

historic structure report

CASTOLON ARMY COMPOUND

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Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region

From: Director, Denver Service Center

Subject: Historic Structure Report, Castolon Army Compound, Big Bend
National Park, Texas

Transmitted herewith are two copies of subject report which was prepared by Historian James Sheire and Architect Robert V. Simmonds. We feel Mr. Sheire and Mr. Simmonds have done a fine job on this report, and that in addition to its primary purpose, the report will be useful for planning and interpretive developments at Big Bend National Park.

(Sgd) Glenn O. Hendrix

Glenn O. Hendrix

Enclosures (2)

cc:

Dir., OAHF, WASO, w/encl. (1)

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Supt., Big Bend National Park, w/encl. (6)

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HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

CASTOLON ARMY COMPOUND

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

TEXAS

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

by

James Sheire, Historian

Robert V. Simmonds, Architect

DENVER SERVICE CENTER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEAM
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DENVER, COLORADO

JUNE, 1973

Southwest Regional Office
National Park Service
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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SECTION

1. Project Identification and Proposed Treatment:

The Castolon area of Big Bend National Park, located on the Rio Grand in Brewster County, Texas, was referred to by the U.S. Army for the Mexican Border Project as Camp Santa Helena.

The Camp was designed by the Construction Division of the War Department, San Antonio, Texas in the spring of 1919 and contained approximately fourteen structures. This concept was reduced September 3, 1919, to seven structures, six of which survive today.

Preservation of these remaining structures, enumerated below, is the purpose of this report. Each structure is identified by the park building number system. (Refer to the site plan in the appendix.)

BBH-600--Army Mess Hall and Barracks

BBH-601--Recreation Building (Attributed to the Salvation Army.)

BBH-602--Army Latrine

BBH-603--Officer's Quarters

BBH-604--Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters

BBH-608--Granary, Stable and Corral

These structures were built for the Army by Weston and Kroeger, contractor, San Antonio, Texas in 1919 and 1920.

The Level of Treatment of the Castolon Army compound shall be primarily preservation, but shall also include adaptive restoration. The following list defines the level of treatment for each structure covered by this report:

BBH-600-- Adaptive restoration

BBH-601--Adaptive restoration

BBH-602--Preservation

BBH-603--Preservation (adaptive use)

BBH-604--Preservation (adaptive use)

BBH-608--Preservation

2. Other Historical Considerations:

The "Historic Resources Management Plan," by Brown and Wauer, December, 1968, defines the Castolon area as a "primary resource", and states the interpretive function of the area as follows: "All Major park historical themes are to be touched on here, with onsite 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."

The recommendations presented in this report for preservation and restoration of the Army camp can be accomplished within the framework laid down by the Historic Resource Management Plan. The four historic themes representing different functions but nevertheless overlapping in time can be told without confusion.

Further elaboration on these buildings and the other historic structures at Castolon which are unrelated to the Army story can be found in Architectural Data Section.

3. Cooperative Agreements:

Occupancy of the structures involved, are either by the National Park Service or by the National Park Concessions, Inc. BBH-600 functions as a residence and store for National Park Concessions, while BBH-601, BBH-603, BBH-604 and BBH-608 serve National Park Service support functions, and BBH-602 continues its historic use as a comfort facility.

In order for National Park Concessions, Inc. to carry on with the tradition of a border trade store in BBH-600, it is necessary to upgrade the electrical service and wiring, the heating system, and the air-conditioning equipment. The existing electrical system is seriously overloaded, creating a safety hazard, because of the demands of modern store equipment.

Upgrading would not be required if BBH-600 was to be restored to a museum status representing the

1920's era. However, since management's objective is to continue the border trade activity and since National Park Concessions, Inc. is the financial benefactor, this report recommends that the concessioner bear the cost of upgrading the utility systems.

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

1. Introduction:

This historical data section of the Castolon Historic Structure Report has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the research project identified as RSP-H-13, Big Bend National Park.

The historical data section is divided into four parts. Part one discusses the historical significance of Castolon. It is not this report's intent to present a detailed narrative history of Castolon. In keeping with the new standards for the Historic Structure Report, the study concentrates on the structures themselves. Section I does, however, briefly examine Castolon's past for the purpose of setting the historical background from which the structures derive their significance.

The United States Army built the Castolon structures in 1919-1920. They were utilized from 1921 to 1961 by a border farmer, rancher, and entrepreneur named Wayne Cartledge. The Castolon structures derive their primary historical significance from Cartledge's efforts to establish successful forms of agricultural and business activities in the natural environment of the Big Bend.

Section II presents documentary and illustrative data on the history of ownership, construction, and use of the Castolon structures. Here the historical data section discusses such subjects as when employed and why; what was each structure's function; and what alterations were made in the structures during the historic period.

Section III briefly examines the Castolon grounds and historic setting. Between the construction of the principal structures in 1919-1920 and the National Park Service's acquisition of the area in 1961 Castolon functioned as a farm, ranch, and border trading post. Although there were not many changes in the Castolon scene during these years, it did not

remain static. New structures were built while others disappeared. Following the recommendations of the Big Bend Historic Resources Management Plan, section III briefly discusses a structure preservation policy which will correspond to the Castolon historic setting.

Following the architectural data section a list of suggestions and recommendations for preservation at Castolon are presented along with recommendations for further study. These recommendations are meant to supplement the recommendations of the Big Bend Historic Resources Management Plan.

At the present time the Castolon historic compound consists of eleven structures. Although this report focuses on the structures called the Castolon Army Complex, which are the subjects of the architectural data section, all the structures are discussed.

2. Part One: Historical Significance and Background:

The Early Years

Compared with other areas along the Rio Grande in Texas such as Eagle Pass and the lower Rio Grande Valley, settlement in the Big Bend region is a relatively recent development. Americans did not move into the region until after the construction of a railroad and the pacification of the Indians in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. Settlement along the river itself occurred even later. Although Mexicans, Indians, and American explorers were familiar with the land along the Big Bend of the Rio Grande, little settlement took place along the river itself until the turn of the century. The area's semi-desert environment and its distance from settled communities and communication routes acted as deterrents to settlement.

The impetus for settlement of the lower Big Bend did not come from the area's agricultural potential, but rather from the discovery and exploitation of cinnabar deposits in the Terlingua quicksilver district south of Marfa. The first mining activity took place in the 1890s and by 1910 a number of mines were in operation. The largest of these were the Chisos and Terlingua mines located about thirty miles northwest of present day Castolon. Workers at the quicksilver mines settled in Terlingua and in small villages along Terlingua Creek. These miners required food supplies. To meet this need Mexicans moved into the area and began to farm the rich flood plain along the Rio Grande. The first men to settle at Castolon were members of this group.

The first man to settle at present day Castolon is reported to have been a Mexican named Cipriano Hernandez.¹ In 1901 or 1903 Hernandez took up

1. Clifford B. Casey. Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend. National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Washington, 1969, p. 31. Unless otherwise noted this publication is the source of the Castolon background information.

sections thirteen and fourteen, Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co., Brewster County, Texas. Present day Castolon is located in section thirteen. Following Hernandez's example approximately twenty Mexican families moved into the area in the next few years. They settled between Castolon and the mouth of Terlingua Creek near Santa Elena Canyon. Hernandez and his fellows farmed the fertile Rio Grande flood plain, selling their surplus vegetables to the miners at Terlingua. In addition, Hernandez operated a small store out of his house. This house is today known as the Alvino House and is a part of the Castolon historic compound.

In 1914 Hernandez sold his property to an Anglo-American named Clyde Buttrill, a Brewster county rancher who had been attracted to the area by the success of the Mexicans. In order to increase the farm's productivity Buttrill decided to break new ground and install an irrigation system. Because earth moving equipment was required to carry out the project, Buttrill looked around for somebody to help him. He found the right man in James L. Sublett, a contractor who had done railroad construction work and who still had his equipment. Buttrill formed a partnership with Sublett to develop the land and run the farm and store. In addition, Buttrill hired the services of an engineer to supervise the installation of the irrigation system. By 1916 the floodplain had been cleared, leveled, and terraced and irrigation ditches laid out. This system constituted the base of the Castolon farm for the next forty years.

Although Buttrill and Sublett operated the farm for the next three years, Buttrill apparently did not take a great interest in his Castolon property. In 1918 he sold it to a Texas ranger named Carol Bates. Sublett moved upriver closer to Santa Helena Canyon and started another farm. Bates also did not desire to take up the life of a Rio Grande farmer. In 1919 he sold the property to Wayne Cartledge and Howard Perry. This transfer marked the beginning of the Cartledge family's association with Castolon which would last until 1961.

Camp Santa Helena

During the second half of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of the twentieth the border between Mexico and Texas was a constant source of friction. Cattle thieves from both sides of the Rio Grande plied their trade, smuggling was a way of life for many border families, and bands of outlaws often raided across the river.

The decade from 1910 to 1920 was an especially eventful period. Political instability in Mexico led to the formation of armed bands that plundered to support their insurrectionist activities. In an effort to deter the activities of Mexican bandits as well as to suppress border smuggling, American authorities were forced in 1911 to begin regular cavalry patrols along the border.

The outbreak of World War I in 1914 added another element of tension to American-Mexican relations. Noting the activities of German agents in Mexico and being aware of the anti-American sentiments of the Mexican authorities, American officials worried about the security of the country's long border with its southern neighbor. Washington decided to increase military preparedness along the border and by 1916, the same year Gen. John Pershing marched into Mexico to catch the elusive Pancho Villa, 100,000 troops were stationed along the border from Texas to California.

Beginning in 1911 American military units were stationed in the Big Bend area. Headquartered at Camp Marfa, Texas, cavalry units and infantry detachments patrolled the Big Bend District. By 1913 twelve or more detachments were stationed at various camps along the Rio Grande between Sierra Blanca and La Noria, a small community across the river from Boquillas. Although these troops constantly patrolled the border, they were unable to stop marauding Mexican gangs. In 1916 and 1917 border raids became such a threat that it became necessary to send more troops into the Big Bend region and to increase the number of temporary

camps. The Army located one of these temporary camps at present day Castolon, where four acres were leased from Clyde Buttrill.

By 1918 the border situation had not improved. In April the Panhandle and Southwestern Stockman's Association meeting in El Paso passed a resolution calling on the government to send more troops to Texas. The men were needed, they said, because "the raids on American soil are growing more numerous and becoming a greater menace to the lives and properties of our citizens in their American homes."² During the same month alarmed citizens from throughout the Big Bend region met in Alpine. Remembering the infamous Brite ranch raid in Presidio county the previous December, during which a number of Americans had been killed, they formulated a petition similar to that of the stockgrowers. Continued border raids, German propaganda in Mexico, and increased smuggling, they argued, were all reasons for increased military protection.³ The government responded. Desiring to further tighten military security along the border the Army decided to change its strategy. Troops would be stationed at camps and outposts along the entire length of the border from Brownsville, Texas, to Nogales, Arizona, in such a manner that patrols from one camp would interlock with patrols from its neighbor. In this way the entire border would come under Army scrutiny.

This new strategy made it necessary to revamp the border logistical system. In order to support the troops along the border and provide them with adequate facilities, existing permanent forts had to be enlarged, temporary camps required upgrading to the status of permanent installations, and a number of new camps had to be constructed. The

2. Z. L. Cobb to Secretary of State, April 5, 1918, "Mexican Border", R. G. 407, Records of the Adjutant General, Box No. 1373, National Archives.

