

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Quesenberry Road at the Medina River NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio VICINITY: X
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 state wide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official / Title State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

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 / bureau or Tribal Government

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY

contributing	noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	total

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

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC: single dwelling
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural fields

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: VACANT/NOT IN USE
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural fields

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: Jacal; Center passage plan; NO STYLE

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION STONE
 WALLS WOOD, STUCCO
 ROOF METAL
 OTHER STONE, METAL

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

Property:

- A** is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or has achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Settlement, Agriculture, Ethnic Heritage/Hispanic

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1845-1961

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1845, 1884

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT / BUILDER: Manuel A. Herrera

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-18)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-19 through 9-20)

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, Austin
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 17.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	537992	323878
2.	14	538038	323875
3.	14	537724	323815
4.	14	537659	323825

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: (see continuation sheets 10-21 through 10-22)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Nomination includes all property historically associated with the homestead and its original built resources that are currently under single ownership. The seventeen and a half acre parcel is the remaining portion of the 128 acre tract originally deeded to Manuel de Atocha Herrera by his mother, Maria Antonio Ruiz Herrera in 1884. It contains original structures built by the Herrera and Ruiz families as well as pasture lands that have been owned by the Herrera-Ruiz family members for over 150 years.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Imogen Cooper, Ann Benson McGlone, Patricia Ezell, and Patsy Castanon in conjunction with Kay Hindes, Staff Archeologist for the City of San Antonio

ORGANIZATION: Preservation Matters

DATE: August, 2011

STREET & NUMBER: 16407 Colts Bay

TELEPHONE: 210-393-6511

CITY OR TOWN: Selma

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78154

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-23 through Map-26)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-38 through Photo-40)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheets Figure-27 through Figure-37)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Miguel Ruiz

STREET & NUMBER: 130 Bunting

TELEPHONE: 210-902-2281

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78227-4709

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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Ruiz-Herrera Ranch is a good example of early settlement patterns and land division traditions as well as ranching traditions in early Texas. The seventeen-acre property also contains a rare built resource; a *jacal* which features adobe palasaido and "daub and wattle" construction techniques used by Hispanics in early Texas. Located near the intersection of Somerset and Quesenberry Roads on the Medina River, the Ruiz-Herrera Ranch is about three miles south of San Antonio's Loop 410 in southern Bexar County, Texas (**Map 1**). This property was originally part of the Francisco Antonio Ruiz headright grant prior to its purchase by his sister, Maria Antonio Ruiz de Herrera, and her husband, Blas Herrera, in 1845. Blas and Maria established their ranch here and to the north, near the Garza Crossing over the Medina River and the town of Von Ormy. In December, 1883, Maria, then a widow, portioned the land among ten heirs. Her son, Manuel de Atocha Herrera, inherited tract 9 (128 acres). After Manuel's death the 128 acres were divided among his heirs in 1908. Later divisions further divided it. However, this one, seventeen-acre parcel is still owned by Miguel Ruiz, a direct descendant of Manuel Herrera through his daughter, Sara Herrera Ruiz. The most important resource on this property is the nineteenth-century house or *jacal* dating from at least the 1860s as built by Manuel de Atocha Herrera. As families grew, wooden additions were made to the house. Also, other built resources were constructed for 20th century subsistence farming and ranching purposes. In the 1970s, the last Ruiz family member moved away, but the pasturing of animals continued. The property remains in the Ruiz family and retains its integrity.

Located on the north side of the Medina River, the entry to the Ruiz-Herrera Ranch is down a gravel lane found almost at the end of Quesenberry Road. This entrance lane is also marked as the entrance lane to the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery. The lane runs west for 300 yards from Quesenberry Road. At the end is a metal ranch gate which serves as entry to the property. (Here, the lane veers on south and continues for 200 yards to the cemetery.) The seventeen-acre property is bounded by livestock wire on cedar posts and the river. It is a long narrow, rectangular parcel with its southern boundary touching the Medina River (**Map 2**). The property is entered nearly at its center on a packed dirt road where the three remaining buildings and a completely collapsed shed are clustered. Building 1 (ranch house or *jacal* with later additions) is located to the northwest. Building 2 (barn/storage facility, nearly collapsed) is directly west, and Building 3 (tractor shed) is just south of the entry gate (**Map 3**). The site is covered in mesquite trees and cactus with larger trees to the south in the river bottom including native cypress trees. A large mouth well (still visible and open) is evident but is now filled with soil. Nearby is a twentieth-century well head with rusted remains of its electric pump at the top. Mustang grapes also grow on the property. The house is an example of early Hispanic Texas vernacular (folk) architecture known as *jacales* which is a variation of wattle and dab structures found in Mexico and the southwestern United States.¹

Based on Ruiz-Herrera family oral history traditions, passed from generation to generation, as well as substantiated by historical research, it is believed that the Ruiz-Herrera family owned this land beginning in the late eighteenth-century but it was granted to Francisco Antonio Ruiz by the Republic of Texas in 1838 and

¹ Joe S. Graham, "TEXAS-MEXICAN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/cbtut>), accessed July 29, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
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patented and sold to Blas and Maria Herrera in 1845.² Family tradition holds that the house or jacal was built by son Manuel de Atocha Herrera (1845-1906).³ He may have built it when he married in 1866.

Individual property descriptions of the three contributing buildings, organized by property number, are listed below. A basic inventory of these contributing properties follows the property descriptions. Relative locations and photographic directions are shown on **Map 4**.

INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES (ALL CONTRIBUTING)

Building 1: Ranch House or Jacal c. 1866, additions c. 1920s-1930s, remodeled late 20th century
Photos 1-8

Description: This small, one story, rectangular building is gable-ended and faces north. It was first built as a one room *jacal* by Manuel de Atocha Herrera (1845-1906) and the house may have had a covered front porch and an open shed addition at the back. Shaped as a rectangle, the jacal had a central passage as shown in the floor plan (**Figure 1**). The covered front porch spanned the length of the structure. The central passage house still has a centrally-placed front door with a single, wooden frame, double-hung window to the left of the door, but the remainder of the porch has been enclosed with a separate door and two windows. At one time the house also had a stone hearth and large stone chimney attached to the eastern facade, as shown to the right of the people in the historic photo (**Figure 5**). (The chimney has been replaced with a window when the house heating method changed to propane gas and the house was electrified.) The building is roofed with a standing seam metal roof as well as a corrugated metal roof over the enclosed shed addition at the rear. (Figure 5 shows the main house with a shingle roof.) The shingle roof of the shed addition is extant below the galvanized metal roof and is darkened, which could be an indication of use of the space as the kitchen. The windows at the front and gable end show evidence of alteration (c. 1920), when an additional coat of cement was placed over the lime plaster.

Since initial construction of the jacal, the house has had modifications. Across the rear (south façade) the shed addition has been enclosed with board and batten siding. It has a centrally-located wood door and two double hung windows placed to the left and one double hung window on the east elevation. This enclosure appears to have been made in the early twentieth century as wire nails are used in the siding. On the west side of the house (riverside) a second shed addition was constructed which used standard horizontal siding (c. 1920s-1930s). This addition extended across the western façade but it has fallen into ruin and has collapsed. This addition was once connected to the front of the house, where the right side of the covered porch has been enclosed, probably sometime in the mid-twentieth century. It was then given a separate entrance door. The wood floor in this porch area is extremely rotted. Gypsum board, which was used on the ceiling, had also collapsed. To protect the exterior adobe and lime plaster, as well as give the house a cohesive look, the entire house is covered in wooden siding so that from the east, it appears as a wooden structure (**Figure 6**).

² General Land Office of Texas, Historic Archives, Abstract Number: 614 District/Class: Bexar 1st File Number: 000267 Original Grantee: Ruiz, Francisco A, Patentee: Twohig, John, Title Date: Patent Date: 31 Dec 1845, Patent No: 340, Patent Vol: 3 Certificate: 42 Part Section: Survey/Blk/Tsp: Acres: 795.25 (<http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/history-and-archives/index.html>) accessed August 1, 2011.

³ Person communication from Carlos Herrera Torres, great-grandson of Manuel A. Herrera, to Patsy Castanon, 2009.

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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

The method of construction for the *jacal* (Spanish for "hut") is typical of those found in the San Antonio area for the nineteenth century. These kinds of buildings are becoming quite rare and only five are known to exist within the city limits of San Antonio.⁴ The *jacal* is constructed using four stout cedar poles (*horcones*) about seven inches in diameter. They are forked at the top to hold roof vigas and are placed vertically in the ground at the corners. They are also placed at window and door openings. Subsequent poles are placed every 2 to 2 1/3 feet between them. Hand-riven Cypress laths about three inches wide and one inch thick, many with bark still attached, are then placed, nailed, or woven horizontally to the interior and exterior sides of the upright poles. The walls, supported by the *horcones* and the horizontal laths, are then filled with rubble, rammed earth, stone, mud, or other handy material. In the case of this *jacal*, bone fragments, as well as river gravel and sandstone chunks, are included in the rubble used to originally fill the walls. These rubble-filled walls are then plastered inside and out with adobe and covered with a layer of plaster made from lime, sand (from the river), salt and water, making them about eight to ten inches thick. Sometimes the walls are then whitewashed. The current interior walls have been painted; evidence is extant in several places.

