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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

OLD CASTOLON
Big Bend National Park
Texas

U.S. Dept. of the Interior - National Park Service

003353

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SEE NEW
TITLE PAGE

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PART I

OLD CASTOLON
Big Bend National Park
Texas

Prepared by

A. Lewis Koue

November 1969

for

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Office of History and Historic Architecture
Western Service Center

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

OLD CASTOLON
Big Bend National Park
Texas

APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended

(sgd) William L. Bowen
Director, Western Service Center

Date

12/12/69

Chief, Office of History and
Historic Architecture

Date

Superintendent

Date

Approved

Regional Director, Southwest

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
III. Administrative Data	1.
IV. Historic Data	3.
V. Architectural Data	4.
VI. Archeological Data	6.
VII. Landscape Data	6.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Structures:

Old Store	BBH-618
Old Cafe	BBH-617
One-room Shed	BBH-616

B. Proposed Use of Structures:

The Old Store, Old Cafe, One-room Shed (BBH-618, BBH-617, and BBH-616) shall be retained as in-place exhibits on the historic tour.

C. Justification for Such Use:

The Old Castolon Store is the oldest structure in the park. It also offers a prime exhibit of several historic themes, particularly as a center of supply and community activity. It is sited on the main road. The structures have been entered in the Historical Structures Inventory as class "CC" structures exhibiting a way of life at a Mexican border community.

D. Provisions for Operating the Site:

The site and structures, as proposed by the "Historic Resources Management Plan", will not be staffed. Visitation will be encouraged and interpretive markers, tour publications and possibly message repeaters will point out features in the area and relate the history.

E. Cooperative Agreements:

None.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activities:

1. Old Store: BBH-618

Secure all corrugated iron roofing in acceptable condition; replace all defective roofing. Replace gutters.

Repair or replace broken or seriously checked vigas.

Restore foundations, particularly of the West Wall.

Repair unsound or cracked adobe walls, including stabilizing ruin of wing wall.

Replace missing or deteriorated 1" plank flooring on 2 x 4 sleepers at 36" on center.

2. Old Cafe: BBH-617

Remove and dispose of present sod roof. Replace or repair any broken or seriously checked vigas. Replace any damaged cane latias. Install styrofoam insulation covered by a continuous plastic membrane; top with sod to create original condition but with reduced weight.

Repair or replace badly eroded adobe blocks and point wherever necessary; repair cracks in wall.

3. One-room Shed: BBH-616

Remove and dispose of present sod roof. Replace or repair any seriously defective vigas. Reverse direction of cane latias and replace if necessary. Install styrofoam insulation covered by a continuous plastic membrane; top with sod to create original condition, but with reduced weight.

G. Preliminary Estimates of Cost:

1. Old Store: BBH-618

Repair adobe walls	\$13,500.00
Repair corrugated roof and gutters	600.00
Replacement and repairs of flooring	900.00
Construction	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
PS&S + Contingency	5,000.00
Total	<u>\$20,000.00</u>

2. Old Cafe: BBH-617

Repair walls	\$ 3,900.00
Repair roof	600.00
Construction	<u>\$ 4,500.00</u>
PS&S + Contingencies	1,500.00
Total	<u>\$ 6,000.00</u>

3. One-room Shed: BBH-616

Repair walls	\$ 1,500.00
Repair roof	300.00
Construction	<u>\$ 1,800.00</u>
PS&S + Contingencies	600.00
Total	<u>\$ 2,400.00</u>

H. Photographs and Drawings:

See exhibits herewith.

I. Copy of PCP:

See attachments.

IV. HISTORIC DATA:

A. Brief Statement of Historical Significance:

The three structures, BBH-618, BBH-617 and BBH-616, formed the original nucleus of commercial settlement at Old Castolon. The trading establishment, serving farmers, ranchers and

miners in the area, was founded by Cipriano Hernandez, probably about 1900. Later J. L. Sublett¹ bought him out and ran the store until 1916 when he sold out to Clyde Buttrill. In 1918 Wayne Cartledge undertook the operation and did business here until 1925 when he bought the Army post at present Castolon and moved his operation to the Army barracks building at that location.

The corrugated iron roof was on the store building at the time that he purchased the buildings.²

V. ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

A. Brief Description of Structural and Architectural Design:

1. Old Store: BBH-618

This one room building is approximately 16'-2" x 53'-0" in size with 11'-7" high adobe block walls resting on a river cobble foundation. It has a doorway in each side with two windows in the South wall and one in the North wall. The lintels and frames are of wood. As there is a vigas and cane latia (the latter at 10'-2" above floor level) ceiling, it would appear that the corrugated metal gable roof was not original; but is known to have been in place prior to 1910. Its trussing is undetermined. The floor is of 1" planks over 2 x 4 sleepers at 36" on center. There are remnants of a wall forming an enclosure 16'-0"± by the full length of the building on its North side.