3. Ibid.

construction phase of the new border patrol system was called the Mexican Border Project. Camp Santa Helena, which the Army had leased from Clyde Buttrill in 1916, was one of the locations the Army selected to build a new camp. The new Camp Santa Helena was constructed during 1919-1920. The structures built at that time form the heart of today's Castolon historic compound. Section two discusses them in greater detail.

At the same time as the Mexican Border Project was nearing completion in 1920 political stability returned to Mexico. When the Mexican government extended its authority to its northern states along the Rio Grande, law and order was reestablished. Border raids into Texas came to a halt. With the termination of bandit activity there was no longer a military reason for stationing troops along the Rio Grande to patrol the border. Moreover, airplanes could now patrol in hours the same rugged terrain which horse mounted cavalymen had previously taken days to cover. By the end of 1920 most of the troops had been withdrawn from the new border camps built during the Mexican Border Project. Indeed, some of the camps, and Camp Santa Helena was one, were never occupied. In 1920 the Army period in the Big Bend came to an end.

The Cartledge Years

In 1918 a young man named Wayne R. Cartledge, the son of an Austin lawyer, was working as a bookkeeper for Howard Perry at Perry's Chisos quick-silver mine in the Terlingua mining district. Cartledge liked the work, but he saw that it was no way to accumulate a substantial fortune. Like many a Texan before him he desired to become a rancher. Having learned that land along the Rio Grande was relatively cheap, Cartledge decided to set up a farm and ranch in the Big Bend. He did not, however, possess sufficient capital to launch his own operation. Cartledge approached his employer Perry and suggested that they form a partnership. Cartledge proposed that Perry put up most of the capital and Cartledge would manage the operation.

Profits would be evenly split. The plan appealed to the rich mine owner. When Cartledge learned that Carroll Bates, a Texas ranger, would be willing to sell his property along the Rio Grande, the former decided to buy. On March 1, 1919, Cartledge and Perry purchased from Carol Bates and Will C. Jones the land along the Rio Grande which is today called Castolon.⁴ From 1919 to 1961 the name Cartledge would be synonymous with the area.

During the forty-two years that members of the Cartledge family were associated with Castolon, they developed a number of business activities which dominated the economic life of the immediate region. As the years passed Castolon became the headquarters for a merchant business, a Rio Grande Valley farm, a Big Bend cattle ranch, and a private hunting preserve. It is unknown which of these activities was the largest source of income to the Cartledge-Perry partnership. During Cartledge's forty-two years at Castolon each economic venture probably experienced times of prosperity and depression. Together, however, they provided the Cartledges with a living which, although never affluent by today's standards, sustained them. Equally important, the Castolon farm, ranch, and store supported in peak periods up to as many as twenty Mexican-American families that lived in the vicinity.

Castolon's function as a border trading post was Cartledge's most prominent activity, although it might not have been the most profitable. When the Cartledge--Perry partnership bought the Castolon area from Bates, it at the same time acquired the store which Cipriano Hernandez had originally established around 1901. To run this business Cartledge and Perry formed a company called La Harmonia with Cartledge as manager. The store was originally housed in the structure to which James Sublett had moved it in 1916 or 1917. This building is known

4. Casey, Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend, p. 102.

as the Old Castolon store. In 1919 the Army decided to build a new camp called Santa Helena on the ground it had leased from Clyde Buttrill in 1916 and was at the time leasing from Cartledge and Perry. Completed in 1920 the camp consisted of a number of structures, among which was a long, 21' X 96', plaster adobe building intended to be a barracks. Just as the time came to move into the new barracks in late August 1920, most of the troops were withdrawn from the border. Wayne Cartledge immediately recognized the possibility of moving his store into the large, modern, and now empty building. In 1921 he received permission from the Army to occupy the structure under the stipulation that he be prepared to vacate it, if and when the Army again found it necessary to move troops into the area. Such an occasion never arose. From 1921 to the present day the barracks of the United States Army's Camp Santa Helena has housed a Rio Grande store and border trading post.

As a sedentary merchant Cartledge performed a wide range of business services. First, the Castolon store was a retail outlet for Americans living in the immediate vicinity and Mexican citizens who came across the river to purchase goods. Cartledge sold a wide variety of merchandise ranging from hardware, groceries, dry goods, medical supplies, and sundries to furniture and farm equipment. A Mexican housewife desiring a new pot and a Rio Grande farmer needing a new plow could both satisfy their needs at the Castolon store. La Harmonia was a type of general store in a period when this famous frontier institution was slowly disappearing.

In addition to his retail business Cartledge also acted as a wholesaler for Mexican merchants. These traveling salesmen purchased their goods from Cartledge at Castolon and then retailed them in the villages on the other side of the border.

Cartledge also ran a commission business. He acted as a broker and expediter for Mexican ranchers who desired to purchase merchandise from American companies. These ranchers placed their orders with

the American firms for delivery to Cartledge at Castolon. For a commission Cartledge accepted delivery, handled the paper work, and assured delivery to the purchaser. At times he also handled cattle sales for the same Mexican ranchers.

Still another activity that benefitted his neighbors to the south involved the purchasing of furs and candelilla wax. Although the Castolon trade in pelts was never a major source of income, the business did provide Mexican trappers with the opportunity to earn small amounts of cash with which they could purchase household goods or clothes at the Castolon store. The Castolon wax trade was probably a little larger in volume than the fur trade, but it did not function on a regular basis. Mexico levied an export tax on candelilla wax. This tax naturally invited smuggling by the Mexican producer. There was no American tariff on the wax. As a result it was illegal for the Mexican to export wax without paying the tax, but it was legal for Cartledge to import it. Both La Harmonia and the Mexican wax producer profited from this trade.

Finally, Cartledge also often acted as a banker for citizens living in the area. He extended credit, paid bills, acted as a collection agency, and probably financed a number of small farming ventures. The La Harmonia store and trading post was truly the hub of business activity in the Santa Helena area.

Cartledge's agricultural activities were divided into two major divisions. The first consisted of the Rio Grande farm. In 1901 Cipriano Hernandez had been the first man to farm the rich flood plain soil along the river. Between 1914 and 1918 Clyde Buttrill and James Sublett leveled more ground, terraced the fields, and laid out an irrigation system. It was this land that Cartledge and Perry purchased in 1919. During the next forty-two years Cartledge raised a variety of crops. To the wheat, corn, beans, and melons, which Buttrill and Sublett had planted, Cartledge added grass, cotton, cantaloupes, tomatoes,

and other vegetables. In addition to grain, fruit, and vegetables, he also raised turkeys and hogs .

Cartledge introduced new agricultural techniques to the area and brought in the latest in machinery. He was one of the first to start a system of crop rotation, which led to increased yields. When the first cotton fields were planted in 1921-1922, Cartledge realized that it would be much more efficient to gin the crop at Castolon than to send it to distant El Paso. He purchased a gin and by 1923 it was in operation.

Although Cartledge displayed a great deal of initiative in managing his farm, the operation was apparently never a big income producer. The long distance to sizeable Texas markets increased transportation costs. Producers close to the markets could sell cheaper than Cartledge and he was lucky to break even. Plant diseases periodically affected the cotton crop. Local demand fell off when the quicksilver mines closed and people moved out of the area. The farm did support the Mexicans and Mexican-Americans who worked there, and it added variety to the local diet, but it did not enrich the Cartledge-Perry partnership.

The second area of Cartledge's agricultural activity was the ranch. Starting in the 1920's Cartledge slowly increased the size of his land holdings. By the time the Texas state legislature authorized the purchase of Big Bend land for the purpose of creating Big Bend National Park in 1935, the Cartledge ranch covered some 61 sections. Cartledge owned 26 sections and leased the rest.

In order to improve the ranch he built twenty five miles of fence and installed fourteen watering places. These were wells, dams, and surface tanks. The size of Cartledge's herd is unknown, but at one period he was branding 200 calves a year. When the park was established, it became clear that Cartledge had overgrazed his land. In 1944 the size of the herd was limited to 300 animals, to 200 in 1954, and to 50 in 1956. With his operation so severely

restricted, Cartledge decided to sell his Big Bend properties and develop another ranch in Presidio county.

Still another Cartledge business venture involved the Mule Ear Shooting Preserve. By paying a \$25 fee a hunter enjoyed the right to shoot big game in an area which Cartledge set aside for the purpose and which the state licensed. The private hunting preserve was never a big income producer, but in some years it did provide Cartledge with some welcome cash.

When Big Bend National Park was established in 1944, Cartledge made plans to take advantage of the tourist business which the new park would generate. Knowing that the Santa Elena Canyon is one of the park's major attractions, and realizing that Castolon was on the road to the canyon, Cartledge decided to construct visitor facilities at his headquarters. He ordered the fabrication of large numbers of adobe bricks which he intended to use in the construction of cabins or a motel. However, before actual construction began Cartledge had a change of heart. Today these large stacks of adobe are slowly disintegrating just east of the Castolon historic compound.

The structures which make up the Castolon historic compound draw their significance primarily from the Cartledge years. As a border trading post and as headquarters for a Rio Grande Valley farm and a Big Bend cattle ranch, Castolon bears witness to man's tenacious determination to adjust his economic and cultural forms to even the harshest environment. The Big Bend is such an environment and the Cartledges were its challenger.

3. Part Two: The Castolon Historic Structures:

1901-1919

It is unknown when the first structure was built in the Castolon vicinity. Cipriano Hernandez, who settled at Castolon in 1901, is credited with building the first house in the area. This structure is still standing and is today called the Alvino house. Between 1901 and 1914 Hernandez attracted other Mexican-American settlers to the area. By 1914 there was a small community living between Castolon and Terlingua, where quicksilver mines were in operation.

In building their homes these Mexican-American families employed architectural techniques long established in the region. Being unable to import building materials, and living in a subsistence economy, they naturally constructed their buildings in the cheapest manner possible. Low cost construction meant that they employed readily available materials which they could work themselves. By 1914 adobe and stone structures dotted the area around Castolon.

When the Anglo-Americans, and especially Clyde Buttrill and James Sublett, moved into the Castolon area in 1914, they adopted the building techniques employed by the Mexicans. They too constructed adobe and stone structures. By 1916 Sublett, who was Buttrill's farm manager, had constructed a number of buildings in the area, including the Old Castolon Store. Sublett might have also constructed some buildings on the site of present day Castolon.

On October 15, 1916, the United States Army signed an agreement with Buttrill to lease four acres of land at Santa Helena which would be occupied by troops as a camp site. When the lease was renewed for another year on June 30, 1917, the camp was described as having been located at a well and building formerly occupied as a store about midway on the northeastern side of a cultivated plain.

The building formerly occupied as a store is the Alvino house. The lease went on to say that the camp "consists of buildings used for quarters, kitchen, and mess on top of bluff, with land adjacent thereto necessary for military occupation and defense; below the bluff are the stables and corral with land necessary to enlarge same and for storage of necessary forage."⁵ It is apparent that the Army constructed a number of structures at Camp Santa Helena between October 15, 1916, and June 30, 1917. It is possible that the Army detachment also utilized one or more of the structures that Buttrill and Sublett had built on the Castolon site.

As we have already seen, in 1919 the War Department decided to strengthen and enlarge the Mexican border patrol system. The existing Camp Santa Helena was selected as one of the locations where permanent facilities would be constructed. The map of proposed construction activities at Camp Santa Helena, which is dated April 16, 1919, shows seven "existing buildings" and a well (see illustrations, "Camp Site at Santa Helena, Texas"). As of May, 1919, just before the start of the new construction project, Camp Santa Helena (Castolon) consisted of these structures (as well as eight tents which quartered the infantry detachment). A year later, when the project was nearing completion, the scene at Camp Santa Helena had almost totally changed.