Significance: This house is a rare example of a *jacal*, a construction technique used by Hispanics in early Texas. Very few of these buildings remain in Bexar County, Texas.⁵ Built by Manuel de Atocha Herrera, the house is also associated with the Herrera as well as the Ruiz families as their ranch headquarters for the past 150 years. It retains integrity.

Building 2: Barn/Storage Facility (c. 1930s-1950s)

Photos 9-12

Description: This building is nearest the house and is beginning to collapse into a ruin. It has served as a barn and for storage of farm equipment such as mechanical reapers, (one for a horse-drawn reaper and then modified for a tractor). It was a two bay, square structure with walls made of reused lumber and reused sheets of corrugated metal. The roof is gable-ended and made of corrugated metal. The right bay was enclosed while the left bay was open on three sides. There was a shed addition across the rear of the enclosed bay.

Significance: The barn is associated with the Ruiz families and their day to day farming and ranching activities on the Ruiz-Herrera Ranch. Despite its deteriorated condition, it retains integrity.

Building 3: Tractor Shed (c. 1930s-1950s)

Photos 13-15

Description: This small two bay shed nearest the entry gate is much deteriorated. It is used for storage of a rusted tractor. The base of the right bay is composed of sheets of corrugated metal above which are flat boards and

⁴ Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Herrera Ranch," National Register of Historic Places, (July, 2010), 6.

⁵ Personal communication Ann Benson McGlone, former City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Officer to author, August, 2011.

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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
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plywood sheets applied vertically. The left bay is open and contains farm machinery. The roof is made of sheets of reused corrugated metal.

Significance: The shed is associated with the Ruiz families and their day to day farming and ranching activities on the Ruiz-Herrera Ranch. Despite its deteriorated condition, it retains integrity.

INVENTORY OF PROPERTY (Maps 3 and 4)

Map ID No.	Resource	Status	Date/Date of Alterations
1	Ranch House/ Jacal	Contributing	c. 1860s/1920s/1930s
2	Barn/Storage Facility	Contributing	c. 1930s/1950s
3	Tractor Shed	Contributing	c. 1930s/1950s
4	Mouth well	Contributing	c. 1860s
5	Contemporary well	Contributing	c. 1950s

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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ruiz-Herrera Ranch is a rare mid-nineteenth-century homestead in southern Bexar County, Texas. It has been in continuous ownership by direct descendants of the Ruiz and Herrera families since at least 1845. It may be part of the larger Spanish land grant made to the Juan Manuel Ruiz in either 1762 or 1774. This site represents one of a series of occupations in the area of the Medina River valley by members of the Ruiz and Herrera families for nearly two centuries. It is a small but significant parcel representing early settlement patterns as well as land division and ranching traditions for one family since Spanish-Colonial times through to the present day. Also, the ranch house, called a *jacal*, is significant because it is a once common now very rare example of central Texas vernacular (or folk) architecture built by Hispanics during the the early to mid-nineteenth century to meet initial shelter needs. Thereafter, jacales were sometimes improved to become permanent residences, like this one, but most have disappeared from Bexar County. The Herrera and Ruiz family members settled in southern Bexar County and engaged in civic, social, educational, religious, military and agricultural activities in the development of the area, and these buildings represent the use to the property for settlement and agricultural purposes for the better part of the last two centuries of Texas history. The Ruiz-Herrera Ranch is nominated under Criterion A at the local level in the areas of Settlement and Agriculture as well as Ethnic Heritage/Hispanic. Despite the ranch's diminished acreage through traditional land division customs, the property has been continuously used either for livestock ranching and/or agricultural ranching since at least 1845. The property is also nominated under Criterion C at the state level of significance in the area of Architecture. The ranch house or jacal represents a unique construction technique (adobe palasaido with wattle and daub) and an early building style representative of the Tejano culture during the middle to the late part of the nineteenth century. It is one of very few remaining jacales in Bexar County. Set on the banks of the Medina River the ranch still possesses a sense of place and feeling. It retains its integrity. The period of significance begins with 1838 as documented by the land being granted to Francisco Antonio Ruiz as a headright and continues to 1961. In 2011, the property is owned by his direct descendants who still pasture animals on the land.

Cattle ranching has been a major Texas industry for nearly three centuries.⁶ During their initial *entradas* into Texas in the 1690s, the Spanish brought with them a hardy, long-horned stock of cattle, but ranching began in earnest at the mission *rancheros* in Bexar County the 1730s. There, the herds of long horns were allowed to run loose, chiefly in the San Antonio River valley, growing wild but fat and only periodically being rounded up, branded and sorted out for sale at market, sometimes in New Orleans.⁷ Then, as the missions declined and were secularized in 1793, private ranching among local families expanded and flourished along the San Antonio River and along other rivers, like the Medina. It also began to flourish because the threat of Indian raid and attack, especially following peace with the Apache in 1750, lessened.⁸

⁶ Jack Jackson, *Los Mestenos: Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-1821* (College Station: Texas A & M Press, 1987).

⁷ T. C. Richardson and Harwood P. Hinton, "RANCHING," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/azr02>), accessed August 10, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

⁸ Jack Jackson, "RANCHING IN SPANISH TEXAS," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/azr03>), accessed August 10, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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Also, by the mid-eighteenth century Spanish officials finally began to measure and record what had been informally held titles or land grants to families of original settlers of the San Antonio and Medina river valleys. The history of land grants in Texas is a long and complex one, but shape of the grant is not. Due to the ever-present shortage of water, the royal Spanish (and later Mexican) commissioners surveying the land often laid out the grant boundaries in long thin strips or elongated quadrangles with frontage on a water source, called *porciones*.⁹ Thus, when a heritage of land was divided among children or other heirs, the practice of always providing frontage on a water source created narrower and narrower strips of land within the boundary of the original property or grant. This division of heritage is clearly seen with the Ruiz-Herrera Ranch property shape in **Map 2**.

Thus, early ranches in southwest Texas were always established along reliable water sources for livestock. Then, ranch houses were often placed near the prized frontage along those rivers and creeks that would never run dry even during severe drought. The Medina River, like the San Antonio River, always had water and by 1794, numerous ranches, as shown in **Figure 2**, can be seen along the San Antonio River, the Medina River and the Cibolo Creek.¹⁰ There, by 1794, on the Medina River is shown *porciones* for the Ruiz family, as well as the Navarro family to the north and the Perez family to the southeast, to name just a few. Also, according to Spanish custom, many grants and ranches acquired names from saints and physical characteristics of the land rather than owners' names, (as is the Anglo custom), so the large San Lucas grant is seen to the west of the Ruiz grant.¹¹

To clarify land ownership in this nomination, the following list of property owners and year of acquisition is shown. This list covers about seven generations of Ruiz and Herrera family land owners, as direct descendants of Juan Manuel Ruiz, patriarch of the Ruiz-Herrera-Navarro family on the Medina River:

- Juan Manuel Ruiz – via Spanish land grant in either 1762 or 1774
- Jose Francisco Ruiz – 1797, upon death of father, Juan Manuel Ruiz
- Francisco Antonio Ruiz – 1838 headright, as well as same lands as inheritance from father, Jose Francisco
- John Twohig – 1844 through purchase of Francisco Antonio Ruiz headright
- Blas Herrera and wife, Maria Antonio Ruiz Herrera – 1845 purchase acquired thru Twohig from F.A. Ruiz
- Maria Antonio Ruiz Herrera – 1878, upon death of husband, Blas
- Manuel de Atocha Herrera - 1884, Maria Herrera deeds Section 9 of 1883 Survey to her son, Manuel
- Sara Herrera Ruiz (and husband, Cruz) – 1906, upon death of Sara's father, Manuel de Atocha Herrera
- Manuel H. Ruiz – 1956, upon death of mother, Sara Ruiz
- Miguel Ruiz – Current owner, acquires property in 1982, by purchase from father, Manuel H. Ruiz

Juan Manuel Ruiz (1726-1797)

The patriarch of the Ruiz family was Juan Manuel Ruiz de Pesia (1726-1797). He was born in the province of Queretaro, New Spain (now Mexico) in 1726 and he died in 1797 in La Villa de San Fernando de Bexar, (now San

⁹ Aldon S. Lang and Christopher Long, "LAND GRANTS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mpl01>), accessed August 10, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

¹⁰ Map in Fig. 2, as shown on page 92 of Jack Jackson's *Los Mestenos: Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-1821* (College Station: Texas A& M University Press, 1986) was prepared with the research and assistance of Robert H. Thomhoff.

¹¹ Lang and Long, "LANDGRANTS," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed August 10, 2011.