1. HABSI Inventory Form 10-445.

2. Interview by Benjamin Levy with Mr. Cartledge, October, 1968.

2. Old Cafe: BBH-617

The Old Cafe is a two-room adobe block structure 14'- 0" x 33'- 4" (plus an exterior chimney) overall. The larger room, 11'- 9" x 19'- 9", has a doorway and a window in the South wall; one window in the West wall; two windows in the North wall; and an interior doorway to the kitchen on the East wall. The kitchen is 11'- 9" x 9'- 10" with the above mentioned interior doorway in its West wall; a window in the North wall; a fireplace and window in the East wall; and an exterior doorway in the South wall. The floors are concrete. The sloping roof is sod on cane latia supported by vigas. The latias are 9'- 7" above finish floor at the South wall and 8'- 10"[±] at the North wall. Six recent galvanized iron canale provide water drainage away from the North wall. There are several courses of recent adobe block replacements topping the structure. The adobe walls have some serious erosion and cracks. Some vigas are broken.

3. One-room Shed: BBH-616

This structure is 11'- 8"[±] by 15'- 6"[±], consisting of one room with a doorway in the South and West walls and a window in the North wall. It has a concrete floor and a sloping sod roof. The cane latias are 8'- 9"[±] from the finished floor at the South wall and 7'- 10"[±] at the North wall. Two recent galvanized iron canale project this drainage away from the North wall. The latias were recently replaced, but laid in the wrong direction. There are several courses of recent adobe blocks topping the building.

VI. ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

Not applicable.

VII. LANDSCAPE DATA

The site around the three listed buildings is barren and should be left as it is. However, a good portion of the vegetation around the well, cistern and pumphouse needs to be cleared away so that people can find these structures; they are all significant parts of the site. On the other hand, the vegetation along the rear of the site should not be cleared. Eventually a heavy growth of mesquite there will partially hide the Park Service maintenance quarters and yard that exist only a short distance behind the site.



SOUTHWEST VIEW OF OLD CASTOLON STORE, BBH-618
Note erosion and failure of adobe wall.



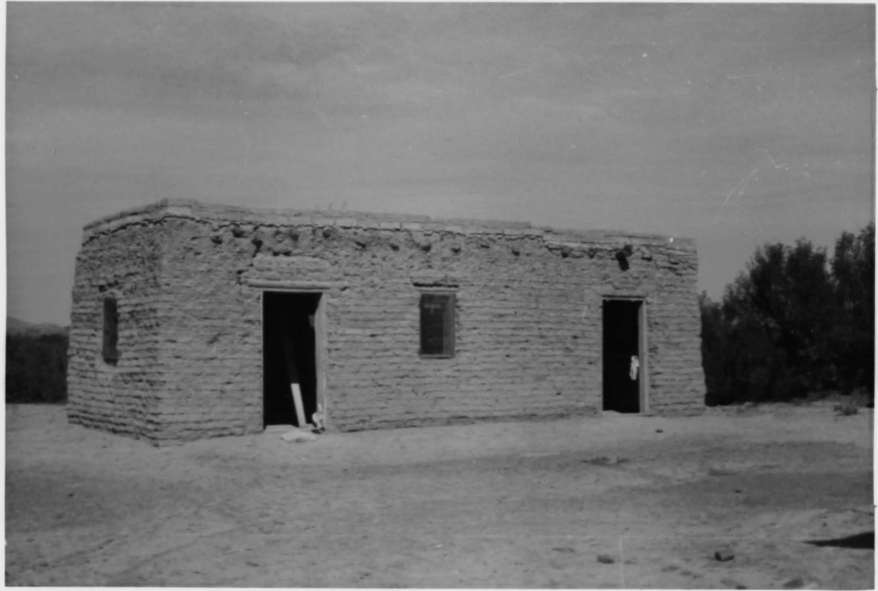
SOUTHEAST VIEW OF OLD CASTOLON STORE, BBH-618
Note stones imbedded in adobe walls at base.



REAR VIEW OLD CASTOLON STORE, BBH-618
 Note ruins of addition and CAFE, BBH-617
 in background.



WALL DETAIL OLD STORE, BBH-618
 Note remnants of window caps and condition
 of corrugated iron roof and gutter.