The Mexican Border Project

When in 1919 the United States Army decided to revamp the security system along the Mexican-American border, it faced a huge logistical problem. Not only would it be necessary to cover a large geographic area between the Gulf of Mexico and Arizona, but also the terrain in many sections was almost impassable. At first it had been suggested that the best

5. "Buttrill Lease", Real Estate Records, 1917-1922, R. G. 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, Box No. 657, Federal Record Center, Suitland, Maryland. (hereafter cited as Suitland Record Center).

way to secure the border would be to build a road and fence from the Gulf to Arizona. However, the prohibitive cost of such a project led to its rejection. The next plan consisted of building posts and camps along the border. These installations would be located close enough to each other so that cavalry and infantry detachments could patrol between each camp. Supporting the camps on the border would be a series of larger permanent installations where supplies could be stored and troops stationed in reserve. The name given to the plan was the Mexican Border Project.

The construction phase of the Mexican Border Project was the responsibility of the Army's Construction Service. The Construction Service, which was a combination of the older Quartermaster Corps and Corps of Engineers, had been created during World War I. Among its various duties was the construction of the forts and camps generated by that war. A standard Construction Service procedure consisted of filing a completion report for each of its projects. The completion report for the Mexican Border Project summarized the logistical background of the construction of forts, camps, and outposts between Brownsville and Nogales. "This construction was required," Lt. Col. F. G. Chamberlain reported, "to house the numerous organizations stationed at the permanent posts, and those troops engaged in patrol duty. As these troops could not efficiently patrol districts far removed from their stations, or remain sheltered in tents for any great period of time without a decided decrease in morale, the Assistant Secretary of War on February 28, 1919, approved the necessary construction to adequately house and otherwise provide for them."⁶

Camp Santa Helena was one of about 44 posts and camps involved in the Mexican Border Project. The

6. Lt. Col. F. G. Chamberlain, "Completion Report of the Mexican Border Project", Construction Service Completion Reports, 1917-1919, R. G. 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, Suitland Record Center.

completion report for the entire project places Camp Santa Helena in perspective. The report contains information on the organization of the project, its cost, and its supervision. It outlines how the camps were constructed, who constructed them, where the structures were designed and engineered, and why given materials were employed. In addition the report summarizes the difficulties encountered during the project. Rather than summarize the report's various sections here, it is included as an appendix to this Historic Structure Report. It presents the "big picture" of the entire Mexican Border Project of which Camp Santa Helena was only a small part.

Camp Santa Helena

The contract for the construction of Camp Santa Helena was signed with Weston and Kroeger on June 12, 1919, and field work began on June 25.⁷ The original plan called for the construction of fourteen new buildings to support a garrison of infantry and cavalry troops as well as their horses, mules, and equipment. The camp was to contain the standard structures long familiar at Army forts such as barracks, officer quarters, non-commissioned officer quarters, stables, blacksmith shop, grain storehouse, and guard house. A total of approximately \$29,000 had been allocated for Camp Santa Helena.

No sooner had the Mexican-Americans hired by Weston and Kroeger begun to manufacture adobe bricks than the Army decided to change the original Camp Santa Helena plan. On September 3, 1919, eight of the original structures were canceled and the camp layout changed. The reason for this change rested in the transformed atmosphere along the border.

7. "Mexican Border Project", Construction Division Miscellaneous Records, 1916-1920, Box No. 3, R. G. 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, Suitland Record Center.

As illegal activities declined a reduced number of troops could effectively patrol the border.

The construction of Camp Santa Helena lasted from about September 1919 to the end of August 1920. It is probably that during this period the construction crew experienced difficulties similar to those outlined by Colonel Chamberlain in his completion report. The Army furnished all materials, while the contractor carried out the actual construction. The Camp Santa Helena work force probably went through many work stoppages waiting for lumber, window frames, hardware, electric apparatus, or asbestos shingles to arrive over the long road from the nearest railroad point at Marathon. In August, 1920, Lt. W. R. L. Reinhardt, Camp Santa Helena morale officer, reported that the new camp was almost ready for occupancy. He went on to say that the men, who had been living in tents for the previous ten months, were looking forward to moving in.⁸

The Camp Santa Helena buildings had a large number of structural similarities. Adobe was used in all the buildings except the grain shed and stables, which were frame structures. The adobe buildings were cement plastered and painted. Asbestos shingles covered all the roofs except the recreation building, canteen, and stable. Ventilators were installed in each structure. Utilities were also similar. All the structures except the stable and granary were wired for electricity. Although the Army installed an electric distribution system, a generator was not installed before the camp was placed on inactive status. Sewer and water systems were laid out to the officer and non-commissioned officer quarters, the lavatory, the stable, and the barracks. All door frames and window frames and sashes were similar. They came from pre-fabricated stocks located at Camp Travis, San Antonio, which were shipped to the site.

8. Casey, Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend, p. 55.

When Camp Santa Helena was finished in August 1920, it consisted of nine structures. They were: officer quarters, non-commissioned officer quarters, mess and barracks, recreation building, canteen, grain shed, stable, and water tower and tank. All these structures except the canteen were constructed in 1919-1920 by Weston and Kroeger. The canteen was an older structure probably built sometime between 1916 and 1919. On the Camp Site Map it is shown as the cavalry barracks. It was located just to the west of the present day officer quarters or residence. When originally constructed the Camp Santa Helena structures had the following general appearance.

a. The Officer Quarters. This building was a one story structure measuring 25' X 26'. It had a concrete foundation, plastered adobe walls, an asbestos shingle roof, and concrete floors. It was completed in July 1920 at a cost of \$4472. (This cost figure is probably a rough estimate.) It was wired for electricity and had water and sewer connections. The building was partitioned into six rooms and was furnished with an electric range, a heating stove, one fire extinguisher, one kitchen sink, two toilets, a wash basin, and a bath tub.⁹

b. N.C.O. Quarters. The Non-commissioned officers quarters were similar to the officer quarters but slightly smaller, 23' x 25', and cost only \$3405. It had only five rooms. The structure was furnished similarly to the officer quarters, but it had only one toilet.

c. Lavatory. The lavatory, which cost \$3400, was a one story structure with dimensions 21' x 29'.

9. "Santa Helena", Historical Records Relating to Post Planning, Box No. 32, R. G. 394, Army Continental Commands, National Archives. The information for each Camp Santa Helena structure is taken from this file.

It too had a concrete foundation, cement plastered adobe walls, asbestos shingles, and concrete floors. It consisted of two rooms, was wired for electricity, and, of course, had water and sewer connections. Within the structure were four fire buckets, seven toilets, one urinal, two wash basins, four shower baths, and a heating stove.

d. Barracks. The barracks, which also contained the mess, was also a one story building. The plan called for the construction of a structure measuring 20' x 141', but as actually built the barracks was only 21' x 96'. Materials consisted of concrete foundation, cement plastered adobe walls, asbestos shingle roof, and concrete floors. The barracks was the most expensive structure at the camp, having cost \$9498. It too was completed in July 1920, was wired for electricity, and had water and sewer connections. Internally the structure was divided into three rooms. One was a long squad room and, it is assumed, the other two were the mess and kitchen. It was furnished with heating stoves, a fire extinguisher, eight fire buckets, two kitchen sinks, a refrigerator, and a kitchen range.

e. Recreation Building. The recreation building was built by Weston and Kroeger, but it was not paid for by the Army. The Salvation Army apparently ordered this structure as part of its efforts to take care of the troops' psychological and moral well being. It was a one story building, 24' x 50'. The structure had a concrete foundation, adobe walls, and a concrete floor. Unlike most of the other structures, the recreation building had a building paper roof. It was completed in April 1920, was wired for electricity, but had no water or sewer connections. Originally the recreation building consisted of a single room and was furnished with one fire extinguisher, four fire buckets, a refrigerator, and a heating stove.

f. Grain Shed. The grain shed, which cost \$1988 and measured 18' x 32', was also completed in July 1920. The structure was a frame building with concrete post footings, an asbestos shingle

roof, and wood flooring. It was partitioned into two rooms, was not wired, and had no water or sewer connections. The structure was furnished with a fire extinguisher and eight fire buckets.

g. Stable. The stable cost \$2946 and measured 24' x 160'. It was a frame structure with wood post foundation, a paper roof, and a dirt floor. The building was wired and had water and sewer connections. The stable had a 60 animal capacity.

h. Canteen. The canteen was an older one room structure with concrete foundation, adobe walls, a paper roof, and a dirt floor. Its dimensions were 20' x 60'. The Army did wire the structure, but it had no water or sewer connections nor a heating stove.

i. Tower and Tank. On the list of Camp Santa Helena structures, from which the information for each structure is taken, the water tower is listed as "tower and tank". There is little information about the structure other than it had a concrete foundation, wood walls, and paper roof. It was 20' high, cost \$1820, and had a 10,000 gallon capacity. The photographs of Castolon show two towers and tanks. It is possible that the Army built both towers and tanks. However a more likely explanation is that Cartledge built either one or both of the tanks.

Camp Santa Helena was completed and ready for occupancy about the end of August 1920. Up until that time the men had lived in tents or in an old adobe building. At about the time the buildings were finished, the Santa Helena garrison was ordered out of the area. A small infantry detachment of perhaps a half dozen men might have been left behind to look after the government property. The purpose of building the new Camp Santa Helena had been to provide the troops patrolling the border with comfortable facilities in a difficult environment far from the amenities of civilization. Ironically, the men stationed at Camp Santa Helena never did enjoy the new camp. The small detachment probably left the camp in early 1921 taking with them the heating stoves, fire extinguishers, refrigerators, and ranges.

Toilets and other fixtures were apparently left in the buildings. The electric, sewer, and water systems were not removed. An electric generator never was installed. In early 1921 the Army period at Camp Santa Helena, which was soon to be known as Castolon, came to an end.

Castolon

It was probably with mixed feelings that Wayne Cartledge, the owner of the land upon which Camp Santa Helena had been built, watched the Army march away. The force that had provided security for his budding Rio Grande investment was leaving. Trouble could break out again at any time. On the other hand the Army was leaving behind a set of brand new structures which would be ideal for his store and farm. The Army had spent around \$22,000 in their construction and had erected sound buildings complete with electric wiring and sewer and water systems. Even with the backing of his partner, Howard Perry, Cartledge himself could never have afforded to build such modern facilities.

The troops had no sooner left Camp Santa Helena than Cartledge approached Army authorities to inquire about the possibility of using the structures. The reply was favorable. Apparently in return for Cartledge's looking after and maintaining the structures, the Army agreed to let him employ them in his merchant and agricultural activities. The only stipulation the Army placed on the Cartledge occupancy was that he would be willing to vacate the buildings, if and when it became necessary for the Army to re-garrison the camp. In 1921 Cartledge moved into Camp Santa Helena .

Conditions remained quiet on the border for the next two years. In 1923 the War Department decided to dispose of many of the camps it had built during the Mexican Border Project. In keeping with standard War Department practice Camp Santa Helena was declared surplus government property and its sale at auction ordered. It was not, however, until 1925

that the actual sale took place. Between 1923 and 1925 Cartledge and Perry closely watched all developments pertaining to Castolon, as Camp Santa Helena was now called. They of course wanted to make sure the partnership acquired the structures. When the Army opened the final Camp Santa Helena bids in April, 1925, the Perry-Cartledge bid was the highest. For the very small sum of \$1,280 Cartledge and Perry purchased the buildings which the Army had paid \$22,000 to construct.¹⁰ Castolon was, to say the least, a bargain. Until 1961 the Castolon army complex would remain Cartledge property.