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Antonio).¹² The city of Von Ormy's history homepage states that Manuel Ruiz received a land grant as early as 1762.¹³ However, a discussion of *copies* of family papers found in the Bexar Archives say that the land was granted to Juan Manuel Ruiz in 1774.¹⁴ Historical records also show that Ruiz owned a house in San Antonio that fronted on Military Plaza and across from modern-day City Hall. Like most ranchers of the time, he lived in town and not at his ranch, along with the other ranching families along the Medina River. And because his ranch was situated in territories frequented by tribes of Comanche, he and his son, Jose Francisco, and his grandson, Francisco Antonio, all became skilled negotiators and peace makers with the Native Americans of the area.¹⁵

Jose Francisco Ruiz (1783-1840)

Jose Francisco Ruiz was the youngest son of Juan Manuel Ruiz and was a famous Texas patriot. He was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence – one of a few native Texans to do so – along with Jose Antonio Navarro. He was also a famous military officer, public official, and the man through whom the Ruiz-Herrera lands were eventually inherited by the Herrera family. His son-in-law was Blas Herrera, who was married to his daughter, Maria. He called Blas his “beloved son.”

Jose Francisco had a long career as a public official, soldier, and especially as a diplomat prior to his final service to the Republic of Texas. He was born in 1783 in San Antonio when his father was fifty-seven and his mother was thirty-five. He was a very educated man, as it is said that he went to Spain for his final schooling, and so was appointed San Antonio's schoolmaster in 1803, at the age of twenty.¹⁶ The designated school site was the old house that Jose Francisco Ruiz inherited from his father in San Antonio. In 1805, Ruiz was elected to the San Antonio City Council as well as serving as City Attorney in 1809. And, in 1811, he began his long military career by joining the Bexar Provincial Militia with the rank of lieutenant.

However, his decision to join the Republican Army of Bexar, the insurgent army fighting for an independent nation of Mexico, may have resulted in the loss, or at least a later confusion over the title to his family's lands on the Medina River. Members and leaders of the Republican Army of the North had many agendas but its main goal was an independent and new nation of Mexico, breaking it away from Spain and the Royalists. The ranchers of Bexar had to choose sides and many chose freedom against taxation and against Spain. But the price was very high in 1813 when the republicans fought against the royalists and lost in the bloody Battle of Medina.

On August 18, 1813, Ruiz fought with the insurgents in the disastrous Battle of Medina, fighting against Spain, against the Royalists, and even against his own brother-in-law, Juan Ignacio Perez, who was married to his wife's sister. Perez owned a ranch adjacent to the Ruiz holdings. During the battle, the republicans and the royalists may have used up to five different crossings over the Medina River to approach San Antonio. One, at the Garza Crossing, where the Old Somerset Road now crosses the Medina, was right over Ruiz land. When the Republican Army lost

¹² Bexar Genealogy, Homepage, Ruiz genealogy, <http://bexargenealogy.com/index.html> (accessed August 14, 2011).

¹³ City of Von Ormy Homepage, “History of Von Ormy,” (<http://www.vonomytexas.com/history-of-von-ormy.html>) accessed August 10, 2011.

¹⁴ Bexar County Archives, Ruiz files, A. Joachim McGraw and Kay Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe: A Cultural Resources Assessment of Proposed Applewhite Reservoir, Bexar County Texas* (San Antonio: Center for Archaeological Research, UTSA, Archaeological Survey Report No. 163, 1987), 95.

¹⁵ City of Von Ormy Homepage, “History of Von Ormy,” (<http://www.vonomytexas.com/history-of-von-ormy.html>) accessed August 10, 2011.

¹⁶ Bernice Strong, “RUIZ, JOSE FRANCISCO,” *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fru11>), accessed July 15, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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to Spain's forces, with great loss of life, the surviving revolutionaries and their families had to flee for their lives with a price on their heads. Their lands, their cattle, and their cattle brands were taken in forfeit according to General Arredondo's stern measures of pacification. Papers showing proof of land ownership for the Ruiz family may have been misplaced or destroyed at that time. When a general amnesty was extended in October, 1813, Ruiz, and his family, and a few others were specifically *excepted* from the list as prepared by Ignacio Perez and shown in **Figure 3**.¹⁷ There, Francisco Ruiz' confiscated brand and confiscated cattle (58) are listed in the center of the page.

Remaining in exile until 1822, Ruiz continued worthwhile efforts, negotiating a peace between the Lipan and the Comanche, until the new Republic of Mexico was established.¹⁸ In 1822, he received a pardon in exchange for his treaty work among Native Americans and returned to San Antonio. As a Mexican military officer he had another long career, often as a well-regarded negotiator with local tribes as well as post commander. Regarding his ranch lands, when he returned to Texas from exile in the United States, he said that he gave "attention to his large ranch holdings west and southwest of San Antonio."¹⁹ These holdings might have been the lands that were near the Garza Crossing and were part of the original Ruiz land grant.

However, as the struggle for Texas independence gained momentum in 1835, he allied himself, again, with a new nation, and gave second place to domestic and ranching concerns. Writing advice to son-in-law, Blas Herrera, perhaps at the Ruiz Ranch on the Medina River from the new seat of Texas government in December, 1836, he warned Blas to flee Bexar if the Mexican government attempted to retake San Antonio. His "beloved son" was no good to anyone if dead or taken prisoner:

"If for any reason you should remain, then by no means should you take up arms against the Texans.....only God could possibly return the territory of Texas to the Mexican Government. Texas has the arms and money for her defense and shall remain forever free."²⁰

Francisco Antonio Ruiz (c. 1811-1876) (Figure 7)

Francisco Antonio Ruiz was the son of Jose Francisco Ruiz and Josepha Hernandez Ruiz. He was born in La Villa de San Fernando de Bexar about 1811 and died in San Antonio, Texas, in 1876.²¹ He was younger brother to Maria Ruiz Herrera who was married to Blas Herrera. Thus, Blas and Francisco were brothers-in-laws, and this explains how the transition of land occurred between the Ruiz and Herrera families. Blas and Maria eventually bought the Francisco Ruiz headright in 1845 after John Twohig helped to transfer its title.

All his life, Francisco Ruiz was an attorney and civil servant, sometimes serving as mayor and town alderman in San Antonio and one senses that he was more of a city dweller than his brother-in-law, Blas, who was a rancher and farmer. In 1836, Francisco Antonio Ruiz was a member of the San Antonio City Council as well as Mayor Pro-Tem. (The rest of the city council was understandably absent because of the Alamo siege.²²) During the siege and battle

¹⁷ Jack Jackson, *Los Mestenos*, Appendix N, 656.

¹⁸ Strong, "Ruiz," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

¹⁹ Frederick C. Chabot, *With the Makers of San Antonio* (San Antonio: Artes Graficas, 1937), 199.

²⁰ Richard G. Santos, ed. and trans., *Biographical Sketches, Letter from Columbia, Texas, December 27, 1836*.

²¹ 1817 Census of San Fernando de Bexar (Los Bexarenos Genealogical Register, transcribed by John Ogden Leal), #16, gives his age as 6 years old.

²² Bexar County Archives, Ruiz files, McGraw and Hinds, *Chipped Stone and Adobe*, 136.

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of the Alamo, Ruiz was placed under house arrest because of his support for the Texas cause. After the battle of the Alamo, he was required by Santa Ana to identify the fallen Tejano and Texian leaders and dispose of the dead. He wrote one of the most vivid, eye-witness accounts of the fall of the Alamo. In later life, he was opposed to the annexation of Texas to the United States and said that only those who had participated in the Texas Revolution should have a say in such a matter. Upon annexation of Texas to the U.S., he went to live among frontier Indians, as did his father during the Mexican revolution. Eventually, he returned to San Antonio where he died in 1876.²³ He is buried in the Ruiz-Herrera cemetery.

The 1840 census of the Republic of Texas lists Francisco Ruiz as an attorney and 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 an estate with 8856 acres and one town lot.²⁴ 1840 was the year that his father, Jose Francisco Ruiz, died, so it is understandable that he was in the process of administrating his father's estate. These seven hundred and ninety-four acres shown in the 1840 census may be the 800 acres "more or less" out of the first class headright that John Twohig bought and patented from Francisco Ruiz in 1845 and then sold to Blas and Maria Herrera on the north side of the Medina River as it fronted on the Medina River (**Figure 4**).²⁵

After the turmoil of the Texas Revolution, many Tejano families had to re-establish their claim on the same lands where they had previously established their ranches. Some families did not speak English and found it necessary to enlist the help of people who were more knowledgeable about the legal requirements to re-establish their land claims. Lands were not surveyed nor were they fenced.²⁶ Only about a fifth of the people who claimed their lands were able to actually receive a first class headright in the Bexar-Goliad region.²⁷ 1845 was also the time of annexation of Texas to the United States, adding to the tumult. It is possible that John Twohig, a local San Antonio banker, was the person selected by the Ruiz and Herrera families to assist them.²⁸ (He also assisted them in the sale of lands in 1847 that were located in another county out of the estate of Jose Francisco Ruiz. Those leagues of land had been granted to the elder Ruiz years ago by the Mexican government.) Thus, the land transactions may have been Twohig's fee for his services.

Blas Maria Herrera (1802-1878)

Blas Maria Herrera was born in San Antonio on February 2, 1802, the son of Benito Herrera (d. 1805) and Jacoba Puentes. His father was from Punta de Lampasos, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, but his mother was from San Antonio.²⁹ He

²³ Maria O. Gomez, "RUIZ, FRANCISCO ANTONIO," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fru31>), accessed July 15, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

²⁴ A. White, *The 1840 Census of the Republic of Texas* (Austin: Pemberton Press), 16.