SOUTHEAST VIEW OLD CAFE, BBH-617
 Note addition of soil cement blocks at parapet.



WESTERLY SIDE OF OLD CAFE, BBH-617
 Note excessive erosion of old adobe block walls.



INTERIOR OLD CAFE, BBH-617
Note failure of vigas.



EXTERIOR OPPOSITE INTERIOR VIEW ABOVE
Note excessive erosion of adobe wall.



ONE-ROOM SHED, BBH-616
Note repairs to parapet.



INTERIOR OF ONE-ROOM SHED, BBH-616
Note wrong placing of latia.

NO.	TO
6	SWRO
1	Maintenance
2	CNO
1	File

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

1. STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S REQUIREMENTS, PROPOSED WORK, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FACETS OF THE PARK PROGRAM. (Provide detail data for "Management Information" on Form 10-411a, Supplemental Sheet and attach.)

The Historic Resource Management Plan has classed The Old Castolon Store (BBH-618) as a primary site. To properly preserve this structure for future interpretation, extensive rehabilitation work is required. This work will consist of constructing a concrete footing around entire building, then using stabilized adobe brick to provide a veneer cover over the old adobe walls. It may be necessary to completely reconstruct portions of the old adobe walls. Door and window lintels will be replaced where necessary. The corrugated metal roof with rain gutters will be further stabilized.

2. ADVANCE REQUIREMENTS DATA

LAND STATUS Government owned (National Park Service)	MASTER PLAN NO. NP-BB 3139c	APPROVAL DATE
PCP NUMBERS OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETE PORTIONS	INTERRELATED & DEPENDENT PROJECT PCP NUMBERS History of Castolon M-75	
INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS APPROVAL DATA Inter. Prospectus for Big Bend approved by Regional Director		DATE March 3, 1965

WATER RIGHT NEEDS & STATUS

None

RESEARCH NEEDS & STATUS

Historic Research RSP no. H-4a completed

OTHER

See inventory of Historical structures completed October 1964; and drafts of Historical Research Management Plan submitted April 24, 1967; and Historic Resources Management Plan submitted August 1968.

3. RECOMMENDED BY SUPERINTENDENT (Signature & Date)

Luther T. Peterson, Jr. 11/15/68

4. APPROVED BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR (Signature & Date)

JAMES M. EISEN
Acting Regional Director

NOV 25 1968

5. LOCATION WITHIN AREA OR TERMINI

Lower Castolon area

6. BLDG. OR RT.# AND SEC.

BBH-618

7. REGION

SW

8. PARK

Big Bend National Park

9. PROJECT

Rehabilitation of Old Castolon Store

Brewster

(County)

Texas

(State)

10. PCP INDEX NO.

M-79

CLASS ☐ (A) - Estimate based on working Drawings
 CLASS ☐ (B) - Estimate based on preliminary plans
 CLASS ☒ (C) - Estimate based on similar facilities in other parks

P. S. & S. by

BPR ☐NPS ☒

FY 70

ESTIMATE

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST
1-Repairs to Adobe Walls		13,500
2-Repair to Corrugated Iron Roof and Gutters		600
3-Replacement and Repairs to Wood Sleepers and Flooring		900
ESTIMATE TOTALS		
RESEARCH.....		
Construction.....		15,000
Plans, Surveys, and Supervision.....		3,000
Contingencies		2,000
CONSTRUCTION		
SUB TOTAL		20,000
INTERPRETIVE		
SUB TOTAL (100%)		
G TOTAL		20,000

RESEARCH ESTIMATE APPROVED:

(Asst. Director, Resource Studies)

(Date)

CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE APPROVED:

ROBERT H. COOMES
SUPVR., PROJECT CONTROL & ESTIMATES

DEC 20 1968

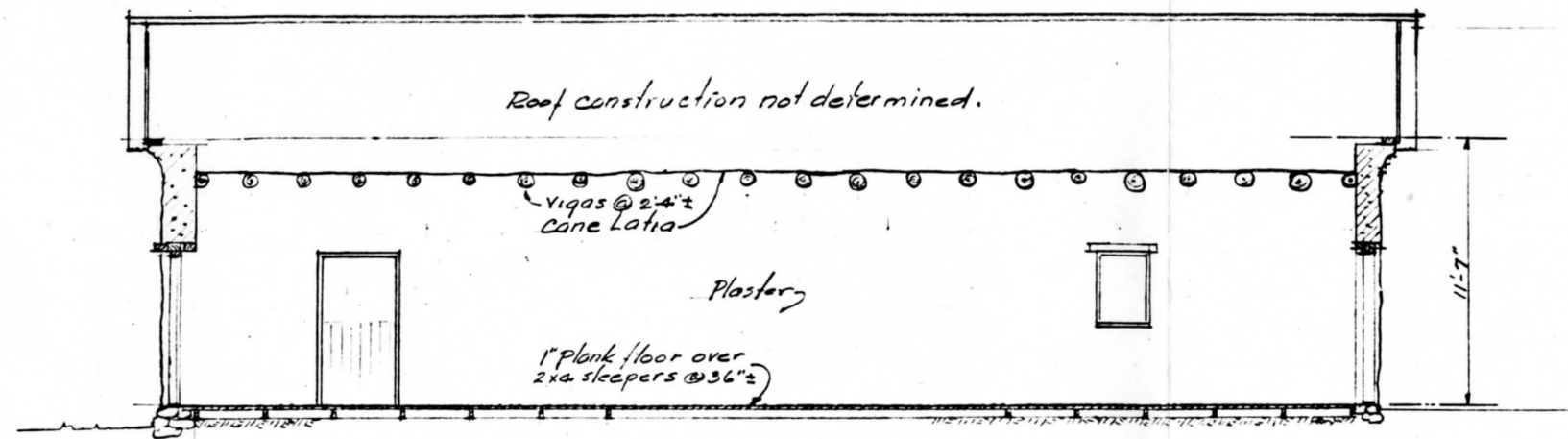
For (Design Office Chief)

(Date)

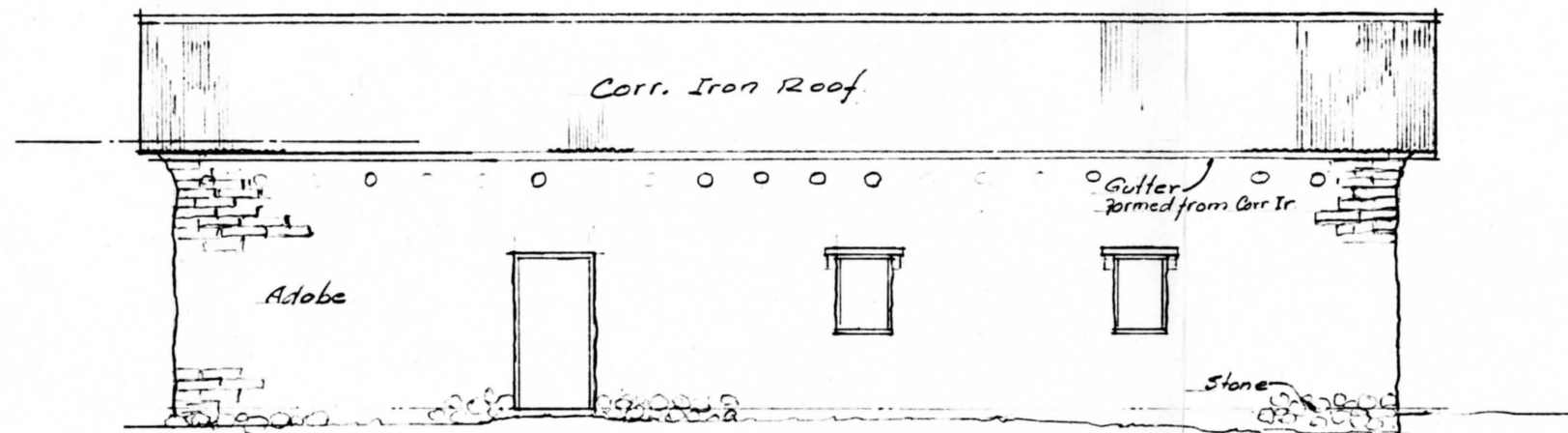
INTERPRETIVE ESTIMATE APPROVED:

(Asst. Regional Director, Operations)

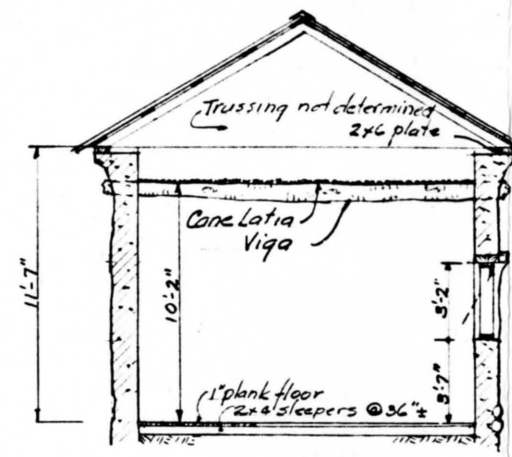
(Date)



