

(Oct. 1990)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: SITE 41 BX 672

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Somerset Road **NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A
CITY OR TOWN: Von Ormy, TX **VICINITY:** N/A
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Bexar **CODE:**029 **ZIP CODE:** 78073

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (nomination) (request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (meets) (does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally) (statewide) (locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:

CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
5	0	BUILDINGS
	0	SITES
	0	STRUCTURES
	0	OBJECTS
5	0	TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: HISTORIC FARMS AND RANCHES OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC: Single dwelling;
DOMESTIC: Community Gathering Place
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural fields

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC: Single dwelling;
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural fields

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Texas Vernacular

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION Stone
WALLS Wood
ROOF Metal
OTHER Stone, Metal

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation pages 5-10).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Agriculture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1830s – 1878 -1940s

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1845, 1862-1868, 1878

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Tejano/Hispanic

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Blas Herrera, Jose Maria Herrera

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(see continuation sheets 11-25 & Appendix continuation sheets 26-29).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 30-32).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other – (Adolph C. Herrera Papers at the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 30 acres

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing

<i>UTM Zone (NAD 27):</i>	14
<i>UTM Northing (NAD 27):</i>	3239281
<i>UTM Easting (NAD 27):</i>	537616
<i>Latitude (NAD 27):</i>	29.2835
<i>Longitude (NAD 27):</i>	98.61270000000000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 33)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 33)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patricia Ezell, Patsy Castanon, Ron Bauml, and Joanna Parrish in conjunction with Kay Hindes, Staff Archaeologist for the City of San Antonio

ORGANIZATION: San Antonio Conservation Society
STREET & NUMBER: 107 King William Street
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio **STATE:** TX

DATE: January 31, 2008
TELEPHONE: 210-224-6163
ZIP CODE: 78204-1312

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheets 34-40)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic photos of family & events: (see continuation sheets 45-48)
Current photos of buildings: Individual copies of photos attached; also on accompanying disk

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

HISTORIC SKETCHES: (see continuation sheets SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 42-44)
FLOORPLAN: (see continuation sheet 41)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Hortense Herrera
STREET & NUMBER: 5903 Padre Cove
CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: TX

TELEPHONE: 512-914-7983
ZIP CODE: 78731

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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch comprises two jacales dating from the 1830s-1840s, two wooden buildings and a pavilion. This was one of the two homestead properties occupied by the Herreras. The current property, 41BX672, encompasses 30 acres which in 1845 was a larger tract of land comprising 800 acres. Over the years, the larger tract has been partitioned among the Herrera descendants. In the 20th century portions of the original 800 acre tract were sold off to non-family members. Although the Herrera land was originally a part of the 1838 Francisco Antonio Ruiz land grant of 1 league and 1 labor, the Ranch was developed and occupied by Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera and their children. It was subsequently deeded to Jose Maria Herrera, their youngest son. Eventually, the property passed into the ownership of Adolph Herrera followed by his widow, Hortense Herrera, the current owner. The Herrera Ranch has been in continuous ownership by Herrera family members since March 26, 1845, a period of 163 years. The built resources on the Herrera ranch reflect the age and evolution of the property. The jacales, the wooden buildings and the large pavilion reflect the historic appearance of the property.

The Blas Herrera Ranch is located 2.4 miles south of Loop 410 off Somerset Road. The entry to the property is off the abandoned Old Somerset Road, which tails off to the west of Somerset Road, just north of the Medina River. There is a metal ranch gate located about 100 yards south of the Somerset Road and the abandoned Somerset Road connection. Enter the gate and head south on the paved abandoned Somerset Road for a distance of 100 yards and access the property through a metal ranch gate to the west. The fence along this section of the property is livestock wire on cedar posts. As the property is entered on the packed dirt road, house #1 (jacal) is located to the immediate south. The road ends shortly after entering the gate due to electric livestock wire. The pavilion structure #5 is located directly behind house #1 (jacal). House #2 (jacal) is attached to the southwest corner of the pavilion. The wood frame house #4 is located 50 yards directly west of the end of the dirt road. Just southwest of wood frame house #4 is the smaller one room wood structure #3. The building site is covered with small mesquite trees and cactus with larger mature trees to the south in the river bottom.

The two small houses at 41BX672 are examples of early Hispanic Texas distinctive vernacular (architecture built without formal plans with materials found at hand) folk architecture known as a *jacal*,¹ a variation of wattle and daub structures found in Mexico and the southwestern United States. The wattle and daub technique was used as early as the Neolithic period. Wattle and daub structures can be found in Central Europe, Western Asia and North America. Its usage dates back at least 6000 years.²

The term *jacal* derives from the Nahuatl word *xahcalli*. Native Americans built jacales prior to European settlement and the building technique was then later used by the Spanish and Tejano settlers in Texas and elsewhere. South Texas jacales generally followed the building techniques and styles used in Mexico, but at least five variations are known to have existed in the San Antonio region. Basically, the jacales found in South Texas are rectangular-shaped dwellings consisting of poles buried in the ground, plastered with adobe mud or lime mortar, whitewashed, and having a steeply gabled roof of thatch.³ Currently, only two variations are known to exist/survive in San Antonio and Bexar County:

(1) palisadoed construction of abutting vertical poles ca. 9" in diameter pounded into the ground or placed in a trench daubed with adobe plastered walls, windows in the gable ends, doors in the long axis and chimneys in the gable end; and,

¹ Graham, Joe S., "Texas-Mexican Vernacular Architecture," *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/TT/cbtut.html> (accessed October 2, 2007)

² Patel, Nisha K. House Construction and Destruction Pattern of the Early Copper Age on the Great Hungarian Plain. Thesis, Ohio State Univ. March 2004.

³ Graham, Joe. S. "Texas-Mexican Vernacular Architecture."

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(2) buildings of upright corner poles with vertical poles spaced two feet to ca. seven feet apart and having horizontal wooden laths, thin narrow strips of wood, daubed with mud mortar, plastered and whitewashed, windows and doors in the long axis, and a gabled chimney.

Although the *jacal* was a modest dwelling, its construction required a complex knowledge of local materials and native building techniques.⁴ Most of the dwellings destroyed in the fighting around the Alamo were not expensive stone houses like the Veramendi Palace, but small jacales constructed of timber post, hides, mud or clay plaster, reeds for straw thatch, and other cheap local materials. Although well adapted to the environment and the economic level of their residents, jacales seemed unfamiliar and primitive to Anglo American observers. When kept in good repair and whitewashed with lime inside and out, the jacal was a comfortable, attractive home that could last for decades.

The South Texas *jacal* was normally from eight to ten feet wide and twenty to twenty-five feet long. It most often had one room, perhaps divided with a hanging cloth. The ridgepole was ten to fifteen feet from the floor. The size of a jacal was limited by the materials available. The steeply pitched gabled roof made adding rooms impractical. For the poor, the jacal was often a permanent home, but for the more well-to-do it was looked upon as temporary shelter until a better house could be built.⁵ Many of the earliest settlers of San Antonio had stone houses in the city and secondary residences in the country. Many of these were jacal construction. When in good repair, the jacal was an attractive, comfortable dwelling.⁶

Based on Ruiz-Herrera family oral history passed down from generation to generation and substantiated by historical research, the Ruiz-Herrera family owned this land beginning in the late 18th century. The jacales were reportedly built in the 1830s⁷ around the time that Francisco Antonio Ruiz was granted the land by the Republic of Texas in 1838. However, deed and tax records found to date appear to confirm that improvements were made to the property ca. 1845-1846 and may indicate construction of the jacales at that time.

Individual property descriptions, organized by Property number, are listed below. Each individual Property is depicted on the maps (Maps 2 and 3) by property number. A basic inventory of contributing properties, accompanied by the Property maps, follows the property descriptions.

⁴ Saenz, Andres and Andres Tijerina, Editor. *Early Tejano Ranching in Duval County, The Family History of San Jose and El Fresnillo Ranches*. Chapt. 11, "Jacales de Lena." The Institute of Texan Cultures, 1999.

<http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/ranching/chapters/chapter011.htm>.

⁵ Graham, Joe S. "Texas-Mexican Vernacular Architecture."

⁶ Graham, Joe S. "The Jacal in South Texas, The Origins and Forms of a Folk House." *Los Bexarenos Genealogical Register*, Vol. XVI, #2, p. 74, June 1999.

⁷ Personal communication from Adolph C. Herrera to Kay Hinds, 1984.

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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES

1. Jacal No. 1 (c1830s, addition c1845-46, remodeled late 19th or early 20th century; Contributing)

Photos 1A – 1R

Description:

This small rectangular gabled-end jacal building which faces north was the primary residence of the Herrera family. It has a three bay façade, consisting of a centrally spaced three paneled door with four glass panes in the top with a transom located above the door opening. A single 6 x 6 wooden double hung window is located on each side of the door. Two additions have made to the original jacal.

The current structure with additions measures 35'8" wide. The original jacal is ca. 25' 4" in length by 15'7" wide. The peak of the gable is approximately 14'3". A small shed addition was added onto the back (south elevation) fairly soon after the initial construction. An enclosed and extended porch on the front (north elevation) appears to have been added in the late 19th or early 20th century.

The method of construction for the jacal is typical of those found in the San Antonio region in the 19th century, but are now extremely rare. In fact, only five jacals are known to exist within the city limits and Bexar County. The house is constructed of stout cedar poles, (*horcones*) ca. 7" in diameter cut and placed vertically in the ground at corners and at window and door openings. Subsequent poles are placed every 2 to 2 ½ feet. Wooden laths, made of cypress, many with the bark still attached, are nailed to the interior and exterior walls with square nails and run horizontal between the cedar poles forming a framework that holds the wall materials in place. The jacal walls are 8" thick. The laths are adzed cut and measure ca. 1 ¼" to 3" in width in most cases. Large to medium size river gravels as well as sandstone chunks are used as chinking stones in between the laths and are held in place with adobe mortar. Adobe mortar reinforced with straw or grass and hair, most probably horse, is pressed/thrown in to the voids/spaces created between the horizontal laths and stone cobbles. The whole wall is smoothed with the adobe (some of which is deteriorating due to the exposure to the elements) and the finger prints of the person responsible for applying the adobe can still be seen in the walls. This smoothed adobe wall is covered with a plaster that according to Adolph Herrera is made from lime, sand (from the river), cactus (prickly pear; cut and stripped), salt, and water. The plastered wall was then whitewashed and evidence of the original white-wash can still be seen in a few areas. Current interior walls have been painted.

The original central jacal building interior consists of one room that was originally divided by a partition wall offset to the western side of the door opening thereby creating two rooms. A massive red sandstone fireplace with an exterior opening measuring 6'5" was located in the western wall, but has subsequently fallen. Three original windows are 6 x 6 double hung wooden sash windows. In addition to the two windows in the front (north elevation) façade, a third 6 x 6 double hung wooden window is located in the east wall. The outside of the windows measure 32 ¼" wide, with the inside openings measuring 2'8" wide x 52 1/2" in height. Floors in the original jacal are constructed of 5 ½" tongue and groove yellow pine. The ceiling is constructed of the same material as the floor and has been painted. Floorboards are 5 ½" to 6" in width. The original exterior doors of the jacal are missing.

A small shed addition on the rear (south) facade, measuring 7'3" is jacal construction on three sides and stone construction on the fourth side (west elevation). This room was used for cooking.⁸ This can be confirmed by the stone wall located on the west façade that held the flue for the cook stove and soot on the sides and ceiling on the west side of the shed addition. This wall, as can be seen in the accompanying photographs, has fallen into disrepair. A single 6 x 6 double hung wood window is located in the east elevation. Floors are 5 ½" tongue and groove yellow pine. A modest kitchen sink is located in this room.

⁸ Personal communication from Adolph C. Herrera to Kay Hinds, 1984.

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The original shed porch or portal on the front of the house has been enclosed with stud walls. This addition measures 12'7" in width x 25'4" in length and appears to date to the around the turn of the century based on the circular sawn cut wooden components, the use of recycled beaded board ceiling material, 7" roof joists, and a three-panel door with four glass panes. A concrete floor has been poured in this addition.

The gabled ends of the house appear to have been replaced with wood planks at some later time. However, lumber from the Alamo, ca. 1836-1837 or during the U.S. Army occupation, 1846-1849, was reportedly used in the construction of the two houses and this could be the source of some of the wooden components. Hand made cypress wood shake shingles are still present under a later galvanized metal roof. The original exterior walls are covered by cement stucco.

Significance: This jacal is an example of early Hispanic Texas distinctive vernacular folk architecture of palisadoed construction utilizing a variation of the waddle and daub technique. It is one of the extremely rare examples of jacales in Bexar County. It was also the residence of an early Tejano family who played a significant role in the early history of Texas.

2. Jacal No. 2 (ca.1840s, remodeled early 20th century, and 1940s; Contributing)

Photos 2A – 2H

Description:

This small rectangular shed roof jacal building faces north. It has a three bay façade, consisting of a centrally spaced double door and window openings on each side. Individual leaves to the double door each have two vertical panels. An original single 6 x 6 wooden double hung window is located on the west side of the central door with a modified window located to the east of the door. This window was raised (shortened) to serve as a serving area. A later addition consists of dance hall pavilion added to the north. The eastern window alteration was done at the time of the pavilion addition to serve beverages from the house.

The original jacal is ca. 27.66' in length by 15.83' wide. The height is approximately 7.62'. Paneled double doors are located in the south elevation, but appear to be additions/replacements.

Due to the condition of the house, a detailed visual inspection of the interior was not possible. However, the interior is plastered with no visual evidence of the wooden horizontal lath and adobe mud mortar, and stone chinking. The original construction is the same as for jacal no. 1 (see above) as can be seen from the southeast corner, but numerous modifications and deterioration have obscured more of the original materials and techniques.

The jacal building interior consists of one room as can be determined. An original window is 6 x 6 double hung wooden sash windows. The outside of the windows measures 38 ½ inches wide. Floors in the jacal are constructed of 3" tongue and groove yellow pine. No evidence of the original roof materials are present, and the roof appears to have been replaced around the time of the construction of the pavilion reportedly done sometime in the 1940s. Access to measure other elements such as the ceiling joists, floorboards, etc. was not possible.

Alterations to the jacal are numerous. The original wooden lathing between the upright cedar posts appears to have been replaced by lap siding underneath wire mesh cement stucco on both interior and exterior faces of the original jacal wall that measures approximately 8", the same as jacal #1. Machine cut square timbers, ca. 4" in diameter have been butted up to the cedar corner posts and form the framework for later horizontal wood siding on the interior south wall. A visual inspection at the southeast corner of the jacal reveals that much of the original wood lathing is greatly deteriorated and termite infested and the adobe mortar has "melted" into piles at the base of the structure. Further, the house never had the gable addition as did jacal #1.

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Based on the floor materials, window size and oral history, jacal #2 appears to have been constructed after jacal #1. Floors in jacal #2 are 3" pine, indicating that this jacal may have been built later than jacal #1, although the panel door appears to be earlier than those in jacal #1.

Significance: This jacal is an example of early Hispanic Texas distinctive vernacular folk architecture of palisadoed construction utilizing a variation of the waddle and daub technique. It is one of the extremely rare examples of jacales in Bexar County. It was utilized by an early Tejano family who played a significant role in the early history of Texas.

3. Building #3 (ca. Early 1900's, Contributing) Photos 3A – 3E

Description:

Small single story board and batten one room, side gable house with a corrugated metal roof. Centered doors on both the front and rear and one wood frame window on each elevation and evidence of a flue hole on the south elevation.