²⁵ Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. C2, 52-53. A first class headright is a league and a labor or about 4605 acres. Twohig later bought from Francisco Ruiz the remaining 3805 acres of his headright in November, 1846, for fifty dollars. (BCDR Vol. D2, 136).

²⁶ Barbed wire, an effective way to enclose stock, was first invented and introduced to Texas ranchers in 1874.

²⁷ Reyes Tijerina, *Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836* (College Station: Texas A & M Press, 1994), 140.

²⁸ John Twohig was a successful Irish merchant and banker who was also a patriot. When San Antonio was invaded for the last time by Mexican troops, in 1842, he blew up his own store to deny the enemy munitions—after opening up the doors to the poor to help themselves. When he returned from imprisonment in Mexico and became a wealthy banker, he probably invented the first breadline in America. David P. Green, *Place names of San Antonio*, 3 ed. (San Antonio: Maverick Publishing Co., 2011), 148.

²⁹ Adolph Casias Herrera, "HERRERA, BLAS MARIA," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/feh73>), accessed August 12, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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spent his early years in the home of Jose Antonio Ruiz and married his daughter, Maria Antonia Paula de la Concepcion Ruiz (1809-1887) on February 3, 1828, at the San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio.

Blas Herrera is listed as a sergeant in the local militia of 1820 but during the Texas Revolution he was a courier, soldier and scout because of his wide knowledge of the countryside.³⁰ Sometimes called the "Paul Revere of the Texas Revolution," Herrera was sent to observe Mexican troop movements while under the command of Captain Juan Seguin. In mid February, 1836, he brought word that the troops of Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana were advancing towards San Antonio. His next assignment was to escort and protect his father-in-law, Jose Antonio Ruiz, and Jose Antonio Navarro on their trip to Washington-on-the-Brazos where Ruiz and Navarro signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836. Although documentation is not available, family tradition holds that Herrera was selected by General Sam Houston for intelligence assignments before and during the battle of San Jacinto. In late 1836, Herrera was also sent by Captain Seguin to General Houston with a request to rescind the order of General Felix Huston to evacuate San Antonio and burn the city. This Houston did thus saving San Antonio from destruction.³¹

As was customary, a headright of one league and one labor of land was granted to Blas Herrera in December, 1836. The following September, Herrera sold his headright to his old captain, Captain Juan Seguin, for the sum of eight hundred dollars. Instead, Blas Herrera chose to live on the land originally granted as headright to Maria's brother, Francisco Antonio Ruiz, which was, of course, Ruiz family land from before the Texas Revolution.

In later life, after the Revolution, perhaps as late as 1845, Blas Herrera and his wife, Maria, settled at the Garza Crossing (called the Paso de las Garzas) where the Somerset Road crosses the Medina River. The Garza Crossing community was about a mile east from what would later become the incorporated town of Von Ormy. There is some evidence that Blas and Maria were living at Garza crossing earlier than 1845, as Jose Francisco Ruiz' 1836 Christmas letter to Blas Herrera, quoted earlier, may have been written to him at the Garza Crossing. In it is a request for cattle from the ranch.³²

The Herrera Ranch formed the nucleus of a small community as found in the Texas Census of 1850, identifying about 336 people or 74 families.³³ There Blas and Maria Herrera ranched and farmed the Ruiz family lands at least by 1845, but perhaps earlier, as this is when their property first appears on the Bexar County tax rolls. The family experienced increasing prosperity, even keeping dairy cows and reporting how many pounds of butter were produced.³⁴ Thirteen children were born to Blas and Maria Herrera. In 1878, Blas Herrera died at the age of 78. He is buried in the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery.

In December, 1883, at the age of 74, Maria Herrera, widow of Blas, requested that Everett G. Graves survey the 800 acres that she and her husband had purchased in 1845 from John Twohig. This was the property that was originally part of her brother's headright. The survey is shown in **Figure 4**. Continuing the tradition of the early

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ 1850 U.S. Census of Medina River area near Garza Crossing.

³⁴ National Register Nomination for Herrera Ranch (July, 2010), quoting the Bexar County Tax Rolls for 1845-1853.

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Spanish land grants, the land was divided among the Herrera heirs into ten subdivisions (called *porciones*) that all had river frontage and extended back from the river for a considerable distance. Most of the subdivision in the survey contained approximately 128 acres. In 1884, Maria Antonio deeded the land subdivisions to her surviving children and heirs.³⁵ Land was also set aside for the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery and the lane that leads to it.

Manuel de Atocha Herrera (1845-1906) (Figure 8)

The nominated property was deeded to Manuel de Atocha Herrera by his mother, Maria, in 1884, as Subdivision No. 9 (**Figure 4**).³⁶ Family tradition also holds that Manuel Herrera built the jacal on the property and that his descendants made improvements to it. Sometime during his life and marriage, it appears that he did live in the ranch house, as the U.S. Census from 1900 shows him living on a farm that he owned free and clear. And when he died in 1906, the only property he owned was the property he inherited from his mother, as stated in the partition deed written to divide this inheritance among his children and grandchildren.

Manuel de Atocha Herrera was the tenth child born to Blas and Maria Herrera on November 21, 1845. He was baptized in the San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio. However, he married Refugia Tijerina (1843-1902) on December 8, 1866, at the Santisima Trinidad Church at the Garza Crossing (**Figure 9**).³⁷ Manuel and Refugia had eight children born to them between 1867 and 1884.³⁸ All of them were born at the Garza Crossing, although by the time that Juan Francisco Herrera was born, in about 1882, the community was called Medina.

When Manuel Herrera inherited his 128 acres from his mother in 1884, at age thirty-nine, he had probably been a farmer for a number of years. His brand, registered in 1865, when he was 20, resembles his father's brand (**Figures 10 & 11**).³⁹ It is unclear if he owned other land besides the property inherited from his mother, but in 1880 he worked as a farmer for himself and at least one other family, that of his nephew, Alexander Cass. According to the 1880 U.S. Census, taken June 9, 1880, the entire family was living with and working for the Cass family.⁴⁰ In 1900, the U.S. Census listed Manuel Herrera, again, as a farmer. This time he is shown as living on and owning a farm with no mortgage. Since he died intestate in 1906, and the partition deed prepared for his surviving children states, "his sole and only real estate was a tract of land of one hundred and twenty-eight acres," it might be that the 1900 census found him living at the Ruiz-Herrera Ranch and in the jacal, which shows a "house" on the survey of 1883 (**Figure 4**).⁴¹ Living with him, as shown on the U.S. Census of 1900, were his wife and two children, son, Juan Francisco, and daughter, Refugia. In 1906, Manuel Herrera died in San Antonio. He is buried in the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery. His wife, Refugia Tijerina Herrera, had preceded him in death. She died in 1902 and is also buried in the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery.

³⁵ Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 31, pages 612-613, December 1883.

³⁶ Maria Ruiz Herrera to Manuel Herrera, Deed, Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 37, pages 544-546.

³⁷ Santisima Trinidad Church marriage record #1630. Witnesses were Francisco Oyo and Manuela de Luna.

³⁸ 1880 US Census.

³⁹ Bexar County Brand Records, Book C, Page 287.

⁴⁰ Interestingly, another census-taker working for the 1880 Census, found the family living at another location nine days later and listed Manuel there as a farmer. But the first census-taker of June 9 was John W. De Vilbiss, a local and well-known Methodist minister from the Oak Island community. He probably knew the community better, as he carefully reported all family relationships in his census reports. (For example, Manuel Herrera is listed as "uncle" to Alexander Cass.) Or the family was living with the Cass family during a harvest or round-up of cattle.

⁴¹ Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 279, Pages 203-206.

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Sara De La Trinidad Herrera Ruiz (1875-1956)

The nominated property was inherited by Sara Herrera Ruiz and her husband, Cruz Ruiz, through her father, Manuel de Atocha Herrera, as Parcel 20 out of Section 9 of the 1883 F.A. Ruiz Survey in 1908.⁴² This parcel also contained the ranch house and has remained in the family to date. The number of acres Sara received was not given in this document, but on page 1691 Bexar County Deed Book 3909, the acreage is listed as 29.5804.

Sara De La Trinidad Herrera Ruiz was born August 26, 1873, at the Garza Crossing. Her godparents were Alexander Cass and Maria Antonieta Herrera which helps substantiate that the family knew the Cass family around the time of her birth.⁴³ She married Cruz Del Carmen Ruiz on October 21, 1896, in El Carmen Church, which is near the town of Losoya, Texas.⁴⁴ Cruz Ruiz was the son of Pedro Ruiz and Maria Peche. Pedro Ruiz was a farmer and owned land from near the nominated property all the way to Somerset.⁴⁵ He was also a store keeper on the Somerset Road, as located on the south side of the Medina River.⁴⁶ According to family tradition Cruz and Sara always lived on Pedro's land and Cruz owned no other land.⁴⁷ All of Cruz and Sara's four children were born on Pedro's land (now listed as "Von Ormy, Texas," in the genealogy records, as the town had now been renamed from Garza Crossing to Von Ormy and the population center had sifted west when the railroad came to town).⁴⁸ However, according to family tradition, Cruz and Sara moved into the Ruiz-Herrera ranch house to care for Sara's widowed father, Manuel Herrera, in 1906, right before he died.