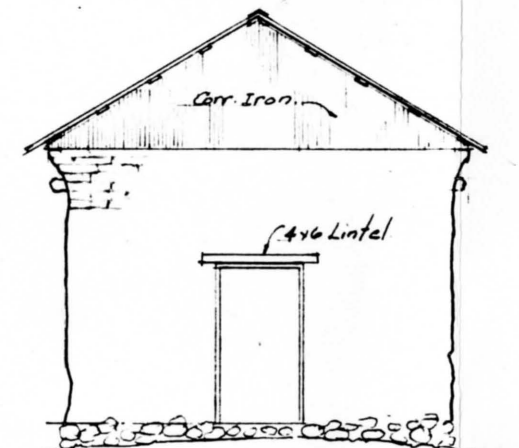
LONGI. SECTION A-A



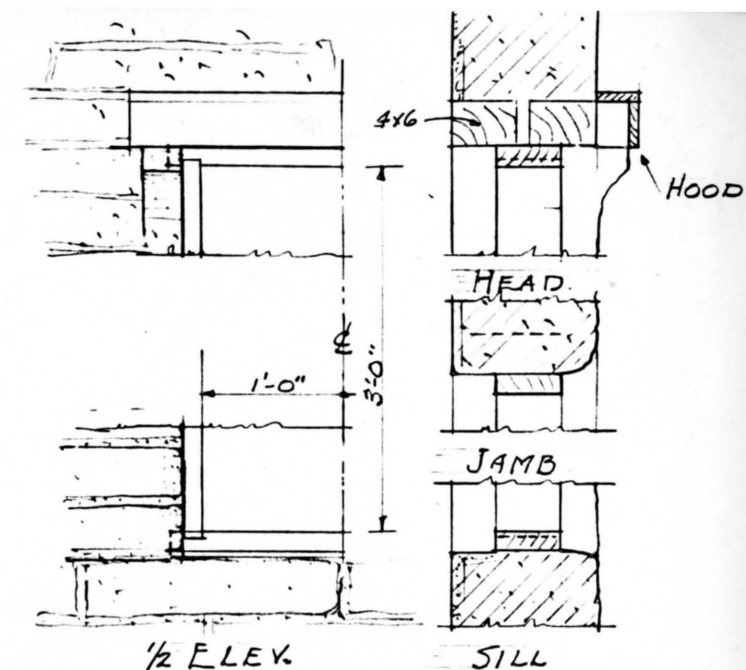
SOUTH ELEV.



