

HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK



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DIVISION OF HISTORY

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
REVISION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES INVENTORY	2
INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORK	9
General Interpretive Pattern for Big Bend NP	11
Cleanup and Maintenance of Sites	14
DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL SITES AND STRUCTURES	19
<u>Primary Resources</u>	21
Wilson Ranch	21
Castolon	25
Old Castolon	31
Mariscal Mine	33
Hot Springs	38
<u>Secondary Resources</u>	
Daniel's Farm House	42
Sublette Farm House	43
Dorgan Farm House	44
Cotton Gin and Pump House	47
Luna Residence	49
Terlingua Abaja	50
Johnson Ranch	51
Senator Berkeley Cottage	52
Barker Lodge	53
Ore Tramway	54
Glenn Springs	55
San Vicente	58
McKinney Spring Ranch	59
La Noria	59
<u>Tertiary Sites</u>	62
Derrick Residence	62
Grapevine Ranch	63
References	64

Historic Resources Management Plan

for

Big Bend National Park

Introduction: As recommended in the Historic Structures Inventory for Big Bend National Park (submitted January 25, 1965), the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation classified 60 Big Bend historic structures as CC on the Historic Structures Inventory (Chief Historian Utley's memorandum of March 13, 1967). The reason for classifying such a large number of historic structures in a natural park was that classification gave the structures interim status on the Historic Structures Inventory, thus preventing random destruction, pending further study and refinement of the list of structures to be preserved.

It is now desirable to refine that list. This Management Plan recommends declassification of many structures, and suggests the preservation treatment to be accorded those historic sites or structures that are to be retained. This document also provides the basis for the Master Plan chapter on historic preservation. (A new Master Plan is scheduled for the 1970 F.Y.)

REVISION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES INVENTORY

Because Big Bend is a natural park, it would be contrary to the park mission and administrative policy for natural areas to preserve historic resources indiscriminately.

There are hundreds of historic sites and structures within the park--many more than were entered on the park's 1965 historic structures inventory. The problem, then, is one of selection. Selection is based upon a discriminating evaluation of the historic resources in a predominantly natural area, and, therefore, the preservation and interpretation of certain selected sites and structures. This guideline has led to the following classification:

Primary Resources: exemplary of a theme or a convergence of themes, and therefore must be preserved.

Secondary Resources: because of accessibility, evocative setting or appearance, functional use, or richness of story, should be retained, subject to administrative discretion.

Tertiary Resources: lack of important historical significance, are redundant interpretively, and would be a drain incommensurate with benefits upon the preservation and protection resources of the park.

Five factors of judgment were applied in classifying historic resources in the three categories:

1. Is the resource significant or especially interesting in Big Bend history?
2. Is its site and setting of such integrity as to make it susceptible of interpretation?
3. Is it accessible?
4. What are the problems of protection--both resource management and visitor safety?
5. Costs?

Treatment of resources in the three categories is to be as follows:

Primary Resources: Because of retention upon the Service's official Historic Structures Inventory, these sites and structures are to receive major preservation, development, and interpretive efforts.

Secondary Resources: These sites and structures are removed from the Service's official Historic Structures Inventory.

The greater secondary resources, because they are integrated into the park interpretive program, will be retained and maintained unless compelling administrative reasons dictate otherwise. Any remains or ruins will be made safe for visitors. Lesser secondary resources may be retained or disposed of by park administrative decision. Because of the

breakdown between greater and lesser secondary resources, they are sub-classified 2A or 2B.

Tertiary Resources: Declassified. To be scheduled for obliteration or allowed to disintegrate naturally by the action of the elements.

In summary, there is a three-way classification of Big Bend historic resources:

Primary (1)

Secondary (2A or 2B)

Tertiary (3)

Evaluation and selection of sites and structures in Big Bend National Park pursuant to the above-stated guidelines results in an Historic Structures Inventory that lists five Primary Resource complexes, fifteen Secondary Resource 2A, six Secondary Resource 2B, and two Tertiary Resource complexes or sites or structures.

Before any activity is set in motion, however, either to improve or to demolish an historic structure of any classification, a photographic essay should be completed to capture both the external and interior features of the building or site. This should also apply to buildings that are to be allowed to disintegrate by natural causes, such as those at Terlingua Abaja. The

photographs should be of good quality so that in the future they could be used, if desired, in interpretive markers at the site to inform visitors of the human activity that once took place there. The photographs could also be used in a variety of other ways for interpretive purposes in the park, including publications. If our policy is to be one of allowing evidence of human life in an adverse environment to disappear, then we at least have the obligation to preserve a record of it.

II

REVISED HISTORIC STRUCTURES INVENTORY

Primary Resources

1. WILSON RANCH, BBH-16: Includes ranch house and surrounding ranch structures, as described in 1965 Historic Structures Inventory.
2. CASTOLON, BBH-600 thru 608: Includes U.S. Army-built structures and antecedant adobes, as described in 1965 Inventory.
3. OLD CASTOLON, BBH-616 thru 618: Includes alleged oldest building in park (old store), pumphouse, well and cistern, as described in 1965 Inventory.
4. MARISCAL MINE, BBH-10: Includes main processing plant and ancillary structures, as described in 1965 Inventory, and as classified BBH-10a thru 10s by OAHP in 1967.
5. HOT SPRINGS, BBH-80 and 82: Includes major buildings as described in 1965 Inventory (BBH-81, 19, and 20 are not included as 20 and 81 were build were built in a later period and 19 is a concrete slab only).

Secondary Resources

Sub-Category 2A

1. Daniel's Farm, BBH-2, 443.
2. Sublette Farm, BBH-12, 13, 14 (?)
3. Dorgan House, BBH-139.

4. Cotton Gin and Pumphouse, BBH-609
5. Luna Place, BBH-168
6. Terlingua Abaja
7. Johnson Ranch
8. Berkeley Cottage, BBH-417
9. Barker Lodge, BBH-110, 110a, 131
10. Ore Tramway
11. Glenn Springs
12. Persimmon Gap
13. San Vincente
14. McKinney Spring Ranch
15. La Noria

Sub-Category 2B

1. K-Bar Ranch House, BBH-129
2. Sam Nail House, BBH-17
3. Coyote Community
4. Laguna Meadow Cabin
5. Mule Bars Corral
6. Burro Mesa Corral

Tertiary Resources

1. Derrick House, BBH-111
2. Grapevine Ranch, BBH-112

There are scores of unidentified miscellaneous structural remains which are in this category. Subsequent research may reveal historical or interpretive values relating to some of these remains not now known.

Note on Certain Sites and Thematic Associations: As is true of any system, some things do not fit into the pigeonholes. An example is the Comanche War Trail. There is no trace of it on the ground. But landmarks along it, such as Persimmon Gap and river crossings, can be interpreted. The same is true for the United States-Mexico Boundary Survey. Landmarks such as the canyons, Emory Peak, and the Shot Tower may be intertwined into other interpretive themes. Still other examples are graves that lie scattered throughout the park. They will be preserved as graves, but will only be interpreted when adjacent to historic sites that are being interpreted, such as the graveyard at Castolon.

III

INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORK

History is a subordinate but important theme at Big Bend--a natural area. Despite the fact that Big Bend was an isolated and inhospitable environment--Raht called it a great mountain-desert headland diverting exploration and settlement around it--much of historical interest occurred here. Beginning in ancient times, Indians lived and passed through here. So did Spanish explorers, soldiers, and missionaries, although mainly on the fringes of the region. The Anglo-Mexican Period includes such themes as the boundary surveys, ranching, mining, and floodplain farming. Conflict is represented by the Indian wars of the 18th and 19th centuries, and by the Border Troubles of the 20th. A continuing theme of the later years is the exchange across the Rio Grande River between U.S. and Mexican citizens pursuing the routine business of work and trade, including smuggling and other illegal or shady enterprises. A final theme is the beginning of tourism and the park movement of latter years.