However, a few years later, the 1920 U.S. Census shows them as living on the Somerset Road, and Cruz is listed as a farmer, but this may be yet another address for the nominated property, because the property is listed as being owned by Cruz and Sara without a mortgage, held free and clear. Also, family tradition states that Cruz and Sara lived in the Ruiz-Herrera ranch house. Cruz Ruiz died in 1945 and Sara died in 1956. Both are buried in the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery.

Of the four children of Sara and Cruz Ruiz, only one married, Manuel H. Ruiz, in 1940, and had children. Cruz and Sara's other three children, Pedro, Maria Enrique, and Maria del Refugio, lived in the house, intermittently, with their mother until she died in 1956. Pedro died in 1970 and Maria del Refugio died in 1971. Maria Enrique lived in the house for a year or so after that and then moved away. The house has not been occupied since about 1974.

Manuel, Sr. was deeded his mother's entire 29-acre parcel (Parcel 20) in 1971 by his siblings. It is currently owned by his heirs: Manuel Ruiz, Jr. and Theresa R. Gonzales own six acres each while Miguel Ruiz is the current owner of the 17-acre nominated property which contains the house and other resources. And, although he maintains his current residence in San Antonio, he continues limited ranching and farming on the property, keeping eleven head of cattle as well as a donkey on it and raising hay for cattle food.

⁴² Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 279, Page 203.

⁴³ Santisima Trinidad Church baptismal record #341. Priest was Fr. Julio Sayet.

⁴⁴ Manuel Herrera registered an ear mark for hogs and cattle in October, 1874, while he was residing "near the Carmel Church." Bexar County Brand Records, Book F, page 153. So perhaps the family was living with another farming family near Losoya when Sara married Cruz at the El Carmen Church.

⁴⁵ Oral history with Miguel Ruiz, March 22, 2010, by Pat Castanon and Pat Ezell.

⁴⁶ Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. W2, Pages 584-585. In 1873, Pedro Ruiz, father of Cruz Ruiz, had brought two acres from Josiah Cass, Alexander Cass's father, on the south side of the Medina River. His relationship to the Jose Manuel Ruiz family has not been established.

⁴⁷ Oral history with Miguel Ruiz, March 22, 2010, by Pat Castanon and Pat Ezell.

⁴⁸ Bexar Genealogy, Homepage, <http://bexargenealogy.com/index.html> (accessed August 14, 2011).

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Architectural Significance

The nineteenth-century house on the Ruiz-Herrera Ranch (Building 1) is a rare example of early Hispanic Texas folk architecture known as a *jacal*, which is a variation of wattle and daub structure found in Mexico and southwestern United States.⁴⁹ The term derives from the Nahuatl word *xahcalli*. Native Americans built jacales prior to European settlement and the building technique was later adopted by the Spanish and Tejano settlers in Texas. South Texas jacales generally followed the building techniques and styles used in Mexico but there were at least five variations known to have been used in San Antonio.⁵⁰ Basically, they were rectangular-shaped buildings consisting of poles buried in the ground, plastered with adobe mud or lime mortar, whitewashed, and having a steeply gabled roof of thatch. Many times there were horizontal wooden laths woven between the corner poles that were then filled with adobe or other building materials and then covered with mud and whitewashed or plastered. They were eight to ten feet wide and twenty to twenty-five feet long. Usually they were one large room with the ridgepole ten to fifteen feet from the floor.

Although a jacal seems a simple structure, its construction required a complex knowledge of local materials and native building techniques. Many of the buildings destroyed in the fighting around the Alamo were not expensive stone houses but small jacales made of timber post and cheap building materials. They seemed impermanent and even primitive to Anglo American observers, but if whitewashed and maintained they made attractive residences that could last for decades.⁵¹ For the well-to-do, they were looked on as temporary shelter, or were added on to as permitted. Many of the earliest settlers had stone houses in the city and secondary residences in the country at their ranches, many of which were jacal construction.

The period of significance for the nomination is between 1845 and 1961. 1845 is the documented date for purchase of the property by Blas Herrera from John Twohigas the Francisco Antonio Ruiz headright. Blas Herrera used this property for agricultural ranching. Since then, the property being nominated has been in the continuous possession of direct descendants of Blas Herrera who have used it for agricultural ranching purposes. The house on the property was occupied until the early 1970s.

Summary

The Ruiz-Herrera Ranch is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the areas of Settlement, Agriculture, and Ethnic Heritage/Hispanic as the ranch of early Tejano/Hispanic families who settled, farmed and ranched at the Garza Crossing/Von Army area. The property has been continuously used for either livestock and/or agricultural ranching from at least 1845 (and probably earlier) through to the present day. In addition to the property's significance in the area of settlement, agriculture, and ethnic heritage, the property is significant in the area of Architecture at the State level. It is therefore also nominated to the National Register under Criterion C because the property contains an example of a common now very rare example of construction technique and building style representative of the Tejano

⁴⁹ Joe S. Graham, "TEXAS-MEXICAN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/cbtut>), accessed August 14, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

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culture of the nineteenth century and earlier. This residential building is called a jacal and very few remain in Bexar County as surveyed by the City of San Antonio Office of History Preservation.

The Herrera and Ruiz families are an important part of Texas, Bexar County, San Antonio, and Von Ormy history. Even though the Ruiz family is better known, contributions made by the Herrera family to the Texas struggle for independence were just as important. The Tejano and Hispanic families who settled the southeast parts of Bexar County, raised their families in this region, and farmed and ranched the area for the better part of two hundred years represent a significant local contribution to the heritage of those areas.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a seventeen and a half acre parcel owned by Miguel Ruiz and located in south Bexar County on the north side of the Medina River. It is three miles south of Loop 410 off of Quesenberry Road. Entry to the property is through a ranch gate from the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery Lane which trails off from Quesenberry.

This tract was described in Vol. 909, Pages 693-694 of the Bexar County Deed Records, dated January 9, 1987, as follows:

ALL of that certain tract of land containing 17.5804 acres of land out of a 29.5804 acre tract lying in the Francisco Ruiz Survey No. 47, Abstract No. 614, County Block 4300, Bexar County, Texas, said 17.5804 metes and bounds as follows:

COMMENCING at an iron pin set on the west right of way line of Quesenberry Road, said point being the northeast corner of said 17.5804 acre tract, said point also being the north east corner of a 30 foot ingress and egress easement, said point of commencement lying, in a northerly direction approximately 897.22 feet from an angle point in said Quesenberry Road and also lying in a southerly direction approximately 0.71 mile from the intersection of Somerset Road and Quesenberry Road;

THENCE: S. 28 deg. 54' 22" W., along an existing fence line and the southeast line of said 29.5804 acre tract, and the southeast line of said 30 foot ingress and egress easement, a distance of 646.83 feet to an iron pin set for the point of beginning and northeast corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE: S. 28 deg. 49' 52" W., along an existing fence line and the southeast line of said 30 foot ingress and egress easement, a distance of 1286.19 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same, said point also being the most northerly corner of Ruiz Lane;

THENCE: S. 28 deg. 04' 48" W., along an existing fence line and the southeast line of said 30 foot ingress and egress easement, at a distance of 30.00 feet to the southeast corner of said easement a total distance of 516.15 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;

THENCE: Continuing along the southeast line of said 29.5804 acre tract and along an existing fence line as follows:

S. 28 deg. 35' 04" W., at a distance of 605.87 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
S. 44 deg. 18' 49" W., at a distance of 15.55 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
S. 00 deg. 33' 07" W., at a distance of 30.70 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
S. 12 deg. 06' 06" W., at a distance of 82.07 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
S. 36 deg. 29' 20" W., at a distance of 37.99 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
N. 79 deg. 51' 02" W., at a distance of 69.10 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
S. 41 deg. 52' 05" W., at a distance of 37.89 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
S. 17 deg. 19' 47" W., at a distance of 48.92 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
S. 88 deg. 58' 05" W., at a distance of 16.94 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;

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N. 65 deg. 33' 37" W., at a distance of 117.69 feet to an iron pin set for an angle point in same;
N. 61 deg. 35' 21" W., at a distance of 58.88 feet to an iron pin set at an existing fence post, a total distance of 88.35 feet to a point set on the centerline of the Medina Creek for a corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE: Along the centerline of the Medina Creek as follows:

N. 4 deg. 14' 53" W., a distance of 73.32 feet to a point set for an angle point in same;
N. 32 deg. 28' 48" W., a distance of 85.24 feet to a point set for an angle point in same;
N. 16 deg. 04' 16" W., a distance of 178.92 feet to a point set for an angle point in same;
N. 9 deg. 30' 03" E., a distance of 271.70 feet to a point set for an angle point in same;
N. 23 deg. 54' 46" E., a distance of 139.23 feet to a point set for an angle point in same;
N. 60 deg. 55' 19" E., a distance of 198.18 feet to a point set for an angle point in same;
S. 85 deg. 59' 13" E., a distance of 82.11 feet to a point set for an angle point in same;
N. 55 deg. 06' 13" E., a distance of 76.41 feet to a point set for a corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE: S. 65 deg. 11' 16" E., along an existing fence line and its extension, at a distance of 23.15 feet to an iron pin set at an existing fence post, a total distance of 210.35 feet to an iron pin set at an existing fence corner for a corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE: N. 28 deg. 58' 32" E., along an existing fence line and the northwest line of said 29.5804 acre tract, a distance of 1782.83 feet to an iron pin set for the northwest corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE: S. 61 deg. 01' 28" E., a distance of 179.29 feet to the point of beginning and containing 17.5804 acres of land.