Wayne Cartledge had no sooner taken over the Camp Santa Helena structures than he adapted them to his use. There is no detailed record of the structural and functional changes of the Castolon army complex buildings between 1921 and 1961. Fortunately, the available documentary and photographic information indicates that the buildings have remained relatively unchanged.

When Cartledge moved into the Camp Santa Helena buildings, he completed the work the Army had left unfinished. Electric wiring was present in most of the structures. When Cartledge installed a generator in the recreation hall, the lights went on at Castolon. The water and sewer systems were ready to function. Cartledge apparently installed a pump at the well located below the bluff along the river road to pump water to the tank built by the Army. There is a minor mystery about the tanks. The Castolon photographs show two water tanks. The Army records for Camp Santa Helena speak of only one tank and tower. It is possible that either Cartledge built a second tank, or, the Army built it and their records are inaccurate. At the same time as he electrified his property and put the water and sewer systems into working order, Cartledge adapted the other structures to his use. The structural and

10. Casey, Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend, p. 94.

functional history of the Castolon structures between 1921 and 1962 was:

a. Wayne Cartledge Residence (BBH-603). This structure was originally the Camp Santa Helena officer quarters. When Cartledge took over the camp, this building, in which the Army had built a bathroom, was the logical choice to become Cartledge's residence. The structure has served this function to the present day. The officer quarters has been the home of Wayne Cartledge, his son Eugene, and, since 1961, the National Park Service ranger stationed at Castolon.

It is unknown whether the Army built the screened porches on each end of the structure. It is probable that the porches and the front yard were Cartledge additions. With the exceptions of the porches and landscaping this structure has not been significantly altered since its construction. Cartledge repainted the plastered walls white and then repainted the woodwork green, but the basic structure remains the same building Weston and Kroeger built for the Army in 1919-1920.

b. Eugene Cartledge Residence (BBH-604). This structure's history from 1921 to 1961 is similar to the Wayne Cartledge residence. Originally intended to be the non-commissioned officer quarters, it became a residence when Cartledge took over the property. R. W. Derrick, Cartledge's farm manager, might have been the first man to occupy the building. In later years Eugene Cartledge lived here. By 1955 Eugene Cartledge had moved into his father's house and Robert Cartledge was living in this residence.¹¹

11. George H. Sholly and Grover E. Steele, "Castolon Property", May 15, 1955, Castolon File, Big Bend National Park Historical Files, Big Bend National Park Headquarters. (Hereafter cited as Sholly-Steele report).

The screened porch and landscaping were probably Cartledge additions to the structure. However, with the exceptions of the porch, landscaping, and repainting, the basic appearance of this structure has not changed since its construction in 1919-1920.

c. Lavatory (BBH-602). As constructed by the Army this two room structure was intended to be the enlisted man's lavatory and bathing facilities. When Cartledge took over the building, he changed its function. The larger of the two rooms was converted to a residence. The 1955 "Sholly-Steele Report" identifies the building as "sleeping quarters". It is unknown who lived in the building, but it is probably that the occupants were Cartledge employees.

Cartledge converted the smaller room into the Castolon laundry by installing a large iron furnace with a large hot water boiler attached. The 1933-1934 photograph (see illustrations) shows laundry drying immediately behind the laundry room.

When the National Park Service took over the structure in 1961, it was converted back to its original function as lavatory. With the exception of these functional changes, the structure remains almost exactly as it was constructed by the Army.

d. La Harmonia Store (BBH-600). The original Camp Santa Helena plan called for the construction of a barracks with dimensions 21' x 141'. As actually constructed the structure measured only 21 x 96'. Like the other Camp Santa Helena buildings, the barracks was also not occupied by troops.

When Cartledge took over the structures, he immediately converted the barracks into a general store and trading post. The interior of the La Harmonia store remains little changed since the Cartledge years. In 1926 the Post Office Department designated Castolon a mail station. A small 6' x 7' post office cage with some 58 mail boxes was installed. The mail cage is still within the

structure. The two rooms at the east end of the structure functioned as a residence for a Cartledge employee. When the National Park Concessions assumed management of the store in 1961, the quarters were enlarged to three rooms and a full bath was installed.

Aside from occasional replastering and repainting, the exterior of the structure has undergone little change. The eastern or residence portion of the structure was screened by Cartledge. About 1956 a ramada was added along the front of the building. In appearance and function the La Harmonia store remains today almost exactly as it was during the Cartledge years.

e. Garage (BBH-601). As originally constructed this building was intended to be a recreation hall for the troops stationed at Camp Santa Helena. It was not included on the plan for the camp and is reported to have been built at the behest of the Salvation Army. Unlike most of the other Army structures, the recreation hall did not have an asbestos shingle roof but rather a building-paper covering.

When Cartledge took over the building he converted it into a garage and workshop. He made several major structural changes. First, he cut a large, garage type door in the west elevation. Second, he partitioned the interior into two rooms. The garage housed his farm vehicles, especially a tractor. The second room functioned as a workshop and in addition contained a gas-driven Onan electric generator as well as a small one-cylinder generator with 16 attached storage batteries. The latter plant was a reserve or emergency electricity source. Cartledge also put a corrugated metal roof on the building.

On the south end he put up an adobe lean-to which housed the gas tank for the electric generator. At the back or east side of the building Cartledge built a ramada under which he parked some of the farm equipment.

When the National Park Service took over this structure in 1961, the Service utilized it as a fire cache and storage room. Because the building was badly deteriorated, the Southwest Archeological Center performed major stabilization work on the building.

f. Granary (BBH-608). As constructed by the Army this 18' x 32' frame structure was to be the grain shed for storing feed for the cavalry horses and mules. Cartledge used the building for the same purpose from 1921 to 1961. The 1955 "Sholly-Steele Report" calls the structure the old granary. One of the two rooms was being used as a feed shed and the other as a tack room.

When the National Park Service assumed ownership of the building, it continued to employ the structure as a feed shed. Except for marked deterioration and door changes, this structure, which apparently was not painted by the Army, has not materially changed either in appearance or function since its construction in 1919-1920.

Although the grain shed itself has not changed since its construction, the scene around the structure has. At the time of the construction of Camp Santa Helena the Army built a long, 24' x 160', stable immediately to the east of the grain shed (see illustrations). As can be seen in the photographs, the stable was surrounded by a corral. Cartledge also took over the stable and corral and utilized them for many years. Apparently the stable burned down in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The structure is no longer present in the 1933-1934 photograph. After the stables burned down, Cartledge built a corral around the grain shed. He also constructed a trap, some holding pens, and a loading chute about 100 yards east of the grain shed (see illustrations). The corral around the grain shed as well as the remains of the loading chute are still a part of the Castolon historic compound.

In addition to the above structures, a canteen and a water tower and tank were Camp Santa Helena

structures taken over by Cartledge. Both structures have disappeared from the Castolon scene. It is unknown what happened to the canteen. The structure just to the west of the officer quarters. At the time Camp Santa Helena was built, this building was already listed on the camp structure inventory as old and in poor condition. It is probable that Cartledge tore down the building shortly after he acquired ownership of the camp in 1925.

The water towers were long a part of the Castolon scene. As of 1955 one of the towers had lost its tank and the roof had blown off the other. Both towers were apparently dismantled when the National Park Service took over the area.

As of 1925 Cartledge had successfully adapted the Camp Santa Helena structures to serve functions connected with his business and agricultural activities. At the same time he added another structure to the Castolon complex. This structure is called the Magdalena house. It is today a part of the Castolon historic compound. The year of the construction of the Magdalena house is unknown. Dr. Clifford Casey reports that, "This house was constructed by Alvino Ybarra and his brother after Cartledge took over the properties for a Ranger station and customs house."¹² This would place the year of construction sometime between 1921 and 1925 depending on when one figures Cartledge took over Camp Santa Helena. (It could have been 1921, when he moved into the structures which the Army still owned, or, it could have been 1925, when Cartledge purchased them.) The corrugated metal roof on the Magdalena house indicates Cartledge probably built the structure about the same time he converted the recreation hall to a garage. The recreation hall has a corrugated metal roof similar to the roof on the Magdalena house. The structure did function as a Ranger station, but the dates of this activity

12. Casey, Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend, p. 70.

are unknown. The Casey Collection at the Sul Ross State University library contains a photograph of three men standing in front of the structure which has a sign on it reading, "Company C, Texas Rangers".¹³ The Magdalena house also functioned as a customs house during the years Castolon was recognized as a port of entry for customs purposes.

The primary function of this structure was as the residence of Magdalena Silvas, a Mexican-American who worked for Cartledge for about three decades. The structure has undergone no alterations since its construction. Today it is operated by the National Park Service as a ranger station and Castolon visitor contact point.

Two other structures are a part of the present Castolon scene. Neither of the structures are dealt with in the Historic Resources Management Plan and neither is scheduled for preservation. The first, the Garlick house, is an adobe structure. Like the Alvino house the Garlick house has an earth-viga roof and is not plastered. During the Cartledge years the structure grew piecemeal. As can be seen in the photographs, the original section of this structure was a one or two room building with an attached garage. The structure had apparently been built on the foundation of a previous building located on the same site. (This building is shown in Plate Three behind and to the west of the Magdalena house. It is about the same size as the Magdalena house and has a corrugated metal roof. The structure might have been the mess-kitchen of the pre-1919 Army camp shown on the "Camp Site" map. The structure appears to have been a residence--note the freshly washed clothes. Why or when this building was torn down is unknown.) In the years after its construction the Garlick house was enlarged to its present appearance by the addition of an east-west wing.

13. "Castolon File", Casey Collection, Sul Ross State University Library, Alpine, Texas.

Although the building had a number of occupants, it is named after Fred Garlick who lived in the structure during the years he worked for Cartledge as farm manager. (The disposition of the Carlick house is dealt with in part four, recommendations.)

The second Castolon structure not scheduled for preservation is a small, approximately 5' x 7' frame shed located between the fire cache and the corral. According to Wayne Cartledge, this building was put up in 1922 and functioned as a "chick shack" (a chicken brooder) and tool shed.¹⁴ Cartledge's 1922 date for this building has been used to date one of the Castolon photographs (plate three). The building does not appear in the photograph, thus it is assumed that the picture must have been taken earlier than 1922. This is inaccurate. The photograph is later than 1925 and probably dates between 1927 and 1930. This would mean the "chick shack" was probably built sometime between 1927 and 1930. (The disposition of the building is dealt with in part four, recommendations.)

When in 1919 the engineers of the United States Army's Construction Service decided to employ adobe in the construction of the buildings at Camp Santa Helena they had no idea that years later the structures would become a part of what is today called the Castolon historic compound. The structures they designed were intended to be well built, totally functional to the needs of a small Army garrison, and, above all, inexpensive. They were rarely interested in constructing architecturally interesting structures. When Wayne Cartledge acquired Camp Santa Helena, he too looked at the buildings with a practical eye. His intention was to adapt them to serve functions supporting his business and agricultural activities. The barracks quickly became a store, the officer and non-commissioned officer quarters residences, the

14. Cartledge Interview, Big Bend Historic Files, Park Headquarters.

recreational hall a garage, and so on. Cartledge soon discovered that the Army had choosen well when they decided to build cement plastered adobe structures with asbestos shingle roofs. Aside from occassionally retouching the plaster and repainting, the buildings required little maintenance. The Army had indeed constructed durable buildings well adapted to the Big Bend environment. After forty years of service to Cartledge and ten years to the National Park Service, the Camp Santa Helena structures have changed little in appearance and they remain functional buildings. In the future they will be well preserved artifacts of man's successful efforts to establish himself along the Rio Grande in the Big Bend.