Underlying all of these particular themes are two general ones:

(1) The notion of a frontier or border zone of tension; (2) The relationship between man and a harsh environment--the human ecology

of struggle in a land that severely restricted man. This last theme fits into the larger natural picture of the park. Here, human ecology--adjustment to inflexible natural realities--if part and parcel of the larger story of life that encompasses all species.

The interpretive framework is largely set by emphasis on natural themes. Human history is a sideline, an added benefit. But it is an added benefit eagerly sought by many visitors. Man wants to know what man did here.

Big Bend has two general visitor types: the quick-tour type, predominant in summer; and the retired, leisurely exploring type, predominant in winter.

Nearly all visitors will see and touch upon some of Big Bend's human history, at places like Castolon (the main focus for historical interpretation in the park), Hot Springs, Glenn Springs, and Rio Grande Village. But it is the older, long-term, repeat clientele--the winter group--that will seek out the far places. This visitor-use distinction and pattern has many implications for interpretation.

In heavily visited sites like Castolon, Old Castolon, and Hot Springs, a two-type interpretive approach might be best: conventional wayside markers for the quick-tour type, and in-depth

publications for the exploring-inquiring type. These want to know all about the places they visit. This is confirmed by past experience. Isolated, far-out sites should not be cluttered with many markers and exhibits. Perhaps one general, identifying marker at the visitor approach edge of the site would be sufficient. These sites should look like and have the feel of abandoned places. On site information in the form of durable markers will be the main medium of interpretation. The silent markers are on duty 24 hours a day, rain or shine, and will stand uncomplaining in the midst of abandoned and isolated places, ready to serve all comers.

General Interpretive Pattern for Big Bend National Park

First: Keep history low-key in the exhibit rooms. It should not obtrude unduly upon the natural history story. Possibilities for reference to history in the museum include a panel or slide program touching upon major themes only--with selected graphics of representative sites. A short section in an eventual park interpretive-orientation film would also be appropriate. An historical tour folder and publications dealing with the many phases of the park's history, should be available at the sales desk.

Second: At selected viewpoints and historic sites (whether Primary or Secondary Resources) that are heavily visited because of convenience of access on main park roads or because they are close to major visitory concentrations (e.g., Rio Grande Village), there should be developed adequate exhibit and wayside interpretive devices. Candidates for such developments are Persimmon Gap (Comanche War Trail theme), Castolon (general coverage of Big Bend history, with concentration on the flood plain community, border troubles, border exchange and trade), Old Castolon (alleged earliest development in this area), Hot Springs (tourism and park movement), Wilson Ranch (cattle industry), Santa Elena Canyon Viewpoint (Boundary Surveys and exploration--as on present exhibit), Daniels Ranch (farming and settlement in Rio Grande Village area), and Ore Tramway Line on Boquillas Canyon Road (the tramway specifically and general reference to mining theme). There may be a few other viewpoints or sites amenable to this type of heavy-use interpretive development.

The fortress towns on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande River, opposite the Big Bend area, are certainly older than Castolon and Boquillas and other sites on the American side of the border. These should not be ignored in the interpretation of the human history of the Rio Grande valley here. Most of the early

communities on the American side derived from the older ones on the Mexican side. Often their human history is intertwined with that of places across the border. The National Park Service should not allow the park boundary here to impose an artificial barrier on its interpretation of the human history of the area.

A number of secondary sites (also in heavy visitor-use areas) should have brief interpretive and identification markers (e.g., Cotton Gin, Johnson Ranch).

All interpretive developments at sites and viewpoints would be referred to in publications. If a site is covered by a paragraph in the historic tour folder there are two kinds of possibilities: 1) A section on Castolon would be a thumbnail account of the stories to be told there. Exhibits on-site would put flesh on the tour-folder paragraph; but 2) A folder paragraph on the Cotton Gin might treat it as a symbol of once-fruitful floodplain farming, while the interpretive marker, relating to the object in view, would describe gin operations as such. Flexibility between publications and on-site markers and exhibits is desirable.

Third: Isolated sites should be treated mainly by way of on-site interpretive markers. History publications would be the narrative history backup for those who want to delve more deeply, and it might include topical addenda on mining, ranching, and other such subjects.

Fourth: "Discovery" sites, such as Laguna Meadows Cabin and Mule Ears Corral, should not be interpreted on-site at all. Such sites should be treated only generally in the publications. "Big Bend National Park encompasses many abandoned ranches, mining sites, etc. In your wanderings you will enjoy coming across remnants of life now gone..."). Some of these sites might be located on the tour-folder map. But only as a place-name.

CLEANUP AND MAINTENANCE OF SITES SELECTED FOR PRESERVATION

The Park needs to reverse a policy, or rather to establish one in the absence of a policy in the matter, which will remove all or nearly all vegetative growth such as cactus, mesquite, and Creosotebush from the immediate environs of structure which are on the Inventory for preservation and visitor use. This includes secondary sites. It has long been recognized as incompatible for visitor use to allow nature to proceed unhampered in taking over the places and return them to jungle or wilderness. The need for this cleanup is one of the most pressing needs at Big Bend National Park in implementing an historic preservation program.

Unimpeded vegetative growth results in root penetration of structural foundations and separation of masonry or adobe elements. A good example of this type of destruction can be seen at the Senator Berkely House where a large mesquite tree has grown right through and split asunder the stone well casing in the yard near

the house. Where there is freezing action the damage is accelerated. Heavy vegetative growth around and overhanging a structure prevents its drying out, and at the same time makes all but impossible viewing of the structure by visitors. People are not going to go tramping around in thorny growth where they cannot see where they place their feet, with the chance of stepping on a reptile or of tearing their clothes.

A good example of the treatment given to an area that has been allowed to fall into the hands of nature and is now in the initial stages of ruins stabilization and development for visitor use is Fort Bowie. Here, too, there was an unchecked growth of many years, about 70 in this instance, with various forms of cactus, mesquite, Creosotebush scrub oak, and other forms of desert growth typical of the Chiricahua Mountains. The ruins stabilization work there has included a cleanup and removal of virtually all this growth. It was necessary in order to determine what preservation action had to be taken at the various ruins, then to be able to do the work, and to maintain the preservation work once it had been accomplished. It was also necessary to permit visitors to get around the place with some degree of comfort and to have visual control of the scene and ruins, and their relationship to each other. One of the most useful tools used at Fort Bowie the past two or three years has been a butane torch which burns off the

thorny growth above ground and makes the removal of the root structure relatively easy later. Such a device is needed and should be used in Big Bend. Inquiry of the Southwest Archeological Center will supply details of the equipment used for this work at Fort Bowie.

Once a cleanup of the historic sites has been accomplished it should be park policy to maintain them in that condition henceforth. In no other way can the preservation work be effectively accomplished and perpetuated and the sites made satisfactorily usable to the public.

The interpretive framework has some other pieces. What follows is a reference to some of them, and a few cross-references to related preservation and protection matters:

First--Vandalism: Destructive as opposed to souvenir-gathering propensities, are present. At any heavily-visited site or Primary Resource (Mariscal Mine is primary, but not heavily visited at present), there should be immediate clean-up of evidences of vandalism. If we leave such evidence around, we invite more. This standard of maintenance and protection means: Periodic ranger patrols (which will in themselves inhibit vandals), plus clean-up and repair detachments of personnel from maintenance--if required.