Boundary Justification

The seventeen and one half acre tract is the remaining portion out of the 128 acre tract originally deeded to Manuel de Atocha Herrera in 1884 by his mother, Maria Antonio Ruiz Herrera, that contains a rare historic building built by Herrera. It also comprises pasture lands owned by the Herrera-Ruiz family members for the past 150 years and still used by the family members for raising livestock.

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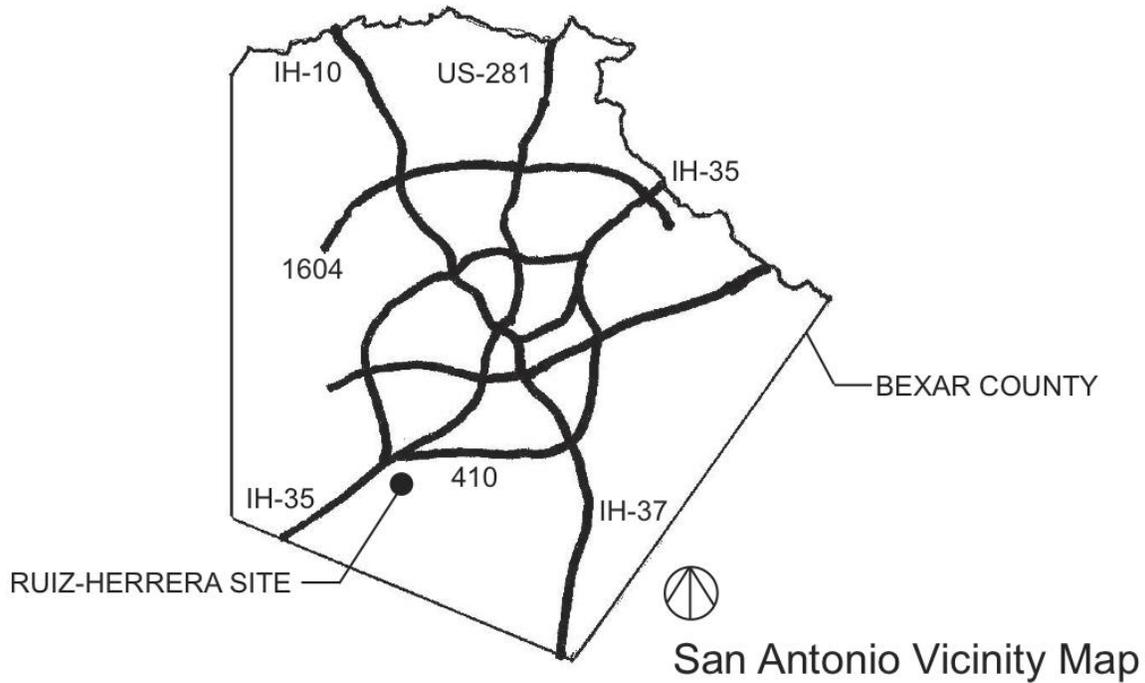
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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Map 1: Ruiz-Herrera Ranch

Location relative to San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
Drawn by Ann Benson McGlone, August, 2011



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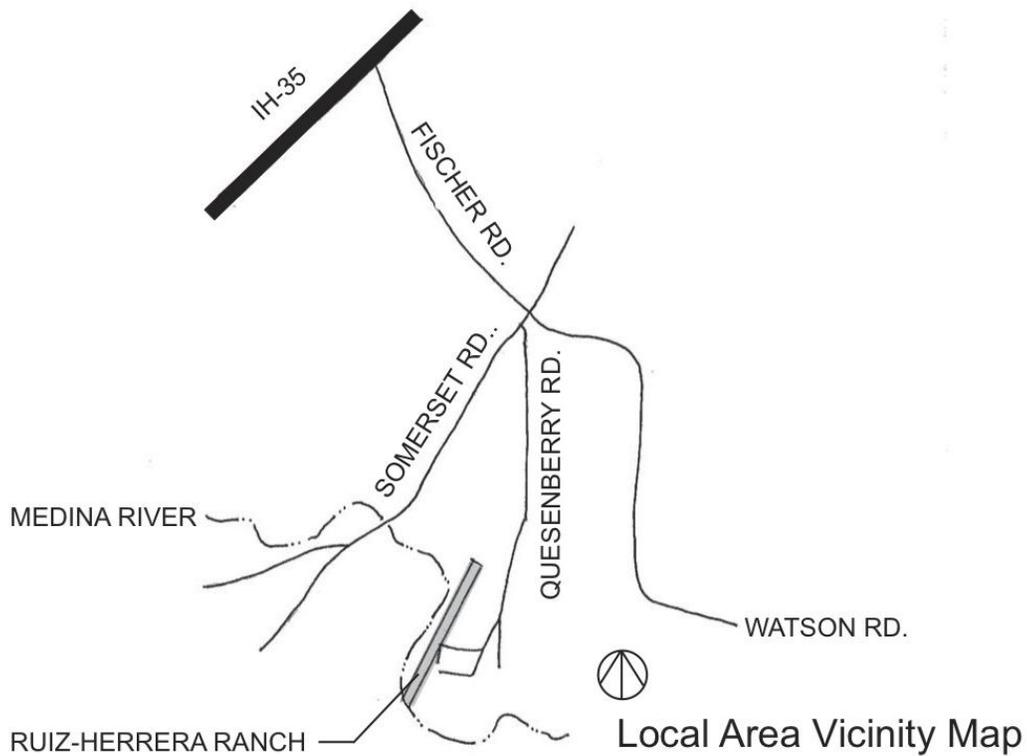
Section MAP Page 24

Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Map 2: Ruiz-Herrera Ranch

Local area vicinity map off of Quesenberry and Sommerset Roads

Drawn by Ann Benson McGlone, August 2011



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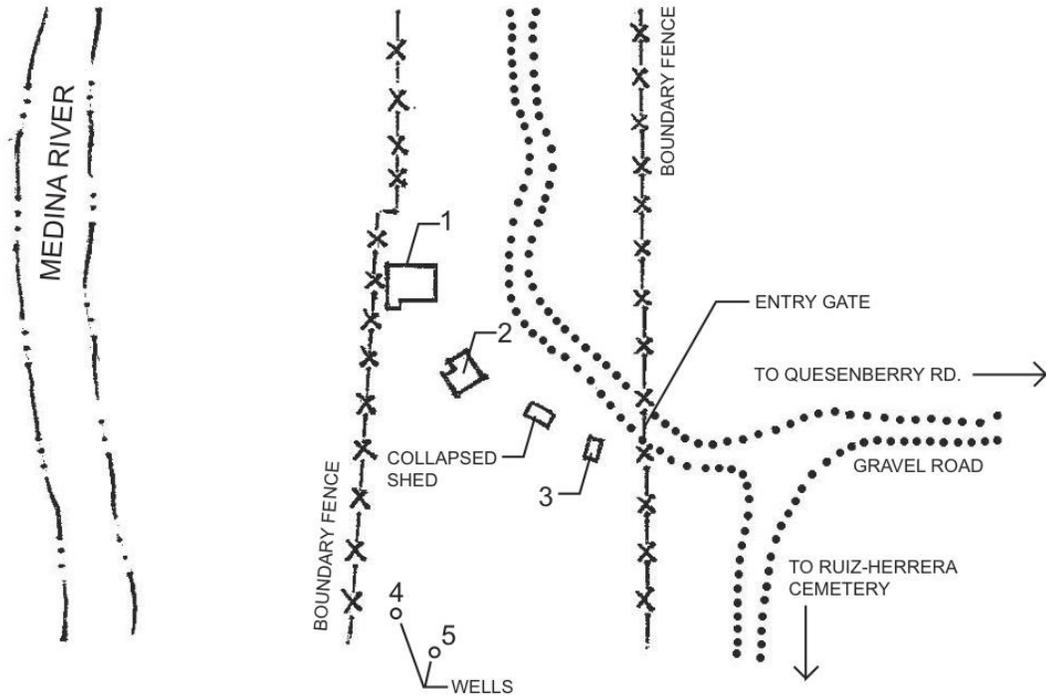
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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

MAP 3: Ruiz-Herrera Ranch

Partial Site map with contributing resources
Drawn by Ann Benson McGone, August 2011



