State: Texas
County: Kleberg

2. LOCATION

Street and Number: S of Corpus Christi in Padre Island National Seashore
City or Town: Corpus Christi vicinity
Congressional District: 15th District - Texas
State: Texas

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category (Check One): Site
Ownership: Public
Public Acquisition: In Process
Status: Occupied
Accessible to the Public: Yes

Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate):

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)
- Comments

4. AGENCY

U. S. Government, National Park Service, Department of Interior
Regional Headquarters: Southwest Regional Office
City or Town: Santa Fe
State: NM
Code: 87501

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, Etc:
Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville
City or Town: Kingsville
State: Texas
Code: 48

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title of Survey: None
Date of Survey: Federal State
Depository for Survey Records:
Street and Number:
City or Town:
State:
Code:
### 7. DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>□ Excellent</th>
<th>□ Good</th>
<th>□ Fair</th>
<th>□ Deteriorated</th>
<th>□ Ruins</th>
<th>□ Unexposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Altered</td>
<td>□ Unaltered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Novillo Line Camp underwent some changes during the long period of its use. These changes were occasioned mostly by changing techniques, such as the introduction of trucks for the transporting of cattle. Thus, one may see truck loading chutes, a windmill, etc., which were not part of the line camp at its beginning, but which were added through the years as techniques changed. Novillo remained a viable part of the Padre Island cattle industry from the time Pat Dunn first established his ranch in 1879 until the cattle raising industry was phased out in 1971, and remains in appearance just as it was left at that time.

With the exception of the windmill, which Pat Dunn did not use, but which was introduced by his son Burton Dunn after his father's death, and the loading chutes, which were introduced along with trucks after WW II, the basic elements of the line camp have remained the same. They consist of the traps, holding pens, corrals, two bunkhouses, a kitchen, and a windmill and tank.

The two bunkhouses are the only completely enclosed structures. These are of board and batten construction, with pitched roofs covered with corrugated metal roofing. They are constructed on piers, with the floors being about two feet above grade, presumably to keep the floors dry and sound due to the extremely high water table, and also to provide some protection against snakes. The kitchen is an open structure, consisting of a pitched roof of wood planks supported by posts. It served primarily as shelter from sun and rain. The pens were generally fenced wood plank rails on posts, while the traps were fenced with barbed or woven wire. The conditions of these structures vary from good to deteriorating.

---

**SE E I N S T R U C T I O N S**

**RECEIVED**

MAY 28 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER
Novillo is the best single remaining artifact of the primary historical land utilization activity on Padre Island, namely, cattle raising, from 1805 to 1971. ... Novillo documents and graphically illustrates a level of man's historical interaction with the island's environment. Novillo is a symbol of man's adaption of an agricultural economic form to Padre Island."

Ranching on Padre Island began with the Spanish, was continued during the period of Mexican ownership, and came into the hands of Anglo-Americans after the establishment of the Republic of Texas. In 1879, Patrick Dunn moved from the Texas mainland and began his ranching operations. He eventually acquired almost all of Padre Island.

Ranching on the island had features unusual to the Texas cattle-raising industry. Because of the environment, no heavy brush grew on the island, thus this major obstacle and hazard did not have to be contended with by the cowboys. Perhaps more significant, no fencing was required as the entire range was surrounded by water which provided a natural barrier for the cattle. This removed considerable expense which almost all cattlemen faced with the end of the open range system in the late nineteenth century.

The unusual length of the island meant that cattle could wander south more than a hundred miles from the ranch headquarters near the island's north end. To operate in these particular circumstances Dunn built his line camps at fifteen-mile intervals along the upper (north) portions of the island. Novillo was his northernmost line camp and it is the only one which remains generally intact.

As a part of the plains cattle industry, the ranching activities on Padre Island and other nearby islands involved environmental features unique to the industry. The Novillo line camp, as the chief remnant of this activity within the park area, has considerable interpretive potential and represents a ranching effort which because of its uniqueness, has local and regional significance.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>27° 27.51'</td>
<td>97° 17.09'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>27° 27.46'</td>
<td>97° 16.58'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>27° 27.33'</td>
<td>97° 17.05'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>27° 27.38'</td>
<td>97° 17.16'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 22

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: David G. G. Battle, Historian

BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Park Service, Southwest Region

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 728

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe, New Mexico

STATE: New Mexico

DATE: Feb. 1974

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

(Official State Liaison Officer Signature)

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

(Official Federal Representative Signature)

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

(Official Director Signature)

18/1/74

ATTEST:

(Official Keeper of The National Register Signature)

9/25/74
2. LOCATION

The Novillo Line Camp is located near the east shore of Padre Island N. S., approximately 2.2 miles south of the north boundary along the access road and approximately 0.2 mile east along a Shell Oil Co. service road.
NOVILLO LINE CAMP
Padre Island National Seashore
1" = 200 ft.
(distances are approximate)
sketch by James Arnott
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)

STATE
TEXAS
COUNTY
BREWSTER

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

1. NAME
COMMON:
AND/OR HISTORIC: Dunn Ranch, Novillo Line Camp

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: See continuation sheet
CITY OR TOWN: Padre Island National Seashore
STATE: Texas

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: David G. Battle
DATE OF PHOTO: February 17, 1972
NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe, NM

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
#144
Kitchen, from south
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON: Dunn Ranch, NOvillo Line Camp

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: See e continuation sheet

CITY OR TOWN: Padre Island National Seashore

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: David G. Battle

DATE OF PHOTO: February 17, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe, NM

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

#2 of 4 Bunkhouse A, from south

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
## Property Photograph Form

### 1. Name
- **Common:** Dunn Ranch, Novillo Line Camp
- **And/or Historic:**

### 2. Location
- **Street and Number:**
  - See continuation sheet
- **City or Town:** Padre Island National Seashore
- **State:** Texas
- **Code:** 48
- **County:** Kleberg
- **Code:** 273

### 3. Photo Reference
- **Photo Credit:** David G. Battle
- **Date of Photo:** February 17, 1972
- **Negative Filed At:**
  - National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe, NM

### 4. Identification
- **Describe View, Direction, Etc.:**
  - Bunkhouse B, from south

- **Property of the National Register**

---

**State:** Texas
**County:** Kleberg
**Entry Number:** OCT 1, 1974

---

**Received:** MAY 2, 1974
**National Register:** CODE 273

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## 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:**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **DUNN RANCH, NOVILLO LINE CAMP**

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

*(See continuation sheet)*

CITY OR TOWN:

Padre Island National Seashore

**STATE:** Texas

**CODE:** 48

**COUNTY:** Kleberg

**CODE:** 273

### 3. PHOTO REFERENCE

**PHOTO CREDIT:** David G. Battle

**DATE OF PHOTO:** February 17, 1972

**NEGATIVE FILED AT:**

National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe, New Mexico

### 4. IDENTIFICATION

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**

Corrals, holding pens, from south

*Property of the National Register*