Significance: This building is reported to have housed laborers on the Herrera Ranch.

4. Building #4 (ca. 1930s, Contributing) Photos 4A – 4D

Description:

Small single story wood frame structure with a low pitch front gable and a rear facing L-plan. The exterior siding is lapped horizontal wood boards and cedar post foundation. The roofing is corrugated metal and the windows are double-hung wood six over six sash.

Significance: This building is said to have housed Herrera family members, visitors and in later years, laborers on the ranch.

5. Herrera Pavilion Building #5 (ca. 1940s, Contributing) Photos 5A – 5C

Description:

A one story wood framed open air pavilion. The perimeter wall is framed with wood and clad with vertical corrugated metal to a height of about four feet with the remainder of the walls open to the exterior. The roof is a single gable of corrugated metal with the gable ends clad with horizontal wood lap boards. The structure abuts the one story jacal #1 at the southwest corner.

Significance: This represents a typical structure utilized by Hispanic families for social events, dances and community gatherings. Family members reported during oral history interviews of having attended many events in the pavilion. It is currently used as a protective covering and stable for the horses on the property.

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Map ID No.	Property	Status	Date/Date of Alterations
1	Herrera Jacal #1	Contributing	ca.1830s, addition c1845-46, remodeled late 19 th or early 20 th century
2	Herrera Jacal #2	Contributing	ca.1840s, remodeled early 20 th century and 1940s
3	Herrera Building #3	Contributing	ca.Early 1900s
4	Herrera Building #4	Contributing	ca.1930s
5	Herrera Pavilion #5	Contributing	ca.1940s

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San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Statement of Significance:

Early ranches in South Texas and in Bexar County were established along the rivers and waterways where there was a ready supply of water for livestock, farming and ranching operations. In southern Bexar County along the Medina River the settlement of Medina developed. Medina included a church, a cemetery, a school, a store and a saloon. (See Appendix I) This provided the nucleus of a community for the families who chose to live in the area and raise their families. The settlement of Medina later became known as Garza's Crossing, (also known as Paso de las Garzas), a name which still appears on today's maps.⁹ The Ruiz and the Herrera families donated land for the building of a church and cemetery, a school, a store and a saloon. The community was vibrant and active until the latter half of the 19th century when the arrival of the International and Great Northern Railroad (I&GN) bypassed Garza's Crossing and located a depot in the community of Von Ormy. This resulted in the eventual shifting of population closer to the location of the railroad depot.

The Bexar County 1850 U.S. census in the Medina River area reflected a diversity of ethnic groups. A total population of 336 individuals lived on the Medina River, comprising 74 families. A breakdown of the population shows there were 227 Texans (including native-born Mexicans and Anglos), 62 Mexicans (Mexico), 36 from the States (representing New York, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Georgia, Virginia, Illinois, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Vermont, South Carolina and North Carolina), and 11 individuals from foreign countries (five from Germany, one from Ireland, four from France, and one from Scotland). Names in the area included descendants of the earliest Spanish and Mexican settlers as well as those individuals receiving Republic of Texas land grants – names such as Francisco A. Ruiz, Blas Herrera, Ignacio Perez, Stephen Jett, and Hernandez. Despite the fact the population of San Antonio in 1850 was predominantly German even with a basically Anglo-Mexican culture, the Medina River area population remained predominantly Mexican.¹⁰

To assist in providing clarity to the land ownership discussed in this nomination, a listing of property owners follows:

Francisco Antonio Ruiz – 1838 (possibly as early as 1774)
John Twohig – 1844
Blas Maria Herrera and wife, Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera – 1845
Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera – 1878
Jose Maria Herrera (son of Blas and Maria) and wife, Josefa Perez Herrera – 1884
Sophia Herrera Langevin and Adolph C. Herrera – 1937
(grandchildren of Jose Maria Herrera and Josefa Perez Herrera)
Adolph Herrera – 1964 (as a result of a partition between Adolph and Sophia)
Hortense Garza Herrera - 1999

Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz de Herrera lived on land originally granted to Maria Antonia's brother, **Francisco Antonio Ruiz**. Blas Herrera and his wife, Maria Antonia had homes in two different locations in this community. They apparently alternated their time between both locations. Archaeological surveys have designated the sites as: SITE 41 BX 670 and SITE 41 BX 672.¹¹ The home locations have been further identified as being on Section #9 and Section #4 of the Dec. 1883, F.A. Ruiz Survey.

9 Oral Interview with Adolph C. Herrera on March 13, 1985 conducted by Gilbert R. Cruz, as part of the Oral History Program, The University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio

10 McGraw, A. Joachim and Kay Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe: A Cultural Resources Assessment of the Proposed Applewhite Reservoir, Bexar County, Texas*. Center for Archaeological Research, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Report, No. 163, 1987, p.95.

11 McGraw & Hinds, pgs. 245-253.

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San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

The Herrera structures nominated on this application are located on Section #4, or SITE 41 BX 672, a short distance west of Garza's Crossing on Somerset Road on the north side of the Medina River.

The original land, one league and one labor, was granted in 1838 to **Francisco Antonio Ruiz** as a Class I Headright, Certificate #42.¹² The land was also described as being four labors and four hundred and eighty nine thousand five hundred square varas. (equal to 4, 605 acres). A portion of this land was surveyed for Ruiz on September 11, 1838¹³ by chain carriers, Alexander Renfro and Thomas H. Moore. Ruiz was to pay \$3.50 for every labor of land that was able to be irrigated, \$2.50 for every labor of arable land and \$2.20 of every labor of pasture land.¹⁴ On April 13, 1844, Francisco A. Ruiz and his wife, Concepcion Soto Ruiz, sold 800 acres of the land to John Twohig for \$500. On April 15, 1844, John Twohig¹⁵ presented this land for registration with the Republic of Texas. It was patented to Twohig on Dec. 31, 1845.¹⁶ In the interim between registration and patent, John Twohig sold the same 800 acres to **Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera** for \$1,000. This transaction occurred on March 26, 1845.¹⁷ On Sept. 7, 1844, Francisco Antonio Ruiz sold the remainder of his Class I Headright, Certificate # 42 to John Twohig for \$50.00. This land was referred to as the "unlocated balance of 3,805 acres."^{18 19} Three months earlier, on May 22, 1844, Blas Herrera and his wife, Maria Antonia Ruiz y Herrera, who were "temporarily residents of the county of Gonzales," had sold land to John Twohig for \$1,000. It was described as Maria Ruiz Herrera's undivided half of two leagues of land "lying and being in the County of Bexar and Goliad" and on the "southwest bank of the San Antonio River" about sixty miles south of the City of San Antonio. This half which was equal to one league was her portion of the division of the Estate of her deceased father, Jose Antonio Francisco Victoriano Ruiz who had died in 1840.²⁰

It is likely this land had originally been owned by the Ruiz family as early as 1774, as it was part of a large Spanish land grant inherited by Juan Manuel Ruiz, patriarch of the Ruiz-Navarro-Herrera families.²¹ Copies of family papers located at the Bexar Archives indicate the land was granted to the Ruiz family in 1774.²² However, after the Battle of the Medina in 1813,²³ many of the early families, including the Ruiz family, fled to what is now east Texas, in the Nacogdoches area and to western Louisiana in the area

12 To encourage established settlers in Texas during the instability of the new Republic of Texas, the 1836 Constitution established a First Class Headright Act. Every head of a household, male or female (with some exceptions) living in Texas on March 2, 1836, was to receive a league and a labor of land (4,605 acres) while single men 17 years of age were to receive a third of a league. Grantees were not required to live on the land. Texas General Land Office, *History of Public Lands; The Republic of Texas*, Accessed on line, http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/history/republic_texas.html

13 Bexar County Archives, Surveyors Field Notes, Book A1, p. 38.

14 Francisco Antonio Ruiz, Bexar 1st Class, Abstract 614, File 614, Bexar County Record of Surveys, Book A, page 38, Nov. 11, 1838.

15 John Twohig, a native of Ireland was a banker and merchant in San Antonio. He participated in the Texas Revolution and was captured by Mexicans and taken to the Perote Prison because of his actions in the Mexican invasion of 1842. He escaped, returned to San Antonio and built a thriving banking business and became known for his charitable deeds. John Twohig Papers, Center for American Papers, The University of Texas at Austin.

16 Texas General Land Office, Patent #340, Vol. 3.

17 Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. C2, pgs 52-53.

18 Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. D2, p.136.

19 This transaction of 1844 was not certified and filed until Nov. 16, 1846 after A. Treadgill and Peter Gallagher swore on Nov. 4, 1846 they were present when the land sale document was created and they witnessed the signing by Francisco Ruiz.

20 Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. B2, p.271.

21 Weddle, R.A. and R.H. Thonoff, *Drama and Conflict: The Texas Saga of 1776*. Madrona Press, Austin, 1976, p.154, as cited in McGraw and Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, 1987, p.130

22 Bexar County Archives, Ruiz Files.

McGraw & Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, p.130.

From January 1778 to April 1778, Juan Manuel Ruiz branded "two calves and two anejas"
(BAT Vol. 68, p. 63)

23 Thonhoff, Robert, *Battle of the Medina*, Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. ", " <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/qfm1.html>

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of Natchitoches, when their lives became endangered.^{24 25} Upon returning to Texas, they had to re-establish their claim on the same lands where they had previously established their homes. Often the families did not speak English and found it necessary to enlist the help of individuals who read and spoke English and who were more knowledgeable about legal requirements in order to re-establish their land claims. Only 19% of the people who claimed their lands were able to receive a First Class Headright in the Bexar-Goliad region.²⁶ It is probable that John Twohig, a local banker, was the individual chosen by the Ruiz and Herrera families to assist them. Although the extent of the involvement between the Herrera and the Ruiz families with Twohig may never be known, the purchase and sale prices of the land transactions, may have been Twohig's fees for this assistance; Twohig made a profit of \$500 from the buying and the selling of the same parcel over a period of 20 months.

Blas Maria Herrera (1802-1878) and Maria Antonia Paula de la Concepcion Ruiz (1809-1887)

Blas Maria Herrera was born on February 2, 1802 in San Antonio de Bexar. He was baptized at San Fernando Church on Feb. 9, 1802.²⁷ His parents were Benito Herrera (born 1769–died June 27, 1805, San Antonio) who was a native of Punta de Lampasos, Nuevo Leon, Mexico and Jacoba de las Fuentes, who was a native of San Antonio.^{28 29} Blas's father, Benito died in 1805, when Blas was only 3 years of age. His mother, Guadalupe married again, this time to Eugenio Flores. Blas appears in the 1819 Census of Barrio Norte (age 16), Occupation: Farmer, living in the household with his mother, Jacoba de las Fuentes (age 34), her husband, Eugenio Flores (age 31), his sister, Guadalupe Herrera (age 14) and his half-brother, Anacleto Flores (age 9.)³⁰ Blas Maria is also reported to have spent the early years of his life in the Ruiz home on the southwest corner of Military Plaza in San Antonio. No doubt this is where he became friends with Maria Antonia Ruiz, whom he married in San Antonio on February 3, 1828.

Maria Antonia Paula de la Concepcion Ruiz was born on June 14, 1809 in San Antonio de Bexar to Colonel Jose Antonio Francisco Victoriano Ruiz (1780-1840) and Maria Josefa Manuela del Carmen Hernandez (1783-1814). Maria Antonia was baptized at San Fernando Church on June 20, 1809.^{31 32}

Blas Maria Herrera and his wife, Maria Antonia Ruiz, raised a family of twelve known children:

1. Francisco Antonio Herrera, born Nov. 6, 1828 – died Nov 8, 1885
Married: Luisa Ramirez, born Nov. 9, 1829 – died June 9, 1906
2. Margarita Jacoba Herrera, born Sept. 25, 1830 – died Sept. 5, 1914
Married: Jose Miguel de la Garza, born May 27, 1820 – died July 25, 1881
3. Benito de la Concepcion Herrera, born Feb. 26, 1832 – died Jan. 1, 1890
Married: Narcisa Calderon, born Jan. 20, 1849 – died Dec. 31, 1884

²⁴McGraw & Hindes, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, p.135. Jose Francisco Ruiz fought under General Toledo at the Battle of the Medina where they were defeated by General Joaquin de Arredondo's forces.

²⁵ According to Andres Tijerina in his book, *Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836*, Nacogdoches was the principal Tejano settlement of the Eastern frontier, near the Adae Indians. It had been established in 1716 by Don Domingo Ramon with the same people who had settled Bexar and Goliad although many of the Nacogdoches residents were natives of Louisiana.

²⁶ Tijerina, Reyes. *Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836*. Texas A & M University Press, College Station, 1994, p.140.

²⁷ San Fernando Church Baptismal Book 4, Entry 576.

²⁸ Herrera, Adolph Casias, "Blas Maria Herrera," *Handbook of Texas Online*, The Texas State Historical Association.

²⁹ San Fernando Church Baptismal Book 4, Entry 476.

³⁰ *Residents of Texas, 1782-1836, Vol. II*. The University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures, Distributed by Ericson Books, c1984.

³¹ San Fernando Church Baptismal Book 4, Entry 959.

³² Jose Antonio Francisco Victoriano Ruiz was the son of Juan Manuel Ruiz (born Queretaro in 1726 or 1737) Juan Manuel Ruiz married Manuela de la Pena, born 1745 in Saltillo. They had 12 children.

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4. Antonia Herrera, born Oct. 18, 1833 – died April 29, 1887
Married: Josiah Cass
5. Blas Buenaventura Herrera, Jr. born Aug. 14, 1835 – died Dec 2, 1905
Married: Sabina Salinas, born Dec. 3, 1840 – died Dec. 16, 1934
6. Juan Jose Herrera, born Jan. 31, 1838 – died Oct. 3, 1862
7. Maria Josefa Herrera, born May 5, 1840 – died by 1920 (?)
Married Fernando S. Sandoval, born abt. 1823 – died by 1900?
8. Fernando Herrera, born April 27, 1843 – died May 3, 1843
9. Jose Antonio Herrera, born June 13, 1844
10. Manuel de Atocha Herrera, born Nov. 21, 1845 – died May 8, 1906
Married: Refugia Tijerina, born March 29, 1843 – Feb. 2, 1902
11. Maria Antonia de la Trinidad Herrera, born May 5, 1848 – died ____
12. Jose Maria Herrera, born Dec 8, 1850 – died Dec. 20, 1932
Married Josefa Perez, born Dec. 1, 1854 – died Aug. 14, 1891

Jose Francisco Antonio Ruiz (1780-1840), father of Maria Antonia Ruiz and father-in-law to Blas Herrera.