 Partial Site Map

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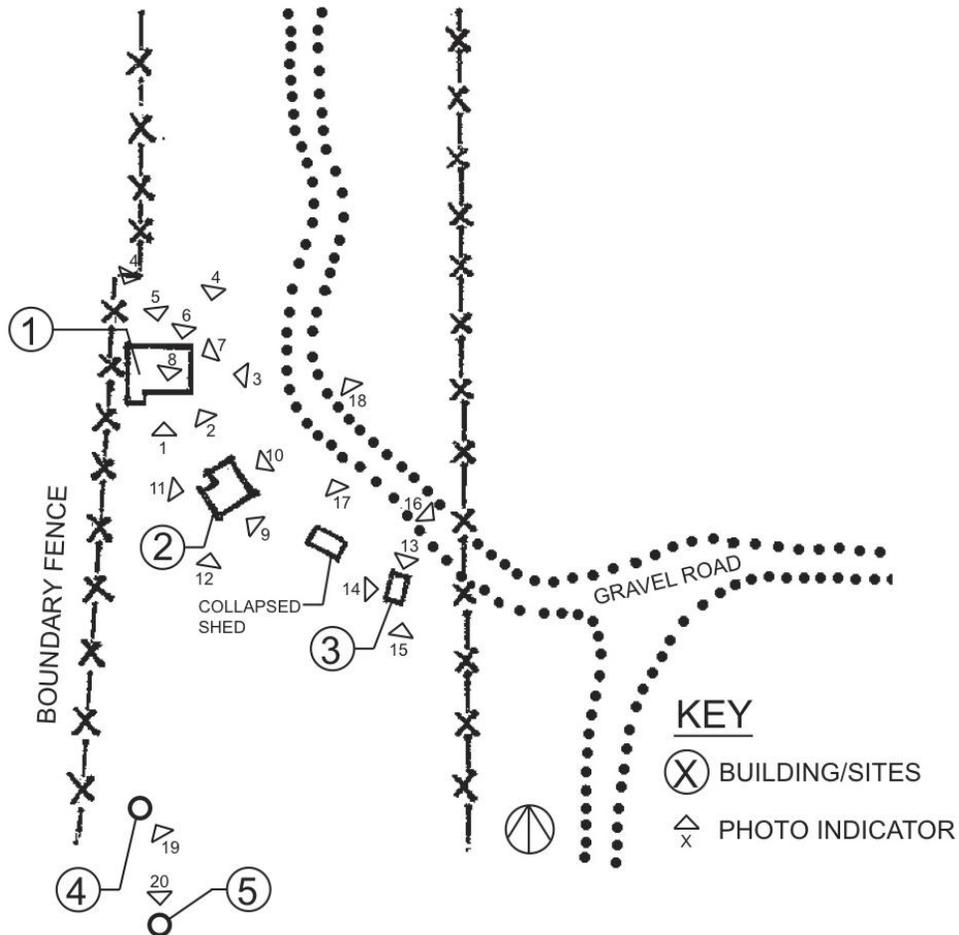
Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

MAP 4: Ruiz-Herrera Ranch

Site map with photo identification and contributing resources

(Drawn by Ann Benson McGlone, August, 2011).

No scale



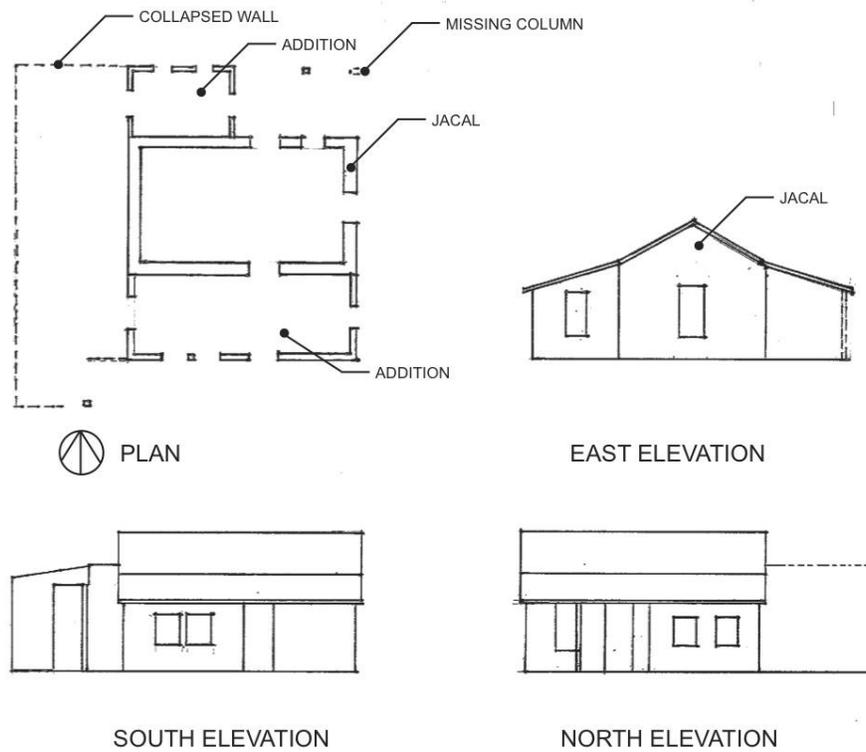
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Section FIGURE Page 27

Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 1: Floor Plan and Elevations of Ruiz-Herrera Ranch House
(Drawn by Ann Benson McGlone, August, 2011).
No scale



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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 28

Figure 2: Ranches of Bexar County, 1794, showing Ruiz land grant on Medina River.
(Source: Jack Jackson, *Los Mestenos: Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-1821*, College Station: Texas A&M University, 1987, 92, map prepared using research and assistance of Robert H. Thonhoff).



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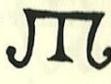
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 29

Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 3: Confiscated brand & cattle (58) of Jose Francisco Ruiz because of insurgency in Battle of Medina.
(Jack Jackson, *Los Mestenos*, Appendix N, 656).

656 *Appendix N*
Brand Section F
List of Cattle Confiscated from the Insurgents Who Have Left This Capital, Their Number and Brands, February 28, 1814 (From Saltillo Archives)

	Francisco de Arocha (400)		Tomás de Arocha (500)		Vicente Travieso (800)
	Miguel Flores (200)		Francisco de Beramendi (400)		Mariano Rodríguez (400)
	Joaquín Leal (400)		Fernando de Beramendi (50)		José María de Arocha (54)
	Ignacio de Arocha (40)		Francisco Ruíz (58)		Miguel Castro (30)
	Francisco Farías (30)		Remigio Leal (40)		Antonio Baca [?] (300)
	José Andrés Hernández (30)		Vicente Tarín (300)		Francisco Hernández (50)
	Francisco Hernández (30)		Clemente Delgado (23)		José Curbelo (20)
	Antonio Hernández (30)		Manuel Delgado (100)		José Flores Valdés (50)

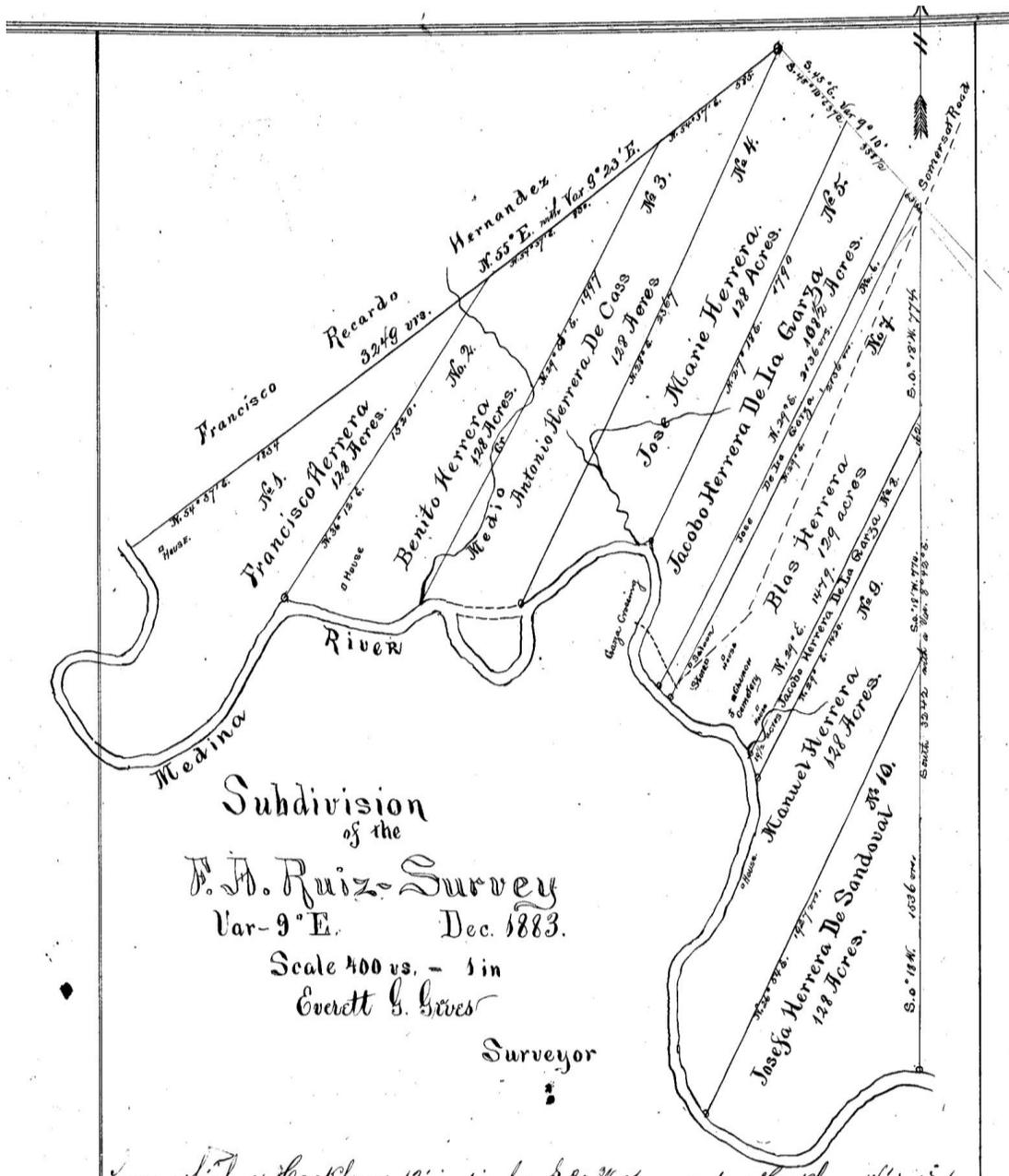
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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 4: 1883 Francisco Antonio Ruiz Survey done for Maria Herrera showing Tract No. 9
(Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 32, Page 611).



