEGATIVE FILED AT:  

National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe, N. M.

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  

Hot Springs store, view from east.

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**
**1. Name**

**Common:** HOT SPRINGS  

**And/or Historic:** Hot Springs, Texas

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**2. Location**

**Street and Number:** (see continuation sheet)  

**City or Town:**  

**Big Bend National Park**

**State:**  

Texas

**Code:** 48  

**County:** Brewster

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**3. Photo Reference**

**Photo Credit:** David G. Battle  

**Date of Photo:** February 12, 1972

**Negative Filed At:**  

National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe, N. M.

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**4. Identification**

**Describe View, Direction, etc.:**  

Cabins, view from east

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**Entry Number**

SEP 17 1974