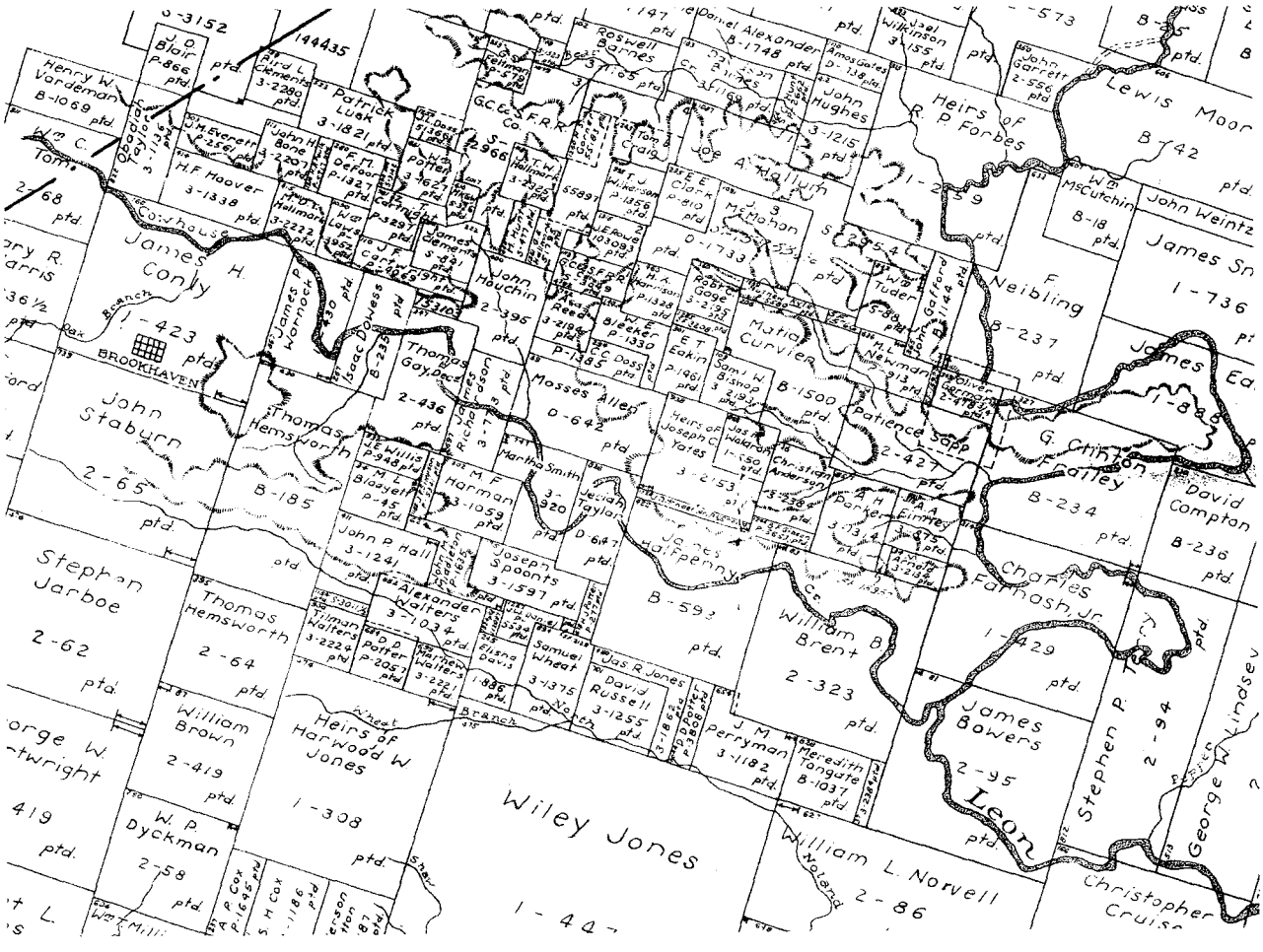
HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF 401 SITES AT FORT HOOD, BELL AND CORYELL COUNTIES, TEXAS

by
Russell B. Ward
Marie E. Blake
Amy E. Dase
and
Martha Doty Freeman



United States Army Fort Hood
Archeological Resource Management Series
Research Report No. 43

2000

HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF 401 SITES AT FORT HOOD, BELL AND CORYELL COUNTIES, TEXAS

by

Russell B. Ward
Marie E. Blake
Amy E. Dase
and
Martha Doty Freeman

with contributions by
Jennifer A. Stabler
and
Kay Hindes

United States Army Fort Hood
Archeological Resource Management Series
Research Report No. 43

August 2000

HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF 401 SITES AT FORT HOOD, BELL AND CORYELL COUNTIES, TEXAS

Prepared for

Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Management Office
Fort Hood

by

Prewitt and Associates, Inc.
Cultural Resources Services
Austin, Texas

in partial fulfillment of
Contract DAKF48-95-D-0004
Delivery Order No. 0010

August 2000

DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to the families and communities throughout history who settled on the lands now encompassed by Fort Hood and Belton Reservoir, and made their unique contribution to Texas's heritage.

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY *(Leave blank)*	2. REPORT DATE	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED
	August 2000	Final Report, September 1998-August 2000

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE

Historical Research of 401 Sites at Fort Hood, Bell and Coryell Counties, Texas

5. FUNDING NUMBERS

DAKF-48-95-D-0004
Delivery Order 0010

6. AUTHOR(S)

Russell B. Ward, Marie E. Blake, Amy E. Dase, and Martha Doty Freeman

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

Prewitt and Associates, Inc.
7701 N. Lamar, Suite 104
Austin, TX 78752-1012

8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER

9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

Department of the Army - Fort Hood
Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Management Office

10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER

Archeological Resource Management Series
Research Report No. 43

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

12a. DISTRIBUTION AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Available for public release

12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE

13. ABSTRACT *(Maximum 200 words)*

From September 1998 to April 2000, histories of properties on which 401 historic archeological sites are located were compiled based primarily on patent, deed, and ad valorem tax records. To a lesser extent, other public records and secondary sources were used to further supplement site histories. Some preliminary research material had been gathered previously by Fort Hood personnel and was made available to researchers. When appropriate, original records were consulted in order to construct a complete chain of title for each property. All of the tracts of land considered in this study were purchased in 1953 and 1954 for expansion of the Fort Hood Military Reservation and the creation of Belton Reservoir in Coryell and Bell Counties. Only tracts with recorded historic sites were researched.

The historical information presented in this volume is intended to be used in conjunction with archeological site data to infer the age, function, and historical associations of the 401 recorded historic sites on the portion of Fort Hood acquired in the early 1950s. Careful integration of historical and archeological data relative to well-developed historic contexts is the next step in the management process and will provide information necessary to support assessments of National Register eligibility.

14. SUBJECT TERMS

Cultural resources, archeology, history

15. NUMBER OF PAGES
xviii + 315

16. PRICE CODE

17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT
Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89) (EG)
Prescribed by ANSI Std. 239.18
Designed using Perform Pro, WHS/DIOR, Oct 94

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY xvi

ABSTRACT xvii

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xviii

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION 1

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY 5

CHAPTER 3: SITE HISTORIES 9

BELL COUNTY SITES 9

Site 41BL158 (Tract 802) 9
Site 41BL186 (Tract 903) 10
Site 41BL196 (Tract 1300) 11
Site 41BL199 (Tract 805) 12
Site 41BL204 (Tract 901) 13
Site 41BL212 (Tract 1118) 14
Site 41BL214 (Tract 1217) 15
Site 41BL334 (Tract 1214) 16
Site 41BL338 (Tract G-604) 17
Site 41BL341 (Tract C-210) 17
Site 41BL342 (Tract 819) 18
Site 41BL344 (Tract 1133) 20
Site 41BL345 (Tract 1131) 21
Site 41BL350 (Tract 706) 21
Site 41BL352 (Tract 1126) 22
Site 41BL396 (Tract B-113-1) 24
Site 41BL397 (Tract 805) 25
Site 41BL399 (Tract 704) 26
Site 41BL400 (Tract 802) 28
Site 41BL401 (Tract 804) 28
Site 41BL402 (Tract 803) 29
Site 41BL404 (Tract 903) 29
Site 41BL420 (Tract 704) 30
Site 41BL422 (Tract 819) 31
Site 41BL423 (Tract 819) 32
Site 41BL424 (Tract 863) 32
Site 41BL425 (Tract C-208) 33
Site 41BL426 (Tract 809) 35
Site 41BL428 (Tract C-203) 35
Site 41BL429 (Tract C-203) 36
Site 41BL435 (Tract 817) 36
Site 41BL437 (Tract C-211-1) 37
Site 41BL438 (Tract 821) 38
Site 41BL440 (Tract C-202) 39
Site 41BL441 (Tract C-202) 40
Site 41BL442 (Tract C-202) 40
Site 41BL443 (Tract C-202) 41
Site 41BL445 (Tract 812) 42
Site 41BL446 (Tract 821) 42

Site 41BL447 (Tract 819) 42
Site 41BL449 (Tract 817) 44
Site 41BL450 (Tract 815) 45
Site 41BL452 (Tract 817) 45
Site 41BL456 (Tract 814) 46
Site 41BL458 (Tract 1302) 46
Site 41BL459 (Tract 1302) 48
Site 41BL460 (Tract 1302) 48
Site 41BL464 (Tract C-210) 48
Site 41BL465 (Tract C-214) 49
Site 41BL468 (Tract C-218) 49
Site 41BL469 (Tract C-219) 51
Site 41BL471 (Tract C-210) 52
Site 41BL473 (Tract C-202) 53
Site 41BL474 (Tract 1128) 53
Site 41BL475 (Tract 1127) 54
Site 41BL476 (Tract 1129) 55
Site 41BL477 (Tract 1129) 56
Site 41BL478 (Tract 1126) 56
Site 41BL479 (Tract 1129) 57
Site 41BL480 (Tract 1129) 57
Site 41BL481 (Tract 1129) 57
Site 41BL483 (Tract 1126) 57
Site 41BL484 (Tract 1126) 59
Site 41BL485 (Tract 1129) 59
Site 41BL486 (Tract 1140) 59
Site 41BL487 (Tract 1114) 60
Site 41BL492 (Tract 1129) 60
Site 41BL493 (Tract 1129) 61
Site 41BL494 (Tract 1112) 61
Site 41BL498 (Tract 1112) 62
Site 41BL499 (Tract 1313) 63
Site 41BL501 (Tract 1313) 63
Site 41BL503 (Tract 1313) 64
Site 41BL508 (Tract 1307) 64
Site 41BL509 (Tract 1219) 65
Site 41BL510 (Tract 1219) 66
Site 41BL511 (Tract 1219) 66
Site 41BL515 (Tract 1219) 67
Site 41BL518 (Tract 1213) 67
Site 41BL519 (Tract 1219) 69
Site 41BL521 (Tract 1219) 69
Site 41BL523 (Tract 1218) 70
Site 41BL527 (Tract 1304) 70
Site 41BL533 (Tract 1339) 71
Site 41BL534 (Tract 1304) 72
Site 41BL535 (Tract 1339) 72
Site 41BL536 (Tract 1301) 73
Site 41BL540 (Tract 1300) 74
Site 41BL541 (Tract 1301) 75
Site 41BL542 (Tract 1301) 75
Site 41BL543 (Tract 1301) 76
Site 41BL544 (Tract 1300) 76

Site 41BL546 (Tract 1300) 76
Site 41BL551 (Tract 1306) 76
Site 41BL552 (Tract 1212) 77
Site 41BL553 (Tract 1212) 79
Site 41BL557 (Tract 1215) 79
Site 41BL565 (Tract 1217) 79
Site 41BL571 (Tract 1212) 80
Site 41BL572 (Tract 1212) 81
Site 41BL573 (Tract 1212) 81
Site 41BL574 (Tract 1220) 82
Site 41BL576 (Tract 1201) 82
Site 41BL577 (Tract 1221) 83
Site 41BL578 (Tract 1220) 84
Site 41BL580 (Tract 1300) 85
Site 41BL584 (Tract 1221) 85
Site 41BL585 (Tract 1141) 85
Site 41BL586 (Tract C-218) 86
Site 41BL587 (Tract 1300) 88
Site 41BL591 (Tract F-519) 89
Site 41BL601 (Tract 1217) 91
Site 41BL602 (Tract 1127) 92
Site 41BL603 (Tract 1127) 93
Site 41BL604 (Tract 1127) 93
Site 41BL605 (Tract 1127) 94
Site 41BL606 (Tract 1127) 94
Site 41BL607 (Tract 1110) 95
Site 41BL609 (Tract 1134) 96
Site 41BL610 (Tract 1127) 97
Site 41BL614 (Tract 1110) 97
Site 41BL616 (Tract 1110) 98
Site 41BL617 (Tract B-123) 98
Site 41BL618 (Tract B-123) 99
Site 41BL619 (Tract B-120) 100
Site 41BL621 (Tract 1201) 101
Site 41BL622 (Tract C-220) 101
Site 41BL625 (Tract 1134) 103
Site 41BL626 (Tract 1134) 103
Site 41BL629 (Tract 1134) 104
Site 41BL630 (Tract 1107) 104
Site 41BL631 (Tract 1107) 105
Site 41BL632 (Tract 1106) 105
Site 41BL633 (Tract 1106) 106
Site 41BL639 (Tract 1105) 106
Site 41BL640 (Tract 1104) 107
Site 41BL641 (Tract 1105) 108
Site 41BL642 (Tract 1130) 109
Site 41BL643 (Tract 1135) 109
Site 41BL644 (Tract 1134) 110
Site 41BL645 (Tract 1139) 111
Site 41BL646 (Tract 1136) 111
Site 41BL647 (Tract 1105) 112
Site 41BL650 (Tract 1105) 112
Site 41BL651 (Tract 1105) 113