4. Part Three: The Castolon Historic Scene:

Few alterations have taken place in the Castolon scene since the National Park Service took over the area in 1961. The structures and grounds remain much as they were during the last years of the Cartledge period. Judging from the few available photographs of the Castolon historic compound, the area has in fact undergone no major changes since the Army period. To be sure, structures such as the water towers and stables disappeared between 1921 and 1961. New structures such as the Magdalena and Garlic houses appeared. Nevertheless, when viewed as a totality, the Castolon historic compound scene is little altered. There has been relatively minor transformation of the grounds and/or landscape. No major new structures have been added. If today one of the soldiers stationed at Camp Santa Helena in August 1920 were to return to Castolon, he would immediately recognize the scene.

In relation to historic preservation the present Castolon scene is almost ideal. There is no need to undertake any restoration which would recreate an historic scene. The present scene, both the structures and the grounds, is at the same time the historic scene.

The Cartledge years have been selected as the most important period in Castolon's past. The Army period is given second priority. Because the Cartledge years are historically the most significant period, historic preservation centers on the time between 1921 and 1961. Preservation and not restoration is the National Park Service's intention at Castolon. The Historic Resources Management Plan outlines a program of preserving the Castolon scene in a condition similar to the one that existed during the Cartledge years. (There is no intention to restore Castolon to a given year during the Cartledge period. There is no intention to reconstruct such structures as the water tank or the stables.) This is the general intention. The plan does not call for a policy of "pure" preservation, i.e. the retention of the structures and grounds exactly as

they existed on the day Cartledge moved out. Rather, the plan combines the goal of keeping the structures functional with the goal of historic preservation. The following recommendations are in the spirit of that policy.

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

1. Existing Conditions:

Field investigations were undertaken in September, 1971 by Robert Simmonds and James Sheire and their findings are reflected below:

Site

The Army compound site is very stable due to its location on a bluff above the flood plain of the Rio Grande River; however, many of the supportive historic landscape and structural features located in the river basin have been altered or are in serious peril.

The cotton gin and the pumping station and the irrigation system which are located on the river bank are being slowly taken by eroding action of the river. Deterioration of these features has progressed to the point that now only salvage of the equipment is feasible. (See illustration No. 1)

The cotton fields seen in photographs Nos 1, 2 and 3 have been abandoned and now support native vegetation.

The immediate site of the Army compound shows some soil erosion, but not of any serious amount to affect the historic appearance. Native ground cover has reclaimed portions of the site to the point that the historic scene is somewhat difficult to visualize.

Of major concern to Castolon is the unstable condition of the river road just east of the site. During the historic period two means of ingress to the site were used from the River Road which traversed the flood plain at the base of the bluff passing south of the compound and on toward the cotton gin and points westward. Ingress came from an intersection in this road just west of the Army camp and provided

access to the cotton fields to the south or northward up an arroyo onto the bluff and into the camp. The other means of ingress was from a branch road on the east side of the camp up a wash into the compound between the officers quarters and the barracks. This road pattern can be seen in Illustration No. 1. The Rio Grande River periodically washes out portions of the historic river road, making it impassable. As a result, the east branch road serves now as the official River Road and funnels all traffic through the historic compound. Although this access does not seriously endanger the site at the present time, it does complicate proper restoration of the site. When traffic flow and congestion reaches the point where the historic value of the site is endangered, then a site development plan should be programmed.

Army Structures

The structures remain in appearance today basically as they were during the army period. They have only minor changes and a few nonhistoric appendages. The most notable appendages are the pipe frame and reed roofed ramadas that provide desired shade but greatly detract from architectural integrity and the proper interpretation of the army post. The addition of evaporative window coolers do not detract from the overall appearance, since they have been located with discretion. The most incompatible change is the paint colors. The original army colors were very pleasing to the eye and harmonious with the surroundings.

BBH-600--Army Mess and Barracks.

This structure shows the wear and tear of 50 years of use and will need extensive interior and exterior restoration work.

BBH-601--Recreation Hall. This structure is near collapse and will need extensive restoration work to make it useful as an NPS utility building.

BBH-602--Army latrine. This structure is sound

and in the best condition of all of the structures at Castolon.

BBH-603 and 604-- Army Officer's quarters. These two structures are sound structurally but need exterior and interior repairs and upgrading.

BBH-608--Granary. A fire some time in the past and a general lack of maintenance have taken their toll on this structure, but not to the point that restoration cannot be accomplished economically.

Corral

The corral fence is purely decorative at this juncture and though weak structurally is not in danger of collapse unless animals are penned within.

2. Description of the Historic Fabric:

All of the structures were constructed from similar materials with the exception of the granary.

Foundations

The main foundations are poured-in-place concrete. Porch slabs were integrally poured with their foundation. Limited forming was used where the foundations were exposed.

Walls

Main walls are constructed of adobe block, measuring 4" x 11-1/2" x 17-1/2", laid in running and stacked bond patterns. Exterior and interior wall finish consists of cement stucco and plaster on wire lath. The exterior being applied in the "thrown method" and the interior a wood troweled finish.

The balance of the walls, porches, and interior partitions are wood frame with either wood siding or cement plaster on wire lath.

Floors

The floors are finished with an 1-1/2" sand-cement topping with a burnished steel trowel finish. One exception is the recreation hall which has a dirt floor.

Roof

All the roofs are constructed of wood trusses with board sheathing. Porch roofs are of simple span design using 2 x 4 rafters. Roofing for all the buildings except the recreation hall is 1/8" thick, hexagonal white, smooth finished asbestos shingles. The half-round ridge cap is mixed in color, either white or red. Flashing is galvanized sheet metal. The recreation hall roof is galvanized, corrugated metal roofing.

Windows and doors

All windows and doors are of wood with wood trim, 1920's stock patterns.

Interior finish

The interior is finished with plain 1 x 4 wood trim and base. The ceilings are a "celotex" type board with 1 x 2 wood trim battens.

Ventilation

Each structure was vented through a ceiling access grill and attic eave louvers to a ridge mounted sheet metal rotating ventilator.

Utilities

The barracks, residences and the latrine were equipped with sewer, water, and electrical services. Heating for the structures was by floorstanding unit heaters, either oil or kerosene fired, and vented through adobe block chimneys.

Granary

The granary is a wood frame structure with a trussed rafter roof and board siding. The roofing is asbestos hexagonal shingle. The structure is raised 18" above grade for free air flow and supported by three (3) 2 x 10 girders resting on a series of 12" x 12" concrete post footings. Each post was provided with a sheet metal varmint guard. The gable ends contain a large wood louver and there is a central metal ridge ventilator.

General

All of the structures were built from "standard plans" and similar materials used throughout the Mexican Border Project. Exceptions were made where transportation of materials were difficult or where a local substitute was more practical. This was the case at Camp Santa Helena where adobe construction was not only more economical, but more advantageous.

3. Physical Investigation of the Structural Fabric:

Generally the only major structural problem apparent is the weak and disintegrating adobe block where the stucco has cracked or peeled allowing water entrance and resulting erosion. The foundations, wood trusses, windows and doors are generally sound.

BBH-601 - Recreation Building - This building was not stuccoed until 1963 by SWAC and showed extensive adobe disintegration prior to SWAC stabilization. The present metal roofing was either reapplied or came from another building for it is perforated by numerous nail holes which admits rain, causing further water damage.

BBH-608 - Granary - This structure suffered fire damage some time prior to 1961. Several floors joists were burned through and repair work was accomplished by splicing on new joists. This damage is repairable without destroying the historic fabric. The wood siding is very low in moisture content and is starting to curl.

4. Recommendations for Preservation and Restoration with Updated Form 10-802:

General

The Army structures will be restored to and preserved in their original appearance on the exterior only. Adaptive restoration and preservation will guide the interior appearance. This will be accomplished by removing the obvious nonconforming exterior appendages and by painting the structures in the historic color scheme. The historic colors were a barn or Spanish red used for trim, windows, doors, columns and fascias, while the stucco and siding and soffits were painted a yellow-ocher. These colors will distinguish the Army structures from the other buildings at Castolon, but will not detract or diminish the other three interpretive themes to be told at Castolon.

Since the major theme to be interpreted at Castolon is the Cartledge trade activity, the sign "Castolon Store" should be removed and the store referred to in the historic context. The presumed original sign, "La Harmonia Co.," is still in place over the entrance door.

Site

Restore site vegetation cover to that indicated in Illustration No. 2. This will involve the removal of post 1925-1930 vegetation as well as that which has encroached upon the historic scene. Included will be complete removal of exotics and all plant material in the Army corral area.

It is not anticipated by this report that the water towers, stable, or corral fencing will be restored to the Army period; however, if management feels that they should be restored, then additional research and development funds should be programmed.

Buildings-Exterior

Exterior appearance shall be consistent with the Army period, namely that indicated in Illustration No. 2.

This will require the removal of all ramadas and repainting the structures the original army colors. The evaporative coolers, however, will remain.

Buildings-Interior

Interior appearance shall reflect the atmosphere of the Cartledge era. BBH-603 and BBH-604 shall be retained for National Park Service residences, and refurbished through the Quarter's Allowance funding. The modernizing of electrical, service and wiring and installation of heating and air-conditioning equipment in BBH-600 shall be the responsibility of the concessioner and coordinated and approved through the appropriate National Park Service offices.

Army Structures

BBH-600 - Barracks and Mess Hall

1. Repair roof and flashing.
2. Seal unused chimney flues and repair all chimneys.
3. Remove deteriorated stucco, plaster, wire lath and adobe block and replace.
4. Restore all windows, doors, and lintels.
5. Install new ceiling.
6. Provide new roof insulation.
7. Repair sand-cement floor topping.
8. Rebuild open porch and screen porch as required.
9. Repaint the entire structure with Army colors.

Electrical service wiring, heating, and air-conditioning upgrading to be accomplished by cooperating funding by the concessioner.

BBH-601 - Recreation Hall

1. Remove roof and walls, salvage roof trusses, window, doors and frames.
2. Rebuild walls with soil-cement blocks to match historic adobe block.
3. Reset window frames, windows, door

frames and doors that are salvageable, replace where required.

4. Reset trusses and install new wood nailers and galvanized, corrugated sheet metal roof.
5. Restore electrical service and wiring.
6. Repaint wood with army colors.

BBH-602 - Latrine

1. Make repairs as required.
2. Repaint entire structure with army colors.

BBH-603 and 604 - Exterior only

1. Repair roof.
2. Remove fire damaged material and replace with new material.
3. Rebuild historic doors and hatches using original for templates.
4. Rebuild historic platforms.
5. Treat wood with wood preservative.