Second--Safety: Again, Primary and heavily visited sites should be made safe, but, hopefully, within limits acceptable to esthetics and historic preservation. For example, iron grills over shafts at Mariscal Mine--Yes. Great stretches of cyclone fence--No. At some sites (Cotton Gin and Sam Nail Ranch) loose structural members and failing walls indicate wall-stub treatment. That is, since we don't intend to kill the park budget with major restorations, bring these failing structures down to a point where they are solid--not in danger of collapse. At Sam Nail's, leave the stubs of adobe walls to say--"Once Sam Nail lived here." But get rid of the roof before it kills somebody.

At "discovery" sites, we need not be quite so concerned about safety. But a place like Terlingua Abaja should be checked periodically to remove imminently lethal threats.

The Big Bend road system, when tied to a human ecology motor tour, can provide a great historical tour opportunity.

A loop drive from the Castolon turnoff to the Old Ranch, Wilson Ranch, Castolon, Old Castolon-Cotton Gin, Sublette Farm and Dorgan House, Santa Elena Canyon Viewpoint, then back to Maverick via Terlingua Abaja and the Luna Place en route can be an interesting and worthwhile experience to almost any park visitor.

This loop auto tour will provide the visitor a variety of scenery, some of it grand, as well as more insight into the interesting history of the park. The views of the Chisos Mountains and the Rio Grande valley, separately or in relationship to each other, from the Dorgan House, for instance, are perhaps unrivalled in the park from any place easily accessible to visitors, and once known will be sought after. The road from Santa Elena Canyon to Maverick would not be of major maintenance priority during the summer wash-out season. Yet, for most of the year it would help to distribute the visitors into a greater area of the park, allow exploration, and a better appreciation of the resources. A tour map booklet should be prepared as soon as possible to provide for a valid experiment with this type of public service before a new Master Planning is concluded.

IV

DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL SITES AND STRUCTURES

This section follows the sequence of the revised Historic Structures Inventory, describing each historic resource entity listed thereon, as to interpretive and preservation treatment.

General comments are these:

First: Three of the primary historic resources and a number of secondary ones will be interpreted initially by means of a historic tour booklet. This booklet (along with existing interpretive signs and markers) is then, the first step in implementing a history interpretation program. Selected exhibits and markers and the history publications follow, as part of the long-term interpretive development. An experimental tour booklet should be written and printed; and the link-ups between the MOTOR TOUR and the main road system--which together form the historic-scenic tour loop--should also be authorized and implemented.

Once these things are done, the long-term history interpretive developments (exhibits, waysides, publications, etc.) can follow in increments, as resources permit. The essence of this plan is that short-term and long-term interpretive developments are not two programs with a waste-motion hiatus in between; rather, they constitute one program broken down into priority stages of implementation.

Second: The preservation and resource-treatment suggestions that follow are subject to the judgment of the park Superintendent and his staff and the counsel of historical architects of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP).

In addition to formal Historic Structures Reports for Primary Resources, the park needs an evaluation by a competent historical architect of all other structures to be retained. This evaluation should take the form of a manual for park use setting forth precise initial treatment and follow-up maintenance for all 2A historic structures that require preservation, safety, and continuing maintenance treatment. Because the 2A structures to be retained for interpretive purposes do not come under the prescriptions of the Historic and Prehistoric Structures Handbook, they will not be covered by formal Historic Structures Reports. Thus the need for a manual that contains the recommendations of an historical architect as to specific 2A structures, based on field study.

Preparation of this manual should be programmed as a research study. Pending preparation of the comprehensive manual, the park should get immediate spot advice, as needed, from historical architects who will be preparing architectural data for Historic Structures Reports for Primary Resources (Wilson Ranch, Mariscal Mine, Hot Springs, Castolon, Old Castolon).

Other interim sources of help would be Southwestern Archeological Center and the very competent maintenanceman at Fort Davis, who has become quite expert in the historic structures field.

* * * * *

Primary Resources

I. WILSON RANCH

Interpretive Function: The central resource for interpreting ranching within the Big Bend Country.

Suggested Media: Wayside at parking area, threshold interpretive marker, and publications.

The threshold marker, for those who follow the old ranch road down into the Blue Creek valley, will be located 50 to 100 yards from the ranch complex on a bench in the drainage. It will graphically portray the ranch layout, identifying ranch house, corrals, etc. and it will provide a short history of this ranching site--concentrating on Wilson's accomplishments and his ranching operation.

The ranch complex itself, except for an access loop trail, will be free of interpretive devices. There will be basic stabilization and repair of structures, and the immediate environs of the ranch house and related structures will be kept free of mesquite and cactus growth. Otherwise an air of abandonment will prevail.

Sources: Robert M. Utley and Clifford B. Casey reports.

Individual structures and preservation needs:

1. WILSON RANCH HOUSE (BBH-16): The house is still structurally sound, but is deteriorating in detail. The metal roof is coming loose and needs immediate repair. The west wall is beginning to crack and needs stabilization. One door casing has been pulled off and must be restored. Both concrete stairs on the west side of the house are in need of repair. The wood tower and water holding tank that stood on the north side of the house need to be replaced. Drinking water was piped to the house from a well to the north. Water was pumped from the well to a holding tank where a second pump took the water to the cistern located on top of the hill just north of the house. Gravity brought this water to the wood holding tank at the house. The restoration of the tank and tower is necessary to preserve the out-of-the-way environment of this site. Doors and windows, now all missing, need to be replaced.
2. BUNK HOUSE: This building, too, is basically sound, but needs stabilization before it deteriorates more.
3. CISTERN: The old stone tank, located on the hill to the north of the house, was used as a cistern and a water storage unit for the house proper. The tank is presently open and needs some stabilization, but it is basically sound. It is not necessary to restore this cistern and water system in order to tell the story as long as the tower and tank at the house are restored.

4. CORRAL AND STUBBING POST: This structure is beginning to deteriorate rapidly and needs immediate attention. The gate is down and a section of about 20 feet is in need of immediate repair. The main posts of this circular corral are quite sound, although the minor posts are old and loose. This corral has an arrangement that is similar to Theodore Roosevelt's at the Elkhorn Ranch in North Dakota. This corral should be given special attention.

5. DIPPING CHUTE: This concrete structure is in good shape although the fencing that was part of the operation is entirely gone; only the stubs of the main posts still exist. Fencing needs to be restored so that the actual dipping operations, with its holding pen and drying pen, can be more easily visualized by the visitor. A similar facility in relatively good condition survives at Glenn Springs and offers a good example of certain features missing here.

6. STOREROOM: This structure is presently rapidly deteriorating. It needs immediate attention to rehabilitate the tin roofing and the board sides of the shack.

7. CHICKEN COOP AND PENS: These structures are all but gone. They need to be reconstructed so that they will complement the other structures and add authenticity to the old ranching operation, which was one of self-sufficiency.

Our clean-up should get rid of modern intrusive trash, like beer or pop cans, but not the old broken junk which tells stories of the past.

The Wilson Ranch site is a good example of a new kind of treatment that is badly needed at most of the Primary and many of the Secondary historic sites in Big Bend National Park. There needs to be a removal of the native growth that has all but taken over the structures and buildings, and makes it difficult for a visitor to walk around the site and see the remains without the danger of bearing clothes on cactus and other thorny vegetation and of stepping on a rattlesnake. Often one cannot see the ground where he walks. It was never this way when people lived there. These areas should be cleared of all brush and thorny growth and restored to a condition somewhat similar to what it was like when people occupied the place.