Site 41BL653 (Tract 1105) 113
Site 41BL654 (Tract 1105) 114
Site 41BL655 (Tract 1105) 114
Site 41BL659 (Tract 1126) 115
Site 41BL661 (Tract 1123) 115
Site 41BL663 (Tract 1123) 117
Site 41BL664 (Tract 1126) 117
Site 41BL666 (Tract 1126) 118
Site 41BL677 (Tract F-548) 119
Site 41BL678 (Tract 1118) 120
Site 41BL680 (Tract F-519) 121
Site 41BL685 (Tract F-519) 121
Site 41BL687 (Tract F-519) 121
Site 41BL693 (Tract F-543) 122
Site 41BL696 (Tract 1113) 123
Site 41BL697 (Tract F-520) 123
Site 41BL698 (Tract 1129) 124
Site 41BL700 (Tract 1129) 124
Site 41BL701 (Tract 1111) 124
Site 41BL702 (Tract 1111) 125
Site 41BL704 (Tract 1103) 125
Site 41BL705 (Tract 1103) 127
Site 41BL706 (Tract 1103) 127
Site 41BL707 (Tract 1103) 127
Site 41BL708 (Tract B-128-2) 128
Site 41BL710 (Tract 1103) 129
Site 41BL712 (Tract 1103) 129
Site 41BL713 (Tract 1103) 129
Site 41BL714 (Tract 1104) 129
Site 41BL715 (Tract 1103) 130
Site 41BL724 (Tract 1100) 130
Site 41BL725 (Tract B-130) 131
Site 41BL726 (Tract A-70) 133
Site 41BL727 (Tract A-70) 135
Site 41BL735 (Tract 900) 135
Site 41BL736 (Tract 900) 137
Site 41BL737 (Tract 803) 137
Site 41BL738 (Tract 802) 137
Site 41BL739 (Tract 820) 137
Site 41BL741 (Tract 802) 138
Site 41BL745 (Tract 805) 138
Site 41BL746 (Tract 805) 139
Site 41BL747 (Tract 809) 140
Site 41BL752 (Tract 819) 140
Site 41BL753 (Tract 809) 141
Site 41BL756 (Tract 809) 141
Site 41BL757 (Tract 809) 143
Site 41BL758 (Tract 809) 144
Site 41BL760 (Tract 806) 145
Site 41BL761 (Tract B-117) 146
Site 41BL763 (Tract 809) 150
Site 41BL771 (Tract 1015) 150
Site 41BL779 (Tract 822) 151

Site 41BL781 (Tract 822) 152
Site 41BL782 (Tract 703) 152
Site 41BL783 (Tract 704) 153
Site 41BL798 (Tract 1204) 154
Site 41BL799 (Tract 1204) 155
Site 41BL803 (Tract 707) 155
Site 41BL804 (Tract 704) 156
Site 41BL805 (Tract 704) 157
Site 41BL808 (Tract 716) 158
Site 41BL809 (Tract 706) 159
Site 41BL811 (Tract 716) 159
Site 41BL812 (Tract 704) 160
Site 41BL813 (Tract 704) 161
Site 41BL815 (Tract 703) 162
Site 41BL817 (Tract 716) 162
Site 41BL818 (Tract 713) 162
Site 41BL819 (Tract 717) 163
Site 41BL820 (Tract 714) 164
Site 41BL822 (Tract 735) 165
Site 41BL823 (Tract 703) 165
Site 41BL824 (Tract 711) 166
Site 41BL825 (Tract 717) 167
Site 41BL826 (Tract 715) 168
Site 41BL828 (Tract 900) 169
Site 41BL829 (Tract 719) 170
Site 41BL830 (Tract 722) 171
Site 41BL831 (Tract 900) 172
Site 41BL832 (Tract 743) 172
Site 41BL833 (Tract 742) 172
Site 41BL835 (Tract 737) 173
Site 41BL836 (Tract 900) 173
Site 41BL838 (Tract 800) 174
Site 41BL839 (Tract 717) 175
Site 41BL841 (Tract 704) 175
Site 41BL842 (Tract 803) 176
Site 41BL845 (Tract 702) 177
Site 41BL846 (Tract 900) 178
Site 41BL847 (Tract 717) 179
Site 41BL848 (Tract 717) 179
Site 41BL849 (Tract 803) 179
Site 41BL851 (Tract 802) 180
Site 41BL852 (Tract 1001) 180
Site 41BL854 (Tract 1001) 181
Site 41BL855 (Tract 900) 181
Site 41BL856 (Tract 1006) 181
Site 41BL857 (Tract 1001) 182
Site 41BL858 (Tract 1010) 183
Site 41BL859 (Tract 900) 184
Site 41BL860 (Tract 1001) 185
Site 41BL861 (Tract 1001) 185
Site 41BL862 (Tract 1001) 186
Site 41BL863 (Tract 1001) 186
Site 41BL864 (Tract 900) 186

Site 41BL865 (Tract 1002) 187
Site 41BL867 (Tract 1006) 187
Site 41BL870 (Tract 1010) 188
Site 41BL871 (Tract 1001) 188
Site 41BL872 (Tract 710) 189
Site 41BL873 (Tract 801) 190
Site 41BL874 (Tract G-616) 191
Site 41BL876 (Tract 1015) 192
Site 41BL883 (Tract 1015) 193
Site 41BL884 (Tract 1015) 194
Site 41BL896 (Tract 1336) 195
Site 41BL901 (Tract 1214) 195
Site 41BL910 (Tract G-602) 196
Site 41BL921 (Tract 1206) 197
Site 41BL922 (Tract 1206) 198
Site 41BL923 (Tract 1206) 198
Site 41BL924 (Tract G-605) 199
Site 41BL937 (Tract G-617) 200
Site 41BL938 (Tract G-617) 202
Site 41BL951 (Tract 1001) 202
Site 41BL952 (Tract 1001) 202
Site 41BL953 (Tract 1010) 202
Site 41BL954 (Tract 1009) 203
Site 41BL955 (Tract 1010) 204
Site 41BL956 (Tract 1010) 205
Site 41BL958 (Tract 1019) 206
Site 41BL959 (Tract 1005) 207
Site 41BL960 (Tract 1005) 208
Site 41BL963 (Tract 1351) 209
Site 41BL1000 (Tract A-72) 209
Site 41BL1003 (Tract F-535) 211
Site 41BL1007 (Tract B-111) 213
Site 41BL1008 (Tract B-114) 214
Site 41BL1009 (Tract B-114) 216

CORYELL COUNTY SITES 216
Site 41CV58 (Tract 1319) 216
Site 41CV134 (Tract 1508) 217
Site 41CV150 (Tract 1507) 218
Site 41CV151 (Tract 1506) 218
Site 41CV153 (Tract 1410) 220
Site 41CV154 (Tract 1410) 221
Site 41CV155 (Tract 1412) 221
Site 41CV178 (Tract 1419) 223
Site 41CV179 (Tract 1420) 224
Site 41CV180 (Tract 1419) 224
Site 41CV241 (Tract 1309) 225
Site 41CV325 (Tract 1503) 225
Site 41CV331 (Tract 1504) 226
Site 41CV345 (Tract 1438) 226
Site 41CV348 (Tract 1439) 228
Site 41CV351 (Tract 1440) 228
Site 41CV362 (Tract 1442) 229

Site 41CV364 (Tract 1436) 230
Site 41CV365 (Tract 1442) 230
Site 41CV370 (Tract 1438) 231
Site 41CV384, Components A Through V 231
Site 41CV400 (Tract 1435) 233
Site 41CV404 (Tract 1507) 234
Site 41CV483 (Tract 1444) 235
Site 41CV496 (Tract 1425) 236
Site 41CV497 (Tract 1425) 237
Site 41CV499 (Tract 1415) 238
Site 41CV531 (Tract 1435) 239
Site 41CV533 (Tract 1422) 239
Site 41CV537 (Tract 1423) 241
Site 41CV538 (Tract 1426) 242
Site 41CV541 (Tract 1420) 243
Site 41CV545 (Tract 1422) 243
Site 41CV548 (Tract 1418) 243
Site 41CV549 (Tract 1419) 244
Site 41CV550 (Tract 1427) 245
Site 41CV551 (Tract 1429) 246
Site 41CV552 (Tract 1429) 247
Site 41CV553 (Tract 1434) 248
Site 41CV554 (Tract 1433) 249
Site 41CV556 (Tract 1434) 250
Site 41CV561 (Tract 1417) 251
Site 41CV562 (Tract 1416) 251
Site 41CV563 (Tract 1417) 252
Site 41CV664 (Tract 1441) 253
Site 41CV665 (Tract 1443) 253
Site 41CV666 (Tract 1448) 254
Site 41CV670 (Tract 1436) 255
Site 41CV671 (Tract 1436) 255
Site 41CV672 (Tract 1436) 256
Site 41CV673 (Tract 1436) 256
Site 41CV674 (Tract 1414) 257
Site 41CV675 (Tract 1414) 258
Site 41CV676 (Tract 1414) 258
Site 41CV678 (Tract 1436) 259
Site 41CV688 (Tract 1413) 259
Site 41CV691 (Tract 1447) 260
Site 41CV696 (Tract 1430) 261
Site 41CV697 (Tract 1428) 261
Site 41CV720 (Tract 1450) 262
Site 41CV723 (Tract 1304) 263
Site 41CV725 (Tract 1338) 263
Site 41CV728 (Tract 1310) 265
Site 41CV729 (Tract 1311) 266
Site 41CV742 (Tract 1305) 267
Site 41CV749 (Tract 1317) 268
Site 41CV753 (Tract 1451) 269
Site 41CV759 (Tract 1317) 270
Site 41CV762 (Tract 1329) 271
Site 41CV763 (Tract 1334) 273

Site 41CV764 (Tract 1318) 274
Site 41CV767 (Tract 1318) 274
Site 41CV770 (Tract 1318) 275
Site 41CV772 (Tract 1327) 276
Site 41CV773 (Tract 1318) 277
Site 41CV775 (Tract 1328) 277
Site 41CV777 (Tract 1329) 278
Site 41CV778 (Tract 1329) 279
Site 41CV781 (Tract 1315) 279
Site 41CV783 Tract 1323) 280
Site 41CV784 (Tract 1320) 281
Site 41CV785 (Tract 1320) 283
Site 41CV896 (Tract 1451) 285
Site 41CV897 (Tract 1343) 285
Site 41CV898 (Tract 1445) 286
Site 41CV899 (Tract 1347) 287
Site 41CV951 (Tract 1450) 288
Site 41CV961 (Tract 1419) 288
Site 41CV1015 (Tract 1501) 289
Site 41CV1018 (Tract 1501) 290
Site 41CV1059 (Tract 1506) 290
Site 41CV1060 (Tract 1505) 292
Site 41CV1072 (Tract 1507) 292
Site 41CV1074 (Tract 1508) 292
Site 41CV1082 (Tract 1509) 293
Site 41CV1159 (Tract 1504) 293
Site 41CV1160 (Tract 1500) 295
Site 41CV1164 (Tract 1507) 296
Site 41CV1168 (Tract 1505) 296
Site 41CV1170 (Tract 1505) 297
Site 41CV1171 (Tract 1507) 298
Site 41CV1174 (Tract 1506) 298
Site 41CV1175 (Tract 1507) 299
Site 41CV1177 (Tract 1507) 299
Site 41CV1179 (Tract 1509) 300
Site 41CV1181 (Tract 1507) 300
Site 41CV1405 (Tract 1449) 301
Site 41CV1406 (Tract 1449) 302
Site 41CV1407 (Tract 1411) 302
Site 41CV1408 (Tract 1449) 304
Site 41CV1419 (Tract 1404) 304
Site 41CV1426 (Tract 1400) 306
Site 41CV1463 (Tract 1502) 307
Site 41CV1532 (Tract 1409) 308
Site 41CV1534 (Tract 1309) 309
Site 41CV1538 (Tract 1322) 309

REFERENCES CITED 311

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Location of the 1950s acquisition areas and Belton Reservoir relative to the present-day boundaries of Fort Hood 2
2. Tracts acquired from 1953 to 1955 for the expansion of Fort Hood 6
3. Tracts acquired in the 1950s for the construction of Belton Reservoir, which is located east of and adjacent to the land acquired for fort expansion 7

LIST OF TABLES

1. Components of site 41CV384 232

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was prepared by Prewitt and Associates, Inc., Cultural Resources Services, of Austin, Texas, for the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Management Office, Fort Hood, Texas, in compliance with Fort Hood's Cultural Resource Management Plan.

This report provides legal histories of properties on which 401 recorded historic archeological sites are located within Fort Hood. These properties and sites are located on tracts of land purchased in 1953 and 1954 for expansion of the Fort Hood Military Reservation and the creation of Belton Reservoir. Only tracts containing recorded historic sites were researched.

The purpose of this project is to provide historic background information necessary to assist in evaluating the eligibility of these sites for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A comprehensive evaluation of each site's archeological integrity is presented in Blake (1999). Each site history is a chain of title constructed from patent and deed records, and is supplemented by data from ad valorem tax records that might indicate improvements or occupations. Information about the history of property ownership and land use or improvements in this volume is intended to be used in conjunction with archeological data from specific sites to help determine site age, function, and historical associations. Such determinations may reveal a site's historical and/or archeological research potential.