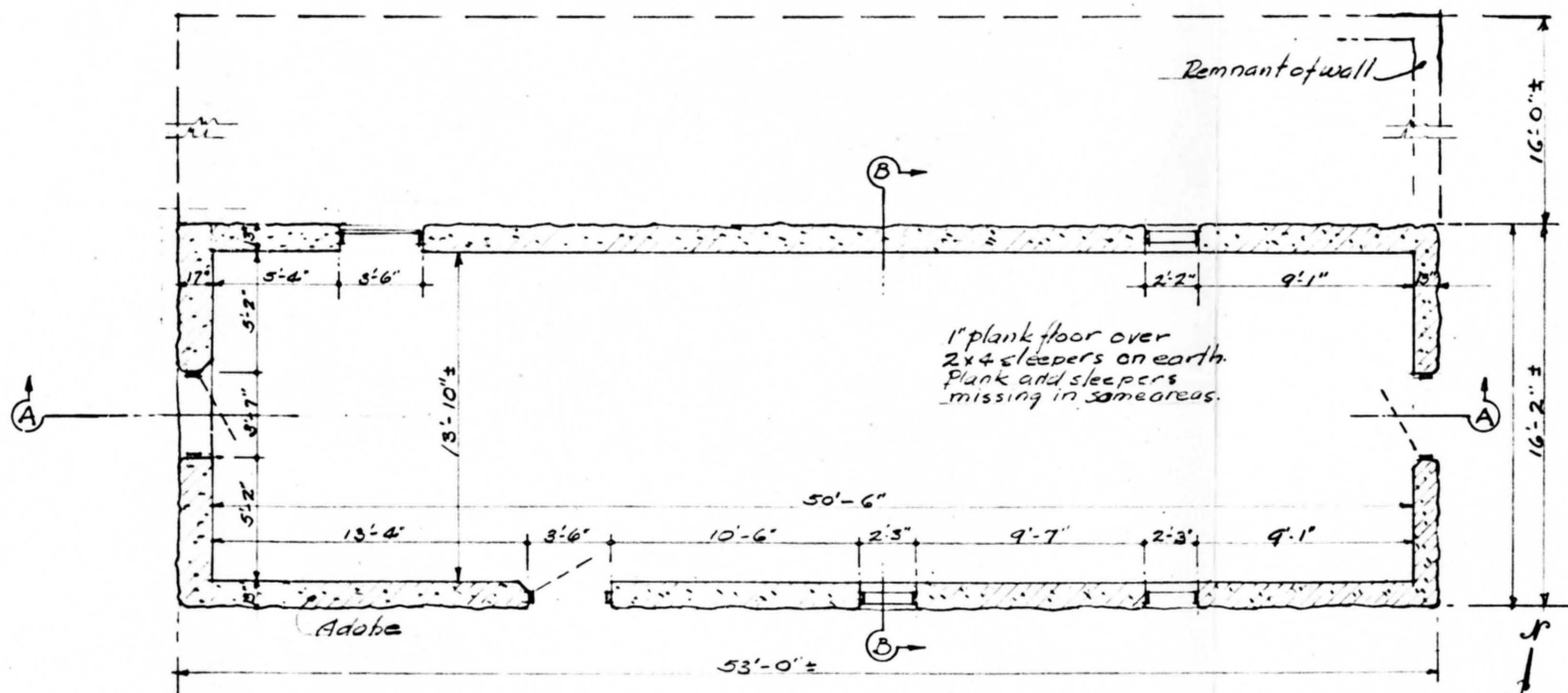
SECTION B-B



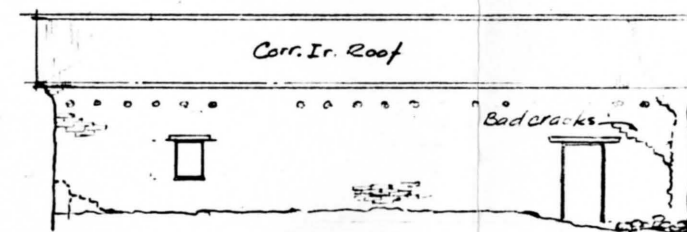
WEST ELEV.
EAST ELEV. SIMILAR



WINDOW FRAME
(DOOR FRAME SIMILAR)
Scale: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



PLAN
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"



NORTH ELEV.
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

ROAD

BASIC DATA

Approx.

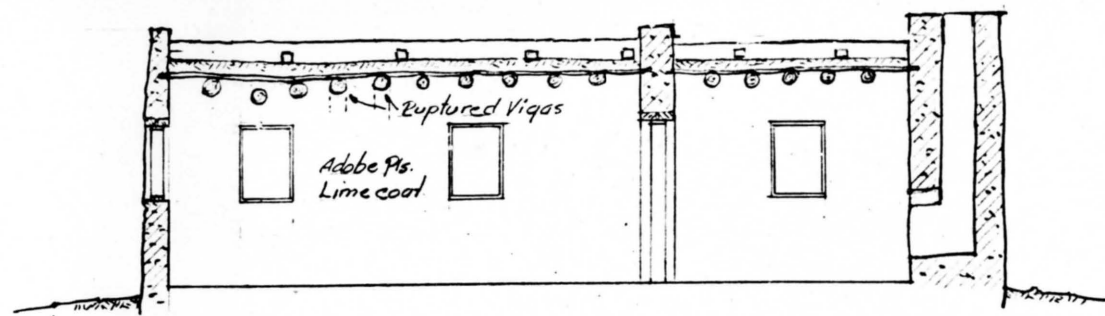
ORIENTATION
DESIGNED
DRAWN
KOE
CHECKED

ARCH.
ELEC.
MECH.
STRUC.
REVISED
DATE INITIAL

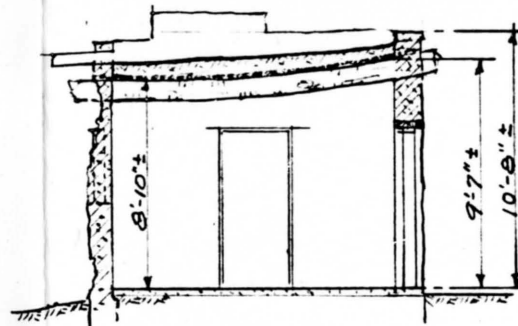
RECOMMENDED
DATE
CONCURRED
DATE
APPROVED
DATE

EXISTING CONDITIONS
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OFFICE OF ARCHEOL. & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
BR. OF RESTORATION, SSC
OLD STORE, BBH618
OLD CASTOLON
BIG BEND N.P. TEXAS