The only reason these structures are in ruins and in the process of being reconquered by nature is that they have been incorporated into the park. Their former occupants and users had to abandon them, and this has led to their neglect and gradual destruction. Otherwise, men would have continued to exploit the land and to sustain themselves in the Big Bend. As difficult as the country is, it is not impossible to live with, as is proved by the structural evidence, and to cultivate a picture of nature swallowing

up man and defeating him here is to perpetrate an erroneous impression. Furthermore, clearing away vegetation that is encroaching on ruins and structures is widely recognized as necessary in their preservation. And it is necessary if visitors are to be able to get around the sites with convenience and pleasure.

One must be able to stand at the ranch house, as an example, and see the ranch, the corral, the dipping chute, the chicken coop and pens.

II. CASTOLON

Interpretive Function: An interpretive center for history in Big Bend National Park.

All major park historical themes are to be touched on here, with on-site resources focusing on at least four themes: farming, trade center and day-to-day border exchange, border troubles (U.S. Cavalry, Villa, etc.), and primary examples of border architecture.

Suggested Media: Ramada with panels, interpretive folder, threshold interpretive marker, and publications.

The exhibit panel groups in a ramada should be placed near the overlook point adjacent to the present location of the steam engine (the steam engine should be moved to the cotton gin site).

The view from the Castolon Store, however, should be kept free of obstructions of the view to the escarpment across the river in Mexico. Panel texts should be brief with a heavy reliance on graphics. Group one should be a "headliner" summary of the park's history from early exploration through the founding of the park. Group two should be designed to tell the history of Castolon. Interpretive substance should be woven around two themes: the human ecology of the Rio Grande floodplain farming, and the border as a zone of tension resulting in the arrival of the U.S. Cavalry.

At such time that visitation demands, and staffing allows, this interpretive site should be manned on a schedule at peak visitor-use periods for a live discussion of Big Bend's history. The ramada-shaded viewpoint is ideal for this purpose--sort of a Yavapai Point effect in terms of visual command of the field of history--Mexico, floodplain, adobe farm houses, cavalry post, store, and mountains. Publications will handle further interpretation in depth.

Sources: Casey, Carroll, Hitchcock, and Utley reports.

Individual structures and preservation needs:

1. CASTOLON STORE (BBH-600): Most of the main cavalry post structures are in good shape because they are in use, e.g., the store, latrine, both officer's quarters, and the Magdalena House.

The store, which was once the barracks, has been in use as a store from 1925 to the present time. It was built in 1919 of adobe brick, and is now covered with whitewash or white cement paint. Its use as a border trading post is of more importance to the interpretive story of the park than if it was restored to its original function. Today, the National Park Concessions Company operates the store and engages in active trading with residents of Santa Elena, Chihuahua, Mexico, and this makes the site one of major importance. Here the visitor can find himself in the real border atmosphere of yesterday. It is not only one of preservation but also one of realism. The Anglo-Mexican relation, with its ramifications of trading post, store, and post office, should be continued and utilized. In an attempt to date the operations here, a number of historic items are retained on site within the store. Even old post office boxes remain along one end of the store lobby. Furthering of an authentic border type store may be obtained by display of additional historic items of integrity, although care should be given to insure that neatness and cleanliness come first.

2. RECREATION HALL (BBH-601): Although this structure was originally constructed as a recreation hall, its present use as a utility room for the park should be continued until such time as a new utility room is constructed. At that time this building

should be restored. The building needs help now, however; the adobe wall shows a wide crack and the ceiling needs stabilization. The corrugated metal roof, reused from some other building, is in bad condition.

3. ARMY LATRINE (BBH-602): This building is presently being used as restrooms. This use should continue.

4. OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BBH-603, 604): Both of these buildings are in use as park residences. This use should continue until more modern residences are constructed as Castolon.

5. MAGDELENA HOUSE (BBH-605): This building is open to visitors; it is a good example of border architecture inside a house.

Although the building is in reasonably good condition it needs some stabilization and repair; it was last repaired and stabilized in 1962, but the surface coating applied then is peeling off badly.

7. ALVINO RESIDENCE (BBH-607): This structure needs attention. It is a primary part of Castolon, although it is under the bluff line or hill on which modern Castolon stands. It is of adobe brick built on a rubble stone foundation. It is the most Mexican of all the structures here, and appears to have been the first structure erected here. It was built for multiple family use, and was at one time used as a boarding house. It is about 100 feet long by 20 feet wide with one end and a center portion an

additional room in width. The wall base is becoming eroded or scalloped out and endangered. The Southwest Archeological Center a few years ago applied a soil cement cap to the building. An interpretive marker should be placed at this structure, summarizing its history.

8. GRANARY AND TACK ROOM (BBH-608): This building is fast falling into decay and, unless it is stabilized immediately, the building will cross the line of irreversible decay. The steps, door, part of wall and ceiling, and the porch must have immediate attention. This building should have early restoration.

9. GRAVEYARD: This graveyard is located about a quarter mile east of the granary-tack room. There are about 60-70 graves there; some need repair. Mesquite, cactus, and other growth should be cleared from the graves, wood crosses that have fallen down should be restored to their original positions, and the area given a degree of maintenance and continuing care. One wood and one metal fence should be restored. A trail should be constructed from the Castolon complex to this site. Interpretation at the graveyard can be kept at a minimum, although a threshold marker should be planned at the top of the rise as one approaches the graveyard. The graveyard, itself, can tell its own story.

Since Gene Cartledge purchased the army buildings in 1925, a good deal of the scene has been changed. The corral surrounding the granary-tack room, as well as the loading chute on the other corral, are apparently additions since 1925. Therefore, the corral that surrounds the granary-tack room should be obliterated, and the corral just east of the granary-tack room should be rehabilitated. A set of stables (24' X 160') was located within this corral. Although the restoration of stables, themselves, are not necessary for the historical integrity of the scene, the corral should be big enough so that such a set of stables can be discussed in the interpretive message. This area should be cleared of vegetative growth, so that the corral area can be identified by the visitor.

In a sense, we have a three-step method of interpretation at the Castolon area. First, the exhibits at the ramada present a general historical message about the area; second, a map of the Castolon complex which includes a discussion of the various buildings interprets the area on site (this is presently in use); and as a third step he may purchase a publication that gives him Castolon history in depth.

Note on historic scene preservation: The floodplain below the historic compound should be left clear. The old cotton fields

should be cleared of encroaching mesquite and other growth, and a floodplain farming scene suggested by its appearance, if it proves impracticable actually to restore it by farming permits and concessions. This has implications for Master Planning and Development. Visitor facility developments should not be located on the floodplain below Castolon because of flood danger, disturbance of floodplain ecology, and a most objectionable intrusion into this fine scenic view across the Rio Grande floodplain to the high escarpment on the Mexican side of the river.

III OLD CASTOLON

Interpretive Function: A major site which contains the oldest preserved building in the park, the Old Castolon Store, which dates from about 1900.

This area, just west of the Castolon compound, needs to be separated from present Castolon in its interpretive story. While the theme of present-day Castolon is that of the up-to-date border trading post and U.S. Cavalry story, Old Castolon's theme is one of early farming, and the importance of the store as the center of community relations as it was from 1901 to 1925.

Suggested Media: Threshold marker, message repeater, and publications. A message repeater might be concealed at the building, and an audio message spoken by an elderly Mexican relate an experience about the site.

This site is presently interpreted through a metal marker alongside the roadway adjacent to the old store. Visitors stop there, read the sign, and then wander about the old buildings.

Further interpretation can be obtained from individual structures and site markings and publications.

Sources: Casey and Carroll reports.