National Register recommendations would require the development of historic contexts appropriate to the Fort Hood lands contained in the 1950s acquisition area. Therefore, no NRHP recommendations are presented in this report. The development of such contexts necessary to support NRHP recommendations is the next step in managing the 411 historic properties located in the 1950s area. The site histories for 401 of the historic properties are presented within this report and 9 site histories are presented in Stabler (1999). One site (41CV497) contains components in both acquisitions, and portions of the appropriate history are presented in each volume.

ABSTRACT

From September 1998 to April 2000, histories of properties on which 401 historic archeological sites are located were compiled based primarily on patent, deed, and ad valorem tax records. To a lesser extent, other public records and secondary sources were used to further supplement site histories. Some preliminary research material had been gathered previously by Fort Hood personnel and was made available to researchers. When appropriate, original records were consulted in order to construct a complete chain of title for each property. All of the tracts of land considered in this study were purchased in 1953 and 1954 for expansion of the Fort Hood Military Reservation and the creation of Belton Reservoir in Coryell and Bell Counties. Only tracts with recorded historic sites were researched.

The historical information presented in this volume is intended to be used in conjunction with archeological site data to infer the age, function, and historical associations of the 401 recorded historic sites on the portion of Fort Hood acquired in the early 1950s. Careful integration of historical and archeological data relative to well-developed historic contexts is the next step in the management process and will provide information necessary to support assessments of National Register eligibility.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A large number of people charged with varying tasks came together as a team to make this project possible. The project was initiated under the guidance of Dr. Kimball Smith, director of Fort Hood's Cultural Resource Management Program, until his untimely death in September 1999. Oversight of the project was ably assumed by the current program director, Dr. Cheryl Huckerby. Her understanding of the importance of the history and historical resources contained within Fort Hood's boundaries will be a benefit to both the military installation and the local community.

Researchers and authors of the individual site histories, in order of material contributed, are Russell B. Ward, consulting historian; Marie E. Blake, historical archeologist at Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (PAI); and Amy E. Dase, consulting historian. Blake also served as project manager. Consulting historian Martha Doty Freeman served as the primary editor. She carefully read and re-read each site history in order to ensure historical accuracy and consistency. Freeman also authored Chapter 2, compiled the References Cited section, and generally brought coherence to the project. Jennifer A. Stabler, formerly of Fort Hood, and Kay Hindes, consulting historian, contributed research efforts and initial drafts of some site histories that were used in the completion of the project. At PAI, Douglas K. Boyd served as Principal Investigator with his usual enthusiasm. Sandra L. Hannum drafted the fine figures, and Audra L. Pineda pulled together work by the various authors, completed the technical editing, and coordinated report production.

The authors used several different research collections, and the staff members at the following facilities are thanked for their assistance: General Land Office Archives (Austin), Bell County Clerk's Office and Bell County District Clerk's Office (Belton), Coryell County Clerk's Office and Coryell County District Clerk's Office (Gatesville), Old Republic Title Company (Belton), and the Texas State Library and Archives (Austin).

INTRODUCTION

1

On January 14, 1942, the United States Army announced plans for the establishment of Camp Hood as a "tank destroyer tactical and firing center" near Killeen, Texas (Briuer 1996:1,104). The initial acquisition consisted of 104,000 acres in Bell and Coryell Counties and displaced between 300 and 470 farming families (Blake 1999:1; Stabler 1999:22). In 1950, the temporary Camp Hood was re-designated as a permanent base, and its name was changed to Fort Hood. With escalation of the conflict in Korea came an increased demand for trained troops. In response, an additional 49,578 acres were added to the installation between 1953 and 1955 (Briuer 1996:1,104). In the same period, land was acquired to accommodate Belton Reservoir, created by a dam on the Leon River that was designed to control flooding on 69,000 acres downstream in the Little River Valley. In order to accomplish that goal, 23,620 acres in the Leon River and Cowhouse Creek Valleys were inundated (Macaulay 1998:62). Although most of the Belton Reservoir land acquisitions occurred in the 1953–1955 period, some of the civil action cases were filed as early as 1950, while some of the latest final title opinions were filed in 1968. As with the 1940s Camp Hood land acquisitions, many communities and families were displaced. One former resident of the now-extinct community of Sparta recalled that, "watching the waters of Belton Reservoir rise over the farming community was like being buried alive" (Macaulay 1998:165). Today, the locations of former homes, farms, and towns from the period of earliest Anglo settlement until government acquisition are recognized as archeological sites. The history associated with these places is the topic of this report.

This volume is part of the on-going cultural resources management program at Fort Hood in Bell and Coryell Counties, Texas. Since archeological field surveys began in 1978, a total of 1,120 historic sites have been recorded, although some areas of the facility have not been surveyed, and not all historic properties have been located. In order to manage this large and important resource, two primary types of data must be addressed: archeological and historical.

The archeological integrity of all sites (documented as of November 1999) located on Fort Hood is assessed in Blake (1999). In-depth historical studies began with the original Camp Hood lands acquired during the 1940s, and historical research complied by Stabler (1999) serves as a companion volume to this work. It presents site histories for 719 sites, 710 of which are located in the 1940s acquisition area, and 9 of which are located in the 1950s acquisition area. It also presents discussions of the environmental setting and general historic background (including an explanation of land grants in Texas) relevant to Fort Hood. The reader should consult Stabler's (1999) report for topics not addressed in this volume.

This report presents histories for the properties on which 401 historic archeological sites within the 1950s Fort Hood acquisition and Belton Reservoir areas are located (Figure 1). These site histories are chains of title constructed from patent and deed records. Ad valorem tax information was examined to help determine improvements to or occupations of particular tracts that may have occurred, as suggested by increases in property values and other factors. Information about property ownership and potential land use or improvements presented

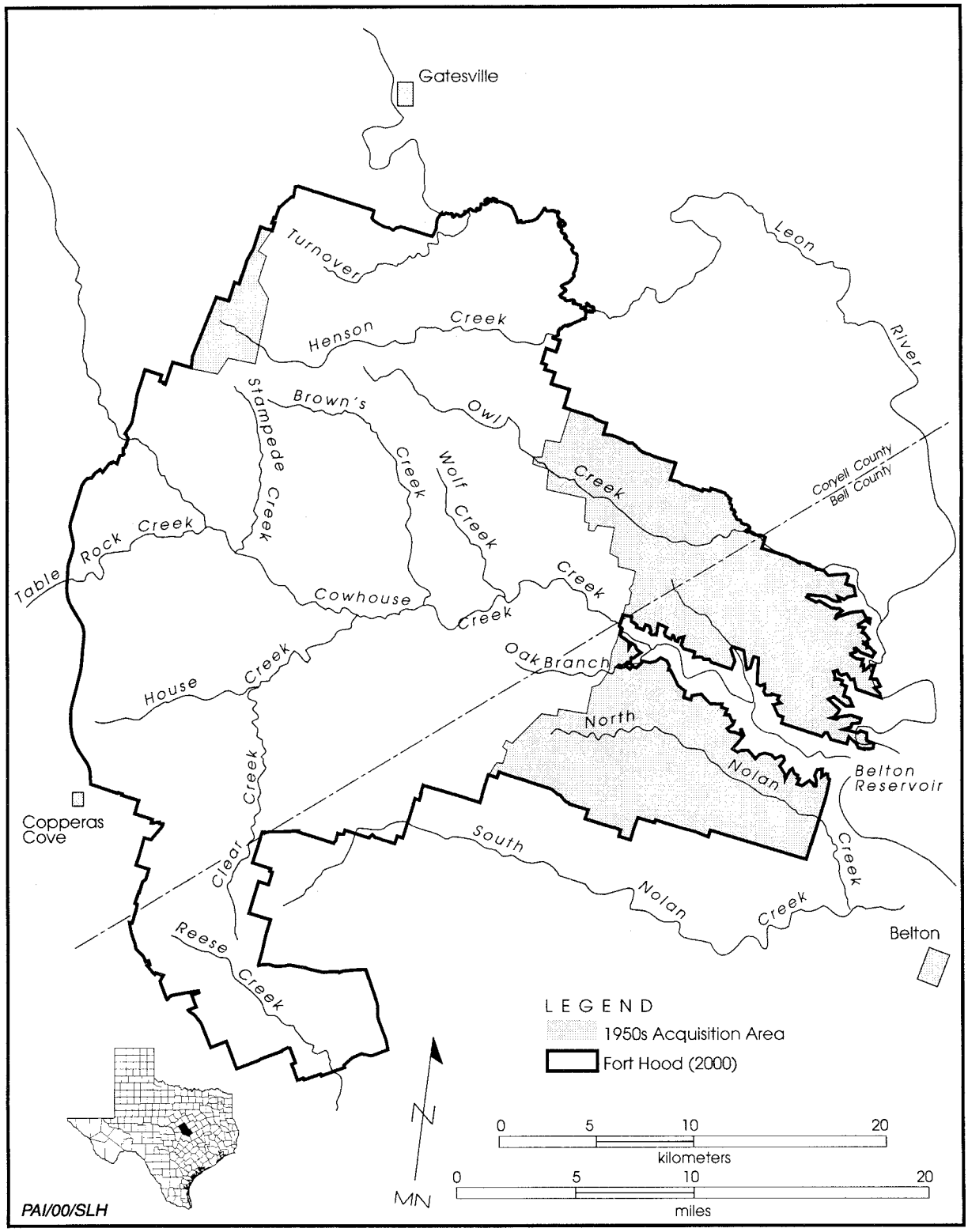


Figure 1. Location of the 1950s acquisition areas and Belton Reservoir relative to the present-day boundaries of Fort Hood.

in this volume is intended to be used in conjunction with archeological data from specific sites in an attempt to infer the age, function, and historical associations. Such determinations may reveal a site's historical and/or archeological research potential.

Subsequent to the completion of Stabler's (1999) research, historic contexts were developed by Freeman et al. (1999) in order to assess the National Register eligibility of historic properties (i. e., archeological sites) within the 1940s acquisition area. The context themes were community development and agriculture, and they served as a framework to help determine significance of the properties. For properties within the 1950s acquisition area, assessing National Register eligibility would also require the development of historic contexts comparable to those developed for the 1940s acquisition area. Therefore, no recommendations of National Register eligibility are presented in this report.

This report contains three chapters. Chapter 1 presents the introduction and project background. Chapter 2 discusses the methodology used in the research and writing of individual site histories. Chapter 3 presents the site histories for the properties on which the 401 historic archeological sites are located. The histories have been separated into Bell and Coryell County sites and are organized numerically by site trinomial.

METHODOLOGY

2

Expansion of World War II-era Fort Hood lands in 1953 to 1955 consisted of the acquisition of 49,578 acres in the northwest corner of the fort in Coryell County and along the eastern edge of the fort in Bell and Coryell Counties (Figure 2). In the same period, the government acquired 23,620 additional acres in Bell and Coryell Counties along Cowhouse Creek and the Leon River (Figure 3), which were inundated by Belton Reservoir. Historic sites have been recorded in all parts of the property acquired for expansion of the fort; additional sites have been recorded in Segments A–C and F–G of the property acquired for the reservoir.

Legal abstracts that document the history of individual tracts of land were not compiled by the U.S. government for all properties located within the 1950s and Belton Reservoir acquisitions that are the subject of this publication. A few such abstracts were available in the files of the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Management Office, Fort Hood. In addition, a number of abstracts had been compiled in a preliminary fashion by Jennifer Stabler prior to 1999. For the most part, however, the authors of this volume were able to use the file material only as a guide to their own work, which included the compilation of data from the General Land Office, Bell and Coryell County Courthouses, Texas State Library and Archives, and the Old Republic Title Company, which made abstracted title information available to the authors.

Work on the project began when each author was assigned historic sites and tracts to research. Initially, the authors collected survey and patent information from the General Land Office about grants on which historic sites were located. This task provided the information that typically appears in the opening paragraph of each site history, and chronicles the transferral of the land from the Republic or State to an individual citizen or private company.

Work in the General Land Office was followed by site-specific research in the Coryell and Bell County Courthouses. Typically, the authors began the compilation of a chain of title with the most-recent transaction. That is, at the point when the U.S. government acquired a given tract. The individual piece of property on which a specific site was located within a given tract was identified, and ownership of that property then was traced back through time to the date of patent. The authors focused on using deeds rather than examining mortgages and deeds of trust, unless those documents provided information that was pertinent to a site or the occupants or owners of the property. Legal records other than deeds that often provided valuable supplementary data included affidavits, plat records, and district court records.