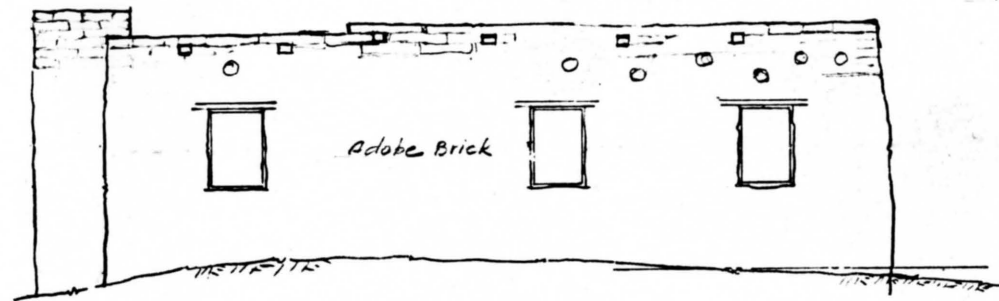
REGION
S.W.
PCP NO.
SHEET, OF
DRAWING NO.
155
DATE 11/14/48



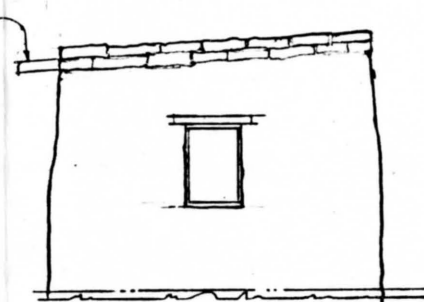
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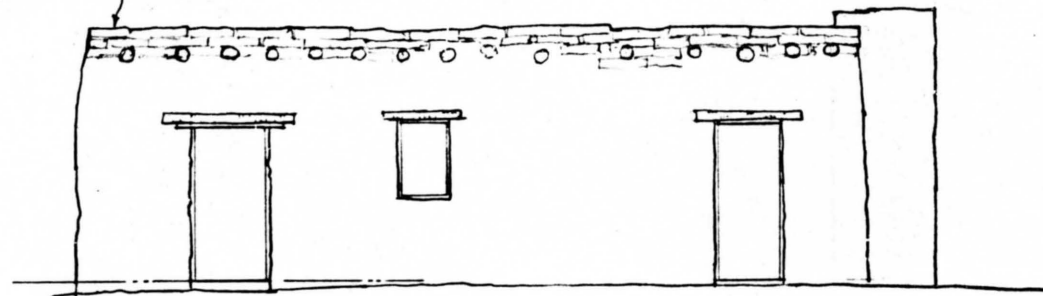
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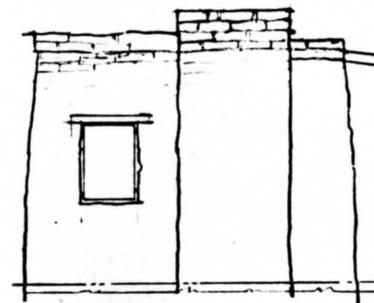
NORTH ELEV.



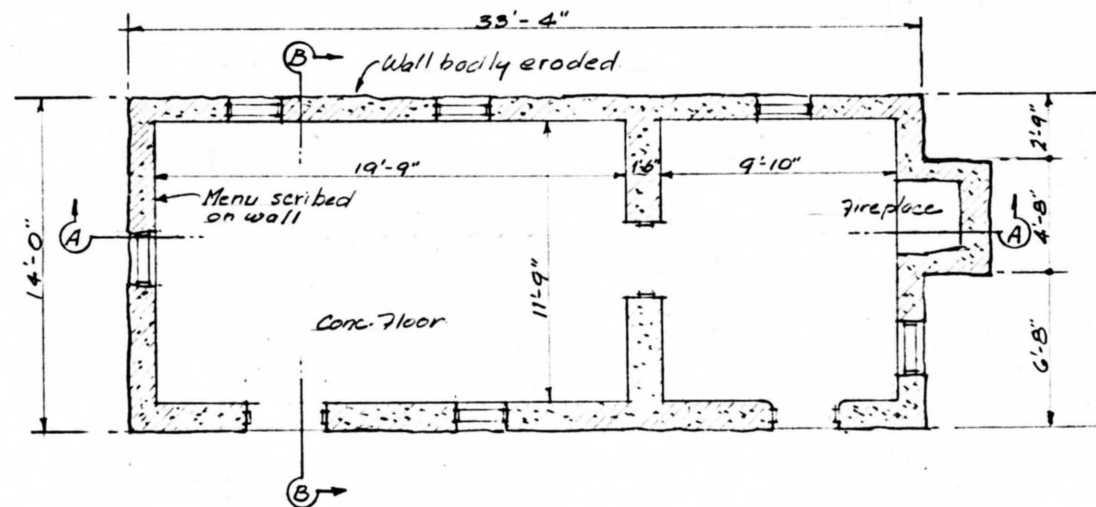
WEST ELEV.