Jose Francisco Ruiz was born in San Antonio on January 29, 1783. He was the son of Juan Manuel Ruiz and Manuela de la Pena. On March 18, 1804, he married Josefa Hernandez, daughter of Placido Hernandez and Rosalia Montes. Of the four children born of this marriage, the two children surviving to adulthood were, Maria Antonia Ruiz and Francisco Antonio Ruiz.³³

Jose Francisco Ruiz took part in the Battle of the Medina in 1813 and after defeat by Arredondo's troops, he and others fled to Natchitoches, Louisiana. He remained in exile until 1827 before returning to Texas. He became an officer in the Army of the Republic of Mexico and commanded a detachment of the Mounted Militia to help put down the Fredonia Rebellion in the area of Nacogdoches in what now is east Texas. After numerous military assignments, he retired from military service in 1832, but not from public service and the affairs of government.³⁴

After his distinguished military career, Colonel Ruiz, was appointed as a delegate to the Convention at Washington-on-the Brazos in 1836 where he and his nephew, Jose Antonio Navarro, signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836. He and Navarro were the only native Texans among the fifty-nine men who signed this document. Blas Maria Herrera, Col. Ruiz' son-in-law, had been appointed to escort and protect both Ruiz and Navarro during this journey. Previously, in 1803, Jose Francisco Ruiz had been appointed as San Antonio's first public schoolmaster. The school house was a house built by his father, Juan Manuel Ruiz, which stood on Dolorosa Street facing north on Military Plaza. In 1943, when facing destruction, the house was saved and reconstructed on the grounds of the Witte Museum in San Antonio.³⁵ On December 27, 1836, Jose Francisco Ruiz wrote a letter from Columbia to his son-in-law Blas Herrera and asked Blas to tell Francisco to send some cattle as soon as possible and a saddle.³⁶ Presumably, these cattle were to be sent from the Ruiz ranch.

33 Chabot, Frederic C., *With the Makers of San Antonio*, San Antonio: Artes Graficas, 1937, p.198

34 Strong, Bernice, *Ruiz, Jose Francisco, Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. ", The Texas State Historical Association, <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/RR/fru11.html>

35Ibid.

36 Santos, R., translator. *Letter from Columbia, Texas, Dec. 27, 1836 to Blas Herrera*. Published privately by W. Knight, County Clerk's Office, Bexar County, Texas. (Copy also in the San Antonio Conservation Society Library).

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Francisco Antonio Ruiz (ca. 1804-1876)

Francisco Antonio Ruiz, known as “Don Pancho” was the eldest child of Col. Jose Antonio Francisco Ruiz and Maria Josefa Manuela del Carmen Hernandez and a brother to Maria Antonia Ruiz. Francisco Antonio Ruiz was the alcalde of San Antonio during the Battle of the Alamo and was held under house arrest until the Alamo fell.^{37 38} He was involved in collecting the dead bodies after the fall of the Alamo and placing them on the funeral pyre.³⁹ He later served as a city alderman in San Antonio from 1837 to 1841.⁴⁰ The 1840 census of the Republic of Texas lists Francisco Ruiz, attorney, as owning 794 acres of land under survey but without a completed title from the Texas General Land Office. He also owned five town lots, and was the administrator of the estate of Jose Francisco Antonio Ruiz, an estate comprised of 8856 acres and one town lot.⁴¹

Blas Maria Herrera

Blas Maria Herrera, who has been described as a courier, soldier, and scout, is sometimes referred to as the “Paul Revere” of the Texas Revolution or “the Messenger of the Alamo.” In 1835 he served under the command of Capt. Juan Nepomuceno Seguin and was a member of the assaulting force on December 5-9, 1835. Early in 1836 Seguin sent him to Laredo to keep surveillance on Mexican troop movements, specifically that of General Santa Anna, and to report back any advancement of the troops toward San Antonio. In February of 1836, Herrera returned with the information that General Santa Anna’s troops were approaching the city. Unfortunately, his warnings were discounted. Herrera’s next assignment was to escort and protect Jose Antonio Navarro and Jose Francisco Ruiz during their trip to Washington-on-the-Brazos, where they signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. It is also reported that Blas Herrera was selected to serve Gen. Sam Houston on intelligence assignments before and during the battle of San Jacinto. On December 27, 1836, while serving as a Senator to the First Congress of Texas, Blas’s father-in-law, Jose Francisco Ruiz sent Blas a letter from Columbia. In the letter, Senator Ruiz expressed concern for Herrera’s safety if the Mexican troops were to return.⁴² In 1836, when General Felix Huston sent an order to destroy San Antonio and move its citizens east of the Brazos River, Colonel Seguin who was then in command of the city, sent Herrera with a dispatch for Gen. Sam Houston requesting that he revoke this order which he subsequently did.⁴³

A headright of one league and one labor of land was granted to Blas Herrera on December 6, 1836. On September 18, 1837, Herrera sold the headright to Juan Seguin for the sum of \$800.⁴⁴ Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Herrera chose to live on the land originally granted to Maria Antonia’s brother, Francisco Antonio Ruiz.

During the Revolution, Capt. Reuben Ross’s Company of Houston Volunteer Guards were stationed on the Medina River for a period of time. While in the area, 4 beef cows belonging to Blas Herrera were killed for feeding the troops. Each cow averaged an estimated weight of 400 lbs. On Jan. 17, 1840, F.A. Ruiz, agent for Blas Herrera, filed a claim with the Republic of Texas requesting payment for these cows. This was supported by an affidavit from H. Peters, 1st Sgt. of the Houston Volunteer Guards, dated April 3, 1838.⁴⁵

37 Strong, Bernice, “Jose Francisco Ruiz.”

38 City of San Antonio, Office of the City Clerk, *List of Alcaldes of San Antonio from 1731 to 1836*.

Accessed on www.ci.sat.tx.us/clerk/MayorsofSA1731_1836.pdf

39 Chabot, Frederick C., *With the Makers of San Antonio*, p.200.

40 City of San Antonio, Texana/Genealogy –City of San Antonio Officers, 1837-1983. Accessed on <http://www.sanantonio.gov/library/texana/cityofficers.asp>

41 White, Gifford, *The 1840 Census of the Republic of Texas*. Austin, Pemberton Press, 1966, p.16.

42 Ruiz, a Senator from the Bexar District, was attending the first Congress of the Republic of Texas which had convened in Columbia (now West Columbia). A copy of the letter is in the library at the San Antonio Conservation Society.

43 Herrera, Adolph Casias, “Blas Maria Herrera”, Texas Online Handbook, Texas State Historical Association.

44 Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. D1 p.113.

45 Texas State Archives, Republic of Texas, Audited Claims, #9609, #60-64, ID 89824, R.A. Ruiz and Blas Herrera.

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In the fall of 1839, Blas Herrera enlisted in a Company of Texas Rangers organized by Jose Maria Gonzales and commanded by Col. Henry Wax Karnes. The company was organized in San Antonio for the “purpose of making an expedition against hostile Indians then committing depredations on the frontier.” The company was composed of approximately 50 men who furnished themselves with a horse, ammunition, arms and provisions. They left San Antonio on Sept. 10, and were gone to Indian Country until Nov. 21, 1839. On May 27, 1861, one of the members of the Company, John James, filed a claim with the Republic of Texas stating that the men had never been paid for their service. Blas Herrera was one of the men named in this claim. The men were subsequently paid \$59.16.⁴⁶

Due to the remoteness of Hispanic ranches from the cities, ranch families found it necessary to provide for their own education and religious instruction. Many of the ranches had their own school and chapel on their property.⁴⁷ The first documentation of religious worship in the Garza’s Crossing area and the community of Medina began around the year 1840. Visiting missionaries stopped on the ranch of Blas Herrera and Francisco Ruiz to administer the sacraments to the faithful. A church was built on land donated by Blas Herrera and was called Church of the Holy Trinity or Santisima Trinidad Church at Garza’s Crossing. Blas and Maria Antonia Herrera were active members of this church and close friends of many of the families from the area who attended. A record of the baptism of Felix Heermann, son of Theodore Heermann and Felipa Flores, dated March 19, 1871 has been located and shows Blas and Maria Antonia Herrera as the godparents. The seal of the Santisima Trinidad Church is on the certificate.⁴⁸ Parish books date back to 1866 recording baptisms, marriages and deaths.⁴⁹ The church was in operation until the 1920’s when the congregation moved to Von Ormy and established a new church, Sacred Heart Church. The original church site is located along the northern terrace of the Medina River about 300 meters east of Garza’s Crossing. The cemetery is located on the slopes of the terrace below the former site of the church. The church structure is destroyed and the site was used as a landfill by the City of San Antonio until the later 1970’s.⁵⁰ (See Appendix I)

Blas Herrera continued to be involved in political affairs in his later years. In 1866, he was the Precinct 6 Presiding Officer in Bexar County for the election that chose the delegates to the Feb 7, 1866 state constitution convention.⁵¹ He served as a Justice of the Peace of Bexar County, and was elected road reviewer.⁵²

In January 1875, David V. Whiting of Travis County, agent for Blas Maria Herrera, filed a pension application for Blas Maria Herrera with the Republic of Texas. In the application Blas Herrera stated he was one of the “surviving veterans of the war that separated Texas from Mexico.” He further stated he had joined the Texian patriots and was a volunteer at the Siege of Bexar in December of 1835 and had continued in service until February 1836. He then received orders from Col. Travis to escort and protect his father-in-law, Col. Jose Francisco Antonio Ruiz and Jose Antonio Navarro to the convention at Washington on the Brazos. Other escorts were identified as being, Francisco Gomez, Eurobie Garion and Antonio Coe. Three notarized statements from Juan Seguin, Antonio Menchaca and Ignacio Espinosa, accompanied the pension application which was filed on January 5, 1875. In the affidavit from Antonio Menchaca dated Nov. 11, 1874, Menchaca stated that when “Gen. Felix Huston sent an order to destroy the City of San

⁴⁶ Texas State Archives, Republic of Texas, Public Debt Claims, Microfilm Roll #164, #355-357, ID 123943, John James. (References Blas Herrera)

⁴⁷ Tijerina, Andres, *Tejano Empire, Life on the South Texas Ranchos*. College Station, Texas A & M. University Press, 1998, p.38.

⁴⁸ Heermann Family Papers in possession of Jackie Falbo, Bulverde, Texas as viewed by Pat Castanon and Pat Ezell, January, 2008.

⁴⁹ *Today’s Catholic*, Friday, March 13, 1987, “Sacred Heart Parish, Von Ormy: A church that abounds in history.”

⁵⁰ McGraw, A. Joachim and Kay Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe: A Cultural Resources Assessment of the Proposed Applewhite Reservoir, Bexar County, Texas*. 1987.

⁵¹ *Daily Herald*, San Antonio, Tx. Nov. 11, 1865, as extracted and published by the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, Our Heritage, Vol. 43, #'s 3 & 4, Summer 2002, p.56.

⁵² Bexar County Archives, Ruiz Files, as found in McGraw & Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, 1987, p.247.

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Antonio and to remove the families to the east of the Brazos River, Col. Juan N. Seguin selected Blas Herrera as bearer of the Dispatch for Gen. Sam Houston asking him to revoke the Order so disastrous for the City of that place. Gen. Sam Houston granted the request." Antonio Menchaca went on to state that Blas Herrera was "detained by Gen. Felix Huston at Camp Preston near La Vaca and entrusted with delicate missions for different places and specifically charged to attend Col. Ruiz, then Senator, who was dangerously sick." The pension for Blas Herrera was approved on January 27, 1875 in the amount of \$250.00.⁵³

After military service in the Texas Revolution, Blas Herrera, along with his wife, Maria Antonia Ruiz de Herrera, established their ranch headquarters on the family land at Garza's Crossing on the Medina River in southern Bexar County. The ranch was called El Rancho de los Herrera y Ruiz.⁵⁴ Blas Herrera first appears on the Bexar County tax rolls in 1845 (see later). Further references to Blas Herrera appear in the poll tax list for the Republic of Texas in 1846⁵⁵ and was also referred to by the artist, Theodore Gentilz, upon visiting the Herrera ranch in 1847 and leaving behind a Mr. Zuchet who was ill.⁵⁶

Tejanos raised a variety of farm and ranch animals with their extraordinary skill and expertise. Cattle, sheep, goats, mules, burros, swine and oxen were commonly found on Tejano ranches. The Tejanos developed wide varieties of skill and experience in the livestock industry including branding, round-ups, driving, open-range grazing, expert horsemanship and a broad knowledge of animal husbandry. They incorporated traditional practices as well as introducing specialized practices distinctive to Texas.⁵⁷

Due to free range grazing it was highly important in these early years to identify one's livestock with a brand. The practice of branding is ancient, dating back to the Egyptian period and possibly beginning in the Biblical days. The practice came to Texas with the Spaniards with the introduction of the first cattle to the area. Early Spanish brands were more pictographs than letters. Later the practice of utilizing the letter of the family surname was introduced. Variations occurred when sons added their curlicues or pendants to their father's brand.⁵⁸

In April 1849, Blas Herrera registered a brand for his livestock "on the Medina."⁵⁹ This brand was to be used on the cattle, hogs and sheep.



On January 21, 1858, Blas Herrera registered another brand as well as his marks for his livestock. His marks were described as follows: ear marks, crop in the left ear and under half crop and upper bit, crop and split in the right ear.⁶⁰ Below is a sketch of the brand that Blas Herrera registered in 1858:

⁵³ Texas State Archives, Republic of Texas, Pension Claims, Microfilm Reel 220, #242-254, ID 70966, Blas Herrera, Pension application.

⁵⁴ Oral Interview with Adolph C. Herrera on March 13, 1985 conducted by Gilbert R. Cruz, as part of the Oral History Program, The University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio.

⁵⁵ Mullins, Marion Day, *Republic of Texas Poll Lists for 1846*. Baltimore, Genealogical Pub.Co., 1974, p76. p.76.

⁵⁶ Kendall, Dorothy Steinbomer and Carmen Perry, *Gentilz: Artist of the Old Southwest*. Austin, University of Texas Press, 1974, n.p.

⁵⁷ Tijerina, Reyes. *Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836*. Texas A & M University Press, College Station, 1994, p.70.

⁵⁸ Dary, David. *Cattle Brands. Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. " ", <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/CC/auc1.html> (accessed October 2, 2007).

⁵⁹ Bexar County Archives, Records of Marks and Brands, Book A, as found in McGraw and Hindes, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, 1987.

⁶⁰ Bexar County Archives, Records of Brands and Marks, Book D, p.350.

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Blas Herrera first appears on the Bexar County tax rolls in 1845. He owned 800 acres of land valued at \$300 and 1 town lot valued at \$300. Three (3) cattle were reported with no value given. Tax records show an increase in land and farm activities over the next years. In 1846-47, his acreage remained the same but there is no listing of the town lot. His livestock increased to 32 cattle valued at \$140 and 2 horses valued at \$20.00. He also owned 1 cart valued at \$20 and his total property value was \$1,080. By 1849, Blas Herrera owned 3 horses valued at \$30, 36 cattle valued at \$200; the total value of the property had increased to \$1,480. In 1853, he owned 3 horses valued at \$50, 50 cattle valued at \$250.00 and 2 carts valued at \$100. His 800 acres of land was valued at \$2,000, and a lot was valued at \$1,000, total property value: \$3,400.⁶¹

The Bexar County Agricultural Census for 1850 also indicates that Blas Herrera had a farm valued at \$850, and farm implements valued at \$15. He had 20 cows, 10 of which were milk cows. This seems to indicate that he may have been operating a small dairy farm; 150 lbs. of butter was produced. He also had 2 horses, 1 mule, 6 working oxen and 8 swine. The livestock was valued at \$258. He raised bees as he reported the gathering of 20 lbs. of beeswax and honey for this year and he planted Indian corn as 30 bushels of Indian corn were produced.⁶²

During the years 1856, 1858, and 1859, there was fluctuation in property ownership, property values and the numbers and type of livestock owned. It is possible that Blas Herrera did not engage in farming and ranching activities during this period although it may be more likely there were discrepancies or errors in reporting or documentation. Certainly the 1858 record indicates some type of error as the total value of the property owned, i.e., \$3570 adds up to more than the total value of acres and the town lot.