Individual structures and preservation needs:

1. OLD CASTOLON STORE (BBH-618): This is apparently the oldest building in the park that is to be saved and utilized for interpretive purposes. It is fast deteriorating, however, and should be rehabilitated **immediately**. Structural weaknesses make this building and the two side buildings dangerous now.
2. CAFE-RESIDENCE (BBH-617): Like the store, this building is in need of immediate rehabilitation. A major beam in the ceiling is broken which makes this structure hazardous.
3. SHED (BBH-616) As for the buildings above, it needs immediate rehabilitation, although neither of the two side buildings (shed and cafe-residence) are as serious as the store. The beams in the shed are in reasonably good condition, but the cane ceiling was incorrectly restored in 1962 (laid on wrong axis). The ceiling needs to be rehabilitated before it caves in.

4. PUMPHOUSE: This building needs only general stabilization and a new roof to make it sound. The mesquite and other growth need to be cleared away from this building and its related well and cistern.

5. WELL: This is a very strong rock structure that needs only minor repair.

6. CISTERN: This also is a very strong rock structure that needs only minor repair.

The vegetation along the rear of the site should not be cleared. Eventually a heavy growth of mesquite there will partially hide the park service maintenance quarters and yard that exists only a few dozen yards behind this site.

Note: The Old Castolon site has deteriorated badly in recent years and is in need of immediate rehabilitation and stabilization. If such aid is not given this site will be past the stage of repair and should then be placed in a secondary site status. It is in primary status now due to the fact that Old Castolon is of major historic significance to Big Bend history, is located adjacent to the roadway, and thus receives a great deal of visitor attention.

IV. MARISCAL MINE

Interpretive Functions: A primary site and the location

where the mining theme of the park can be told. A major stop on the River Road.

Suggested Media: Wayside at parking area, mine guide interpretive booklet, and publications.

This site is some distance from the roadway and parking area.

Therefore, the Mariscal Mine story can best be told in two ways.

1. At the parking area, through two panels housed in a ramada. One panel should discuss mining in the Big Bend in general and a brief discussion of the Mariscal Mine and how it fits into the overall human ecology of the Big Bend area. A second panel should discuss actual Mariscal mining operations, including an orientation silhouette of the buildings visible on the hillside.
2. Additional interpretation of the mining story should be made available through a mine guide publication which includes pictures, a map of the whole plant, and an in-depth description of the operations and personalities involved with the Mariscal Mine operations over the years. It should be devised as a guide to the mine and be printed with some color so that it will be attractive as a good souvenir, as well as an informative historical mining story.

It is likely that the publication should be produced first (once the structures are made safe and the open pits covered with a

heavy iron grill through which one can see). The old mine road up the hill to the structures is still in usable condition as a good foot-trail and should be maintained as such.

Source: Casey report.

Individual structures and preservation needs:

Mariscal Mine should be treated as a ruin, not a restoration. Therefore, preservation efforts should be concentrated on structural stabilization, where needed, and elimination of safety hazards. Most structures are massive and solid. Immediate preservation needs should be assessed by an historical architect during preparation of the Historic Structures Reports, which will specify long-term preservation needs.

One can see the ruins of the Mariscal Mine from some distance away before reaching them. They are set high against the slope of a mountain range and stand out against the sparse desert vegetation. One is impressed by the human effort required to erect these massive structures so remote from the nearest main lines of travel and commerce. Most of the construction work was done by cheap labor imported from Mexico, but even so the construction effort, and the transportation and logistics problems for materials, must have been staggering ones. The enterprise was undertaken by the promise of profit from the mercury ore found at this place.

A more careful study is needed to compare these ruins and the technology they represent with other existing mercury mines in the United States, including that at Terlingua, the nearest to the Mariscal Mine.

The mine structures should be maintained in their present state of preservation, and not allowed to disintegrate further into heaps of rubble. As time passes, the Mariscal Mine structures may prove to be a more valuable human and mining technology resource in the park than is presently realized. One should beware of passing a quick current judgment on this set of massive ruins.

An early need is to stop erosion on the mountainside where it is affecting the mine ruins. This is the most immediate and pressing danger to them, and it can be eliminated or reduced appreciably a minimum of work. The old road up to the reduction plant needs such attention. The retaining wall on the downhill side of the road has been broken in several places. These sections should be repaired. If they are not, the adjacent sections will soon go and the damage will spread rapidly. This road will have to serve as the footpath visitors use in the future when they visit the site. A little care now on this road will pay big dividends in future development for visitation.

1. MAIN PROCESSING PLANT (BBH-10a): These structures are stone and are basically sound. They need a thorough safety check and minor stabilization.
2. PROCESSING BUILDINGS (BBH-10b, c): Same as 1.
3. PAYMASTER'S OFFICE (BBH-10d): Same as 1.
4. EMPLOYEE'S RESIDENCES (BBH-10c-k): These concrete structures are roofless and should be safety checked and receive minor stabilization.
5. SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE (BBH-10m): This structure is very hazardous at present. It is a wood building that is beyond repair and not worthy of restoration; the main story here is the mine. The structure should be reduced to bare walls for safety and interpreted as such only.
6. COMPANY STORE (BBH-10n): This concrete structure should be reduced to walls only for safety, and interpreted as such.
7. EMPLOYEE'S HUTS (8) (BBH-10p): These rock, adobe, or combination structures should be reduced to walls for safety and interpreted as such.
8. BARRACKS (BBH-10q): This adobe structure should be reduced to walls only for safety, and interpreted as such.
9. EMPLOYEE'S HUTS (8) (BBH-10p): These rock, adobe, or combination structures should be reduced to walls for safety and interpreted as such.

10. BARRACKS (BBH-10q): This adobe structure should be reduced to walls only and interpreted as such.

11. BRICK KILN (BBH-10r): Same as 1.

V. HOT SPRINGS

Interpretive Function: Threshold ramada-covered interpretive markers, interpretive signs, and publications.

Interpretation at this site is heavily dependent upon visitor travel and park staffing. Until such time as funds become available for a major change in the present setting at Hot Springs, the Hot Springs scene should be interpreted with the markers presently in use. The visitor is encouraged to take the path that follows the river for about one mile. A second marker, at the spring, discusses what happened there, that the spring is now silted over and closed, and that other springs are now visible only below this site along the river. The trail continues along the river, in and out of the floodplain vegetation, ending at an overlook where a third interpretive marker should be placed to discuss the scene's geological significance--"Canyon in the Making."

Long range interpretive goals for Hot Springs include partial restoration of the windmill and pump, a continued program of stabilization of the store-post office and the seven-unit motel.

When visitation and funds allow, a roving interpreter should be stationed at the Hot Springs complex during peak visitation hours.

Although the major structure at Hot Springs is the store-post office, the major theme is the scene itself--man's necessity.

Here Langford came in 1909 for his health. He bathed in the hot springs and regained his health. He built baths when others came there to bathe, and a motel, store, and post office followed. There began a tiny community and there was the first commercial venture in the area for tourists. Such a locality attracted individuals who are still talked about today. Park of Big Bend's human appeal has been due to such personalities as Langford, Chata, Maggie Smith, and many more. Here is the place where their story can be mentioned.

To re-emphasize--the scene is the thing, the big picture. The individual structures are only part of the story, not the entirety. As funds allow, a parking area should be constructed away from the middle of the Hot Springs scenes where it is at present. The parking area should be constructed west of the store, across the little drainage, below the two structures on the west hill. As such, the visitor will leave his automobile and walk east from the parking area, across a foot bridge, into the Hot Springs scene. Just across the foot bridge, at the threshold of the scene, should be the major interpretive message

on two interpretive panels under a ramada. Panel one should discuss the ecology of the area and place Langford on the scene. Panel two should tell of Langford's developments, his personality, of personalities that frequented the area, and bring the history of Hot Springs up to the entrance of the National Park Service take over.