Corral - treat with wood preservative.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PACKAGE ESTIMATING DETAIL

REGION Southwest	PARK Big Bend National Park
PACKAGE NUMBER	PACKAGE TITLE Restoration--Castolon Army Compound

(If more space is needed, use plain paper and attach)

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST
BBH-600--Army Mess Hall and Barracks	Job	\$35,200
BBH-601--Recreation Hall	"	7,000
BBH-602--Army Latrine	"	700
BBH-603 and 604--Officers' Quarters	"	3,700
BBH-608--Granary and Corral	"	<u>4,400</u>
Estimate Based on Day Labor Costs June, 1972 cost figures		\$51,000

SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES		CLASS OF ESTIMATE		
		A <input type="checkbox"/> Working Drawings	B <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Plans	C <input type="checkbox"/> Similar Facilities
Proj. Type		Totals from Above B & U R & T		
52	Museum Exhibits			XXXXX
62	Audio-Visual			XXXXX
89	Ruins Stabilization			XXXXX
91	Construction			
92	Utility Contracts		\$51,000	XXXXX
ESTIMATES APPROVED (Signature)		(title)		(date)

-SCHEDULING-

DEVELOPMENT RELATED PROJECT TYPES		C-3	C-2	C-1	C: Year of Construction	Int
7	Construction Drawings B&U					
7	Construction Drawings R&T					
2	Project Supervision (FHWA Projects)					
1	Construction Layout & Supervision B&U					
1	Construction Layout & Supervision R&T					
6	As Constructed Drawings B&U					
6	As Constructed Drawings R&T					
6	Historic Structures Const. Drawings					
7	Historic Structures Const. Supervision					
3	Archeological Salvage					
1	Museum Exhibit Design					
1	Audiovisual Design					
5	Wayside Exhibit Design					
	<u>Project Planning Total:</u>					
	Advance Planning Project Types					
5	Surveys					
6	Comprehensive Design (Prel.Design)					
4	Utility Negotiations					
5	Special Studies					
4	Historic Furnishings Report					
5	Historic Structures Report (HIST)					
5	Historic Structures Report (Archit.)					
2	Archeological Research					
	ALL OTHER PROJECT TYPES	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	
1	New Area Study					
2	Existing Area Study					
3	Development Concept Plan					
4	Interpretive Prospectus					
8	Boundary Surveys & Monumenting					
5	Special Studies(Non-Develop. Related)					
16	E.I.S. - DCP's & Master Plans					
7	Service-wide Projects					
18	Wilderness Studies					
1	Archeological Investigations					
2	Park History Study					
33	Special History Report					
51	Museum Exhibit Design (Rehab)					
53	Museum Exhibit Operations					
54	Curatorial Survices					
55	Wayside Exhibits (Rehab)					
61	Audiovisual Design (Rehab)					
63	Audiovisual Maintenance					
72	Sales Folders					
73	Books					
75	Gen. Publications					
76	Posters					
77	Special Publications					
	Other					
	Other					

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Big Bend Historic Resources Management Plan calls for the preservation at Castolon of the following structures: the Alvino House, the lavatory, the two residences, the garage, the Magdalena house, the grain shed, and the loading pen. The plan does not deal with the Garlick house nor with the "chick shack", and since the Alvino house and the Magdalena house are not associated with the Army period, they are not part of this report.

These latter four structures represent three of the four themes to be touched on at Castolon; namely, border troubles, farming and ranching, and primary examples of border architecture. The buildings help to pull together visually the evolution of the human history at Castolon and should be retained and preserved.

BBH-605 -Magdalena Residence

This structure was built by Cartledge after the army left, and housed briefly the Texas Rangers. It is presently used as the Castolon Ranger Station.

It is suggested that BBH-605 be retained and continued to be used as a National Park Service ranger station and to house exhibits on the story of the Texas Rangers.

BBH-606 -Garlick house

It was an evolved structure during the Cartledge era. Originally a smaller structure did occupy this site prior to 1919, (See Illustration No. 2) but it was razed for construction of the present Garlick house seen in Illustrations 3 and 4. Presently the house is unoccupied.

It is suggested that BBH-606 be restored and used to interpret the farming and ranching period at Castolon. Because of the building's position at the edge of the bluff and its orientation toward

the agricultural activity, in the river bottom, interpretive exhibits can easily be associated visually with the historic scene.

BBH-607 - Alvino House

This structure is the oldest surviving building in the compound and is presently unoccupied.

It is suggested that BBH-607 be preserved, for it represents the earliest known structure at Castolon and is a prime example of the architectural style of the Border.

Unnumbered - Chick Shack

Of the Cartledge era, this structure should be preserved as a vestige of the farming activity in this area.

2. The Historic Resources Management Plan recommends that the corral surrounding the granary--tack room be obliterated and the corral just east of the structures be rehabilitated. This would restore the corral to its appearance during the Army period and during the first decade of the Cartledge years. If it should prove infeasible to carry out this restoration, this report recommends that the corral be retained at its present location.

The Cartledge residency at Castolon is historically the most significant period in the area's past. The ranch and farm represent major Cartledge agricultural activities. The grain shed and corral were a part of the ranch and farm. Cartledge used the original Army stable until around 1930, when it is reported to have burned down. He did not rebuild the stable. Instead, he placed a corral around the grain shed and built another corral with loading pens (see Illustration No. 3). From the beginning of the 1930s until Cartledge left Castolon a corral encircled the grain shed; i.e. for thirty of Cartledge's forty years at Castolon the grain shed and corral appeared much as they do today. The function of the original corral was to enclose the

stables. Without the stables--which will probably not be reconstructed--the reconstructed Army corral could be an anachronism. Even if the visitor is provided with a picture of the original corral and stable, interpretation would not be as effective as the Cartledge corral around the grain shed. For these reasons it is recommended that the present corral be retained.

3. Recommendations for future study. An additional history study is needed for the border region which will clarify and put into perspective the chronological development and the interrelationships of Castolon, Old Castolon, Camp Santa Helena, Terlinqua, etc. Presently, this information is scattered about in several sources making it difficult to comprehend the full interpretive message. Castolon offers the most convenient ideal location to convey to the visitor this complete story.

APPENDIX ONE

To the Quartermaster General of the Army

Construction Service

Washington, D.C.

Completion Report

of

The Mexican Border Project

Authorization No. 3050 1 & 2

By

F. G. Chamberlain, Lieutenant Colonel, Q. M. C.

Constructing Quartermaster

Camp Travis

San Antonio, Texas

1920

Completion Report

Mexican Border Project

1. General Statement of Work

The Mexican Border Project was the designation given to the construction on the Mexican Border from Brownsville, Texas, to Nogales, Arizona. This construction was required to house the numerous organizations stationed at the permanent posts, and those troops engaged in patrol duty. As these troops could not efficiently patrol districts far removed from their stations, or remain sheltered in tents for any great period of time without a decided decrease in morale, the Assistant Secretary of War on Feb. 28, 1919, approved the necessary construction to adequately house and otherwise provide for them.

These posts and camps were, in some cases, developments of existing posts, of former frontier posts long since abandoned and turned over to the Department of the Interior, others were entirely new layouts on leased land, adaptable to the purpose on account of good sanitary possibilities and strategic position.

2. Location and General Conditions

The portion of the Mexican Border included in this project extends westward from the mouth of the Rio Grande River at Brownsville, Texas, to Nogales, Arizona, approximately 1200 miles. This territory is practically all arid and in some sections desert, subject to strong winds and sand storms. Three railroads form the rail transportation. The Gulf Coast Lines serve the Brownsville District. The International and Great Northern the Laredo District, and the Southern Pacific Lines the remaining districts in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

3. Organization

In order that the work might be handled most expeditiously, the entire Mexican Border Project was ordered placed under the control of one Officer with Headquarters in the Southern Department. A Construction Quartermaster for the work, Major F. G. Chamberlain, subsequently Lieutenant Colonel, Q.M.C., was appointed. This officer was later designated Construction Quartermaster, Mexican Border Project, with Headquarters at Camp Travis, Texas.

4. Field Organizations

Division of Project: The entire project was divided into six sections, known as Groups A, B, C, D, E, and the El Paso Group. This division was made in order to take advantage of the existing railroad systems and secure an equalization of parts which was considered an important aid in securing bids for the construction, as a Contractor might bid on the whole, or part, depending upon the organization he was able to put into the field, and the amount of work he could advantageously handle.

The division was as follows:

(a) Group "A" includes the posts in the Brownsville and Rio Grande Patrol District, extends from Brownsville, Texas, to Roma, Texas, a distance of about one hundred and twenty-five miles, and consists of the following posts:

Ft. Brown	Mercedes	San Fordyce
LaGrueella	Ft. Ringgold	San Benito
McAllen	Roma	

(b) Group "B" includes the Laredo and Eagle Pass Patrol District, extends from Zapata, Texas, to Leham's Ranch, a distance of about one hundred and eighty miles, and includes the following posts with their outposts:

Eagle Pass and outposts
Fort McIntosh and outposts

(c) Group "C" includes the Big Bend Patrol District and that section of Sierra Blanca, Fabens, and Clint Patrol District east of Fort Hancock Railway Station. It extends from Pumpville, Texas, to Fort Hancock Railway Station, a distance of about three hundred and fifty miles; and includes the following posts and outposts:

Marfa
Glenn Springs
Hollands Ranch Pack Train
Hollands Ranch Troop Post
Hesters Ranch
Indio
Lajitas
Polvo
Presidio
Santa Helena
Ruidosa
Sierra Blanca

(d) El Paso Group includes El Paso Patrol District, and that section Sierra Blanca, Fabens, Clint Patrol west of Fort Hancock Railway Station. It extends from the Fort Hancock Railway Station to the New Mexico Line, a distance of about 50 miles, and includes the following posts:

Fort Bliss, Texas
Ft. Hancock Railway Station, Texas
Ysleta, Texas
Fabens, Texas
International Bridge, Texas

(e) Group "D" includes the Columbus Patrol District and the Douglas Patrol District east of the Arizona-New Mexico Boundary Line. It extends from the east New Mexico State Line to Hudspeth's Ranch a distance of about one hundred and fifty miles and includes the followins posts:

Columbus, New Mexico
Huachita, New Mexico
Culberson Ranch, New Mexico

(f) Group E includes the remainder of the Douglas Patrol District and the 10th Cavalry District to Arivaca, Arizona. It extends from Hudspeth's Ranch on the east, to Arivaca on the west, a distance of about one hundred and fifty miles, and includes the following posts:

Douglas, Arizona	Arivaca, Arizona
Naco, Arizona	Lochiel, Arizona
Nogales, Arizona	Ft. Huachuca and outposts

5. Contractors

Before the close of the fiscal year June 30, 1919, contracts were entered into for the housing and necessary Utilities with the following named general contractors:

Group A: Fitch Construction Co., Brownsville, Texas.

Group B: Sumner-Sollitt Co., Chicago, Illinois.

Groups C, D, and E: Weston & Kroeger, San Antonio, Texas.

El Paso Group: V. E. Ware, El Paso, Texas.

6. Engineering

(a) General - All planning, designing and engineering was done by the Engineering Branch in the central office at Camp Travis, Texas, except that for the El Paso District, which was done by the Fort Bliss office under the direction of the central office.

(b) Organization - The Engineering Section was divided into six branches consisting of camp planning, architecture and building, water and fire protection, sanitation, electrical installations, and estimates and schedules. To execute this work, there were sent from the Construction Division,

Washington, D.C., six men who were to work under the direction of the Construction Quartermaster. These men were each thoroughly familiar with the usual procedure of construction work and especially experienced in their particular branch of construction.

(c) Inspection - Before perfecting an organization, it was deemed advisable to make inspections of as many of the posts as possible. In order that local conditions might be studied and incorporated in the plans, individual parties were, therefore, sent to many of the posts for the purpose of making a careful inspection of them.

(d) Date of Organization - On April 10th, 1919, an Engineering organization was perfected and active work toward preparing plans and specifications for the various camp plans, buildings, sewer systems, water systems, and electric systems for the entire project was started.

On May 18th this work was completed and the plans and specifications for all branches of the work were placed in the hands of the contractors for bids.

7. Camp Planning

The efficiency of a well organized and logical layout for each post was recognized. After a careful study of the requirements and local conditions of the various posts, a layout plan for each post was prepared, which took into consideration the topographical, climatic, and local conditions and complied with the military requirements as outlined by the military commanders.