Occasionally, failure of purchasers to record deeds with the county clerk created a break in the chain of title, and it was not possible to ascertain ownership for a specific, limited number of years. When this occurred in Bell County, the authors consulted the records available at Old Republic Title Company to confirm that the pertinent conveyance actually was missing, or to determine if they had overlooked it in the courthouse. They also used a commissioner's court map compiled by the Montieth Abstract Co. that portrayed property ownership in the county in 1919. In cases where conveyances did not exist, or the district map was not helpful, the authors frequently were

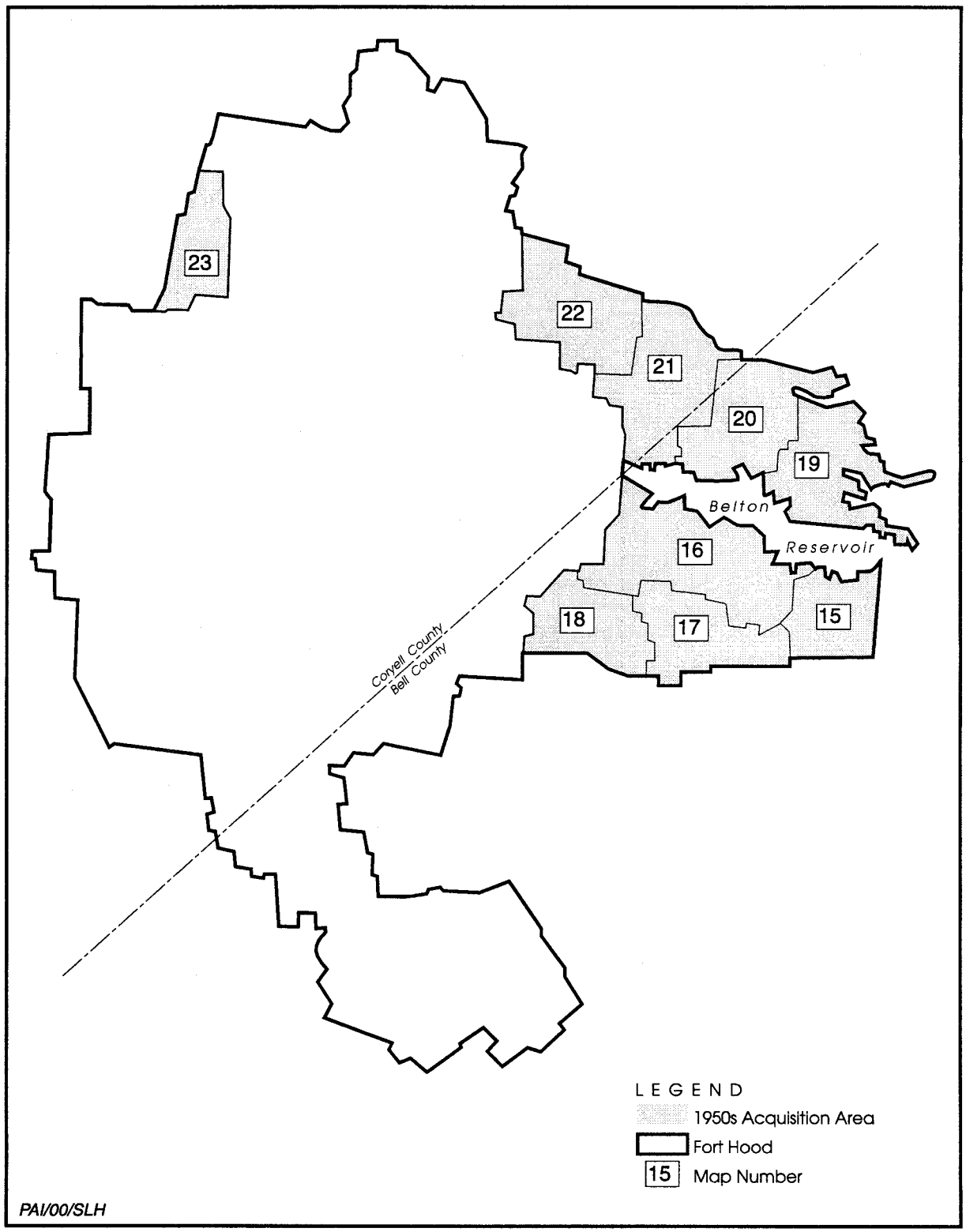


Figure 2. Tracts acquired from 1953 to 1955 for the expansion of Fort Hood.

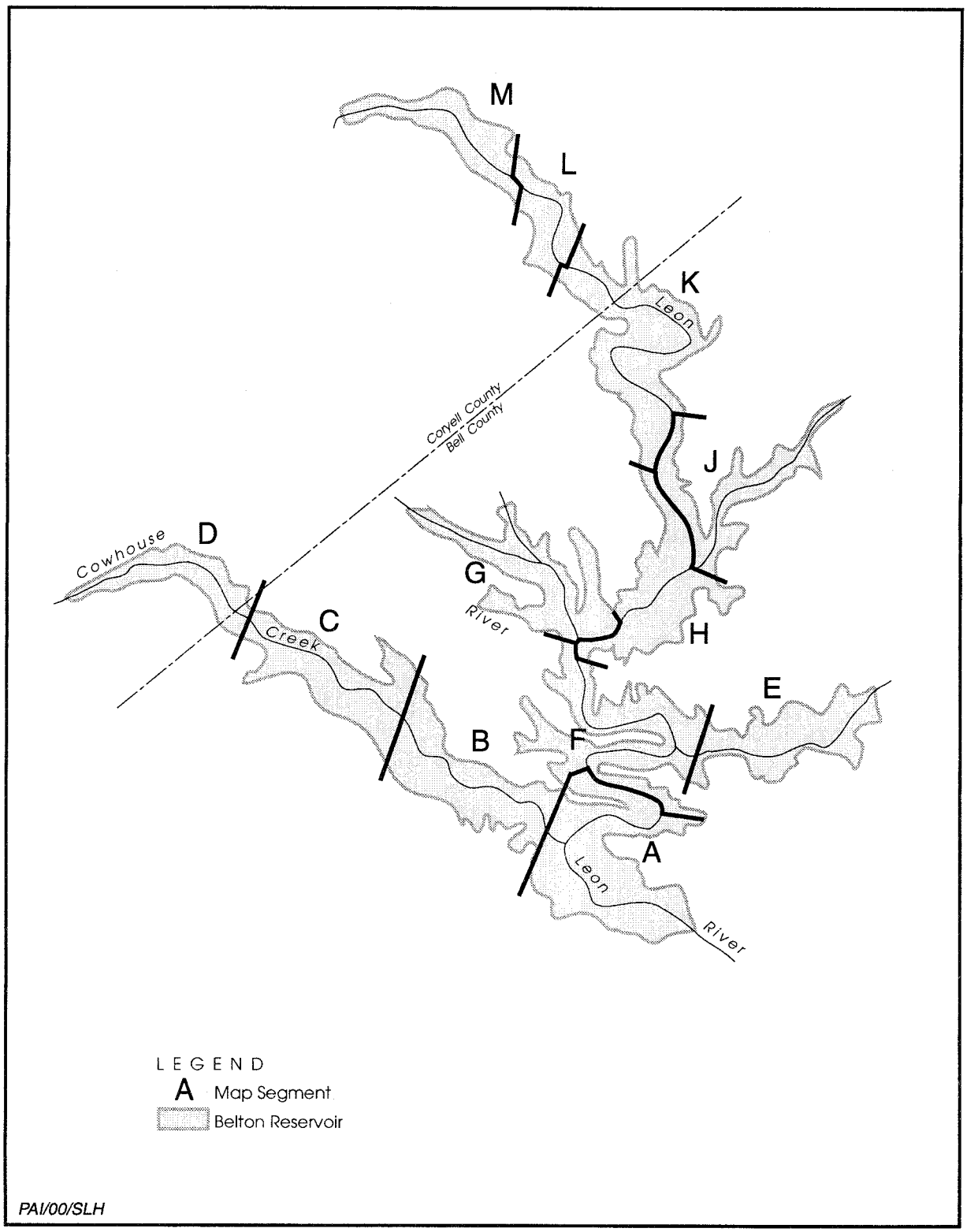


Figure 3. Tracts acquired in the 1950s for the construction of Belton Reservoir, which is located east of and adjacent to the land acquired for fort expansion.

able to suggest ownership by examining ad valorem tax records for specific years.

Ad valorem tax records on microfilm were used for a variety of other purposes, as well. Because one goal of the research was to identify periods of initial occupation on specific parcels of land, the authors used ad valorem tax records for the years 1851–1945 in Bell County and 1855–1947 in Coryell County. These records provided information about the valuation of real property over time and of livestock and other personal property whose presence might suggest use and/or occupation. However, the historians were conservative in the conclusions they drew because of the numerous variables that bear on valuation. Use of these records is indicated parenthetically in the site histories any place a single year or span of years appears in conjunction with text that discusses improvements or occupation.

A number of site histories are derived from work done by Carol Fiorillo Macaulay, whose master's thesis (1998) chronicles the history of Sparta, Texas, a portion of which is located on land acquired by the government in the early 1950s. Where Macaulay's data were used by the authors of this volume, they are cited in the text. In most cases, however, the authors included supplementary material, which is cited, as well.

This study does not purport to be an exhaustive history of each tract of land on which a site or multiple sites are located. Nor has every historic property that is located in the 1950s Fort Hood and Belton Reservoir acquisitions been recorded. In addition, use of properties by non-owner-occupants is difficult to document in legal and ad valorem tax records alone. However, the site histories do provide information about individuals who held title to the tracts on which recorded historic sites are located, as well as clues to the use of the land, initital occupation, and improvements associated with the properties. Useful correlations of the histories with specific archeological sites are dependent on the linkage of historic data with archeological remains dating from the same era.

All histories were edited for accuracy and consistency of information and interpretation, both internally and among the universe of 401 sites. Styles of expression are particular to each author, however, and the character of expression, as well as the degree of detail provided, vary from site to site.

Abbreviations for a variety of county records can be found throughout Chapter 3. All abbreviations are preceded by either BC (Bell County), or CC (Coryell County). These abbreviations are listed below:

DC	District Court
DCM	District Court Minutes
DR	Deed Records
DTR	Deed of Trust Records
PM	Probate Minutes
PR	Plat Records
SR	Surveyor's Records

SITE HISTORIES

3

BELL COUNTY SITES

Site 41BL158 (Tract 802)

Site History: Site 41BL158 is located on approximately 150 acres in the western portion of the 320-acre Alexander Walters Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 802, which encompassed 253.66 acres out of two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL738, 41BL741, and 41BL851.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL158 is located from 1853 until the early 1870s, when Alexander Walters had sold portions of his land, but retained approximately 150 acres in the Walters Survey, see the site history for 41BL873.

Alexander Walters continued to own the property on which 41BL158 is located until he died, apparently between 1870 and 1875. His widow, Sarah, appears to have inherited the land, although records available from Fort Hood do not clearly establish this fact. Bell County assessed Sarah Walters for the land at a value that suggests the presence of improvements; the assessment also included tools and livestock that indicate that Walters lived on the property and operated a small farm there (1870a, 1875a, 1880a, 1885a). Clearly, the 150-acre parcel was improved at this time.

There is a break in the chain of title between Sarah Walters and Ed S. Flint in the 1870s and 1880s. However, Flint apparently acquired the 150-acre parcel in the Alexander Walters Survey between 1885 and 1889. In October of the latter year, he sold the land, along with 110 acres in the Tilman Walters Survey, to J. L. Sellers for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 71:261). The purchase price suggests that one or both of the parcels were improved at that time. However, because all four sites are located on the 150-acre parcel (none is located on the 110-acre parcel), no firm connection can be established between improvements and sites.

In February 1890, Sellers conveyed the property back to Flint for cash and the cancellation of notes (BC, DR 77:76).

There is a break in the title chain between Flint in 1890 and D. R. Walton, who appears to have purchased the land from W. E. Kirk in 1903 (BC, DR 152:109). Walton borrowed $2,600 from the Federal Land Bank in 1921, using the 260 acres (150 acres in the Alexander Walters Survey and 110 acres in the Tilman Walters Survey) as collateral (BC, DR 335:215), an amount that suggests the presence of improvements.

In 1926, Walton conveyed the 150-acre and the 110-acre parcels, along with 222 acres to the north, to Imogene Kirkley for about $4,000 (BC, DR 371:571), a price that may indicate improvements. A year later, Kirkley and her husband, J. L., sold the 150-acre parcel and the 110-acre parcel to W. E. Monteith for a nominal consideration of $10 (BC, DR 380:362), thus providing no information regarding improvements.

Monteith held the land until 1943, when he sold it to G. W. Forehand Sr. for $3,500 (BC, DR 511:206), an amount that suggests that Monteith had further improved the land. On September 1, 1953, Forehand and his wife, Cannie, sold the two parcels, identified as Tract 802, to the U.S. government for $14,940 and the right to remove several structures, including a relatively large dwelling, garage, barn, sheds, and a water pump and tank (BC, DR 695:54). When the government

acquired Tract 802, it encompassed 253.66 acres in the Alexander Walters and the Tilman Walters Surveys and was the location of five sites: 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL738, 41BL741, and 41BL851.

Summary: Tract 802, which contains 41BL158 and four other historic sites, may have been occupied as early as 1853, when Alexander Walters claimed residency to satisfy preemption claim requirements. Although another site is located on the eastern portion of the Alexander 320-acre survey (see 41BL873, Tract 801), it is possible that the Alexander Walters homestead is located on Tract 802. Tax and land records suggest that Sarah Walters, Alexander's widow, continued to occupy and farm the property until at least 1885. It is probable that initial occupation occurred before 1885. However, the presence of multiple sites on the 150-acre Alexander Walters portion of Tract 802 precludes establishing strong connections between improvements and specific archeological sites.

Breaks in the chain of title cloud the facts regarding the presence of improvements and occupancy. A transaction in 1943 suggests the presence of improvements, and the government's acquisition in 1953 contains language reserving the right to remove structures, including a large dwelling and related outbuildings. It is possible, though not certain, that this dwelling might be associated with nineteenth-century occupation. It is also possible that these structures were built in the twentieth century, and that the earlier improvements on the property had fallen into disrepair by 1953.

Site 41BL186 (Tract 903)

Site History: Site 41BL186 is located in the east-central portion of the 1,476-acre Harwood Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 903, which encompassed 596 acres in the Jones Survey and contained two sites, 41BL186 and 41BL404.