Once the parking area has been shifted to the west, and the windmill and storage tank have been placed on site, the scene will be as it was while Langford operated Hot Springs. Since wagons and automobiles were allowed to drive up to the store, however, it would be good to obtain an old wagon and place it alongside the store. (See map for general layout.)

Sources: Langford book; historic photographs; Hitchcock and Carroll reports; Levy, NPS Historic Structures Report, Hot Springs.

Individual structures and preservation needs:

Hot Springs structures are in two classes: those presently existing and needing stabilization; those presently existing that need partial stabilization.

1. STORE-POST OFFICE (BBH-82): This is the major structure and without it there would be little sense in retaining Hot Springs as a primary historic site. The building has been stabilized twice previously but needs further stabilization and rehabilitation. The structure needs attention soon for the ceiling and walls are

not sound. Until funds become available for a change in the parking area and restoration of the windmill, this structure should retain its open, bleak appearance of desertion. However, if this area continues to demand interpretation by the many visitors to the scene, future administration may deem it necessary to restore, partially or completely, the interior of this structure.

2. MOTEL (BBH-80): This structure is in fairly good structural condition, but does need minor repair. The roof is leaking and is the feature most in need of repair. Also, the porch roof and side patio should be restored as soon as possible.

3. STONE RESIDENCE (BBH-81 and CABIN (BBH-20): Both of these structures should be retained only as ruins. Neither was constructed as part of the Hot Springs operation, but were built in later years. But both represent other aspects of man's use of the Hot Springs area. Unsafe portions of these structures, such as the roof of the stone residence, should be removed.

4. WINDMILL AND STORAGE TANK: These structures once stood where we presently park our automobiles. The restoration of these structures would not seem justified.

5. PUMP: The pump should be restored if missing parts can be found. If this is not feasible, the present pump remains should be preserved. be retained as part of the scene. New fiberglass pit toilets should be placed at the new parking area west of the drainage.

SECONDARY RESOURCES

Group A Sites: Those to receive some historical interpretation.

DANIEL'S FARM HOUSE

Interpretive Function: This structure is located at Rio Grande Village where it is readily accessible to visitors. It is of interest for its architecture and the fact that it was the farmhouse at the Daniel's cotton farm. The structure is adobe and dates from about 1920. It has a vega and cane roof. The Southwest Archeological Center stabilized the roof and did some capping of the adobe in 1962. This is the principal residential structure still surviving that can be preserved and relate to the once extensive cotton farming of the Rio Grande flood plain of the Big Bend region.

Suggested Media: An interpretive marker is needed to identify the structure, summarize its history, and sketch the story of cotton farming in this area. The text should mention that the house represents pre-National Park Service farming operations in the Rio Grande village area and is a good representative of border architecture of that time.

Source:

Individual Structure and Preservation Needs:

1. FARM HOUSE (BBH-443): This adobe structure was stabilized in 1962 and is in reasonably good condition. Maintenance should

be such that it is permanently preserved and restoration work undertaken when it may be needed.

2. CASITA (BBH-2): The Casita has deteriorated to the point where only parts of adobe walls remain and these are now rapidly toppling over into heaps of rubble. It is some distance from the farm house and its preservation is not necessary to the story to be told at the latter structure. The Casita will be allowed to disintegrate under the influence of the elements.

3. SHED: This rock structure is situated among the mesquite and is difficult to see. Since it has little significance in the history of the park, and does not obtrude on the scene, it will be left to the mercy of the elements unless for reasons now unknown it becomes necessary to remove it.

SUBLETTE FARM HOUSE

Interpretive Function: The Sublette Farm buildings are isolated farm developments in the Rio Grande flood plain area west of Castolon, the Farm House situated on a terrace above the flood plain where the fields were located. The house is adobe and is a good example, well situated for pleasant views and dominating the valley scene, of individual farm developments and living away from the small communities.

Suggested Media:

An on site marker is all that is needed, plus a directional

marker at the foot trail near the river road that will direct visitors to the top of the terrace and the house site.

Individual Structure and Preservation Needs:

Sublette Farm House (BBH-12): The adobe structure is in ruins, but large sections of the main walls stand. The structure should be stabilized and given exterior restoration only, and only to the extent needed to preserve the present ruins. There should be no attempt at restoration beyond preservation needs of the present surviving ruins. (Also see Casita, p. 47)

DORGAN FARM HOUSE

Interpretive Function: This structure represents a different aspect of the Big Bend domestic architecture and type of life than can be seen in almost any other surviving ruin in the park. The house is of exceptional architectural interest. It has a huge and well built stone fireplace, four huge ceiling beams radiate from a center to the four corners (two are missing), and it is sited with great care on the terrace above the river bottom, and commands an almost unrivaled view of the Chisos Mountains, the broad flood plain of the Rio Grande River in this section, and the high escarpment of Mexico southward across the river. This house ruin with its terrace yard, and

isolated location, fortunately situated just above the river road, can be developed into an ideal spot where the scenic grandeur of the Big Bend, the agricultural economy of the river flood plain, the isolated conditions of life, graced with a touch of taste and better than average living conditions, can be shown. In many ways the Dorgan Farm House ruins are unique, and they become more so when the site and its scenic grandeur are considered.

Suggested Media: The house ruins should be stabilized and eventually restored in part. The missing beams should be replaced, and other features restored as may be recommended by historical architects to assure preservation. An on-site panel marker should tell the story of the house and call attention to its unusual architectural features for the time and place. Another marker panel should orient the visitor to the scenic features so well in view from the house and terrace yard--the Chisos Mountains to the northeast where the entire range is in full and glorious view, perhaps the best in the park for that range; the Rio Grande River flood plain in full view for many miles to the east and one of the regions of most intense agriculture in the Big Bend before it became a national park; and the high escarpment on the south side of the river in Mexico. The Santa Elena Canyon is not far distant to the south-southwest.

Bench seats should be made available at the terrace yard overlook in front of the house where visitors can sit and enjoy the view, and meditate on the country and its past. The Dorgan Farm House site is reached by a pleasant, open, semi-level foot trail from the Sublette Farm residence. A marker at the latter place is needed to point the way on to the Dorgan House site.

Individual Structure and Preservation Needs:

Dorgan Farm House (BBH-139): This adobe structure, with a large and unusual stone central fireplace, and radiating ceiling beams to the four corners, has been described generally in preceding paragraphs. It is situated on a commanding terrace above the Rio Grande River flood plain, with the full range of the Chisos Mountains in view to the northeast. The structure is in need of stabilization and preservation treatment, with the degree of restoration to be determined after a careful consideration of the problem by historical architects. Preservation of the house ruins should be the prime consideration of restoration treatment. Full restoration is probably not required. Certainly, it is not intended that restoration shall include full interior restoration.

Source:

SUBLETTE FARM

Interpretive Function: It depicts a farm scene on the Rio Grande.

Suggested Media: The site is presently being interpreted through markers which emphasize its distance from the nearest town. To be retained. Since all buildings except the residence will be allowed to deteriorate, no additional interpretation is planned for the other structures. The main residence on top of the terrace is on the Inventory as a Primary Resource.

Source: Casey Report and Madison's "Big Bend Country."