SOUTH ELEV.

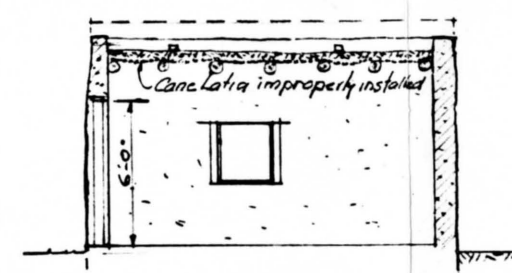


EAST ELEV.

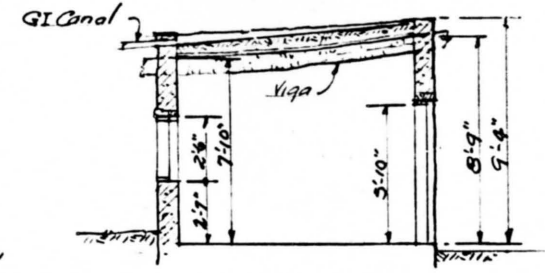


PLAN

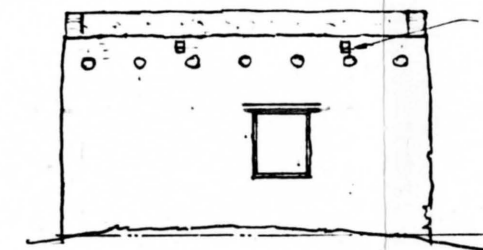
OLD CAFE - BLDG BBH 617
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"



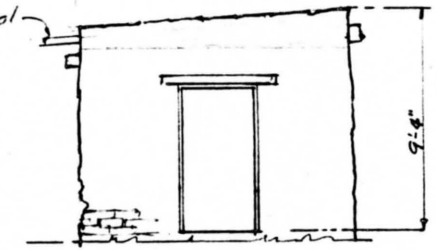
SECTION A-A



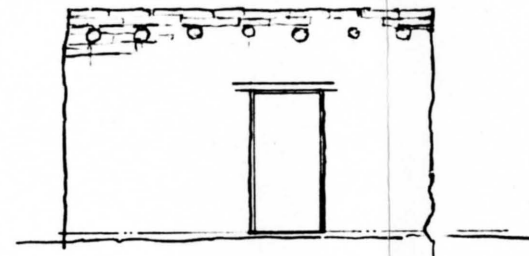
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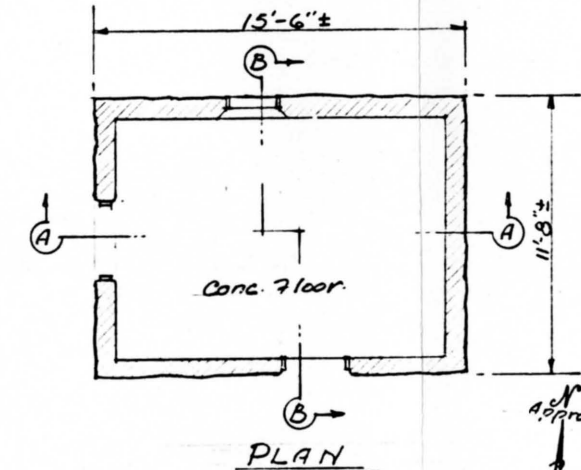
NORTH ELEV.



WEST ELEV.



SOUTH ELEV.



PLAN

BLDG - BBH 616
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

RECOMMENDED	DATE
CONCURRED	DATE
APPROVED	DATE

EXISTING CONDITIONS	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICE OF ARCHEOL. & HISTORIC PRESERVATION BR. OF RESTORATION, SSC	
OLD CAFE, BLDG. BBH 617 AND BLDG. BBH 616 OLD CASTOLON BIG BEND N.P. TEXAS	

ORIENTATION	
PREPARED	
DESIGNED	
DRAWN	
KOU	
CHECKED	
ARCH	
ELEC	
MECH	
STRUC	
REVISED	
DATE	INITIAL
REGION	SW
PCP NO.	
SHEET OF	
DRAWING NO.	155
DATE	11-2-65