For the legal history of the land where 41BL186 is located from 1846 until 1870, when N. Mayblum purchased the Jones Survey, see the site history for 41BL838.

Pursuant to a judgment rendered in Fort Bend County District Court, W. S. Rather, Bell County Sheriff, auctioned 819 acres of the Jones Survey to James Jones for $550 in May 1878 (BC, DR 29:620). The property consisted of all of the Jones Survey less several tracts that Mayblum had sold previously, and included the land where 41BL186 is located. In May 1881, W. S. Blanton, Bell County Sheriff, auctioned the 819-acre parcel to J. Z. Miller for $155 (BC, DR 36:428). The sheriff sold the property to satisfy a judgment against James Jones in the Bell County District Court. Jones's use and occupancy are uncertain (1877a, 1879a).

Between 1881 and 1884, the 819-acre parcel was owned by Miller (1881–1882) and the GC&SF (1882–1884) (BC, DR 39:577). Use and occupation of the property during this period are uncertain (1882a–1883a).

In 1884, the GC&SF sold a 57.88-acre parcel out of the 819 acres to D. Sutton for $109.92 (BC, DR 46:578). The 57.88 acres is the present-day location of 41BL186, and ad valorem tax records suggest that Sutton farmed the property and probably lived there as well (1886a).

Sutton and his wife, C., conveyed approximately 229 acres that included the 57.88-acre parcel to W. P. Wood for $1,200 in cash and notes in December 1886 (BC, DR 83:17). It is possible, thought not certain, that improvements associated with 41BL186 contributed to the relatively high purchase price. Wood and his wife, Effie, appear to have operated a mid-sized farm on the property and probably lived there (1893a).

W. P. Wood's heirs sold the 229-acre parcel to G. W. Cox for $1,730 in cash and notes in January 1898 (BC, DR 148:22). The purchase price suggests the presence of improvements.

Cox conveyed 295.1 acres that included the 57.88-acre parcel where 41BL186 is located to Ira Lane in December 1909 for $6,000, suggesting further improvements to the property (BC, DR 217:15). Lane his wife, Imogene, sold the 295.1-acre parcel to Mrs. A. Jordan in 1911; and Jordan conveyed the land to Tom White in 1911 (BC, DR 217:14; 218:563). The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements.

In 1921 and 1922, White's heirs sold their interests in 300.1 acres that included the 57.88-acre parcel where 41BL186 is located to W. C. Polk and A. G. Vick (BC, DR 329:392; 333:163, 634; 337:562; 339:167; 351:303). The purchase prices for these interests total $1,500, perhaps suggesting that the condition of the improvements on the property had declined.

Polk and Vick operated a ranch that included the 57.88-acre parcel where 41BL186

is located. However, their occupation of the property is not certain. For the legal history of the property from 1922 until 1944, when title to the ranch was held by A. G. Vick alone, see the site history for 41BL838.

In December 1944, Vick sold the southerly 596 acres of his property, including the 57.88-acre parcel where 41BL186 is located and the 114-acre parcel where 41BL404 is located, to J. J. Strackbein for $9,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 528:36). In April 1950, Strackbein and his wife, Vernia, conveyed the property to Joseph D. Whetstone for $10,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 614:353), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. However, because the property contains two sites (41BL186 and 41BL404), and because the offsetting 616-acre parcel containing only one site (41BL838) sold for the same amount, it is difficult to determine which site was more heavily improved.

In December 1953, the U.S. government condemned the land, along with an additional 564 acres, for a total of $58,370. The property, identified as Tract 903, encompassed 596 acres in the Harwood W. Jones Survey and contained two sites, 41BL186 and 41BL404.

Summary: The earliest owners of the 57.88-acre parcel in the 1,476-acre Harwood Jones Survey where 41BL186 is located appear to have lived or been headquartered outside Bell County or in parts of the county not currently part of Fort Hood. They include the heirs of Harwood Jones, as well as N. Mayblum, James Jones, J. Z. Miller, and the GC&SF.

D. Sutton, who owned the 57.88 acres where 41BL186 is located from 1884 to 1886, probably occupied the property. Ad valorem tax records indicate that W. P. Wood and his wife, Effie, lived on 229 acres that included the 57.88-acre parcel from 1886 until 1898. Land records also suggest the presence of improvements and possible occupation by G. W. Cox, who owned the property from 1898 to 1909. Tom White and his family may have lived on the land from 1911 until 1921.

Between 1921 and 1953, when the government acquired the property, the 57.88-acre parcel was part of a ranch that consisted of over 1,200 acres until 1944, and 596 acres after that date. Occupation of the 57.88 acres is less certain during this period. Although the purchase prices in the transactions indicate that the land was improved, the presence of two sites, 41BL186 and 41BL404, precludes determining the relative value of the parcels (57.88 acres and 114 acres, respectively) where the sites are located.

Site 41BL196 (Tract 1300)

Site History: Site 41BL196 is located in the southwestern portion of an 85-acre parcel out of the 160-acre Z. T. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1300, which encompassed 421 acres in four surveys.

In 1879, John Casey, Bell County Surveyor, surveyed 154 acres on Cowhouse Creek about 12 miles north of Belton for Z. T. Cartwright. J. F. Cartwright and F. M. Defoor assisted as chainmen. In 1880, Cartwright transferred his preemption claim to George M. White and authorized White to apply for a patent covering the 154-acre parcel. On December 12, 1881, White swore that he had been a bona fide settler on vacant public domain since November 1878. Ad valorem tax records suggest that White continued to farm and live on the property between 1881 and 1885.

In 1885, G. M. White and his wife, Mollie, conveyed a 100-acre parcel out of the Z. T. Cartwright Survey to Levi Paulk (BC DR 54:111). On October 29, 1886, J. W. Turner, Bell County Surveyor, filed corrected field notes for the Z. T. Cartwright Survey, describing the survey as containing 160 acres (BC SR D:292). Two days later, the State of Texas issued a patent to Levi Paulk, assignee of Z. T. Cartwright and George M. White, for the 160-acre Z. T. Cartwright Preemption Survey (Texas. General Land Office 1886b).

According to Bell County ad valorem tax records, Paulk owned the 85-acre parcel until 1903, and he appears to have occupied the land, using it as a small farmstead (1887a, 1892a, 1897a, 1903a, 1908a, 1909a, 1910a). There is a break in the ownership chain between Paulk (1903) and C. E. Harris (1918). Because Bell County apparently taxed an intervening owner during this period, it is unclear if that owner occupied the land.

On September 7, 1918, C. E. Harris and his wife, Ida, sold the 85-acre tract to J. M. Ray for $250 cash and the assumption by Ray of $2,450 due on Harris's note to George W. Cole Jr. (BC DR 253:617). Within 5 years, Ray had defaulted on the loan, and on February 23, 1923, Walter

Miller, trustee, sold the 85-acre parcel to the highest bidder, George W. Cole Jr. for $1,100 (BC DR 343:409).

A month later Cole and his wife, Mary J., sold the land to W. F. and D. L. Sellers, father and son, for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC DR 343:481). The Sellers then held the property intact until July 10, 1934, when W. F. Sellers and the heirs of his deceased wife, Martha A. Sellers, partitioned the land. They conveyed the 85-acre parcel in the Z. T. Cartwright Survey to D. L. Sellers, one of the couple's children and owner of a partial interest in the property (BC DR 439:420). In other transactions, D. L. Sellers acquired adjacent land, giving Tract 1300 its present-day size and shape. Then on November 1, 1940, he and wife, Aline Sellers, conveyed the 85-acre parcel in the Cartwright Survey and other land to W. C. Talley for $1,500 (BC DR 483:178).

On October 16, 1951, Talley and wife, Stella, sold the land to J. F. Jenkins for $9,100 (BC DR 645:566), a price that suggests the presence of substantial improvements. However, because Jenkins's land contains six sites (41BL196 and 41BL580 on the Cartwright Survey; 41BL540, 41BL544, and 41BL546 on the Defoor Survey; and 41BL587 on the Laws Survey), the association of sites and occupants is unclear. Jenkins retained ownership until March 11, 1954, when his 421 acres out of the Cartwright, Defoor, Laws, and Paulk Surveys were condemned by the U.S. government for $19,547.69 and were designated Tract 1300 (BC DR 700:466).

Summary: The 85-acre parcel on which 41BL196 is located may have been occupied by George M. White as early as 1878 and as late as 1885. Levi Paulk appears to have farmed and occupied the property from 1886 to the early twentieth century. Levi Paulk as early as 1886, and it appears that his occupation probably continued until the early twentieth century. Land and tax records suggest that Paulk used the land for a small farm operation. Other owners between 1918 and 1923 include C. E. Harris, J. M. Ray, and George W. Cole Jr. Land records from 1923 until the government acquired the tract in 1954 suggest improvement and probable occupation by D. L. Sellers, W. C. Talley, and J. F. Jenkins. However, multiple sites on Tract 1300, including two on the Cartwright portion, preclude firm connections between sites and specific owners.

Site 41BL199 (Tract 805)

Site History: Site 41BL199 is located in the northwest portion of the 282-acre M. F. Harmon Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 805 which encompassed 469.49 acres in six surveys and contained four sites: 41BL199, 41BL397, 41BL745, and 41BL746.

On November 12, 1853, M. F. Harmon swore that land that he had settled and improved was vacant public land that had not been filed upon nor surveyed. On the 18th of that month, F. M. Bigham, the Milam Land District Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes describing Harmon's 282 acres on Cowhouse Creek, about 9.5 miles northwest of Belton. Harmon and R. P. Bigham assisted in the survey as chainmen. In April 1857, J. C. Caddel, Bell County Clerk, certified that Harmon was entitled to a preemption claim on land on Cowhouse Creek because he had resided upon and cultivated it for 3 years prior to December 21, 1856. On August 15, 1860, the State of Texas patented the 282-acre tract to Harmon (Texas. General Land Office 1860b).

Less than 2 years later, in January 1862, Harmon sold just over 600 acres, including the 282-acre Harmon Survey, to Jesse Pitts for $2,000 (BC, DR I:406), an amount that possibly suggested the presence of improvements. Ten years later, in January 1872, Pitts conveyed 425 acres, including the 282-acre Harmon Survey, to John McDowell for $1,700 in cash and notes (BC, DR W:236), an amount that may have indicated that the property was further improved. In December 1872, McDowell and his wife, Caroline, sold the 425-acre parcel to J. M. Barnhart for $2,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR R:507). The rise in the price per acre suggests that the property was improved by 1872. However, because the Harmon Survey contains three sites (41BL199, 41BL745, and 41BL746), it is difficult to establish an association between the increasing value of the land and specific sites.

In September 1876, Barnhart and his wife, Maggie, conveyed 200 acres out of the Harmon and Smith Surveys to J. B. Bass and his wife, Margaret, for $2,000 (BC, DR 32:590), a price that indicates the presence of improvements. Site 41BL199 is the only recorded historic site on this 200-acre parcel.

There is a break in the chain of title between J. B. Bass in 1876 and W. J. Venable who owned

the property by 1882, when he sold 184 acres out of the 200-acre parcel to John E. Simpson for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 40:276). In September 1890, Simpson and his wife, M. E., conveyed a 50-acre parcel in the northwest corner of their property to J. F. Simpson for $100 (BC, DR 78:507), an amount that suggests something other than an arms-length transaction between disinterested parties. This theory is substantiated by the fact that, less than 6 months later, in February 1891, J. F. Simpson and his wife, L. A., sold the 50-acre parcel to F. M. Sanders for $450 (BC, DR 78:508), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In September 1892, Sanders and his wife, Emma, sold the 50-acre parcel, which appears to be the location of 41BL199, to N. E. Sellers for $500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 86:410).

Sellers acquired an adjacent 56-acre parcel and owned both tracts until his death sometime before 1916. In September of that year, his heirs conveyed their interests in the two tracts to Jesse W. Pierce $1,125 (BC, DR 286:463, 474), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In 1919, Pierce had the property resurveyed, and the field notes described a 55-acre parcel in the Harmon Survey and a 56.4-acre parcel in the west-adjacent J. F. Simpson Survey (BC, DR 304:521). Pierce also designated his homestead as being in Belton, suggesting that he did not occupy the property on which 41BL199 is located.

In February 1925, Pierce and his wife, Alice, conveyed the two parcels, now described as one tract containing 111.4 acres, to R. E. Sutton for $1,500 (BC, DR 363:193). In September of that same year, Sutton and his wife, C. E., sold the land to A. E. Doss for $1,700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 373:1). Less than 2 months later, Doss conveyed the property to A. J. Beville for $2,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 373:3). The purchase prices in these transactions suggest that the property was improved. As 41BL199 is the only recorded site on the 111.4-acre parcel, the improvements probably are associated with that site.

Beville attempted to sell the property several times in the 1920s and 1930s, but the buyers defaulted, and Beville got the land back (BC, DR 376:313; 403:345; 410:261; 423:515). However, in April 1950, Beville, his wife, Frances, and other members of his family conveyed the 111.4-acre parcel to Tom Bowles Jr. for $1,925 (BC, DR 614:387).

On March 11, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 469.48 acres in the M. F. Harmon, Martha Smith, Joseph Spoonts, C. C. Countess, J. M. Middleton, and J. F. Simpson Surveys (BC, DR 700:468). The land was identified as Tract 805, and Tom Bowles Jr. was identified as the owner. The government paid Bowles $47,055.96 as compensation for Tract 805 that contained the 469.89 acres, and for two Belton Reservoir tracts (B-113-1 and B-113-2) that together contained 154.2 acres.