8. Architecture and Buildings

There were four general types of construction used at the various posts and outposts:

(a) Brick construction with asbestos shingle roofs was used for the two regimental cantonments at El Paso, Texas, and outposts, and the two story

barracks at Fort Ringgold. Brick was used in the construction at these posts on account of the fact that the old buildings were built of brick, and also because good brick could be bought at a low price which made the cost almost as cheap as frame construction and much more durable.

(b) Adobe construction, with asbestos shingle roofs and concrete floors, was used at the outposts in the Big Bend District and Naco, Arizona. This type of construction was adopted for these posts because they were far removed from railroads which necessitated long hauls by truck over mountainous roads, and especially because a good quality of a adobe block could be made by Mexican labor at the building sites.

(c) Concrete construction was used at Marfa, on account of the fact that gravel, rock and sand were available locally, which made this type of construction very reasonable. It was also considered that concrete was better adapted to resist the elements in this locality than any other type.

(d) Frame construction, sheeted, papered, and weather boarded, with wall board on interior and asbestos shingle roofs was used at all other posts and outposts. Frame construction was used at these posts because a large amount of old construction had been done in frame, and also because the good shipping facilities furnished a good opportunity to use the large quantities of surplus and salvage lumber in the material yards at Camp Travis, Texas.

(e) For the construction of the buildings for this project the architectural branch of the engineering section prepared detailed plans for 45 types of frame buildings, 27 types of adobe buildings, 19 types of brick buildings and complete specifications for the construction of all the work.

9. Water and Fire Protection

The water supply at the various posts was obtained from one of three sources: wells, city

water systems, or the Rio Grande River, depending upon local conditions. It was found that the old water systems of the abandoned posts were either obsolete or inadequate to furnish the amount of water needed and consequently were rebuilt. In general the mains were of cast iron pipe, but wood stove pipe was installed at many of the minor posts.

Fire hydrants were provided to conform with the requirements of the respective posts, and wherever possible water connections were installed to connect with the mains of nearby towns so that aid might be secured in case of necessity. Fire engines were provided at those stations where conditions required them, at other stations chemical trucks. Hand extinguishers and fire buckets were placed in all buildings ready for small fires. The chief difficulty in the way of fire protection was the lack of an adequate water supply. All water systems were designed and installed under the direction of the Advisory Engineer on Water and Fire protection.

10. Sanitation

Modern lavatories and sewer systems were installed at all posts with approved sewage disposal plants wherever it was required or in the interest of public health. Where old sewage disposal plants were in use, they were enlarged or remodeled to take care of new conditions and made modern so as to comply with the requirements of the Construction Division. All sewer systems and sewage disposal plants were designed by the Advisory Engineer on Sanitation.

11. Lighting

Electrical lighting was used at all posts, current being purchased from city plants, or generated by government owned plants. The distribution systems were installed or enlarged to take care of the requirements of the various posts. At most of the outposts Delco Electric Lighting Systems

were installed, and at other small, standard government generating systems from 5 K.W. to 25 K.W. capacity were used, depending upon the needs and requirements of the post.

12. Real Estate

The sites for these posts and outposts were in use as military camps before the Mexican Border Project was authorized and consequently government owned or under lease. Additional land was purchased or leased at many of the posts, and in some cases where new sewage disposal plants were built new land was leased on which same were located. The size or area of each post or reservation and new land acquired is given on the charts for the respective post.

13. Contracts

(a) Advertising: As much publicity as possible was given the Mexican Border Project thru news items in papers until authority was issued by the Secretary of War, dated May 1, 1919, to advertise in the regular manner.

Following this authority notices to contractors were inserted in newspapers and journals selected to give the most suitable publicity, posted in prominent places, and sent to contractors on May 2nd, 1919.

(b) Bids: Bids were invited for the unit prices for the construction of approximately 997 buildings and the necessary utilities at approximately 30 Army posts on the Mexican Border in the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Plans, specifications, and installations were available on May 18, 1919, and sent to contractors on that date. Bids were opened June 7th, 1919, at the office of the Constructing Quartermaster, Mexican Border Project, Camp Travis, Texas.

Many contractors to whom plans were sent declined to figure the work because of the short time allowed,

and also because the government expected to furnish a large part of the material.

(c) Awards: Contracts were awarded the following contractors on the low figures submitted for unit prices of the various items of construction schedules in the proposals.

Group A to Fitch Construction Co., Brownsville, Texas
Group B to Sumner - Sollitt Co., Chicago, Ill.
Group C, D, and E to Weston and Kroeger, San Antonio, Texas.

The contract for the El Paso Group was awarded to V. E. Ware, of El Paso, Texas.

It was not deemed wise to let the contract for the entire project to one contractor, as it was considered too large and too scattered over too wide a territory for one firm to advantageously finance and handle. All contracts were awarded, where possible, to the low responsible bidder and to the best interest of the government.

The standard contract for construction, Q.M.C. form 109, was adapted for this use. A special clause, called clause "B", made it possible to increase the amount of construction to be done under the contract if necessary.

Bond was required in one-half of the amount of contract. All work was started and under way before the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1919.

(d) Supplemental Contracts: All supplemental contracts were made under Clause "B" to take care of work which could not be included in the original plans and specifications. This work included items of material which the government agreed to furnish and which was not available either by transfer or from salvage. It also included extra work on buildings and utilities made necessary by changes after the work was started.

14. Construction

(a) Material: The government had on hand, at abandoned camps, a large amount of surplus and salvaged material, such as lumber, sash, doors, wall board, hardware, iron roofing, paper roofing, plumbing material, water pipe, electric material, etc. This material was shipped to the material yards at Camp Travis, where it was checked, listed and stored, and from there shipped to the contractors as needed. Cement, sand, crushed rock, brick, lime and plaster were furnished by the contractor.

(b) Operations: During April 1919, the Central Office was established. Complete plans were drawn and issued, and approximately forty-five officers were assigned to the thirty six stations on the border to have direct supervision of the work. These officers proceeded to their proper stations and established their organizations.

(c) Progress: By the end of the fiscal year, June 30th, 1919, all successful bidders had been notified and work was started at thirty six stations. Practically all equipment was furnished by the contractors. Such material was not furnished by the United States was purchased by the contractor as agent for the government. Labor was in general available in all trades, and little or no trouble or delay was experienced on this account.

(d) Supervision: Close co-operation was obtained between the Constructing Quartermasters and the contractors and maintained all through the work. Numerous delays were experienced by the lack of prompt shipment of material to be furnished by the government. Nevertheless, practically all the construction was so far completed by December 1919, that it could be occupied by troops, though it was some months later before utilities could be operated.

(e) Cost: There was allotted for this project the following funds:

3050-1	Housing for 9500 officers and men	\$3,500,000
3050-2	Additional Funds for Asbestos shingle roofing	<u>294,000</u>

\$3,794,000

Estimated value of material available for project	<u>5,000,000</u>
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Grand total funds allotted and material available	\$8,794,000
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Estimated expenditures	\$3,760,000
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Estimated value of material furnished by government	<u>5,000,000</u>
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Estimated cost of Mexican Border Project	\$8,760,000
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15. Difficulties Encountered

The chief difficulties encountered were:

(a) The wide extent of the country over which the work was scattered.

(b) The general arid or desert country which made it difficult to secure an adequate water supply.

(c) Unprecedented rainfall in some sections causing numerous washouts and much delay.

(d) The difficulty of transportation both on account of natural conditions, absence of railroads, and the insufficient motor transportation.

(e) Delayed shipments of surplus or salvaged materials to be furnished the government from abandoned camps.

Due to the fact that the contracts had to be awarded and the work started before the end of the fiscal year June 30, 1919, there was by no means sufficient time allowed to properly study the problems or prepare the plans, and as this work was executed in such a short time and under heavy stress,

mistakes were made, which could have other wise been avoided.

Should such an occasion arise again, this office wishes to recommend that more time be allowed for the proper preliminary study of the many problems and preparation of the great amount of work which is always encountered in a project of this character and magnitude. It will save the government money and far better results will be accomplished.

F. G. Chamberlain, Lieut. Colonel, Q.M.C.
Constructing Quartermaster
Mexican Border Project
October 30, 1920

Expenditures Mexican Border Project, 1919-1920

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Water&Sewers</u>	<u>Buildings</u>	<u>Roads</u>	<u>Hospitals</u>
1.	Ft. Brown, Texas	114,663.03	2,617.19	15,309.47	95,753.51	292.62	690.24
2.	San Benito, Texas	64,823.54	1,233.90	17,899.70	45,335.42	254.43	100.00
3.	Progreso, Texas	1,960.68			1,960.68		
4.	Mercedes, Texas	110,827.70	9,832.52	17,988.71	79,971	3,035	
5.	McAllen, Texas	76,008	2,541	5,027	65,943	2,496	
6.	Sam Fordyce	214,384	3,668	61,326	148,212	976	
7.	LaGrulla, Texas	21,637		4,426	17,209		
8.	Ft. Ringgold, Texas	325,306	16,291	66,168	242,846		
9.	Roma, Texas	27,733		7,205	20,528		
10.	Guadalupe, Texas	200			200		
11.	Zapata, Texas	200			200		
12.	San Ygnacio, Texas	200			200		
13.	Ft. McIntosh, Texas	129,413	6,849	15,449	107,114		

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Water & Sewer</u>	<u>Buildings</u>	<u>Roads</u>	<u>Hospitals</u>
14.	San Ysabel, Texas	199			199		
15.	Dolores, Texas	367			367		
16.	Eagle Pass, Texas	119,877	1,933	7,252	108,095	2.095	500
17.	Ft. Clark, Texas	1,555	370		1,185		
18.	Del Rio, Texas	4,497	39		4,458		
19.	Marfa, Texas	510,825	10,943	68,553	431,328		
20.	Glenn Springs	4,636	195		4,440		
21.	Santa Helena	21,417	777	810	19,830		
22.	Lajitas, Texas	42,108	943	4,727	36,438		
23.	Polvo, Texas	38,802	1,990	1,985	34,827		
24.	Presidio, Texas	60,711	4,226	6,476	50,008		
25.	Indio, Texas	37,770	1,078	3,276	33,416		
26.	Ruidosa, Texas	53,505	3,488	9,153	40,864		
27.	Hollands Troop Post, Texas	60,698	2,862	7,507	50,328		

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Water&Sewers</u>	<u>Buildings</u>	<u>Roads</u>	<u>Hospital</u>
28.	Candelaria, Texas	1,012	1,012				
29.	Hesters Ranch, Texas	4,539	970		3,568		
30.	Sierra Blanca, Texas	2,376	8		2,368		
31.	Ft. Hancock, Texas	16,968	3,086	1,105	12,769		
32.	Fabens, Texas	24,099	4,590	2,837	16,670		
33.	Ysleta, Texas	17,060	877	2,295	13,251		
34.	Ft. Bliss, Texas	351,385	6,018	20,564	310,869	22,038	894
35.	International Bridge El Paso, Texas	13,990	145	568	13,284		
36.	Columbus, New Mexico	471,938	4,227	72,041	392,826	1,435	1,407
37.	Culbertson Ranch, New Mexico	8,212	886	2,362	4,964		
38.	Hachita, New Mexico	43,136	5,238	12,151	25,745		
39.	Douglas, New Mexico	185,240	919	12,099	160,572	11,466	181
40.	Naco, Arizona	110,970	5,265	11,031	94,674		

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Water&Sewers</u>	<u>Buildings</u>	<u>Roads</u>	<u>Hospital</u>
41.	Ft. Huachuca, Arizona	90,559	2,595	6,727	80,497	738	
42.	Lochiel, Arizona	12,844	2,503	3,099	7,241		
43.	Nogales, Arizona	138,256	1,035	15,160	120,713	1,272	75
44.	Arivaca, Arizona	<u>17,257</u>	<u>2,717</u>	<u>4,571</u>	<u>9,967</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		\$3,554,191	114,984	487,995	2,902,246	46,101	3,863

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The historical data section of the Castolon Historic Structure Report was judged to require a Class "B" level of investigation. Research took place in selected documentary and published sources of known or presumed relevance that were readily accessible and that were of a scope, organization and content that promised expeditious extraction of relevant data.