	1856	1858	1859
# Acres	600	515	470
Value	\$4000	\$2500	\$400.
#Town Lots	?	1	?
Value	\$3000	\$1000	\$3500
# Horses	3		
Value	\$100		
# Cattle	15		
Value	\$250		
Total Value	\$7350.	\$3570	\$3900

Despite extensive searching of the agricultural censuses for 1860, and 1870, no reports for Blas Herrera were found. However tax records indicate Blas and Maria⁶³ owned cows beginning in 1856. The number of cattle increased significantly in 1862-1864 during

⁶¹ Bexar County Tax Rolls, 1845-1853.

⁶² Texas Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Census for 1850, microfilm roll at the San Antonio Public Library, Texana/Genealogy Dept. The 1850 agricultural census was taken between Sept 24-25 and Oct. 25, 1850, indicated that the statistical data reported was for the year of 1849.

⁶³ Blas Herrera is listed as Agent for Maria Antonio Ruiz in the 1859, 1860, 1861, 1875 and 1876 tax rolls.

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the Civil War period and dropped dramatically during 1865. Sheep first appeared on the Herrera property in 1862. The amount of acreage reported as being owned fluctuated in 1864-1867 as did the overall property value.⁶⁴ There was a significant decrease in the value of property during 1865, probably reflective of the drop in overall property values immediately after the Civil War across the South.

	1860	1861	1862	1864	1865	1867	1868	1871	1872	1874
#Acres	800	800	800	640	600	791	800		800	600
Value	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$600	\$891	\$900		\$800	\$900
Cows	10	10	36	42	6	21	24	18	10	4
Value	\$60	\$60.	\$220.	\$600.	\$30.	\$405.	\$125.	\$180.	\$100	\$40.
Sheep			12	12	20	15	15			8
Value			\$12.	\$12.	\$20.	\$30.	\$30.			\$8.
Horses	3	3	5	2	2	2	6	4	2	1
Value	\$30.	\$30.	\$50.	\$100.	\$20	\$70.	\$100	\$90.	\$20.	\$15.
Misc. Prop.	\$75.	\$75.	\$100.	\$700.	\$120	\$375.	\$140.	\$170.	\$130.	\$52.
Total Prop. Value	\$1965	\$1965	\$2152	\$2225	\$790.	\$770	\$1265	\$440.	\$1050.	1015

Blas Herrera, age 59, appears as Head of Household on the 1860 Bexar County, Texas Census. His occupation is that of a farmer, his real estate is valued at \$1500 and his personal property is valued at \$300. Also in the household are the following individuals: Maria A., age 50 (wife of Blas), Benito, age 29 (son of Blas & Maria), Blas (Jr.) age 25 (son of Blas & Maria), Sabina, age 20 (wife of Blas, Jr.) Antonio, age 2 (son of Blas Jr. and Sabina), Juan Jose, age 23 (son of Blas and Maria), Manuel, age 15 (son of Blas and Maria) and Fernando Rodriguez, age 12.⁶⁵

On Sept. 5, 1860, Blas and Maria Antonia Herrera, entered into a 10 year lease agreement with J.K. Harper and the "Friends of the School," for the purposes of erecting suitable buildings for a school on their land on the Medina River. It was stipulated that the lease could be transferred to another individual of good moral character as long as the purpose remained that of a school and that if at any time during the terms of the lease the land was not to be used for a school, the land use was to return to the Herreras. It was also stipulated that the timber could not be cut or destroyed and that the lessor was not entitled to the pecans produced on the land.⁶⁶ Ranch schools were not elaborate structures nor did they have elaborate teaching facilities. The largest were no bigger than a typical *casa de sillar* and could be constructed of *sillar* blocks, stone, or of *revoque*.⁶⁷

Tax records for 1872, 1877, 1878, 1879 and 1880 were listed as Maria Antonio Ruiz Herrera.

64 Bexar County Tax Rolls, 1860 – 1874, microfilm. Viewed at the San Antonio Conservation Society Library. Note: The total value in the individual columns does not always add up to the total property value indicated.

65 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedule, Bexar County, 1860, p. 314, enumerated July 26, 1860.

66 Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. S1, p.410+, 1860.

67 Tijerina, Andres, *Tejano Empire, Life on the South Texas Ranchos*, 1998, p.38.

Casa de sillar – rock house; *Sillar* – rock; *Revoque* – a grass and mortar mixture for walls.

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Beginning in 1871, it appears there was a decrease in farming and ranching activities as the number of cattle began to drop, the number of horses began decreasing, there were no sheep on the land and the total number of acres decreased from 800 in 1872 to 600 in 1873. It might be speculated that because Blas was aging, he may have also begun to suffer illnesses and was unable to continue to manage livestock to the same extent as previously. Blas Maria Herrera died at the age of 76 in Bexar County Texas on July 9, 1878. He is buried in the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery off Quesenbury Road in southern Bexar County.

From 1879 until 1885, there were no horses reported on the land. From 1876 through 1890, there were no cattle on the land. Cattle reappeared in 1891 when the land was taken over by the son, Jose Maria Herrera.

In December 1883, at the age of 74 years, Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera, widow of Blas Herrera, requested that Everett G. Graves survey the land she and her husband, Blas had purchased in 1845 from John Twohig. This became known as the F.A. Ruiz Survey. Continuing in the tradition of the early Spanish land grants, the land was divided into subdivisions also called *porciones*, i.e., long strips of land that had some river frontage and extended back from the river for a considerable distance. In an effort to ensure that each beneficiary had an equal share of the available river or stream, the porción took its characteristic shape, often referred to as a "prolonged quadrangle." Each porción had an extended depth and a narrow river front.⁶⁸ Most of the subdivisions in the F.A. Ruiz survey contained approximately 128 acres each and had frontage on the Medina River. In 1884, after the completion of the survey, Maria Antonia deeded the land subdivisions to her surviving children and heirs.⁶⁹

The surviving heirs of Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Herrera received partitions as follows:

Francisco Herrera - Subdivision #1, consisting of 128 acres.

Benito Herrera - Subdivision #2, consisting of 128 acres.

Antonia Herrera de Cass, wife of Josiah Cass, - Subdivision #3, consisting of 128 acres.

Jose Maria Herrera - Subdivision #4, consisting of 128 acres. (SITE BX 672)

Jacoba Herrera de la Garza, wife of Miguel de la Garza, - Subdivision #5 consisting of 108 ½ parcels and Subdivision #6 and #8 consisting of 19 ½ acres.

Blas Herrera, Jr. - Subdivision # 7, consisting of 129 acres.

Manuel Herrera - Subdivision #9, consisting of 128 acres. (SITE BX 670)

Josefa Herrera de Sandoval - Subdivision #10, consisting of 128 acres.

Jose Maria Herrera (1850-1932)

The land on which the Blas Herrera structures for this nomination are located was deeded to son, Jose Maria Herrera on Feb. 2, 1884 as Subdivision #4.⁷⁰ When Jose Maria Herrera inherited his 128 acres from his mother, he already owned 102 acres in the F. Rolen Survey. The value of the 128 acres of the land from the Ruiz survey was \$640 as per the 1884 tax rolls. Jose Maria Herrera also

⁶⁸ Tijerina, Andres. *Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836*, 1994, p.51.

⁶⁹ Subdivision of R.A. Ruiz-Survey, Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 31, pgs 612-613, Dec. 1883.

⁷⁰ Maria Ruiz Herrera to Jose Maria Herrera, Deed, Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 346, p.140, Feb. 2, 1884.

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owned Lot #6, in Block # 1 in the City of San Antonio, valued at \$25.00, 1 buggy valued at \$10.00, and 7 horses/mules valued at \$186.00.⁷¹ The total value of his property was \$1,165. He paid a total tax of \$19.49.

On Dec. 8, 1877, Jose Maria Herrera (1850-1932) married Josefa Perez (1854-1891) at the Santisima Trinidad Church at Garza's Crossing. She was the daughter of Tomas Perez and Antonia Varra Perez. Jose and Josefa had six children: Miguel (1878-1966), Jose Maria, Jr. (1879-1966), Pabla/Paula, (1881- ?), Adolfo (1885-1914) Esther (1887- 1929) and Tomas Herrera (1881-1971).⁷²

Jose Maria Herrera appeared as Head of Household on the 1880 Bexar County Census. He was 29 years of age and his occupation was a farmer. His wife, Josefa was 24 and her occupation was keeping house. There were two children, Jose M. (Miguel) age 1 and Jose Maria, age 8 months.⁷³ In the 1900 census, Jose Maria Herrera, as a 49 year old widower, headed a household with 6 children, ages 8 through 21. He listed his occupation as "farmer."⁷⁴ In the 1910 Bexar County census, Jose Maria was shown as a 59 year old widower with an occupation as farmer.⁷⁵ In the 1920 census, he was still farming at the age of 68 and had not remarried. Also living in the household was his son, Jose M. Herrera, Jr. age 36 and Jose's wife, Felipe, age 25 and their two children, Desidero, age 8 and Alfredo, age 1. Additionally, Josefa Casillas Herrera, age 24, was shown as a daughter-in-law and a widower with her two children, Sophia, age 8 and Adolpho C. Herrera, age 6. The family was living on Somerset Road.⁷⁶ Josefa Casillas had married Adolfo Herrera, son of Jose Maria and Josefa Perez Herrera. Adolfo Herrera (Sr.) had died on Jan 11, 1914⁷⁷ as a result of an accident he suffered while working for the railroad. After the death of her husband, Adolpho, Josefa Casillas Herrera and her two small children, lived in the home of her father-in-law, Jose Maria Herrera, Sr. In the 1930 census, Jose Maria Herrera, Sr. was still living in the same household, but his son, Jose Maria Herrera, Jr. was listed as Head of Household.⁷⁸ Years later, Adolpho C. Herrera, said his grandfather, Jose Maria Herrera raised him and told him many stories about the family.⁷⁹

Although Jose Maria Herrera continued with the farming and ranching operations instituted by his parents, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia, it must have been on a very limited basis. Tax records dating from 1884 through 1909 reflect no sheep and only 1-2 cows, 2-5 horses and 1 wagon.

Jose Maria Herrera's sister, Jacoba Herrera, who had married Miguel de la Garza, died on Sept. 5, 1914. In her will she had left the 109 acres of land she had received from her parents, i.e., Subdivision #5 of the F.A. Ruiz survey, to her brother Jose Maria Herrera. Sr. She had previously sold on June 11, 1908, the 19 ½ acres of Subdivision #8 to A.L. Hernandez for \$700.00.⁸⁰ Jacoba Herrera de la Garza's will was probated on Oct. 23, 1929.⁸¹

71 Bexar County Tax Rolls, 1884.

72 San Fernando Cathedral Marriage Records, Book, 3, Entry 18, Marriage of Jose Maria Herrera and Josefa Perez.

73 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedule, Bexar County, Texas, p. 14 B, Enumerated June 11, 1880.

74 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedule, Bexar County, Texas, p. 150B. Sheet 11, Enumerated June 18, 1900

75 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedule, Bexar County, Texas, p.64A, Enumerated April 27, 1910

76 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedule, Bexar County, Texas, Sheet 1B. Enumerated Jan.6-7, 1920

77 Tombstone of Adolf Herrera, Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery, Quesenbury Road, San Antonio, Tx.

78 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedules, Bexar County, Texas, p.220A, Enumerated April 9, 1930.

79 Oral History of Adolph C. Herrera taken by Gilbert R. Cruz on March 13, 1985 at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Transcription obtained from the Library at the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

80 Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 314, p. 248, June 11, 1908

81 Bexar County Probate Minutes, Vol. 159, p.20, Oct. 23, 1929

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During the early twentieth century, oil and gas exploration began locally in Bexar County. Droughts affected the small farmer's ability to successfully grow crops and produce yields. The interest in oil and gas exploration on available lands provided a source of income. On Dec. 8, 1930, Jose Maria Herrera entered into an oil and gas lease with C.A. Ingersoll and R.C. Miller for a period of 5 years. The drilling of oil and gas wells on Subdivisions #4 and #5 was authorized with various stipulations. The lessor agreed to pay for any damage to crops, buildings or fences caused by drilling operations and agreed to replace gates with cattle guards. No well was to be drilled nearer than 200 feet to the house and barn currently on the premises. The lessor also agreed not to use any wood from the property and not to drill any wells in the area known as "Pecan bottoms", an area that consisted of 37 acres.⁸²

Jose Maria's wife, Josefa Perez Herrera, died on August 14, 1891. Jose Maria Herrera lived for another 41 years as a widower and died on Dec. 20, 1932. They are both buried in the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery. However, it was not until five years later in 1937, that Jose Maria Herrera, Jr. and his siblings brought suit against their brother Tomas to partition their deceased father's land from the F.A. Ruiz Subdivision #4 & #5. The suit also involved the partitioning of 106.6 acres located on the north bank of Elm Creek, i.e., the Rolan survey #48. The lawsuit resulted in the Court designating the land by shares. Share #3, previously referred to as #4 Subdivision, was set apart to Sofia and Adolph Herrera, children of Josefa Casillas and Adolph Herrera, to be held jointly and in common.⁸³

Adolph C. Herrera (1913-1999) and Hortense Garza Herrera

On April 15, 1964, Tomas Herrera and his wife, Irene, quitclaimed their interest on a 30 acre tract out of the Ruiz subdivision, Abstract 614, City Block 4300, to Adolph C. Herrera.⁸⁴ Three days later, on April 18, 1964, Adolf and his sister, Sophia Herrera Langevin, partitioned the land they held in common. Each received 30 acres with Adolph Herrera's land having frontage on the Medina River and Sophia Herrera Langevin's land having frontage on Fischer Road. Adolph Herrera's land was also said to be 27 feet north of the centerline of an existing concrete bridge (Garza's Crossing).⁸⁵ The land received by Adolph C. Herrera is the same land where the existing Herrera structures are located, i.e., SITE 41 BX 672, or Section #4.

Adolph Casias Herrera was born on January 17, 1913 in San Antonio, to Adolph Herrera and Josefa Casillas Herrera. He and his sister, Sophia, spent their early years living on the ranch, moving to San Antonio in approximately 1927 or 1928. He attended the Medina school at what was known at that time as the Medina Crossing.⁸⁶ As an adult, Adolph C. Herrera served for 36 years with the San Antonio Fire Department, achieving the rank of Lieutenant before retiring. He also served in the U.S. Air Force, was a real estate broker and was an executive member in the Lions Club.⁸⁷ Adolph Herrera married Hortense de la Garza. They had three children. Adolph Herrera died on April 8, 1999 in Bexar County, Texas.

In keeping with the Hispanic and Tejano traditions, frequent family gatherings occurred, celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, special events, etc. The Herrera ranch became a family gathering place. The accompanying photo of a Veterans Reunion at a Diez y Seis celebration depicts this event occurring at the Herrera ranch on the Medina. A dance hall/ pavilion was built in the 1940s to accommodate community and social events. A number of people living today recall visiting the ranch as children and going fishing with family members.⁸⁸ Carmen Schmalhorst, a great great granddaughter of Blas Herrera, recalls visiting the Herrera ranch in the

⁸² Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 1223, p.513+, 1930.

⁸³ Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 2584, page 537. "Jose Maria Herrera, et al vs. Tomas Herrera."

⁸⁴ Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 5209, p.373+.

⁸⁵ Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 5209, p.357+.

⁸⁶ Oral History, Adolph Herrera, 1985.

⁸⁷ *San Antonio Express News*, April 28, 1999, Obituary for Adolph Casias Herrera.

⁸⁸ Verbal communication from Alfred Rodriguez, Spanish Archivist, Bexar County Courthouse, to Pat Ezell, August 2007.