Summary: Tract 805, on which 41BL199 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1853, when M. F. Harmon swore that he lived on and had improved 282 acres on Cowhouse Creek. That portion of the 282-acre parcel on which 41BL199 is located appears to have sold regularly for a price that reflected the presence of improvements. However, because the Harmon Survey portion of Tract 805 contains two other sites (41BL745 and 41BL746), it is difficult to establish which site may have been improved and occupied by Harmon.

By 1890, the property had been reduced to a 50-acre parcel in the northwest corner of the Harmon Survey. Site 41BL199 is located on this 50-acre parcel. Subsequent nineteenth-century owners of this land, who may have continued the occupation of the property, included Jesse Pitts, John McDowell, J. M. Barnhart, J. B. Bass, W. J. Venable, J. E. Simpson, J. F. Simpson, F. M. Sanders, and N. E. Sellers.

Occupation in the twentieth century is less clear, with one owner designating his homestead in the town of Belton, and another owner purchasing the property for the apparent purpose of speculation. By 1950, the 50-acre parcel had been combined with other land to form a larger tract.

Site 41BL204 (Tract 901)

Site History: Site 41BL204 is located in the central portion of the William Brown Survey. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 901, which encompassed land in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land where 41BL204 is located from 1838 until 1943, when P. R. Cox owned 350 acres in the Brown Survey, see the site history for 41BL846.

In May 1946, Cox sold the westerly 241 acres of his 350-acre parcel to R. H. Griggs and his

wife, Mary, for $3,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 548:190). On February 15, 1954, the Griggses conveyed their land, described as 227 acres in the William Brown Survey and identified as Tract 901, to the U.S. government for $13,090 (BC, DR 699:308), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The improvements probably can be associated with 41BL204, as this is the only recorded site located on the 227-acre parcel.

Summary: The earliest owners of the central portion of the William Brown Survey, where 41BL204 is located, apparently did not live in Bell County, and their use and occupancy are uncertain. Henry E. Keys owned the land where the sites are located in the early 1880s and operated a ranch on his property. However, his holdings included approximately 2,000 acres, so that establishing his occupancy of any portion of the property is difficult. I. A. McFaddin owned the ranch property that included the land where 41BL204 is located from 1883 until 1913. However, land and tax records indicate that McFaddin lived in Williamson County during this period.

Between 1914 and 1946, the 350-acre parcel where 41BL204 is located sold for prices that suggest the presence of improvements. Owners of significant duration during this period include R. L. Dockum (1914–1922), Sam Allen (1922–1931), and P. R. Cox (1943–1946).

R. H. Griggs and his wife, Mary, owned the western 227 acres of the 350-acre parcel where 41BL204 is located from 1946 until 1954, when they sold it to the U.S. government. They received $13,090 for the land, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL212 (Tract 1118)

Site History: Site 41BL212 is near the center of the west side of the 160-acre William Tuder Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1118, which encompassed 203 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL212 and 41BL678.

On July 23, 1864, William Tuder (elsewhere recorded as Tudor) stated that he was a settler on vacant public land, which he filed an application for. John Q. Allen, Bell County Surveyor, located 160 acres on the south side of the Leon River 2 days later, with Samuel Hunt and Tuder, himself, as chain carriers. The State of Texas patented the land to Tuder on August 19, 1864 (Texas. General Land Office 1864). Tuder may have resided on this land in 1864; however, by 1865, he probably resided on a lot he owned in Aiken (1865a–1866a).

Tuder sold his survey to F. M. Drake of Coryell County on January 30, 1866, for $500 (BC, DR J:100). Eight months later, Drake conveyed the land to J. C. Wise of Travis County for $600. The property probably was the location of buildings at this time (BC, DR J:160). Wise probably occupied the land between 1867 and 1872 (1867a, 1871a).

J. C. and C. H. Wise sold the 160 acres to P. F. Gates and William C. Evetts on February 2, 1872, for $1,000 (BC, DR 27:555). The following January, Evetts and Gates sold the land to D. A. Wallace for $1,200 (BC, DR S:152). D. A. and Eleanor Wallace conveyed the land back to Evetts on September 16, 1874, for $1,200 (BC, DR V:634). W. C. Evetts then sold the property to his wife, Alice J. Evetts, on September 17, 1877, for $2,824 (BC, DR 27:556). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1872 and 1883, since Evetts and his family probably resided on another, more heavily improved, parcel of land. However, the 160-acre Tuder Survey presumably sustained improvements since its appraised value increased to $500 (1872a–1874a, 1877a–1878a).

Alice J. Evetts and her husband, W. C., conveyed the 160 acres to W. R. Vestal on September 10, 1883, for $600 (BC, DR 45:588). The following September, W. R. and H. M. Vestal sold the property to Jesse J. Dodson for $800 (BC, DR 51:269). Jesse J. Dodson, of Coryell County, sold the 160 acres and an adjoining 50-acre parcel to David A. and M. G. (elsewhere recorded as M. Z.) Dodson on June 11, 1885, for $1,000 (BC, DR 53:46). On May 25, 1887, D. A. and M. G. Dodson conveyed the property back to Jesse J. Dodson for $1,000 (BC, DR 59:463). Jesse J. Dodson sold the 160 acres to J. W. Cox on October 4, 1887, for $950 (BC, DR 68:123). J. W. and A. M. Cox conveyed the 160 acres and an adjoining 50-acre parcel back to Jesse J. Dodson's heirs on September 27, 1890, for $730 (BC, DR 300:376). Although it appears unlikely that the property was owner-occupied from the 1880s through 1895, the land sales prices during this period indicate the likelihood of improvements (1888a–1891a, 1893a).

On July 12, 1895, the Dodson heirs sold the 160 acres and adjoining land to Edward Wilson for $500 (BC, DR 105:251). Six months later, Edward and Elizabeth Wilson conveyed the property to Andrew K. Knight for $850 (BC, DR 103:620). Knight probably resided on the property from 1896 until 1909 (1899a, 1908a). After that date, the 160 acres and some additional property were purchased on September 25, 1909, for $500 by W. B. Wilson (BC, DR 198:429); on December 15, 1911, for $1,000 by M. A. Rozell (BC, DR 300:377); on January 9, 1919, for $1,800 by J. W. White (BC, DR 304:126); on February 17, 1920, for $1,750 by C. N. Knight (BC, DR 316:329); on December 26, 1934, for $2,500 by T. A. Adams (BC, DR 435:126); on March 2, 1936, for $2,976.54 by R. L. Hallum Jr., who later moved to Sutton County (BC, DR 439:511); and on November 1, 1946, for $4,300 by C. W. and Lillie Estes (BC, DR 556:332). The Esteses retained title to the 160-acre Tuder Survey, on which 41BL212 and 41BL678 are located, and adjoining land until February 25, 1954, when the United States government acquired it for $4,630 (BC, DR 700:345).

Summary: William Tuder may have resided on his 160-acre survey in 1864; however, by 1865, he probably resided on a lot he owned in Aiken. F. M. Drake may have made improvements to the property between 1866 and 1867. J. C. Wise probably occupied the land between 1867 and 1872. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1872 and 1883; however, the Tuder Survey presumably sustained improvements during this period. Although it appears unlikely that the property was owner-occupied from the 1880s through 1895, the land sales prices during this period indicate the likelihood of improvements.

Andrew K. and Mary R. Knight probably resided on the Tuder Survey from 1896 until 1909. It is likely that the Tuder Survey, on which 41BL212 is located, retained improvements until the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the sales prices, which increased gradually during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1909 and 1954 include: W. B. Wilson (1909–1911), M. A. and M. M. Rozell (1911–1919), J. W. and Nannie White (also spelled Nannie Mae) (1919–1920), C. N. Knight (1920–1934), T. A. and Myrtle Adams (1934–1936), R. L. and Totsy Hallum Jr. (1936–1946), and C. W. and Lillie Estes (1946–1954).

Site 41BL214 (Tract 1217)

Site History: Site 41BL214 is located in the south-central portion of the 160-acre T. J. Wilkerson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1217, which encompassed 1,000 acres in seven surveys and contained three sites.

In September 1873, T. J. Wilkerson swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land. In December of that year, Ed F. Rucker, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Wilkerson's 160 acres on the waters of Bear Creek, about 10.5 miles northwest of Belton. Frank Elliott and Bailey Pruitt assisted as chainmen. In January 1874, Wilkerson swore that he had occupied and improved the property for 3 years as a homestead. In August 1874, E. E. Clark and J. P. Henderson swore that Wilkerson was head of a family. On August 24, 1874, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre parcel to Wilkerson (Texas. General Land Office 1874c).

In September 1875, Wilkerson sold his 160-acre preemption to B. F. and G. W. Stout for $600 in cash and notes (BC, DR W:301), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Even though there is no deed from the Stouts back to Wilkerson, it appears that they defaulted on the note and the land reverted back to Wilkerson. However, Wilkerson apparently had left Bell County. Between 1876 and 1895, Bell County listed the 160-acre T. J. Wilkerson Survey as being unrendered by anyone, suggesting that the property was unoccupied during this period (1874a, 1876a, 1878a, 1880a, 1885a, 1890a, 1895a).

T. J. Wilkerson died in 1896 and was survived by 11 children from 2 marriages; both of his wives predeceased him (BC, DR 307:379). Between 1899 and 1900, J. J. Bishop acquired the interests of the Wilkerson heirs either directly or through an intermediary (BC, DR 125:329; 126:276, 384; 129:145; 130:400–401). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Bishop may have lived on the property, but he also owned an adjoining 60-acre parcel that appears to have been more heavily improved (1900a).

In May 1901, Bishop and his wife, R. A., sold the 160-acre T. J. Wilkerson Survey to J. G. Brown for $1,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 132:264), a price that suggests that the property was improved. Tax records indicate that Brown farmed the property and may have lived there (1902a). However, Brown also acquired adjacent

property that was appraised for tax purposes at a higher value, suggesting that it was more improved than the 160-acre parcel (1905a).

Between 1906 and 1918, the 160-acre parcel was owned by Gardner (1906–1908), H. B. and J. A. West (1908–1911), J. G. Hearn (1911–1916), and Charles B. Smith (1916–1918) (BC, DR 198:182; 229:218; 283:261). The purchase prices in these transactions rose from $2,500 to $3,745, perhaps indicating that the property sustained further improvements during this period.

In 1918, Smith apparently experienced financial difficulty because the property was foreclosed upon and auctioned to J. G. Hearn for $4,500 (BC, DR 307:377, 380). In August 1920, Hearn and his wife, M. N., sold the 160-acre parcel to J. W. Pittman for $6,500 (BC, DR 320:548), a price that suggests further improvements.

Pittman and his wife, Esther, conveyed the 160 acres to J. B. West in 1936 for $2,650 (BC, DR 488:27), a price that perhaps reflects the then depressed agricultural economy. Five years later, in March 1941, West sold the property to R. K. Allen for more than $4,450 (BC, DR 488:366). In April 1942, Allen and his wife, Mattie, sold 1,000 acres that included the 160-acre T. J. Wilkerson Survey where 41BL214 is located, the 320-acre Tom B. Craig Survey where 41BL565 is located, and the northern portion of the H. K. Harrison Survey where 41BL601 is located, to Mrs. H. H. Storms for $12,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 499:205). The purchase price would indicate the presence of improvements. However, because the property contained three sites, a precise allocation of the purchase price to sites and land cannot be determined.

On March 3, 1954, Mrs. H. H. Storms sold the 1,000 acres, identified as Tract 1217, to the U.S. government for $44,475 and the right to remove a dwelling. When the government acquired the property, it was situated in the GC&SF, H. K. Harrison, J. T. W. J. Hallmark, Joe A. Hallum, J. E. Rowe, Tom B. Craig, and T. J. Wilkerson Surveys. At the time of purchase, Tract 1217 contained three sites—41BL214 in the Wilkerson Survey, 41BL565 in the Craig Survey, and 41BL601 in the Harrison Survey.

Summary: T. J. Wilkerson swore that he occupied and improved his 160-acre preemption survey, where 41BL214 is located, for 3 years beginning in January 1871. According to ad valorem tax records, however, the property may have been unoccupied from 1875 until 1900.

Early twentieth-century owners, including J. J. Bishop and J. G. Brown, appear to have farmed the property, but because they owned other, adjacent land, it remains unclear if they lived on the 160-acre Wilkerson Survey. Between 1906 and 1918, the property sold several times for purchase prices that indicate the presence of improvements.

Subsequent transactions suggest that the property was improved, although by the 1940s, the 160 acres was part of a much larger ranch, making firm associations between improvements and occupants difficult to determine. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved.

Site 41BL334 (Tract 1214)

Site History: Site 41BL334 is located in the western portion of the 320-acre Davidson Barnes Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1214, which encompassed 175 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL334 and 41BL901.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL334 is located from 1852 to 1857, when James Drake acquired the 320-acre Davidson Barnes Survey, see the site history for 41BL798.

Drake appears to have farmed the 320-acre property, and he may have lived there. Bell County assessed him for slaves, as well as farm stock and tools (1858a, 1862a). However, because Drake owned the entire 320-acre Davidson Barnes Survey, and because four sites are located on the survey (41BL798 and 41BL799 on the west half; 41BL334 and 41BL901 on the east half), a firm connection between Drake's occupancy and any given site cannot be determined.

By 1865, James Drake is absent from the Bell County tax rolls. There is a break in the chain of title between Drake and Frances [sic] Elliott, and neither individual is listed on the tax roll in 1870. However, beginning in 1875 and continuing through the end of the nineteenth century, Frances Elliott was assessed for the 160-acre parcel in the Davidson Barnes Survey and an adjoining 15-acre parcel in the Roswell Barnes Survey. He appears to have farmed and

lived on the property (1875a, 1880a, 1885a, 1890a, 1895a, 1900a).