The primary documentary sources investigated fall into three groups: War Department records in the National Archives and Suitland Federal Record Center, the Big Bend National Park historical files, and the Casey Collection at the Sul Ross State University library.

Because most of the Castolon historic compound structures were constructed by the United States Army as part of its Camp Santa Helena, documentary information concerning their construction and use was sought in the relevant War Department records groups in the National Archives and the Federal Record Center, Suitland, Maryland. Research was conducted in the following record groups:

1. R.G. 92, Office of the Quartermaster General
2. R.G. 77, Corps of Engineers
3. R.G. 393, United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920
4. R.G. 394, United States Army Continental Commands, 1920-1942
5. R.G. 407, Adjutant General's Office

Army data pertaining to the construction and use of the Camp Santa Helena structures is very sparse and difficult to find. There are three major reasons for this situation. First, Camp Santa Helena was a small and insignificant Army camp. As a result very few records were kept on the camp and even fewer were retained by the Army. There are, for example, no Camp Santa Helena post returns. Second, the organization of the Army

records is very complex. In 1919-1920, the years Camp Santa Helena was constructed, the War Department was using a decimal system for filing its records. Mexican Border Project and/or Camp Santa Helena records are therefore spread out through the decimal system and especially in the 600 series, which deals with construction of barracks and quarters. The entire 600 series in both record groups 77 and 92 were examined with meager returns. The same 600 series was also run through the correspondence in record groups 393, Southern Department, and 394, Eighth Army Corps. Again, the return was very small. The best single sources for Camp Santa Helena were the completion report of the Mexican Border Project and a special file in R.G. 394 dealing with post planning in the Eighth Corps area. The file contains a post layout map and structure inventories for each post in the Eighth Corps (which contained the old Southern Department).

The third research difficulty involved the archival division in the War Department records between "Old Military" and "Modern Military". "Old Military" covers the period to 1917, "Modern Military" the period thereafter. Camp Santa Helena, 1916-1925, covers both periods. As a result records for the camp could potentially be found in both archival divisions. Record groups 77 and 92 are found in "Old Military", but record groups 393 and 394 (old 98) are in "Modern Military". In addition data could be found in the records of both the Quartermaster General and the Corps of Engineers because activities of both branches were united in 1917 in the Construction Division. There was only one Construction Division, but there is no separate record group for the division. The Division's records are found in both R.G. 77 and R.G. 92 (often duplicated in both record groups, e.g. copies of the Mexican Border Project completion report are found in both record groups). Army records pertaining to Camp Santa Helena are almost non-existent and, what little data does exist, very difficult and time consuming to find.

The second group of Castolon primary source material is the Big Bend National Park historical files located at park headquarters. Within these files is a Castolon file. The Castolon file contains the transcripts of several interviews as well as the 1955 George Sholly and Grover Steele "Castolon Property" report and Nelle Hitchcock's undated and untitled Castolon manuscript. The former is a written and photographic description of the Castolon structures as of 1955. The latter is a brief manuscript history of Castolon which, although inaccurate in places, is of some value. The file also contains historic photographs.

The third group of Castolon primary source material is the "Castolon File" in the Casey Collection at Sul Ross State University library in Alpine, Texas. This file contains the research notes Dr. Clifford Casey compiled when writing his history of Castolon. The file contains Castolon structure information sent to Dr. Casey by the National Archives as well as information gathered from extensive interviews.

The secondary source material on Castolon in general and the structures in particular is very sparse. There is only one publication, Dr. Casey's Soldier's, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend, which deals with the history of Castolon and contains information relevant to the structures. A number of other published sources mention Castolon, for example Virginia Madison's The Big Bend Country, but only in a superficial and passing manner. The same is true of the other sources listed on the "Big Bend Bibliography" maintained by the park. Dr. Casey's study is to date the best source (indeed almost the only) for the history of Castolon.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustration # 1 Castolon
Circa 1925



Photo # 1 CASTOLON

Illustration #2 Castolon
Circa 1925-1930



Photo #2 CASTOLON

Illustration #3 Castolon
Circa 1934



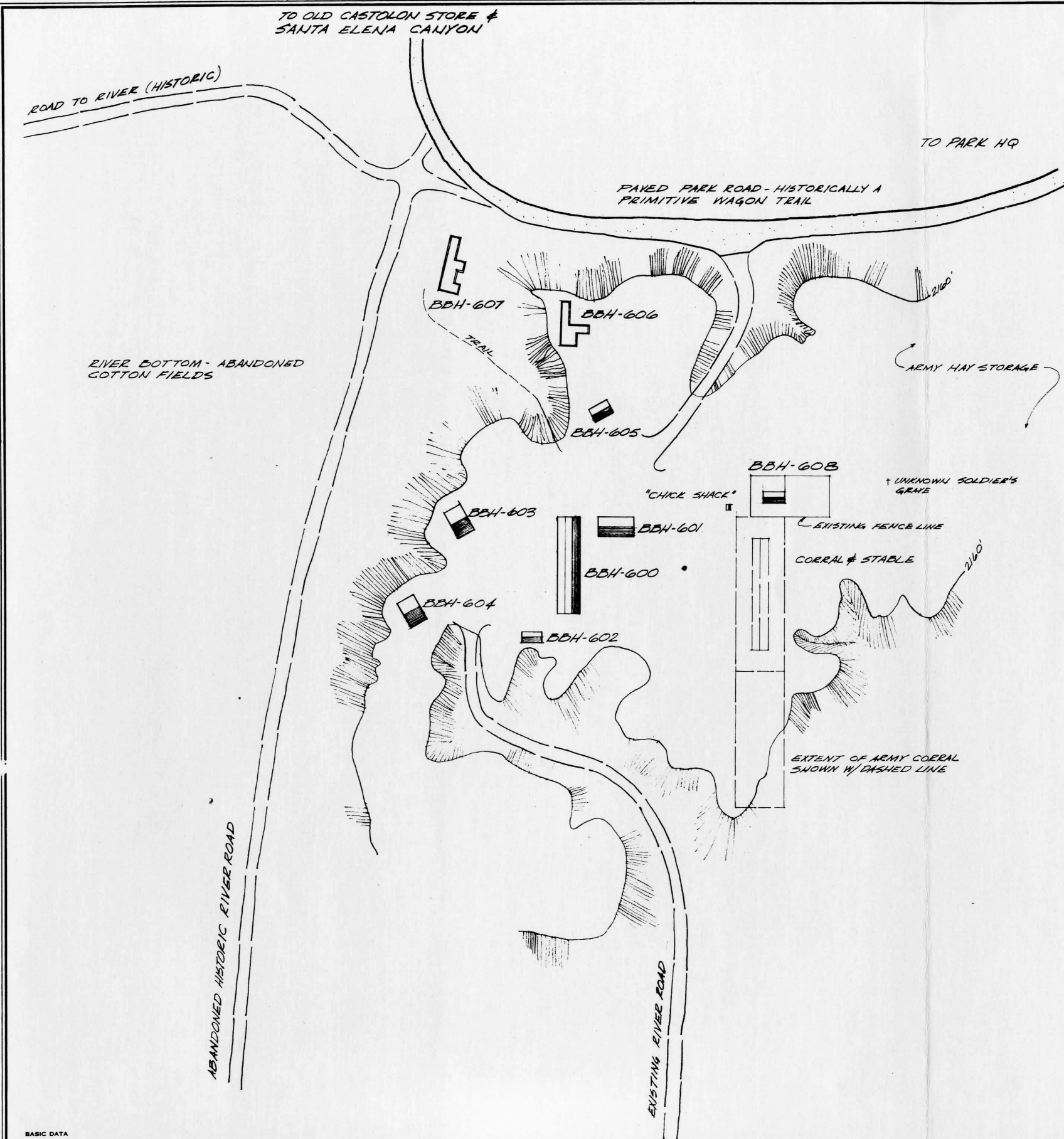
CASTOLON TEXAS

Photo #3 CASTOLON

Illustration #4 Castolon
Circa 1938



Photo #4 CASTOLON



LEGEND HISTORIC USE @ CASTOLON, TEXAS

THE EARLY YEARS - 1901 to 1918

BBH-607 STORE & HOME OF CIPRIANO HERNANDEZ, 1901 to 1914
 1914 to 1918 VARIOUS OWNERS, BUTTRILL & SUBLETT, BATES, & PERRY & CARTLEDGE

CAMP SANTA HELENA - U.S. ARMY - 1919 to 1921

BBH-600 ARMY BARRACKS & MESS HALL
 BBH-601 RECREATION HALL - ATTRIBUTED TO SALVATION ARMY
 BBH-602 LATRINE
 BBH-603 OFFICER'S QUARTERS
 BBH-604 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER'S QUARTERS
 BBH-608 GRANARY
 BBH-609 STABLE & CORRAL

CARTLEDGE YEARS - 1921 to 1961

BBH-600 LA HARMONIA STORE
 BBH-601 UTILITY BUILDING
 BBH-602 COMFORT STATION
 BBH-603 WAYNE CARTLEDGE RESIDENCE
 BBH-604 EUGENE CARTLEDGE RESIDENCE
 BBH-605 MAGDALENA RESIDENCE - BUILT BY CARTLEDGE & BRIEFLY HOUSED THE TEXAS RANGERS
 BBH-606 GARLICK HOUSE
 BBH-607 ALVINO HOUSE
 BBH-608 GRANARY & TACK ROOM
 BBH-609 REBUILT CORRAL & PENS

NATIONAL PARK YEARS - 1961 to PRESENT

BBH-600 CASTOLON STORE - OPERATED BY NPC
 BBH-601 NPS - UTILITY BLDG.
 BBH-602 COMFORT STATION
 BBH-603 NPS RESIDENCE
 BBH-604 NPS RESIDENCE
 BBH-605 NPS RANGER STATION
 BBH-606 UNOCCUPIED
 BBH-607 UNOCCUPIED
 BBH-608 NPS GRANARY & TACK ROOM
 BBH-609 UNUSED CORRAL



ORIENTATION

PREPARED

DESIGNED

DRAWN

SIMMONDS

CHECKED

ARCH

ELEC

MECH

STRUC

REVISED

DATE INITIAL

REGION

SOUTH WEST

PCP NO.

SHEET / OF /

DRAWING NO.

DATE

6-72

SCALE ~ 1" = 80' 0"

RECOMMENDED	DATE	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DENVER SERVICE CENTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEAM	REGION SOUTH WEST PCP NO. SHEET / OF / DRAWING NO. DATE
CONCURRED	DATE	CARTOLON HISTORIC COMPOUND CASTOLON DISTRICT BIG BEND N.P.	
APPROVED	DATE		

NPS BIBE H 40 C.2

Sheire, James

Historic Structure

Report : Castolon Army

NPS BIBE H 40 C.2

Sheire, James

Historic Structure

Report : Castolon Army

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