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early 1930's when she was about 7 or 8 years of age. Her cousin, Adolph Herrera, who was older, delighted in scaring the children by telling them ghost stories.⁸⁹ Mrs. Schmalhorst remembered the Herrera house (Jacal #1) with the large fireplace and thought that family members probably slept on the floor when visiting as there were no beds in the house. She did not remember anyone living on the property at that time. Mrs. Schmalhorst also recalls attending a 25th wedding celebration for Adolph and Hortense Herrera which was held on the Herrera ranch.⁹⁰

Mr. Adolph Herrera was quite proud of his heritage and did extensive research on his ancestors. He was the author of the Blas Herrera article in the Texas Handbook. He was a founding member of the Granaderos de Galvez, an organization that researched and honored Spain's role in the American Revolution. His ancestry, artifacts and lifelong devotion to documenting and preserving his rich family history, as well as that of Texas and San Antonio, earned him an honorary membership with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.⁹¹

Although Adolph Herrera and his wife, Hortense, maintained their primary residence in San Antonio, limited farming and ranching activities continued on the historic property. They raised hay and sorghum on the property. They also had Shetland ponies. Adolph Herrera rented out the pavilion/dance hall for parties and dances.⁹² On Sept. 20, 1983, Adolph Herrera leased 30 acres, also known as Tract 3A of the Ruiz survey to the Casias Oil Well Services, Inc. for a natural gas pipeline. It was stipulated that the company would install a 16 foot aluminum gate at the entrance and that each well and tank battery placed on the property was to be wire paneled to keep cattle and animals out.⁹³

During 1984 when Kay Hinds and Al McGraw were conducting a course of studies for the proposed Applewhite Reservoir, they observed at the Blas Herrera property a large gate leaning up against a building. Adolph Herrera explained that this gate as well as others formerly used on the ranch had come from the Alamo.⁹⁴ Mr. Herrera allowed the removal of the gate which was temporarily housed at the Institute of Texan Cultures. The wooden gate consisted of two leaves (or portons), each 4 x 8 feet. Extensive investigation was undertaken of the gate and it was determined to be of extremely rare Spanish Colonial construction. Although there is no written proof that the gate actually came from the Alamo, it was determined that it could have come from a main compound such as one of the Spanish Colonial missions. The gate has a probable construction date of circa 1760 to 1820.⁹⁵ Research substantiated that members of the Ruiz-Herrera families purchased property at the San Antonio missions, in particular at San Antonio de Valero and San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo as early as the 1820's. The Herrera gate is now on display at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum in Austin, Texas.

After Adolph Herrera's death in 1999, his wife, Hortense G. Herrera was appointed executor of the estate. In Cause No. 99-PC-2478 of Bexar County, Hortense Herrera received the 30 acre tract of land originally a part of the Francisco A. Ruiz Survey. The land is described as: "A 30 acre tract out of a 240 acre tract of the Francisco A. Ruiz Subdivision of Survey No. 47, Abstract 614, C.B. 4300, Bexar County, Texas, described as Tract 3-A on a plat of this land dated February 20, 1964, according to a survey made,

⁸⁹ Andres Tijerina wrote in his book, *Tejano Empire, Life on the South Texas Ranchos*, 1998, p.99, "One of the most frequent pastimes in the evening was telling ghost stories around the fireplace. Tejano ghost stories followed a well-defined repertoire of class themes. The most common themes were stories of treasure, of apparitions, and of class characters like the Lechusa and La Llorona."

⁹⁰ Oral history interview with Carmen Schmalhorst, 10/05/2007, conducted by Pat Castanon and Pat Ezell

⁹¹ *San Antonio Express News*, April 28, 1999, Obituary for Adolph Casias Herrera.

⁹² Email communication from Evie Patton to Pat Ezell, June 18, 2007.

⁹³ Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 3107 p.1939+.

⁹⁴ Kay Hinds. The U.S. Army engaged in the reconstruction of the Alamo from 1846-1849.

⁹⁵ McGraw & Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, pgs 250-3.

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and more fully described at Vol. 5209, Page 367 of the Deed and Plat Records of Bexar County, Texas. Said tract further described in a Partition Deed at Vol. 2584, Page 537 of the Deed and Plat Records of Bexar County, Texas.”⁹⁶ Mrs. Herrera is the current owner of the land (SITE 41 BX 672, or Section #4) on which the Blas Herrera structures for this nomination are located. The land is currently leased to an individual for the pasturing of horses.

(Note: The published works, by McGraw and Hindes, *Chipped Stone and Adobe: A Cultural Resources Assessment of the Proposed Applewhite Reservoir, Bexar County, Texas*, 1987 and Adovasio and Green, *Historic Archaeological Investigations in the Applewhite Reservoir Project Area Bexar County, Texas*, 2008, served as a primary basis for this research which was followed by reviewing the original documents and then supplemented with additional research.)

Summary

The Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch is significant under National Register Criteria A as the ranch of early Tejano/Hispanic family settlers. The property has been continuously utilized with either livestock and/or agricultural ranching from 1845 until the present time. In addition to its significance in the areas of settlement and agriculture, the property is also being nominated under Criteria C due to the significance of the architecture. The two jacales represent unique construction techniques (adobe palasaido and daub and wattle) and early building styles representative of the Tejano culture. These are two of the very few remaining jacales in Bexar County. The additional buildings also represent the utilization of the property for both agricultural and social activities.

The Herrera and Ruiz families are a vital part of the history of Texas and early Bexar County. Although the Ruiz family is better known, the contributions made by Blas Herrera to the Texian struggle for independence is equally important. These early Tejano/Hispanic families settled in southern Bexar County, raised their families and engaged in civic, social, educational, religious, military and agricultural activities in the development of the area. This site represents one of a series of occupations in this area of the Medina River valley by members of the Ruiz-Herrera family for possibly over 200 years.

The Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch represents an important survival of a early-19th century homestead complex in south Texas. The structures comprising the compound reflect the simple character of central Texas vernacular architecture during the early 19th century and the simple Tejano structures which were common to the area. Historic built features throughout the ranch reflect the evolution and changing uses of the land, from active ranching, to one of scaled back ranching activities, to social and community events, to the simple pasturing of horses today. At the heart of the ranch stands the larger jacal structure which served as the family residence, the smaller jacal, the open air pavilion and the two wood frame structures. The jacals are indicative of the early Tejano construction techniques. It is evident that as the family grew and prospered, new structures were added as needed. In the 20th century as the families located at the Garza's Crossing community moved away, so did the Herrera family. The land's primary use became one of a gathering place for social events, although the pasturing of animals continued.

The Paso de las Garzas' community that developed on the Herrera/Ruiz lands with its church, school, store, saloon, and cemetery, is indicative of the type of clustering of Tejano/Hispanic families outside the primary population centers. It is unfortunate this community has not been recognized historically and that its rich history has essentially been lost in the history books.

⁹⁶ Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 8386, p.488+.

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The buildings, fields, pasture and landscape reflect the historic tradition of ranching in southern Bexar County. This tradition is fast being diminished from the rural landscape as developers purchase rural ranches and put in large scale housing and commercial development. The Herrera Ranch is in the nearby vicinity of the Toyota plant in Bexar County and would be prime acreage for a housing development in the event adjacent property owners could be persuaded to sell their acreage as well. For now, the current property owner is interested in protecting the historic property and having the property remain in the family. Interest has also been expressed in the stabilization and restoration of the buildings.

The Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch on the banks of the Medina River possesses an extraordinary sense of place and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and historic appearance. These resources embody the distinctive and significant characteristics of a south Bexar County ranch. Thus, the Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C as a rural historic ranch at the statewide area of significance. The property is associated with the early Tejano families who settled south Texas and who continued with their cultural practices despite the influx of new immigrants of varying ethnic groups. Therefore, the Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera is also nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A as a cultural group who made a significant contribution to the agricultural and cultural practices of our south Texas heritage.

Period of Significance:

The period of significance of the Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch spans over 100 years from the initial purchase of the land in 1845 to the ranching of the land in the 1860s and 1870s and the developing of a central gathering place for the Garza's Crossing community during this period which continued on through the 1940s and 1950s. The building of the historic resources began in the 1830s with the possibility that earlier structures may have been on the property when owned by the Ruiz family. Ranching and agricultural production was active until 1878 and continued on a limited basis into the 20th century.

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APPENDIX I:

Garza's Crossing

In southern Bexar County, approximately 16 miles from downtown San Antonio, developed a community along the Medina River. In the early days it was referred to as Medina. Later the community became known as Paso de las Garzas or "Garza's Crossing," a name that still appears on maps in 2008.⁹⁷ By the mid-to-late nineteenth century, a community enclave of associated family members settled in the area. Family groups such as the Ruiz-Herrera families, the De La Garza families and the Guzman families were the dominant families. The Santisima Trinidad Church and Cemetery (SITE 41 BX 667), the White Elephant Saloon, a store, a school, and a number of small family residences were located here.

The location of Garza's Crossing, SITE 41 BX697, is at the juncture of the Medina River and Somerset Road. The site was identified in 1984 by a team from the University of Texas San Antonio, Center for Archaeological Research (CAR-UTSA). The Spanish referred to the area as Los Encinos.⁹⁸ Jose Miguel de la Garza, who married Margarita Jacoba Herrera, daughter of Blas Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera, operated a ferry at this site in the mid 1800's.⁹⁹ ¹⁰⁰ He abandoned the ferry operation ca. 1870-1874 and in 1875, Blas Herrera, Jr. was granted permission by the Commissioners to reestablish the ferry. The ferry was located at the point where the public road to Somerset (Old Somerset Road/Laredo Road) crossed the river, just east approximately 50 meters from the present day bridge. Rates to utilize the ferry crossing were established as follows:¹⁰¹

For each loaded wagon, with one pair of animals	\$.75
For each empty wagon, with one pair of animals	.50
For each empty wagon, with additional animal belonging thereof	.10
For each loaded Mexican cart with two pair of animals or less	.50
For each empty Mexican cart with two pair of animals or less	.50
For each empty Mexican cart, additional animal thereto belonging	.10
For each single horse and buggy, or two horses and buggy, carriage, Ambulance, or other conveyance	.50
For each additional animal thereto belonging	.10
For each horse, mule, or jack-ass with rider	.20
For each foot passenger	.05
For all horses, mules, asses, cattle, hogs, or sheep driven or led The roud (sic), each per head	.05

⁹⁷ Hinds, Kay, "Historic Roads and River Crossings in the Lower Medina River Valley," as published in *Historic Archaeological Investigations in the Applewhite Reservoir Project Area Bexar County, Texas*, edited by J.M. Adovasio and Melissa M. Green, Texas Antiquities Permit No. 1489. Center for Ecological Archaeology, Texas A & M University, Reports of Investigation No. 6, 2003, p. 34-35

⁹⁸ Texas General Land Office, Vol. 43, pgs 119-121)

⁹⁹ Bexar County Archives, Commissioner's Court Minutes, Vol. 3A p.560 as found in McGraw and Hinds, Chipped Stone and Adobe, 1987.

¹⁰⁰ In the Oral History Interview with Adolph Herrera conducted in 1985 by Gilbert L. Cruz, Adolph Herrera stated that "Blas, the old man," had the ferry originally and passed it to down to other family members.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

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A post office was established at Garza's Crossing on Jan. 16, 1872 with William G. M. Samuel as postmaster. The post office was in operation for a little over two years but was discontinued on May 7, 1874. It was re-established on June 10, 1874 with Robert J. Sibert as postmaster, but was discontinued within two months on August 16, 1874.¹⁰²

The crossing is one of the sites postulated as having been utilized by the forces of General Santa Anna in 1836 as the Mexican army made their way into San Antonio. Temporary camps were established at the crossings. Associated roads/routes for this crossing include Herrera's Road, "Santa Anna's or Laredo Trail," the Old Laredo Road, the Rossville-Somerset Road and Somerset Road. The present right-of-way for Somerset Road and Garza's Crossing was laid out in 1914 with land for the project being donated by respective landowners. The road, the first to be completed under Bexar County's road bond issue, was built by contractor W.H. Davis under the auspices of Commissioner J.K. Lamm. The original ford crossing was located about 50 meters (164 feet) from the present bridge. The Somerset Medina Bridge, erected in 1914, is an excellent example of a pre-world War I bridge construction.^{103 104}

The Old San Antonio-Laredo Road and its varying routes was one of the most significant trails to affect the economic growth of San Antonio and southern Texas during most of the late eighteenth century and a large part of the nineteenth century. The various routes of the Laredo Road were vital supply links to the San Antonio market, and by the late nineteenth century, its western reaches serviced places such as Frio, Medina, and Atascosa counties, located south-southwest of San Antonio.¹⁰⁵ The road also directed regional commerce toward Mexican markets across the Rio Grande at Laredo.¹⁰⁶

Santisima Trinidad Church and Paso de las Garzas Cemetery (SITE 41 BX 667)

Around 1840, religious worship began on the ranch of Blas Herrera and Francisco Ruiz as visiting missionaries stopped to administer the sacraments to the families in the area. Later a church was built on land donated by Blas Herrera. The church, Santisima Trinidad or Church of the Holy Trinity, was located along the northern terrace of the Medina River about 400 meters southeast of Garza's Crossing. The cemetery was located behind the church. The church was described as being a one story wood frame structure. The church was dedicated by Bishop Jesus Manriquez y Zarate who was an exiled Bishop from Huejutla, Mexico. (See Historic Sketch #3)

Parish records exist from July 1866 and are located in the Catholic Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese in San Antonio. The first recorded baptism by Father Andres Farges was that of Marie Tournat. Father Farges, who was born on March 25, 1831 at Neronde, Loire, was ordained by Bishop Odin in 1859 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Galveston. His only recorded assignment was that at the Blas Herrera ranch although this assignment also included serving the many neighboring farming communities.

After Father Farges died in 1870, he was succeeded by Father Julio Sayet. Father Sayet was born in 1838 and ordained by Bishop Odin on Dec. 27, 1870. In addition to his first assignment being at the Blas Herrera ranch, he was also responsible for McCloskey, El Carmen and other ranches along the Medina River. During his assignment it became necessary to have the roof repaired on the church. Bishop Pelicer sent a carpenter to help the parishioners do the work.

¹⁰² Wheat, Jim. *Postoffices and Post Masters of Texas, 1846-1930*

¹⁰³ Bexar County Archives, Commissioner's Court Minutes, Vol. 3A p.560.

¹⁰⁴ Hinds, Kay, "Historic Roads and River Crossings in the Lower Medina River Valley," as published in *Historic Archaeological Investigations in the Applewhite Reservoir Project Area Bexar County, Texas*, Edited by J.M. Adovasio and Melissa M. Green, Center for Ecological Archaeology, Texas A & M. University, Reports of Investigation, No. 6, 2003, pgs. 27-49.

¹⁰⁵ Bexar County Archives, Road Files, Somerset Road.

¹⁰⁶ Hinds, "Historic Roads and River Crossings in the Lower Medina River Valley." 2003.

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Bishop C. M. Dubois of Galveston conducted the Confirmations during the period with sixty-seven confirmations being recorded on July 20, 1868. Father Sayet died in August, 1884.

In 1879, a new church bell was purchased at the cost of 145 pesos. One hundred twenty three pesos were donated by parishioners and friends from Castroville and San Antonio. These combined with the 22 pesos obtained with the selling of the old bell which had been given by Trinidad Perez, made up the required 145 pesos for the purchase of the new bell. Bishop Montez de Oca from the Mexican State of Tamaulipas dedicated the new bell on June 8, 1879 under the name of "Ignacio de la Trinidad."