Individual Structures and Preservation Needs:

1. CASITA (BBH-13): This structure is fairly sound due to having been stabilized in 1962. Additional capping should continue until such time as it becomes ineffective. Then the structure should be reduced to walls for safety and interpreted as ruins only.
2. SHED (BBH-14): Same as above for Casita.
3. OTHER HOUSE (BBH-15): Same as above.

COTTON GIN AND PUMP HOUSE

Interpretive Function: To tell of cotton farming on the floodplain through the ruins of the gin and pump house. The steam engine presently located at Castolon should be moved to the gin site where it was once used for a brief period. It will add to the scene considerably.

Suggested Media: Most visitors to this site will already be oriented to the cotton farming history of the Castolon area or from their stop at Castolon. An interpretive marker, however, is still needed at the site. This sign should tell the basic facts of cotton production and should explain this particular operation and its productivity.

As the nearby fields become overgrown with mesquite it will become necessary to control the vegetation so that the old field rows and irrigation system can still be noted in some of the fields.

This would be a good place in the park to initiate an agricultural use permit system to keep this land in cultivation. There are many precedents for it in the National Park system: Gettysburg NMP, Great Smoky Mountains NP, Blue Ridge Parkway are examples.

Sources: Sholley and Casey Reports, and Madison's "Big Bend Country."

Individual Structures and Preservation Needs:

1. COTTON GIN AND PUMP HOUSE (BBH-609): Reduce for safety purposes to ruins and interpret as such. It is presently in fairly safe condition although the adobe walls are being dissolved

rapidly. This will soon lead to further weakening of the supporting structures. These structures are doomed in their present, original locations as the Rio Grande River is undercutting the bank on which they stand. Already part of the structure has fallen into the river, and rather recently. The heavy machinery there will have to be removed or it will all be lost to the river.

LUNA RESIDENCE

Interpretive Function: Good site for realistic interpretation of man versus the elements, and an important stop on the human ecology motor tour.

Suggested Media: It is important that this site retain its authenticity and remain uncluttered. An interpretive marker should be placed in front of the structure (alongside the roadside pull-off) yet be far enough away from the structure so that the visitor may either include or leave out the sign in photographs. The text should be brief and point out that here Gilberto Luna raised a large family, farmed the area across the roadway, and lived to the age of 109.

Sources:

Individual structures and preservation needs:

1. LUNA JACAL (BBH-168): This structure needs attention.

Due to its location immediately adjacent to the roadway it will receive a great deal of visitor notice. Therefore, its rehabilitation to as nearly perfect a state as possible is justified. The wagon that presently stands in front of the site should be moved to the Castolon complex. The wagon does not fit into the Luna scene. It was moved to this location a few years ago; it had nothing to do with Luna's operation.

TERLINGUA ABAJA

Interpretive Function: This old village of Mexican inhabitants is located off the auto tour road and will serve as an additional locality of historic interest to those who leave the main road to explore the Big Bend.

Suggested Media: The village site and ruins will be left pretty much as they are. People should be allowed to walk about and get a feeling of the once thriving settlement. The site is approached from the tour road by a side road that ends near the village site. One has to cross Terlingua Creek by foot, and there is usually some water in the stream. A foot ford should be constructed. At the entrance of the pathway that leads into the village an interpretive marker should

be used to introduce Terlingua Abaja. It should summarize the village history and invite people to enjoy the site by wandering about the abandoned buildings.

Sources:

Individual structures and preservation needs:

There are many structures here that should receive cursory examination occasionally to check for safety hazards. Mesquite and other growth should be removed from building sites and ruins. Although the adobe ruins will eventually melt away, the rock structures will survive, and the area will always remain as a village site of solitude if left unmarred by modern interpretive devices.

JOHNSON RANCH

Interpretive Function: A site of historic interest along the River Road.

Suggested Media: The entire site should be interpreted as ruins through a single interpretive marker near the old ranch house or the utility buildings. It should mention the general history of the Johnson Ranch--a successful ranch, a wayside stop for travelers, and its use by the Army as a resting area for flyers during World War I.

The road system near the ranch house ruins should be changed into a single road and a small parking area, where the interpretive sign will introduce the visitors to the site.

Source: Madison and Stillwell's "How Come It's Called That."

Individual structures and preservation needs:

1. RANCH HOUSE: This structure is in such poor condition that it should be allowed to disintegrate and be interpreted only as ruins and a site along the River Road.
2. ROCK HOUSE: This is a stone structure that still has good walls. Perhaps, after the adobe ranch house melts into the earth and the rock house is the last bit of evidence of the Johnson Ranch, the interpretive marker should be placed alongside this structure.

SENATOR BERKELEY COTTAGE

Interpretive Function: It is of sufficient interest to be retained; a State Senator's vacation cottage that is now used as a park employee residence.

Suggested Media: The use of an interpretive marker at the cottage will point out that this is one of several structures built within the park area for vacation purposes during the early days. Retired State Senator B.F. Berkeley, a resident

of Alpine, built this one. He had a line from the house to a large bell nearby which he rang when he was running low on alcohol. The bell rings were heard at Boquillas and the beverage (the kind depended upon the number and intensity of the rings) was soon delivered.

Although this story is unimportant in the overall historical theme, such bits of lore are all too easily neglected. Here is an out-of-the-way site that can contribute to the historical interest in Big Bend.

Source: BERKELEY COTTAGE (BBH-417): The structure is in good condition as it is used as an employee residence; this function should continue as long as necessary. However, the rock work in the yard is in need of repair. The cottage yard should be kept up and the wishing well and rock walls should be rehabilitated. Heavy growth of mesquite and other vegetation should be cleared from the vicinity of the house. One large mesquite has already split asunder the rock walls of the well in the yard.

BARKER LODGE

Interpretive Function: It is important that the historic scene be retained at this site, opposite Boquillas, Mexico. All of its uses should be mentioned briefly in an interpretive marker placed along the roadway in front of the Barker Lodge buildings.

Source:

Individual structures and preservation needs:

1. BARKER LODGE (BBH-110): It is fairly sound structurally and its use as a research station by Sul Ross State College of Alpine will guarantee its continued repair.
2. RANGER STATION (BBH-131): This structure is presently being used by the Department of Agriculture as a residence for the local river rider. This structure will be retained in this use as long as it remains necessary. If the Department of Agriculture should discontinue use of the building it may be used by the Sul Ross Research Station. Historic structures reports are needed on BBH-110 and BBH-131.
3. GARAGE (BBH-110a): This building will be kept in repair and used as storage and a garage by the residents.

ORE TRAMWAY

Interpretive Function: A site of significant interest but of secondary value in telling of the park's mining history.

Suggested Media: Two locations will be used to tell this phase of the park's history: 1) Where the cables crossed the Boquillas Canyon Road; and 2) at the end of the Terminal Road which branches off the Old Ore Road in the Dead Horse Mountains. The two sites might be connected by a secondary trail so that visitors with a deep interest in this story, or an eager hiker,

may hike along the total length of the tramway (on the U.S. side) if he so desires.

This is one of the good historical stories of the Big Bend country. The most visited of the two sites will be the one along the Boquillas Canyon Road where an interpretive marker should be used to tell of the tramway's purpose and general history; the terminal area should be mentioned on the sign as well.

The old Ore Road is of special significance here, too. It should be opened from both ends (from the Dagger Flat Road as well as the south end off the Boquillas Road just above the tunnel) to allow through traffic. The geological and biological story here is such that this route will be most useful when a variety of interpretive markers at various points of interest interpret all significant features. Future interpretive plans may include this route as a special scenic-historic geologic motor route using only interpretive markers or a combination of markers with a secondary road tour book that includes several of the secondary roads (Ore Road, River Road, Grapevine Hills Road, Dagger Flat Road, and several canyon roads).