By 1905, Frances Elliott and his wife, Elizabeth, had died. One of their heirs, Georgia Elliott Hawkins and her husband, George, conveyed their interest in the 175-acre parcel to George W. Cole Jr. for $75 (BC, DR 161:504), a price that suggests either a dramatic decline in the value of the improvements on the property or the existence of several other heirs. In September 1905, Nancy Yarborough, Bell County Precinct One Constable, sold D. M. Elliott's interest in the property to satisfy a judgment against Elliott to D. R. Walton for $50 (BC, DR 165:608).

In November 1923, George W. Cole Jr. conveyed all his interest in the 175-acre parcel to J. D. Elliott for $350 (BC, DR 349:30). A month later, D. R. Walton sold his interest in the property to Weldon Lee Walton for an unspecified sum (BC, DR 517:66). As a result of an apparent conflict in ownership, Weldon Lee Walton filed suit against John D. Elliott in 1938 to establish clear title (BC, DC Cause No. 22,852). The Bell County District Court ruled that the property be sold and the proceeds divided. In December 1938, W. A. Messer, acting on behalf of the court, sold the 175-acre parcel to Emma K. Fry for her high bid of $1,000 (BC, DR 465:329).

On November 16, 1953, Fry conveyed the 175-acre parcel, identified as Tract 1214, to the U.S. government for $11,075 and the right to remove a dwelling. At the time of the purchase, the tract encompassed 160 acres in the Davidson Barnes Survey and 15 acres in the adjacent Roswell Barnes Survey; and it contained two sites, 41BL334 and 41BL901, both located in the Davidson Barnes Survey.

Summary: The Davidson Barnes Survey may have been occupied as early as the late 1850s, when James Drake owned the survey. However, the locations of improvements established during his occupation remain uncertain.

Frances Elliott and his wife, Elizabeth, appear to have occupied 175 acres that consisted of the western 160-acre parcel of the Davidson Barnes Survey and the eastern 15 acres of the adjacent Roswell Barnes Survey from the mid-1870s until sometime between 1900 and 1905. Initial occupation most likely occurred during this period.

Apparently conflicting title claims arose between 1905 and 1938. Weldon Lee Walton eventually sued John D. Elliott to settle the conflicting claims. Emma K. Fry purchased the land from the court-appointed receiver in the case. Fry probably occupied the property until 1953, when she sold it to the government. The price and structure reservation suggest that the property was improved.

Site 41BL338 (Tract G-604)

Site History: Site 41BL338 is located in the south-central portion of the 320-acre John Hughes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract G-604, which encompassed 58.8 acres in the Hughes Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which site 41BL338 is located from 1852 until acquisition in 1954, see 41BL661.

Summary: John Hughes probably resided on his survey from 1853 until 1859. Hughes owned one slave in 1858, who presumably resided on the property also. James Drake resided on the land between 1859 and 1869 and owned three slaves in 1860, when they also may have resided on the Hughes Survey. Calvin Bland probably occupied the land from 1860 until 1877, and J. R. Taylor appears to have resided on the property from 1877 until 1901. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1901 and 1905. W. A. Connally probably resided on the land from 1905 until 1911. It remains unclear whether the Hughes Survey, on which 41BL338 and 41BL661 are located, was occupied after 1911, when the land had few, if any, improvements.

Site 41BL341 (Tract C-210)

Site History: Site 41BL341 is located in the central portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-210, which encompassed 370 acres in the Conley and Obadiah Taylor Surveys and contained three sites: 41BL341, 41BL464, and 41BL471.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL341 is located from 1838 to 1876, see 41BL447.

Amanda Cartwright of San Augustine County owned the entire Conley Survey until she began to sell parcels out of it in the late 1870s and during the 1880s. In 1876, Cartwright conveyed a 100-acre tract immediately south of Cowhouse Creek to Jarrett Eakin of Bell County for $500 (BC, DR 25:399). This tract is the location of present-day 41BL341. That year, Eakin only paid taxes on seven cattle worth $65 (1876a). However, the next year Eakin paid taxes on the 100 acres in the Conley Survey, which were valued at $600. He also paid taxes on $5 worth of manufacturer's tools or implements, nine hogs worth $10, and $35 in miscellaneous property (1877a). These values suggest that Eakin probably lived on the property and had improved it, and that he possibly was engaging in limited agriculture.

In 1881, Eakin and his wife, Amanda, conveyed the 100 acres out of the Conley Survey to Bruce Harrell of Bell County in consideration of $800 in cash and notes (BC, DR 37:355). Harrell and his wife, Mary Thomas Harrell, retained ownership of the 100 acres until 1885, when they conveyed it to F. M. Jones of Bell County for $660 in cash and notes (BC, DR 87:379). In 1892, Jones and his wife, M. A. Jones, conveyed two tracts out of the Conley Survey to E. J. Carter for $1,000 cash and $1,000 in notes. The property consisted of two adjacent tracts, a 95.5-acre tract and the 100-acre tract on which present-day 41BL341 is located (BC, DR 88:152).

Carter and his wife, Martha Jane, had large landholdings in several surveys. Members of the family lived on and cultivated the Carter lands. During that period of use, the J. L. Smith family also lived on the property as tenants and worked for Carter. According to J. L. Smith, the Carter property had been completely fenced with a good and substantial fence capable of turning stock for a period of more than 40 years since ca. 1900 (BC, DR 517:496). In 1928, in order to partition the total lands amongst their heirs, Carter and his wife conveyed a parcel out of the Conley Survey to their daughter, Kate Fulwiler, and her husband, Joe Fulwiler Jr. Although the deed was effective at the time of the conveyance, Carter reserved the right to rents and profits off the land and agreed to pay the taxes until his death in 1943. The acreage was not specified, but the legal description corresponds to the same two tracts equaling 195.5 acres that Carter had purchased from Jones. The deed also noted that the Gatesville Public Road ran along the western perimeter of the property (BC, DR 503:499).

Carter died in 1943, and the next year Kate Fulwiler, now a feme sole residing in Lubbock County, conveyed the 95.5-acre and the 100-acre tracts to Clyde W. Watson and his wife, Leona, for $3,500; the Watsons were Fulwiler's brother-in-law and sister. The deed mentioned the presence of both a wire partition fence and an old rock fence on the property (BC, DR 515:482). The Watsons also owned land in the Taylor Survey where 41BL464 is located.

Watson and his wife conveyed the land out of the Conley Survey on which present-day 41BL341 and 41BL471 are located to the United States government on July 10, 1953, for $39,260. In that deed, they retained the right to remove a hay shed, tenant house, and log barn (BC, DR 689:202). This list of improvements suggests that Watson lived elsewhere and had tenants occupying and farming the property.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied in the early 1860s. However, it appears that the earliest owners of the survey did not reside in Bell County. Jarrett Eakin (1876–1881) appears to have lived on the property and improved it. From 1881 until 1892, owners consisted of Bruce Harrell and F. M. Jones, whose residency status remains unclear. From 1892 until 1943, E. J. Carter owned the property as part of larger landholdings. The Carter family, as well as tenants, lived on and used the property, although the exact locations of improvements are unknown. Clyde W. Watson apparently had tenants in occupation from 1944 until 1953.

Site 41BL342 (Tract 819)

Site History: Site 41BL342 is located in the northeastern portion of the 640-acre F. S. Shackelford Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was a part of Tract 819, which encompassed 1,374.26 acres in four surveys and contained five sites: 41BL342, 41BL422, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752.

On January 28, 1839, the Republic of Texas issued a certificate (No. 794) to the heirs of F. S. Shackelford for 640 acres as a bounty for his military service to the Republic. The certificate

noted that Shackelford was killed with Fannin at Goliad in March 1836. In April 1840, J. B. Erath, Milam County Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes describing Shackelford's 640 acres on Nolan (also appears as Nolan's, Noland's, and Noland Creek) and Cowhouse Creeks about 25 miles above the three forks of the Little River. John Davis and Alfred Maury assisted as chainmen. On February 8, 1846, the State of Texas patented the 640-acre survey to the heirs of F. S. Shackelford (Texas. General Land Office 1846a).

The Shackelford heirs conveyed the 640-acre survey to James E. Saunders in October 1849 for $320 (BC, DR A:86). Saunders sold the property to Isaac Scoggin in November 1870 for $640 (BC, DR N:440). Scoggin and his wife, N. L., conveyed 175 acres out of the northeastern portion of the Shackelford Survey to D. R. May in June 1892 for $2,652 (BC, DR 84:547). This increase in the value of the property between 1870 and 1892 suggests the presence of improvements. However, the parcel contained another known site (see 41BL211, Tract I-413), that was part of the 1942 acquisition of Fort Hood lands (Stabler 1999:41–42). Therefore, it is difficult to determine whether the improvements were associated with 41BL342 or 41BL211, or both.

In 1893, D. R. May and his wife, Ella, sold the property to A. W. Jordan for $3,000 (BC, DR 91:57). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Jordan lived on the property between 1893 and 1897. He and his wife, Olive, then conveyed the 175 acres out of the Shackelford Survey to Mary Jane Jordan in October 1897 for $3,000 (BC, DR 117:432), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In August 1900, Jordan sold the 175 acres out of the Shackelford Survey and a 140-acre parcel out of the Mary Harris Survey to J. P. Hellums for $5,250 in cash and notes (BC, DR 129:217). In 1903, Hellums and his wife, H. B., conveyed the property to A. P. Jordan for $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 161:561). Jordan conveyed the 175-acre parcel to W. B. Shirley in September 1905 for $3,000 (BC, DR 163:409). In January 1907, Shirley and his wife, Nora, sold the 175 acres to M. N. Walton for $4,000 (BC, DR 174:554). The prices associated with these transactions indicate the presence of improvements, but whether the improvements were located on the eastern or western portion of the 175 acres cannot be determined.

Walton and his second wife, Maggie M., apparently resided on land in the J. Halfpenny Survey between 1908 and 1926, when M. N. Walton died (BC, DR 198:583). Subsequent to his death, his widow, Maggie, and a son-in-law, W. V. Robinson, began acquiring the interests of the other heirs in the land owned by the M. N. Walton Estate (BC, DR 380:620; 386:618, 625; 394:639; 395:626–627; 402:480). In 1930, W. V. Robinson and his wife, Faxie W., sold their interest in the 175-acre parcel in the Shackelford Survey and other, adjacent, land to Maggie Walton (BC, DR 403:38). In 1932, Maggie Walton sold the 175 acres and other land to the Robinsons for $11,900 (BC, DR 417:126). The substantial cost associated with this transaction suggests the presence of improvements.

W. V. and Faxie Robinson retained title to their property, which included the 175 acres, until the government condemned the western portion of the land in 1942. In 1954, the Robinsons conveyed an additional 1,374.26 acres that included the eastern remnant of the 175 acres out of the Shackleford Survey to the U.S. government for $63,150 and the right to remove a tenant house and two barns (BC, DR 703:89). The property encompassed land in the Shackelford, John Slaburn, James Conley, and Mary Harris Surveys and contained five sites—41BL342 in the Shackelford Survey; 41BL422, 41BL423, and 41BL752 in the Slaburn Survey; and 41BL447 in the Conley Survey.

Summary: Portions of the F. S. Shackelford Survey appear to have been occupied by the early 1870s when Isaac Scoggin owned the 640-acre survey. The price paid in 1892 for the 175-acre parcel on which 41BL342 is located also indicates that the parcel was improved by the time of the sale to D. R. May. Prices paid by other late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century owners suggest that the property was improved and occupied by those individuals who included A. W. Jordan, Mary Jane Jordan, J. P. Hellums, and W. B. Shirley.

M. N. Walton owned the property from 1907 until his death in 1926, but it appears that he lived elsewhere in the area. Walton's widow may have rented the property between 1926 and 1932, when she sold the land to her son-in-law, W. V. Robinson.

Robinson and his wife, Faxie, owned the 175 acres until 1942, when the government condemned the western portion which contained

another site (see 41BL211, Tract I-413, 1940s acquisition). In 1954, the Robinsons sold 1,374.26 acres, identified as Tract 819, to the U.S. government. The price and reservation of the right to remove existing structures suggest the presence of improvements, but the location and the Robinsons' use of those improvements remains uncertain.

Site 41BL344 (Tract 1133)

Site History: Site 41BL344 is near the southeast corner of the 160-acre E. T. Eakin Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1133, which encompassed 2 acres in one survey and contained one site.

On April 26, 1873, E. T. Eakin stated that he was a settler on vacant public land. Ed Rucker located 160 acres on the Leon River and Cowhouse Creeks on November 18, 1873, with W. F. Bleeker (also spelled Bluker, Bleeken, and Bleecker) and Samuel W. Bishop serving as chain carriers. E. T. and S. E. Eakin transferred their interest in the claim to Francis (elsewhere recorded as Frances) Bleeker on September 5, 1874, for $200. Bleeker sold his rights to the claim to L. C. Arvin on January 15, 1875, for an undisclosed amount. On July 17, 1876, Arvin stated that he was a settler on the property, and that he had occupied and improved it for 3 consecutive years. The State of Texas patented the land to Arvin, assignee, on July 31, 1876 (Texas. General Land Office 1876b).

L. C. and S. E. Arvin sold the survey to Samuel W. Bishop on July 24, 1876, for $100 (BC, DR 26:465). Bishop probably resided on his own preemption survey between 1876 and 1888, and it is unclear whether the Eakin Survey was occupied during this period (1877a, 1881a, 1887a).