The Padrinos for the dedication ceremony were: Francisco Herrera and Trinidad Lim, Eugenio Ruiz and Carlota Garcia, Juan Rodriguez and Rita Villareal, Theandro Cass and Ines Toben and Pedro Lopes and Blas Herrera.

With the decline of parish activities in the late 1890's through the early 1900's, the church building was in need of repair. A decision was made to move the congregation to Von Ormy where a new church, Sacred Heart was established. The bell on the Santisima Trinidad Church at Garza's Crossing was donated to Santa Isabel Church in San Antonio. After a fire at that church, the bell was placed in the tower of Christ the King Church in the neighborhood of Santa Isabel. Eventually, through the efforts of many parishioners including the descendants of the Blas Herrera family, the Adolph Herrera family, and the parishioners of Christ the King Church and their pastor, Msgr. Balthasar Janecek, the 1878 bell was relocated to the Sacred Heart Church in Von Ormy. It was rededicated on January 30, 1983.

The Paso de las Garzas Cemetery is located along an eroding terrace of the Medina River about two tenths of a mile southeast of the Somerset Road bridge. The site was included within the boundaries of the San Antonio city landfill sometime in the recent past. Arroyos along the terrace edge have impacted the cemetery and continue to threaten the remaining graves. Although vegetation at the church locality was made up of sparse grasses, the cemetery has been overgrown with briars, mesquite, and tall grasses. The cemetery was visited in 1977 by John Leal, a Bexar County archivist, who recorded 17 legible tombstones. In 1984, a team of CAR-UTSA archaeologists surveyed the cemetery and identified the church location from archival research, oral interviews, and an onsite visit by a former member. In 1989, a half-day visit was made by SMU archaeologists. This visit included a walkover of the church location, preparation of a sketch map, and photodocumentation. Nineteen graves were identified at that time, two of which were not recorded in 1977 or 1984. Since its recordation in 1977, 13 of the site's original 17 tombstones have been relocated. The condition of some of these has deteriorated, and some are no longer standing or even in their original locations. Extensive disturbance associated with the operation of the city landfill has resulted in an undulating site surface. Erosion has occurred in some areas of this landfill, exposing some of the buried materials. Many of the grave markers have disappeared due to vandalism and natural deterioration.¹⁰⁷ In 2005 a group of volunteers headed by Pedro and Amelia Torres spent many hours cleaning up the cemetery. The cemetery was rededicated in a ceremony held Oct. 29, 2005. The tombstones were re-documented by abstractors, Janey E. Joyce, Amelia and Pedro Torres, Anthony Barbieri, and Valentino and Yolanda Castaneda and published in Volume 3 of the *Cemeteries of Bexar County*.¹⁰⁸ This listing also includes names of others who are reported to have been buried in this cemetery but the graves or either unmarked, have illegible gravestones or the graves have been washed away.

¹⁰⁷ "Testing Investigations and Results for Historic Properties," by Melissa M. Green, Kay Hindes, and Randall, W. Moir, as published in *Historic Archaeological Investigations in the Applewhite Reservoir Project Area Bexar County, Texas*, Adovasio, J.M. and Melissa M. Green, Editors. Center for Ecological Archaeology, Texas A & M. University. 2003, pgs. 115-116.

¹⁰⁸ San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, *Cemeteries of Bexar County Texas*, Vol. 3. 2006, pgs 111-112.

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ROY BEAN SALOON

Roy Bean, who had a colorful history in San Antonio prior to moving to Langtry, Texas and becoming known as “Judge Roy Bean,” established and operated a saloon in the late 1870’s at Garza’s Crossing. He and his partner, an unidentified Frenchman, did not do well and Bean sold out and moved to San Antonio where he opened another saloon in the area which came to be known as “Beanville.”¹⁰⁹ According to Adolph Herrera, the saloon was located on the Herrera property and the saloon was known as the “White Elephant Saloon.”¹¹⁰ The name has not been verified, although it is known that the saloon in San Antonio was also known as the “White Elephant Saloon.”

¹⁰⁹ “Roy Bean in San Antonio,” by George Carmack, *San Antonio Express News*, Saturday, June 18, 1977.

¹¹⁰ Personal Communication from Adolph Herrera to Kay Hindes, 1984.

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Verbal Boundary Description

This 30 acre tract owned by Hortense Herrera is located in southern Bexar County on the northern side of the Medina River, 2.4 miles south of Loop 410 off of Somerset Road. The entry to the property is on the abandoned Old Somerset Road which tails off to the west of Somerset Road just before the Garza's Crossing bridge. It is a tract of land from the Francisco A. Ruiz Subdivision of Survey No. 47, Abstract 614, C.B. 4300, Bexar County, Texas. The Bexar County Appraisal District website gives the legal description as: CB 4300 P-6A ABS 614. The Property ID is 190048. The Geographic ID is 04300-019-9261.

This tract was described as Tract 3A according to a survey made on Feb. 20, 1964 and described in Vol. 5209, p.368 on the Deed and Plat Record book. Metes and bounds are described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the centerline of the Medina River, said point being 27.00 feet north of the centerline of an existing concrete bridge;

THENCE along the centerline of the Medina River as follows:

N 15 deg. 09'41" E, a distance of 233.23 feet to a point, for a corner of this tract;

THENCE N 29 deg. 58'03" E, a distance of 2265.14 feet to an iron pin set for a corner of this tract;

THENCE East, a distance of 557.98 feet to an iron pin set for a corner of this tract;

THENCE S 29 deg. 06'37" W, a distance of 2352.04 feet to an iron pin set, for a corner of this tract, said point being located on the north line of SOMERSET ROAD;

THENCE along the North line of SOMERSET Road (and being 27.00 feet north of the centerline of SOMERSET ROAD) as follows:

S 58 deg. 11' W, 277.41 ft. to the point of curvature of a curve to the right

THENCE along said curve with a radius of 273.00 feet, a distance of 220.69 feet to the point of tangency of said curve;

THENCE N 75 deg. 30' W, 188.04 feet to the point of beginning, and containing 30 acres of land, more or less;

EXCEPT the bed of the Medina River, a navigable stream.

The 30 acre tract is bounded on the south by the Medina River and Old Somerset Road, on the West and North by property owned by Charles A. Tims and on the east by a series of 18 smaller lots owned by 14 different property owners, including 2 of which are also owned by Mrs. Hortense Herrera.

Boundary Justification

The 30 acre tract is the remaining portion of the 128 acre tract originally deeded to Jose Maria Herrera in 1884 by his mother, Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera. It contains original structures built by the Herrera family as well as pasture land that has been owned by Herrera family members for over 150 years.

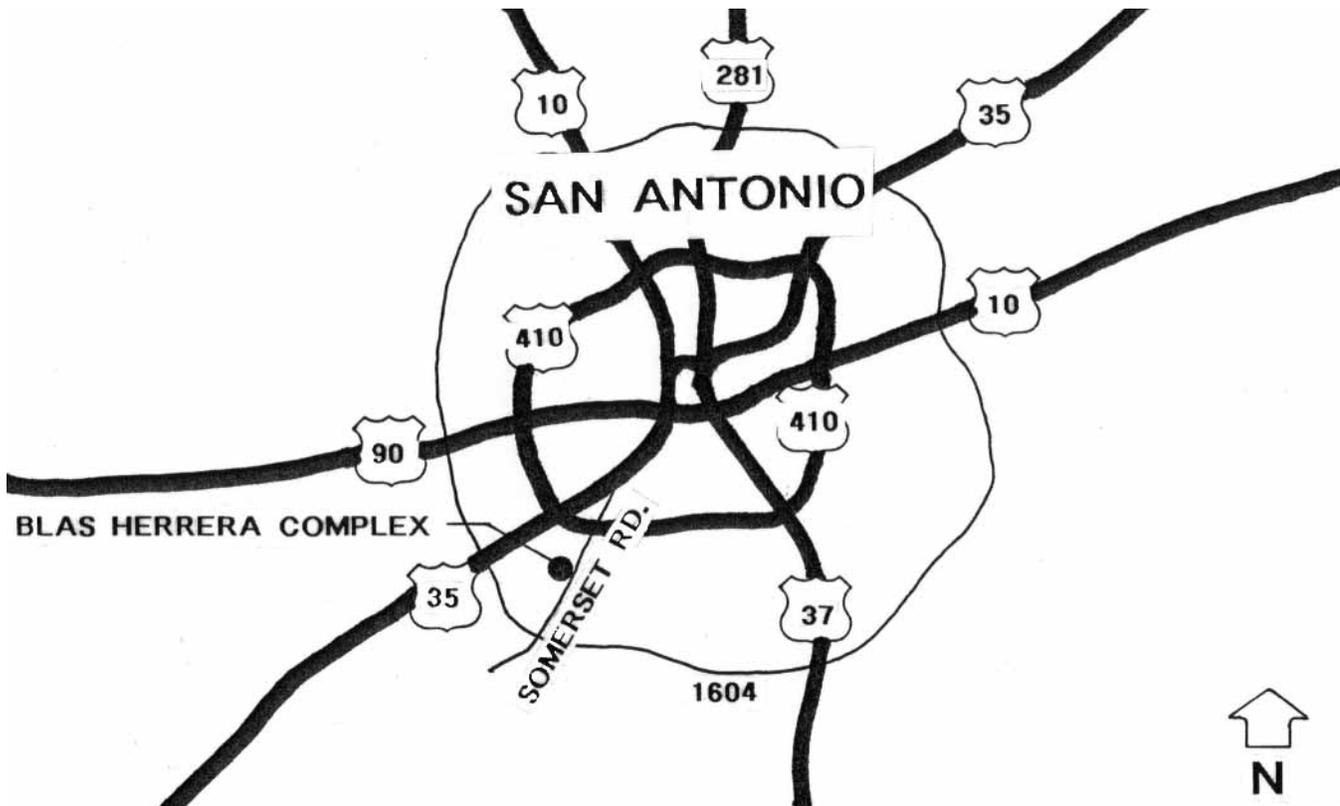
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Map 1: Herrera Ranch
Location Map Relative to San Antonio, Bexar County, TX
Drawn by Ron Bauml, January 2008



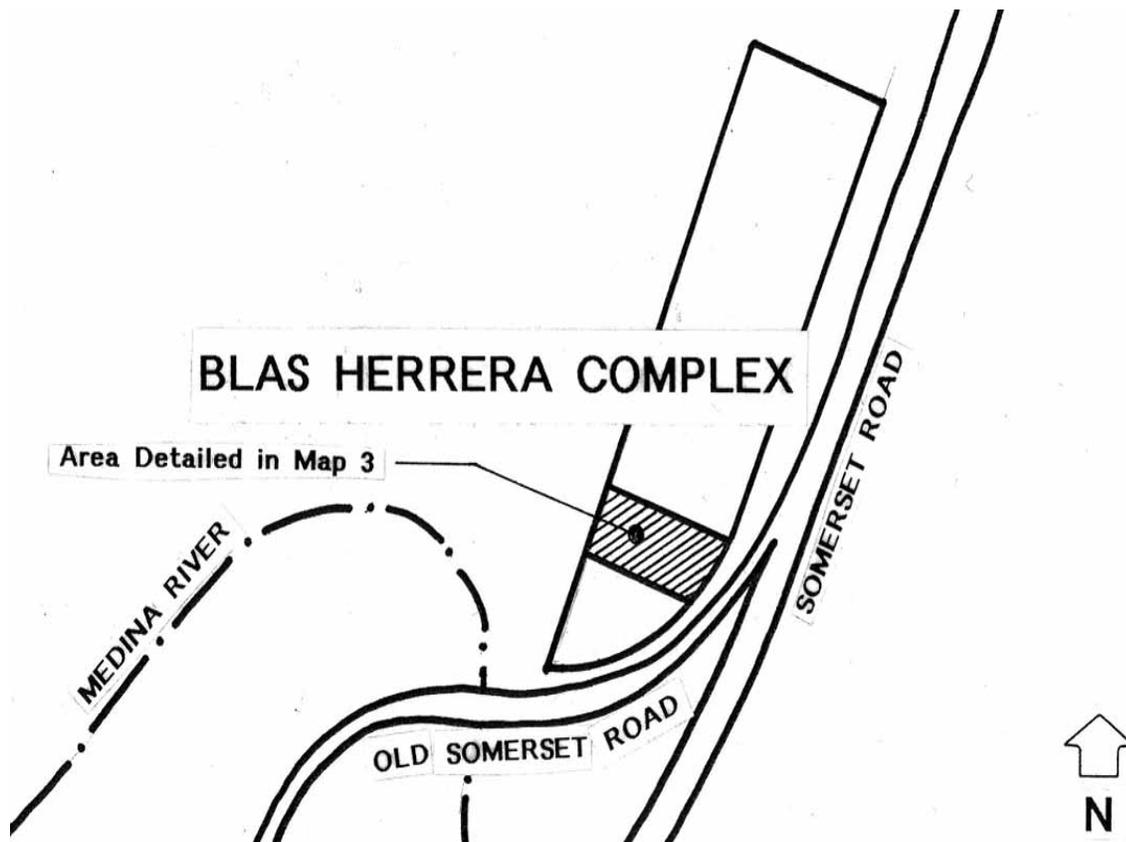
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Map 2. Herrera Ranch
Property Map. Drawn by Ron Bauml, January 2008.



Map 3. Herrera Ranch

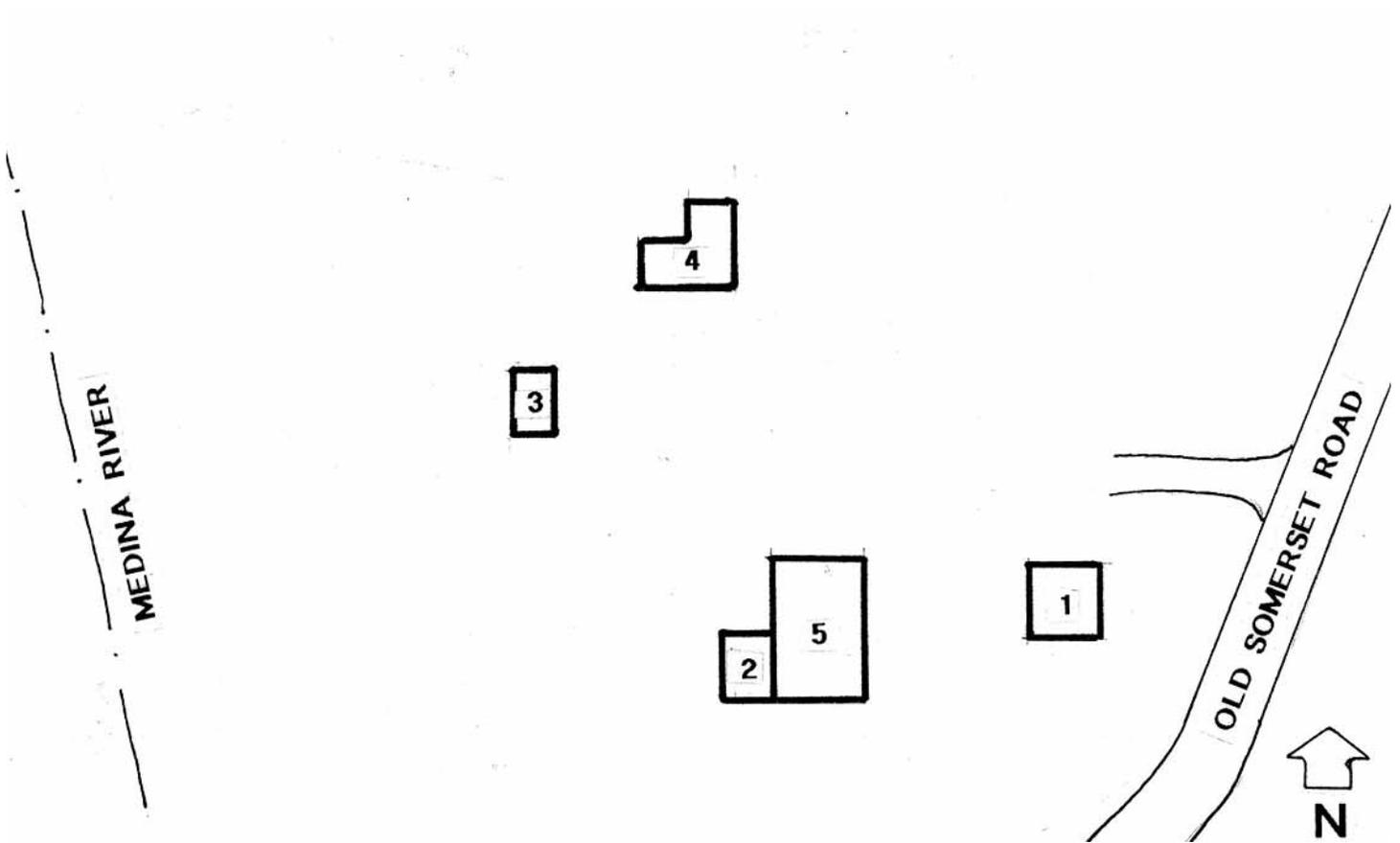
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Resource Identification Map. Drawn by Ron Bauml, January 2008.