GLENN SPRINGS

Interpretive Function:+ It is fourfold here: the site is one of the earliest wax camps within the park area, a small settle-

ment, an army station, and a Mexican bandito raid in 1916. Since this area is accessible and well known, it demands considerable interpretation.

Suggested Media: Two ramada-covered panels should be placed at a designated parking area. One panel should tell the earliest history of the area, its wax operation and settlement; the second panel should tell of the U.S. Army Cavalry Camp and the Mexican bandit raid of 1916, and its repercussion along this section of the border.

Individual Structures:

Rifle Pits: A series of rifle pits line the crest of the low ridge that overlooks the flat area of the Glen Springs settlement site on its downstream and south edge. Just below the ridge and the rifle pits is the outline of the U.S. Army cavalry detachment camp that was stationed here during the period of border troubles. This apparently was a tent area. Rock outlines suggest regular streets typical of such an encampment. Beyond this army area the Glenn Springs settlement extended to a considerable distance and in its day was a sizable settlement, perhaps the most populous and important in the Big Bend region. These rifle pits should be preserved and identified by a simple marker at the head of a trail that should be located to climb the ridge at a point overlooking the stream at the west side of the settlement.

Holding Pen, Corral, Dipping Chute: This complex is similar to that at the Wilson Ranch, and is in good condition. It should be preserved, since it relates to the story of cattle ranching in the Big Bend. There was a large ranch house in the settlement and this was one of the activities associated with Glenn Springs.

General Settlement Area: The remains of a water pipe system that came to Glenn Springs and supported the population and the wax works located there can still be seen on the ground. Large sections of the iron pipe still litter the area. The floor of a big water tank and metal hoops that once held together the wood tank survive at the site. A vast amount of debris in the form of posts, boards, scraps of wood, pieces of sheet metal, tin cans, and other evidence of human habitation abound in the area. It is a pity that the first National Park Service administration of the park saw fit to demolish the structures--if preserved they would constitute an outstanding site of prime historical importance to the Big Bend. Even in its state of destruction, the site still must be considered of great historical importance, and there must remain the question of whether it does not belong among those selected representing Primary Resources.

The mesquite and other thorny growth should be removed from the area of the settlement, Creosotebush should be cleared from building sites, and the area generally maintained in an open condition so that it can be walked about with comfort and the relative parts of it are visible to the eye and its arrangement comprehended. Markers should be placed at the more significant structure sites within the settlement as a means of identifying them.

It has been suggested that future developments here should consider the possibility of establishing an active wax camp. This is the best place in the park for such a demonstration. The Natural History Association might be interested in supporting the venture, which could be operated by employed Mexican labor.

SAN VICENTE

Interpretive Function: One of the earliest settlements in the Big Bend, San Vicente is well known and must receive some interpretive treatment as a special historic landmark. It is located along the eastern end of the River Road.

Interpretive Media: Since Texas' San Vicente was not as significant as Mexico's San Vincente, which was started as the

old Mexican Presidio in 1774, the entire area should be marked at the San Vicente, Mexico road junction by an interpretive marker that discusses the history of the general area.

Source: Carroll report.

No structures on the U.S. side.

McKINNEY SPRING RANCH

Interpretive Function: Located along the Old Ore Road in the McKinney Hills, this is one of the accessible backcountry ranch sites in the park. Here was a center for the east side ranching activities as well as a large wax factory.

Suggested Media: Interpretation should be minimal. A marker should be placed at the site of the old wax camp and windmill, rather than at the rock house located 200 yards away from the road. It should briefly mention the wax and cattle industry in this part of the park.

No structures needing interpretation. The rock house is safe and should be retained. It will add some interest to the area for those that may wander over to see it.

LA NORIA:

Interpretive Function: This site, too, is along the Old Ore Road and is accessible to many people. Although little of

the town is evident today, this may be its importance; a townsite that has proximity to the Mexican border, and has been completely obliterated by the forces of nature.

Suggested Media: An interpretive marker should be used to discuss this site, mentioning that once all of the land along Tornillo Creek was farmed, as well as that in the proximity to Ernst Tinaja. The marker should be located at the junction of the Ernst Tinaja road, which is at the old townsite.

Sources:

No structures.

Group B sites: Sites to receive no historical interpretation. These sites may be either far in the backcountry and act as "discovery" sites for those who chance upon them (e.g., Burro Mesa and Mule Ears Corrals), out-of-the-way sites in use (e.g., K-Bar Ranch House), or the interpretive potential is not strongly historic but biological or otherwise (e.g., Sam Nail Ranch).

1. K-Bar Ranch House (BBH-129): This site is being used as the bunkhouse for the Chihuahuan Desert Research Station. This use will continue until such time as park management feels its usefulness should be terminated or until the old

house can be removed to make room for a modern research station. Maintenance of this building will be continued by Big Bend National Park.

2. Sam Nail Ranch (BBH-17): This site is in a bad state of repair. The ranch house roof and walls are partly fallen in; the structure should be reduced to walls for safety as soon as possible. The trash and other objects that are scattered about the yard should be cleaned up and removed. The site should contain only the ruins of the house and the workable windmill that supplies water to a small tank under the foliage near the house. The path that goes to this little place, from the parking area alongside the roadway, should be retained. The path ends at a quiet sitting place for visitors to listen to the wildlife and enjoy a little solitude. An unobtrusive interpretive marker should be placed there under the vegetative canopy, not far from the bench. The text should relate to the immediate vicinity, and might be somewhat as follows: "Here Sam Nail brought his bride in 1918. Their yard and garden are overgrown now. Sit awhile and listen to the kinds of birds that sang their songs to Sam and Nena."

3. Coyote Community: There is no need for interpretation here. The community has several structures, which are

generally in safe condition. They can be examined by visitors at leisure. The entire area is redundant with structures similar to those at Castolon, Old Castolon, and the Sublette Complex.

4. Laguna Meadow Cabin: Here is another bit of serendipity for those hikers that may stumble across this little cabin at Laguna Meadows in the Chisos Mountains. Although the structure is safe, it should be repaired slightly to retain its cabin-like authenticity. The logs are still in reasonably good condition, but at such time as the logs become too badly weathered, the cabin should be allowed to decompose into the scene.

5. Mule Ears Corral: This site is at the end of a very faint trail that starts at the Mule Ears View Point parking area. There is no need for interpretation at this point, although the interpretive marker at the View Point may mention the Mule Ears Spring area, where the corral is located. Only hikers will see this structure.

6. Burro Mesa Corral: This site is similar to the Mule Ears Corral.

Tertiary Sites

1. Derrick Residence (BBH-111): This structure is presently being leased by the Department of Agriculture for a residence

for a river rider. When this structure is no longer being used as a residence, it should be allowed to disintegrate and disappear. It is an adobe and metal structure that is being kept in reasonably good repair.

2. Grapevine Ranch (BBH-112): This structure should be reduced to its stone foundations. The buildings are in a poor state of repair and now need to be continuously checked for safety.

Addenda:

In all future planning it should be remembered that such opportunities to acquaint man with his surroundings through walking or by just sitting and listening should be encouraged. A historic setting can be one of ecological importance if interpreted with a sense of integrity and class. As plans further develop, additional opportunities may arise that should be made functional when feasible.

Just as historic sites have biological implications, so areas of prime biological significance may contain choice historical sites. One of these is the Boquillas Canyon Road that would be a choice river-desert ecological auto tour that should be further developed. The two historic sites here (Barker Lodge and Ore Tramway) blend perfectly with man's use of his environment. Such interpretive compositions should be exploited.

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