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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 5: Historic photo of Ruiz-Herrera Ranch House (n.d.), c. 1930s, view looking north. Shows chimney and original shingles on roof. Sara Herrera Ruiz on left, Juan Francisco Herrera, (her brother), Miquela Herrera (his wife), their child, Eloise Herrera. Sara Ruiz inherited the property from her father, Manuel. (Courtesy of the Torres Conkey families).



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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 6: Historic photo of Ruiz-Herrera House, (n.d.), c. 1970s.
(Courtesy of the Torres Conkey families).



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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 7: Historic photo of Francisco Antonio Ruiz (c. 1811-1876) (n.d.), son of Jose Francisco Ruiz. Blas Herrera purchased Francisco Antonio's headright in 1845 to begin ranching at the Garza Crossing near Von Ormy. Blas was married to Francisco Antonio's sister, Maria.



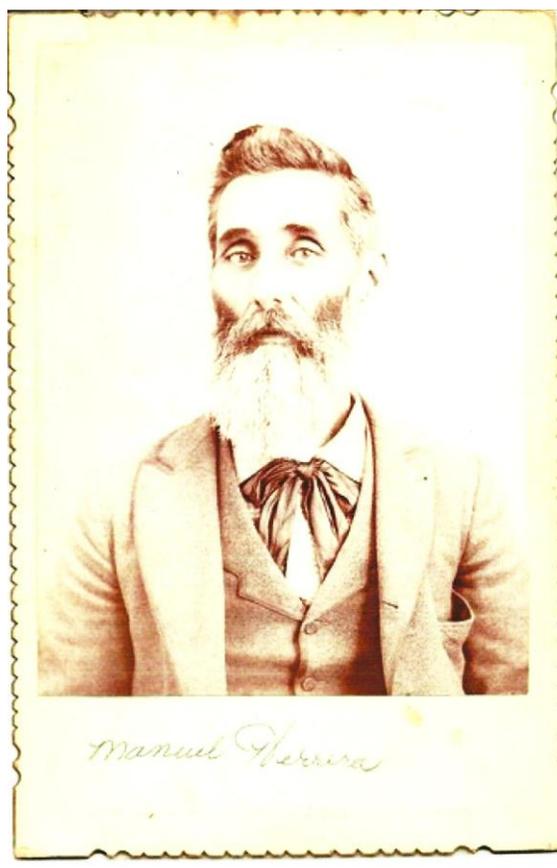
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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 8: Historic photo of Manuel de Atocha Herrera (1845-1906), (n.d.), who inherited Section 9 of the 1883 F.A. Ruiz Survey from his mother, Maria Herrera, widow of Blas Herrera. Manuel A. Herrera built the jacal on the Ruiz-Herrera property.
(Courtesy of the Torres Conkey family).



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Section FIGURE Page 35

Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 9: Historic photo of Refugia Herrera (1843-1942) (n.d.), wife of Manuel de Atocha Herrera. They were married in 1866, which may be the construction date of the jacal. (Courtesy of the Torres Conkey family).



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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 10: Brand of Blas Herrera, registered January 21, 1858.
(Bexar County Brand Records, Book B, Page 353A).

353.

1366. The State of Texas }
 County of Bexar. Be it remembered, that the marks
 and brands of Blas Herrera  residing
 on the Mescalera
 are as follows, to-wit: Brand thus ^{in the left ear and under half crop and upper bit}
 ear marks, crop and split, in the right ear
 as per margin, being the only marks and brands
 claimed by him and used in the marking and
 branding of his stock and which he this day
 presents for record in the office of the Clerk of the
 County Court of said County, in accordance with the
 law regulating the recording of marks and brands.
 Blas ^{his} Herrera
 mark
 Acknowledged and subscribed before me
 at office in San Antonio this 21st Day of January
 4th 1858. James Smith Clerk CC & C
 by Edward Miles, Deputy

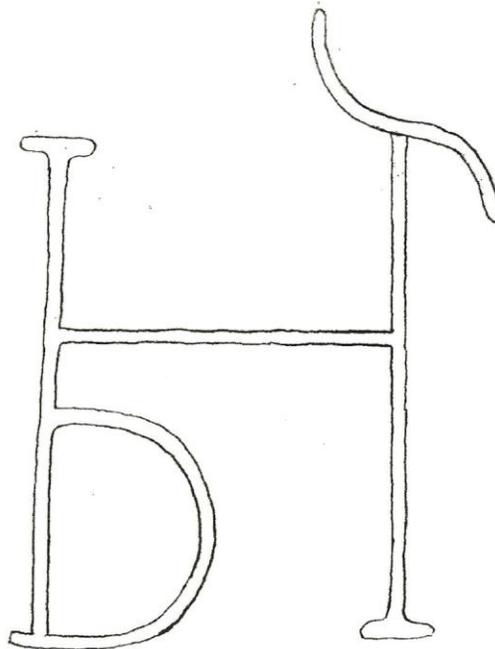
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Section FIGURE Page 37

Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 11: Brand of Manuel de Atocha Herrera, son of Blas Herrera, registered May 10, 1866.
(Bexar County Brand Records, Book C, Page 287).



THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF BEXAR.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the marks and brand of *Manuel Herrera*...residing
in Medina
are as follows, to wit: Brand thus.....ear marks *Crope split &*
under bit on the left & a hole in the right ear
.....as per margin, being the only marks and brand claimed by.....
and used in the marking and branding of *his*... stock and which *he*.... this day
presents for record in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of said county, in accordance
with the law regulating the recording of marks and brands.

Acknowledged and subscribed before me, at office, in
San Antonio, this *Tenth*... day of *May*... *Manuel Herrera*
A. D. 1865, *Manuel Herrera* *mark*

Clerk C. C. B. Co.

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Section PHOTO Page 38

Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All photographs are credited as follows:

Name of Property:	Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
City:	San Antonio vicinity
County:	Bexar County
State:	Texas
Photographer:	Imogen Cooper
Date:	August, 2011
Location of digital files:	Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Printed on Epson Ultra Premium Presentation Paper with Epson Ultrachrome ink

Photo 1 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_1_House_0001.tif)
South elevation
Camera facing: North

Photo 2 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_1_House_0002.tif)
Oblique view
Camera facing: Northwest

Photo 3 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_1_House_0003.tif)
East elevation
Camera facing: West

Photo 4 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_1_House_0004.tif)
Oblique view
Camera facing: Southwest

Photo 5 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_1_House_0005.tif)
North elevation
Camera facing: South

Photo 6 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_1_House_0006.tif)
North elevation
Camera facing: South

Photo 7 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_1_House_0007.tif)
Oblique view
Camera facing: Southwest

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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 8 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_1_House_0008.tif)

Interior view

Camera facing: South

Photo 9 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_2_Barn_0009.tif)

South elevation

Camera facing: North

Photo 10 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_2_Barn_0010.tif)

East elevation

Camera facing: West

Photo 11 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_2_Barn_0011.tif)

Oblique view

Camera facing: Southeast

Photo 12 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_2_Barn_0012.tif)

Oblique elevation

Camera facing: North east

Photo 13 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_3_Tractor_Shed_0013.tif)

North elevation

Camera facing: South

Photo 14 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_3_Tractor_Shed_0014.tif)

West elevation

Camera facing: East

Photo 15 (TX_Bexar_County_Building_3_Tractor_Shed_0015.tif)

South elevation

Camera facing: North

Photo 16 (TX_Bexar_County_Ruiz_Herrera_Ranch-Gate_0016.tif)

West elevation

Camera facing: East

Photo 17 (TX_Bexar_County_Ruiz_Herrera_Vista_0017.tif)

South elevation

Camera facing: North

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Ruiz-Herrera Ranch
San Antonio vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 18 (TX_Bexar_County_Ruiz_Herrera_Ranch_Vista_0018.tif)

South elevation

Camera facing: North

Photo 19 (TX_Bexar_County_Ranch_Modern_Well_0019.tif)

South elevation

Camera facing: North

Photo 20 (TX_Bexar_County_Ranch_Old_Mouth-Well_0020.tif)

North elevation

Camera facing: South