Map 4. Herrera Ranch.

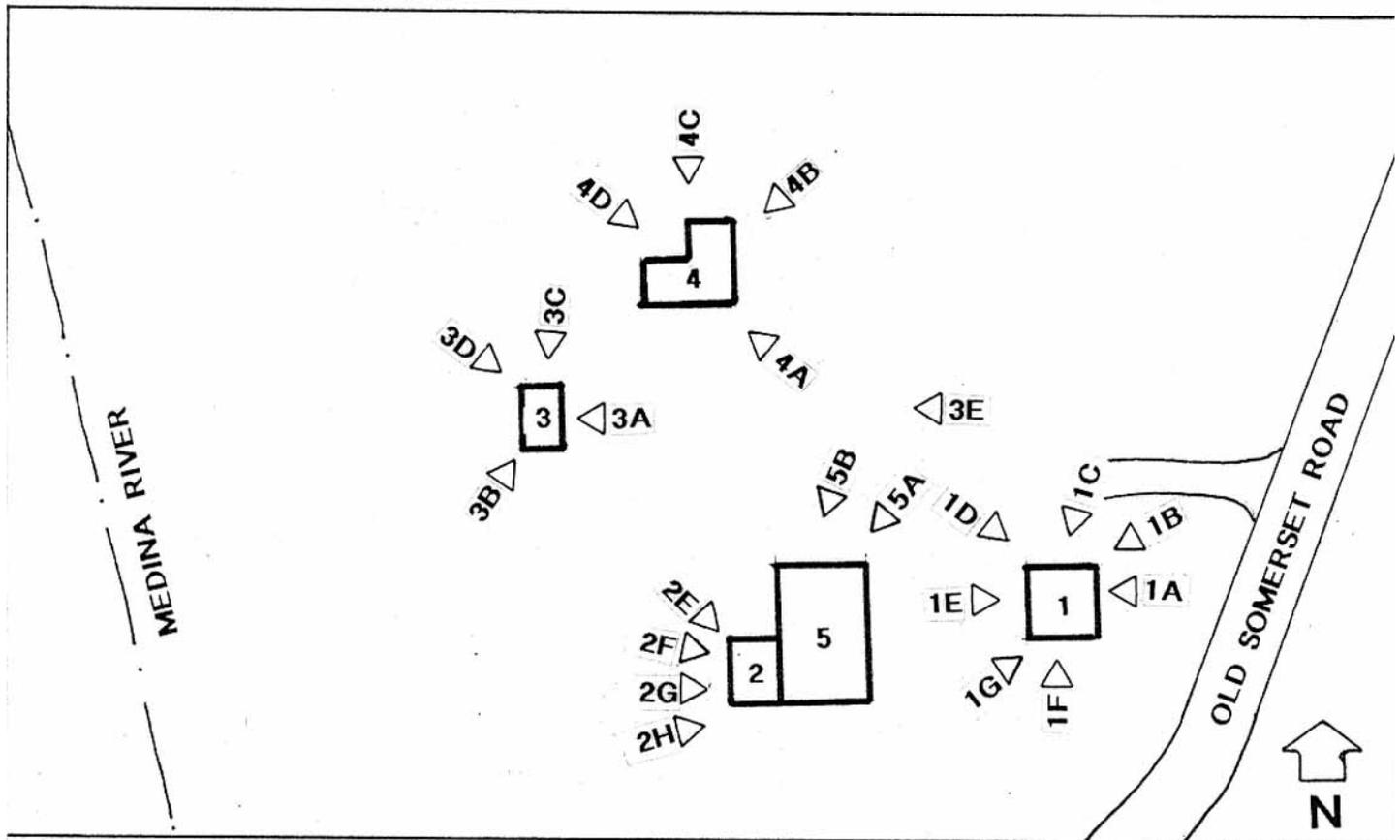
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Photo Identification, Contributing Resources. Drawn by Ron Bauml, January 2008.



Map 5. Herrera Ranch

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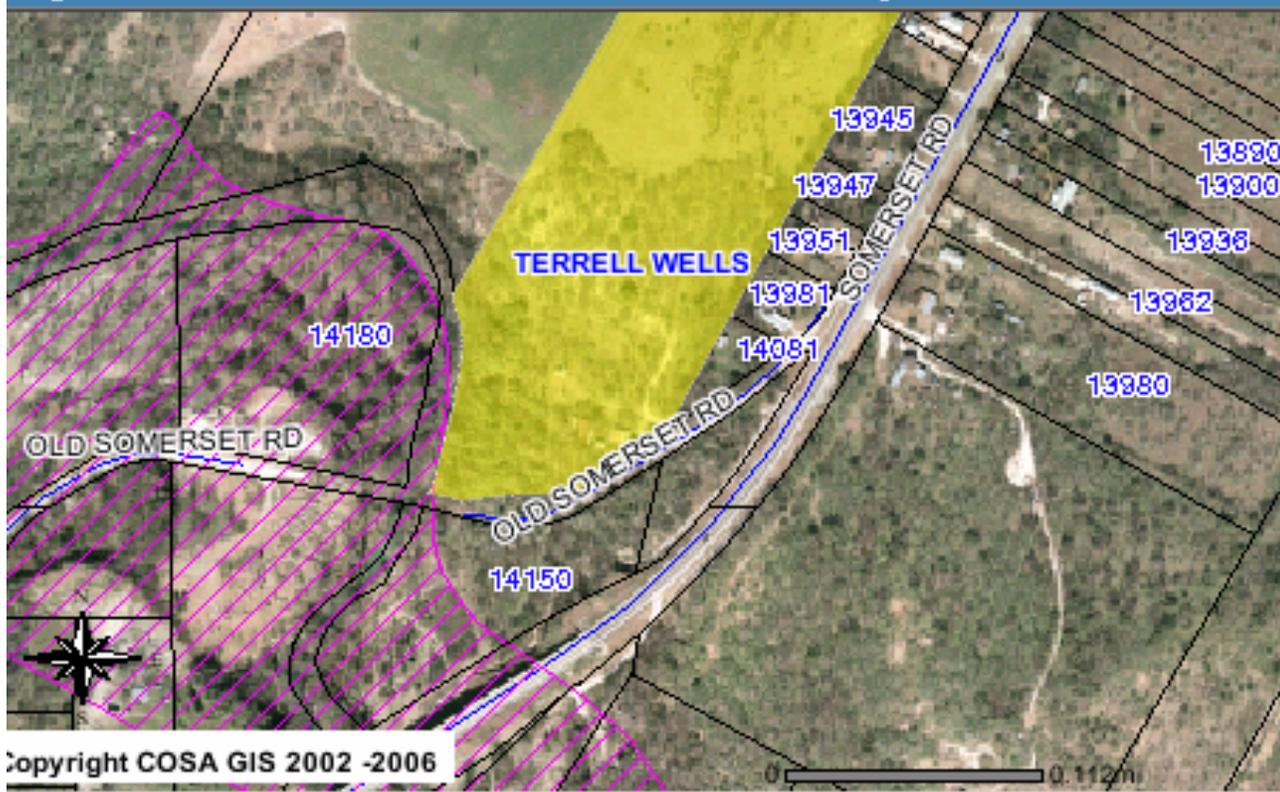
Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera Ranch
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Aerial View of Parcel in relation to Somerset Road and Old Somerset Road, Bexar County, TX.
City of San Antonio Development Services website.

<http://maps.sanantonio.gov/website/DevServices/viewer.htm>

City of San Antonio - Development Services



- All Layers
- General
- Master
- Development
- Transportation
- Political
- Water

Parcels

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Map 6: Herrera Ranch

Aerial view of Medina River, Somerset Road, Old Somerset Road and Garza's Crossing.
City of San Antonio Development Services website.

City of San Antonio - Development Services - Windows Internet Explorer

http://maps.sanantonio.gov/website/DevServices/viewer.htm

City of San Antonio - Development Services

City of San Antonio - Development Services

Total: 0.09 MILES Segment: 0.08 MILES

CAMP GROUND RD
VON ORMY RD
OLD SOMERSET RD
SOMERSET RD
QUEENSBERRY RD

Copyright COSA GIS 2002 -2007

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Done

Internet 100%

LAYERS

- All Layers
- General
- Master Plans
- Development
- Transportation
- Political Boundaries
- Water Features
- 2006 Aerial Photography

Refresh Map

Auto Refresh

Help:

- A closed group, click to open.
- An open group, click to close.
- A map layer.
- A hidden group/layer, click to make visible.
- A visible group/layer, click to hide.
- A visible layer, but not at this scale.
- A partially visible group, click to make visible.
- An inactive layer, click to make active.
- The active layer.

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The Mission of the Development Services Department is to provide quality customer services by effectively facilitating the development process while protecting the health, safety, and public welfare of the community.

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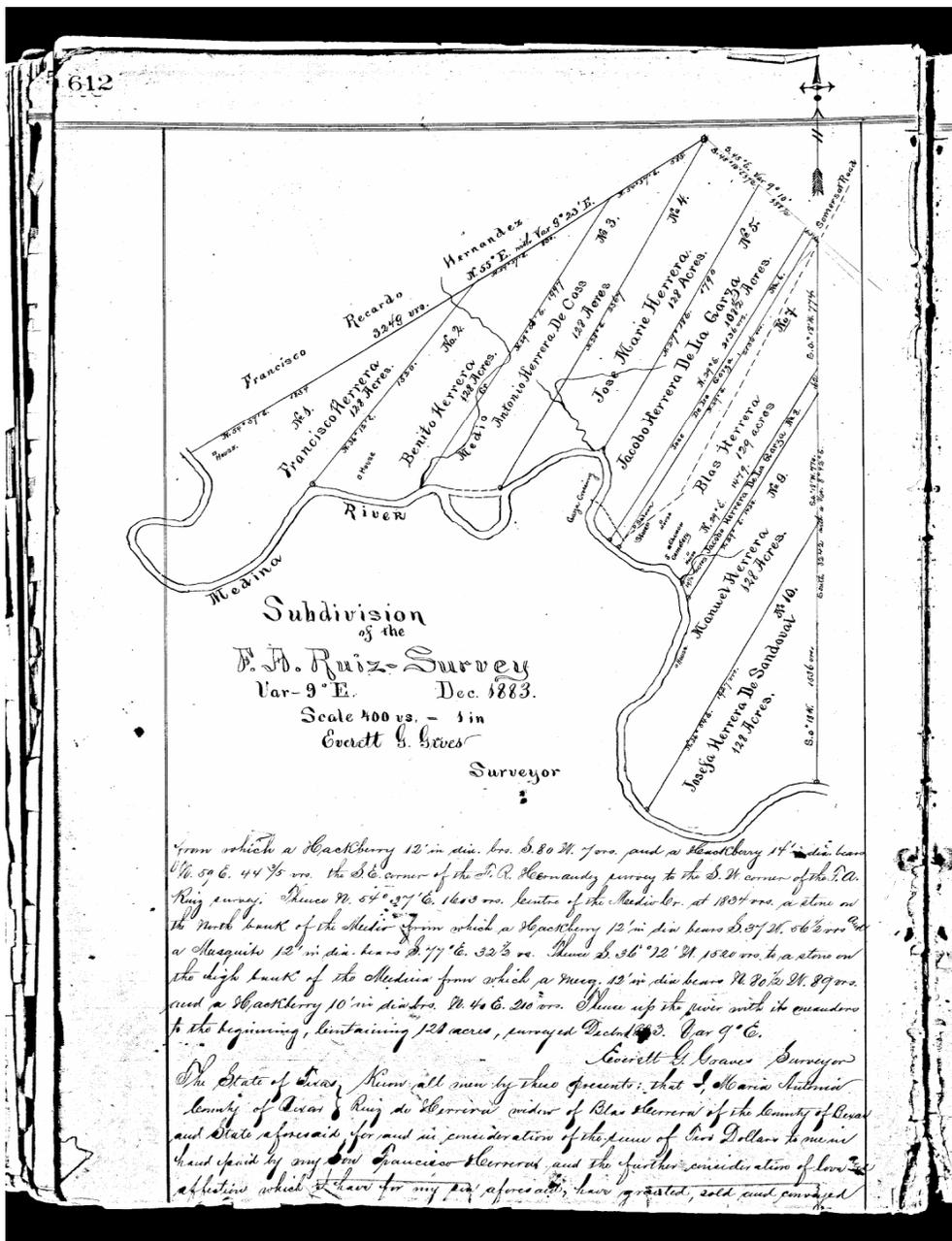
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Map 7. Herrera Ranch

Francisco Ruiz Survey of 1883 showing division of Herrera property to Children of Blas and Maria Herrera.
Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 31, pg. 612.



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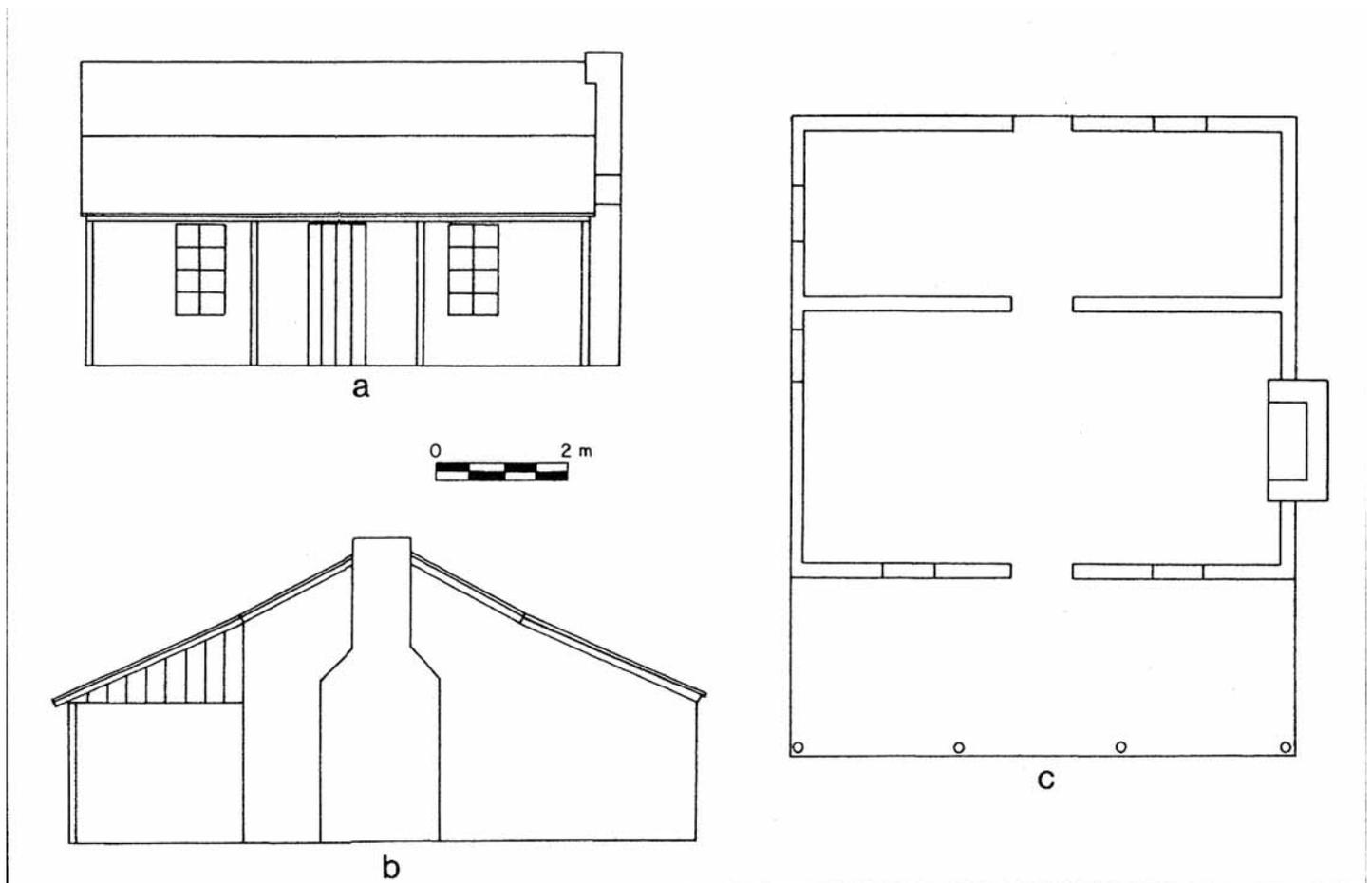
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Floorplan of Jacal #1, Site 41 BX 672.

a. Front plan of Jacal #1 at east end of complex; b. side plan; c. floor plan of structure

Source: McGraw, A. Joachim and Kay Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe: A Cultural Resources Assessment of the Proposed Applewhite Reservoir, Bexar County, Texas*. Center for Archaeological Research, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Archaeological Survey Report, No. 163, 1987, p.251.



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Historic Sketch #1

Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera and Blas Herrera

Painting by Eligio Fernandez, May 20, 1887. Copy courtesy of Maria Olga "Vee" Gomez



Maria Antonia & Blas Herrera

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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
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Historic Sketch #2

Blas Maria Herrera and Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera and Family

Painting by Eligio Fernandez, May 20, 1887. Copy courtesy of Maria Olga "Vee" Gomez

Left to right:

Standing: Blas III (Blas J.) Herrera, Antonio Herrera, Francisco Herrera, Juan Jose Herrera

Seated: Maria Aurora Herrera (Mrs. Miguel Patino), Martin Herrera, Blas II (Blas Buenaventura), Maria Antonia Ruiz Herrera, Blas Maria Herrera, Josefa Flores de Abrego Salinas (mother of Sabina Salinas), Sabina Salinas Herrera (wife of Blas II), Eugenio Herrera, Feliz Trinidad Herrera, Josefa Julia Herrera.

All the children belong to Blas B. and Sabina Salinas.



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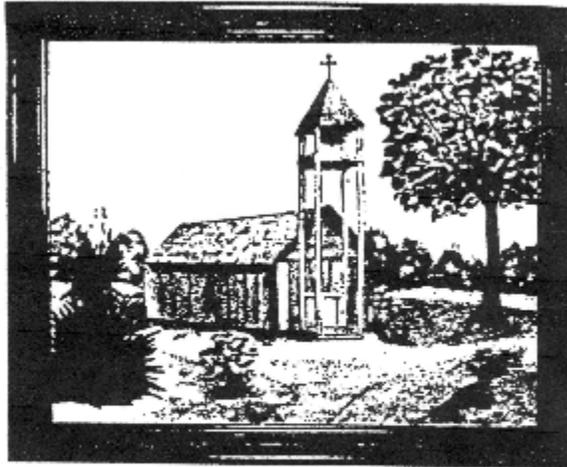
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Historic Sketch #3

Santissima Trinidad Chapel on the Herrera Ranch

Painting by Amelia Patiño Ramirez.

Source: Moir, R.W., P.I., Contributors: Killis Almond, Stephanie Cocke, Melissa M. Green, Kay Hindes, Randall W. Moir, John Mark Sheppard, Frank Winchell. *Field Reports Covering Investigations of Historic Properties Located in the Applewhite Reservoir Project Area*. Unpublished report -DRAFT. Archeology Research Program, Southern Methodist University, January 1991.



Chapel of La Santissima Trinidad located on the Herrera estate. The bell of this chapel was transferred to Santa Isabel on Morales Street around 1930 by Antonio Herrera. This painting was done by Amelia Patiño Ramirez

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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
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Historic Photo #1:

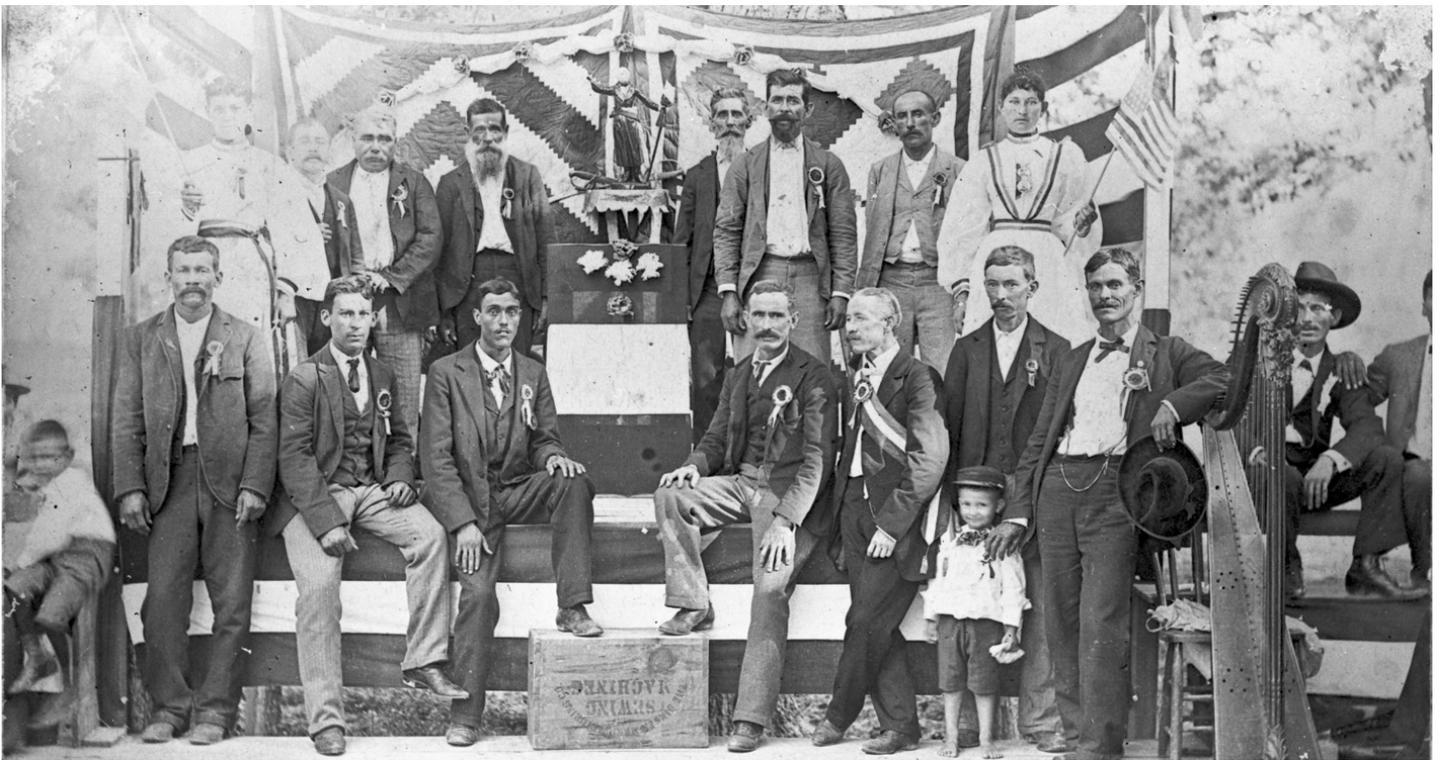
Diez Y Siez Celebration, Veterans Reunion – Paso de Las Garzas, Herrera Ranch on the Medina River, 1898
Photo courtesy of Maria Olga “Vee” Gomez,

Left to Right:

Standing: Paula Herrera, unknown, Doroteo Pena, Blas B. Herrera), Manuel Herrera, Jose Maria Herrera, unknown, Tia Josefa.

Sitting on left: Jose Maria Herrera, Adolph Herrera, Antonio Guerra.

Sitting/Standing on right: Francisco Herrera, Juan Jose Herrera, Blas Herrera and son, Blas Herrera, Francisco Herrera.



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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
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Historic Photo #2:

Herrera Family Members on the Garza's Crossing Bridge, Medina River.

Photo in the Adolph Herrera Collection, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.

Individuals unidentified.



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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
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Historic Photo #3

Herrera Family Members at the Herrera Ranch on the Medina River

Note the marks of "A" and "S", pointing to two children. It is likely these are Adolph Herrera and her sister, Sophia Herrera. Other family members are unidentified.

Source: Adolph Herrera Collection, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.



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Photo #4

Adolph C. Herrera Photos and Obituary/ Historian for the Herrera and Ruiz Family
Photo, Dec. 1996. Obituary with photo: San Antonio Express News, April 28, 1999.
Copies courtesy of Maria Olga "Vee" Gomez.



San Antonio Express News, 1



HERRERA

Adolph Cesias Herrera, native Texan and family historian, 86, passed away April 8, 1999. Adolph was a Lieutenant with the San Antonio Fire Department with 36 years of service. He served in the U.S. Air Force, was a real estate broker, an executive member in the Lions Club, and a lifetime State of Texas Executive Board member of the Senior Citizens Council of Bexar County. Adolph was a founding member of the Granaderos de Galvez, an organization that researched and honored Spain's role in the American Revolution. His ancestry, artifacts and lifelong devotion to documenting and preserving his rich family history, as well as that of Texas and San Antonio, earned him an honorary membership with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. His daughter, Donna Jean Cardenas, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Hortense de la Garza Herrera; sister, Sophia Langevin; daughters, JoAnn Mendoza of San Antonio and Ervie Patton and husband, Pete, of Austin, TX; grandchildren, Denise Knight, John A. Mendoza and wife, Lorretta, Douglas Mendoza, Andro Mendoza and wife, Mariann, Erin Patton, Dax Patton and Luke Patton; great-grandchildren, Dandi Knight, Jessica Mendoza, Miranda Mendoza and Adrian Mendoza. Memorial Service at 1:00 P.M., Thursday, April 29, 1999 at St. Henry's Catholic Church, 1619 S. Flores. In celebration of Adolph's life, the family will receive friends immediately following the Memorial Service in the Alamo Hall at the Alamo.

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Photo Log (Historic)

Photo 1

Diez Y Siez Celebration, Veteran's Reunion – Paso de Las Garzas, Herrera Ranch on the Medina River, 1898
Photo courtesy of Maria Olga "Vee" Gomez.

Photo 2

Herrera Family Members on the Garza's Crossing Bridge, Medina River.
Source: Adolph Herrera Collection, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.
Individuals unidentified

Photo 3

Historic Photo #3
Herrera Family Members at the Herrera Ranch on the Medina River
Source: Adolph Herrera Collection, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.

Photo 4

Adolph C. Herrera Photos and obituary. Photos courtesy of Maria Olga "Vee" Gomez

Photo Log of Jacales, Buildings and Pavilion (Current):

Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch, Bexar County, Texas

Somerset Road at Garza's Crossing on the Medina River, Bexar County, Texas

Joanna Parrish, Photographer

May 2007

Photo 1A

Herrera Jacal #1
East view of main house

Photo 1B

Herrera Jacal #1
East side of main house, taken from northeast corner

Photo 1C

Herrera Jacal #1
North side of building 1 with fireplace opening

Photo 1D

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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Herrera Jacal #1
Northwest corner of main house

Photo 1E
Herrera Jacal #1
West view

Photo 1F
Herrera Jacal #1
Southside of Main House

Photo 1G
Herrera Jacal #1
South wall of main house from southwest corner

Photo 1H
Herrera Jacal #1
Interior view of east wall in main room

Photo 1I
Herrera Jacal #1
Interior west wall of main room detail of adobe palisade construction

Photo 1J
Herrera Jacal #1
Interior view of southeast corner of main room

Photo 1K
Herrera Jacal #1
North wall of the interior of kitchen

Photo 1L
Herrera Jacal #1
Interior view of east wall of main house

Photo 1M
Herrera Jacal #1
Interior view of main room, viewing south

Photo 1N
Herrera Jacal #1
East wall looking through window to interior of fireplace opening

Photo 1O

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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
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Herrera Jacal #1

Detail of adobe palisade construction located in the main room interior west wall of the main house. Notice the finger marks left as they applied the adobe palisade material to walls.

Photo 1P

Herrera Jacal #1

South end of the interior of kitchen

Photo 1Q

Herrera Jacal #1

North side of the interior wall between main room and kitchen

Photo 1R

Herrera Jacal #1

Interior view of west wall of main room

Photo 2A

Herrera Jacal #2

View of original exterior east wall

Photo 2B

Herrera Jacal #2

Detail of the east door

Photo 2C

Herrera Jacal #2

Interior view of northwest corner

Photo 2D

Herrera Jacal #2

View of interior west wall

Photo 2E

Herrera Jacal #2

Northwest corner

Photo 2F

Herrera Jacal #2

Northwest corner

Photo 2G

Herrera Jacal #2

West side

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Photo 2H
Herrera Jacal #2
West side

Photo 3A
Herrera Building #3
East side

Photo 3B
Herrera Building #3
Southwest corner

Photo 3C
Herrera Building #3
North side

Photo 3D
Herrera Building #3
Northwest corner

Photo 3E
Herrera Building #3
Looking west at buildings 3 and 4

Photo 4A
Herrera Building #4
Southeast corner

Photo 4B
Herrera Building #4
East side corner

Photo 4C
Herrera Building #4
North side

Photo 4D
Herrera Building # 4
Northwest corner

Photo 5A
Herrera Pavilion
North east corner of pavilion

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Herrera, Blas Maria and Maria Antonia Ruiz Ranch
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Photo 5B
Herrera Pavilion
East view of pavilion

Photo 5C
Herrera Pavilion
Interior view of southeast corner of pavilion