Samuel W. and D. J. Bishop conveyed the 160-acre Eakin Survey and an adjoining 60 acres out of the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL345, 41BL477, and 41BL479 are located, to brothers T. E. Tomlinson and J. D. Tomlinson on May 25, 1888, for $1,500 (BC, DR 64:168). J. D. and Sallie F. Tomlinson then conveyed their half interest in the Eakin Survey and the Bishop Survey to his brother, T. E. Tomlinson, for $1,000 (BC, DR 71:522). T. E. Tomlinson probably resided on more-heavily improved land between 1888 and the early 1890s, when he moved to Hillsboro (1890a, 1895a). It remains unclear whether the Eakin Survey was occupied from the 1890s through the 1900s, when it had few, if any, improvements (1890a, 1895a, 1899a, 1908a).

T. E. and Laura Tomlinson sold the Eakin Survey to S. J. Crawford on February 12, 1900, for $2,000. This transaction also included the 60 acres out of the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL345, 41BL477, and 41BL479 are located; 72.25 acres out of the W. F. Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL610 is located; and 7.75 acres out of the H. K. Harrison Survey, on which 41BL474 is located (BC, DR 146:509). Crawford probably occupied the land between 1901 and 1903; however, it remains unclear which parcel included his home (1902a).

S. J. Bettie Crawford conveyed the property back to the Tomlinsons on March 18, 1903, for cancellation of their debt (BC, DR 149:260). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1903 and 1909 (1904a, 1908a).

T. E. and Laura Tomlinson sold the Eakin Survey to W. B. McGarity on January 9, 1909, for $3,000. This transaction also included the 60 acres out of the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL345, 41BL477, and 41BL479 are located; 72.25 acres out of the W. F. Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL610 is located; and 7.75 acres out of the H. K. Harrison Survey, on which 41BL474 is located (BC, DR 191:396). McGarity resided in Belton (1910a).

Following McGarity's death, his widow, Roy O. McGarity, kept the Eakin Survey intact until October 1922, when she conveyed 2 acres out of the southeast corner of the Eakin Survey to the Union Hill School District (No. 88) for $1 (BC, DR 341:86).

The school retained ownership of the 2 acres out of the Eakin Survey, on which 41BL344 is located, until April 22, 1954, when the United States government acquired the property for $4,650 (BC, DR 706:206).

Summary: E. T. Eakin probably resided on his preemption survey briefly in 1873. L. C. Arvin probably occupied the land from about 1875 until 1876. It appears unlikely that the Eakin Survey was occupied between 1876 and 1901. S. J. Crawford may have occupied the property between 1901 and 1903. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1903 and 1910. In 1922, the two acres out of the Eakin Survey, on which 41BL344 is located, were conveyed to the Union Hill School District. The school district owned the land until 1954.

Site 41BL345 (Tract 1131)

Site History: Site 41BL345 is in the southwest portion of the 160-acre Samuel W. Bishop Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1131, which encompassed 40 acres in one survey and contained one site.

On December 24, 1868, G. W. Walton surveyed 160 acres on the ridge between Cowhouse Creek and the Leon River, with Robert Gage and Asa Reed serving as chain carriers. In May 1871, Samuel W. Bishop was settled on 160 acres of vacant public land and had occupied and improved the land as a homestead for 3 consecutive years. The State of Texas issued a patent to Bishop on June 7, 1871 (Texas. General Land Office 1871b; BC, DR 442:367). Bishop probably resided on his survey from 1868 until 1881 (1872a, 1879a), and he is believed to have resided on a 60-acre parcel of land out of the south and west sides of his survey from 1881 until 1888 (1883a, 1887a).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL345 is located from 1888 to 1909, see 41BL344.

W. B. McGarity had acquired the 60 acres out of the south and west sides of the Bishop Survey in 1909 (BC, DR 191:396). However, it remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1909 and 1922, when McGarity and his wife resided in Belton (1910a). Following W. B. McGarity's death, his widow, Roy O. McGarity, sold 51 acres out of the western and southern portions of the Bishop Survey and 10 acres out of the E. T. Eakin Survey to W. I. Beasley on April 19, 1922, for $1,020 (BC, DR 422:633). W. I. and Katie Beasley conveyed 40 acres out of the southern and western portions of the Bishop Survey and 10 acres out of the Eakin Survey back to Mrs. McGarity on December 28, 1928, for an undisclosed amount (BC, DR 422:637). McGarity still resided in Belton at this time; thus, it remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1928 and 1933 (1930a). McGarity then sold the 40 acres and other land to W. R. West on November 29, 1933, for $400 (BC, DR 421:425). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1933 and 1939, when West probably resided on more-heavily improved land (1935a). West died in 1939.

The following year, West's son and daughter-in-law, C. H. and Virgie West, sold the 40 acres to Gladys Hunt on April 22, 1940, for $500 (BC, DR 538:142). Hunt's daughter and son-in-law conveyed their interest in the property to her mother on January 28, 1946 (BC, DR 544:201). Hunt sold her interest in the 40 acres to Annie Laura Flanders on March 8, 1946, for $600 (BC, DR 544:201). That same day, Hunt also conveyed her minor heirs's interest in the property to Flanders for $200 (BC, DR 544:202).

Flanders, a widow, retained the 40 acres out of the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL345 is located, until the United States government acquired it on November 16, 1953, for $3,935. When the government acquired the property it was the location of a dwelling, chicken house, privy, and cow shed (BC, DR 698:252).

Summary: Samuel W. Bishop appears to have resided on his survey from 1868 until 1881. Between 1881 and 1888, he probably resided on a 60-acre parcel out of his survey. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1888 and 1901. S. J. Crawford may have occupied the property between 1901 and 1903, but it remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1903 and 1922. It also remains unclear who may have occupied the 40 acres out of the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL345 is located, through the mid-twentieth century, since the property retained improvements until 1954. However, possible owner-occupants of the property between 1922 and 1954 include: W. I. and Katie Beasley (1922–1928), Gladys Hunt (1940–1946), and Annie Laura Flanders (1946–1953).

Site 41BL350 (Tract 706)

Site History: Site 41BL350 is located in the northwestern portion of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 706, which consisted of 796 acres in two surveys and contained sites 41BL350 and 41BL809.

On June 8, 1838, the Robertson County Board of Land Commissioners issued a headright land warrant (No. 170) to G. A. Wilkinson, administrator for the estate of Wiley Jones, deceased. The warrant set out that Jones was a married man and was entitled to 1 league and 1 labor of land. In 1840, G. D. Erath, deputy surveyor for the Milam District, surveyed a tract of 4,605 acres situated on Nolan Creek about 12

miles above the forks of the Little River. Patrick Cornell, Sibley Jones, and John McLennan assisted as chainmen. On July 1, 1845, the Republic of Texas patented the 26-labor tract (4,605 acres) to the heirs of Wiley Jones, deceased (Texas. General Land Office 1845e).

In March 1853, the Wiley Jones heirs partitioned the land. Albert Jones (also spelled Elbert Jones) received the northwestern portion of the northern one-half of the survey, which contained approximately 875 acres (BC, DR H:564). Site 41BL350 is located on a portion of this 875-acre parcel. It is unclear if Albert used or occupied the land (1854a, 1857a, 1860a, 1865a).

On March 5, 1868, Albert Jones sold a 237.5-acre parcel of his land to R. G. Hampton for $250 (BC, DR K:126)—a price that suggests the property was unimproved. Hampton may have lived on the land and appears to have maintained a small farm operation there (1870a, 1872a). Site 41BL350 appears to be located on this 237.5-acre parcel.

In June 1871, Hampton and his wife, Julia, conveyed the property to X. B. Saunders for $300 (BC, DR O:157). Saunders acquired adjacent land over the nearly 50 years he owned the property. Bell County tax records indicate that he operated a small ranch and suggest that he improved it, especially around the turn of the century. However, Saunders apparently lived in Belton throughout the period (1877a, 1887a, 1897a, 1907a).

By 1917, both Saunders and his wife, Annie, were deceased. On February 22 of that year, their heirs sold 834.5 acres out of the Wiley Jones Survey and the 104 acres out of the David Russell Survey to J. C. Damron for $10,000 (BC, DR 285:101). Between 1917 and 1922, the land was owned by Damron (1917–1918), H. J. Scharnberg (1918–1921), and W. H. Hartwick (1921–1922) (BC, DR 296:128; 327:291), and the purchase price rose from $9,000 (Damron to Scharnberg) to $15,000 (Scharnberg to Hartwick). These prices suggest the presence of improvements, but it is unclear if any of the owners occupied the land.

On July 22, 1922, Hartwick and his wife, Mary, sold the property, along with other land, to James W. Smith for $14,300 (BC, DR 334:530). Smith owned the property for more than 20 years, although it is unclear if he lived there.

In June 1945, Smith and his wife, Willie, conveyed the property to Henry Seale and Thomas H. Seale for $17,200 (BC, DR 537:547). The purchase price suggests that the property was improved, but the Seales's use and occupancy are uncertain.

There is a break in the chain of title from Henry and Thomas Seale. However, in November 1951, C. C. Fulwiler and his wife, Ella, sold a 796-acre parcel in the Wiley Jones and David Russell Surveys to Tom Smith for $10 and an exchange of other property (BC, DR 656:29). In 1953, Ted Whitlow, W. F. Cowan and K. M. Cowan swore that the 796-acre tract had been in the possession of Tom A. Smith and his wife, Ruth, and their predecessors in title for more that 25 years, and that the Smiths and their predecessors had cultivated and grazed the land with no adverse claims (BC, DR 695:367).

On October 23, 1953, the Smiths conveyed the 796-acre tract to the U.S. government for $45,000 (BC, DR 695:369). In addition to the cash consideration, the Smiths reserved the right to remove several structures from the property, including barns, chicken houses, and a loading chute. The land comprises Tract 706 and is located in the Wiley Jones and David Russell Surveys.

Summary: Tract 706, on which 41BL350 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1853–1868, when Albert Jones owned 875 acres; or when R. G. Hampton owned a 237.5-acre parcel out of the central portion of the tract. X. B. Saunders and his wife, Annie, owned the 237.6-acre parcel, along with other land in the Jones Survey between 1871 and 1917. Evidence suggests that they improved the property and used it as a ranch, but their occupation is uncertain.

Subsequent owners used the property for ranching purposes, and the purchase prices suggest the presence of improvements and occupation. These owners include J. C. Damron, H. J. Scharnberg, W. H. Hartwick, James W. Smith, Henry and Thomas Seale, C. C. Fulwiler, and Tom Smith.

In 1953, when Tom Smith and his wife, Ruth, sold their land to the U.S. government, they reserved the right to remove several structures. At that time the tract consisted of 796 acres in the Wiley Jones and David Russell Surveys.

Site 41BL352 (Tract 1126)

Site History: Site 41BL352 is near the center of the 160-acre Robert C. Gage Survey in

Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1126, which encompassed 750 acres in six surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL352, 41BL478, 41BL483, 41BL484, 41BL659, 41BL664, and 41BL666.

On December 24, 1868, Robert C. Gage stated that he had settled and improved land between Cowhouse Creek and the Leon River. That same day, L. G. W. Walton, Deputy County Surveyor, located 160 acres on the divide between Cowhouse Creek and the Leon River, with Asa Reed and Samuel W. Bishop serving as chain carriers. In May 1871, Gage stated that he had occupied and improved the property as a homestead since January 1, 1868. The State of Texas patented the land to Gage on June 5, 1871 (Texas. General Land Office 1871d; BC, DR 27:48). Gage probably occupied the land from 1868 until 1875 (1872a, 1874a).

Gage and his wife, Tennessee, sold the 160 acres to J. Y. O'Hair and W. R. O'Hair on October 20, 1876, for $350 (BC, DR 27:49). Five months later, the O'Hairs conveyed the property to G. W. and Elizabeth Shephard for $450 (BC, DR 29:45). J. Y. O'Hair and W. R. O'Hair filed suit against the Shepards and, as the result of the judgment rendered, the Shepards forfeited the 160 acres to the Bell County Sheriff. The property was sold at public auction to A. J. Harris on January 3, 1880, for $100 (BC, DR 32:587). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied during the late 1870s; however, it is apparent that the property had few, if any, improvements by 1880 ,76a; 1878a, 1880a).

Harris sold the 160 acres to Walter Gresham on June 16, 1880, for $10 (BC, DR 35:376). Gresham, of Galveston, conveyed the property to the GC&SF on January 19, 1882, for $10 (BC, DR 38:587). The property remained unimproved between 1880 and 1882 (1881a).

The GC&SF sold the Gage Survey, along with 14 other parcels of land in Bell County, to Henry J. Runge, of Galveston, on February 2, 1889, for $2,756.26 (BC, DR 68:479). Two months later, Runge conveyed the Gage Survey to F. M. Denman for $320 (BC, DR 125:504). Denman was not taxed for the Gage Survey during the 1890s; instead, another party probably rendered taxes on the land. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and 1899 (1895a–1897a).

On May 19, 1899, F. M. and Mamie Denman sold the 160-acre Gage Survey, on which 41BL352, 41BL478, and 41BL659 are located, and the 160-acre E. E. Clark Survey, on which 41BL664 and 41BL666 are located, to S. B. Bishop for $1,000 (BC, DR 124:481). It is unclear whether Bishop occupied the property between 1899 and 1902 (1900a–1902a).

S. B. and Rosa Bishop conveyed the east half of the Gage Survey and another parcel of land to D. R. Walton on July 1, 1902, for $800 (BC, DR 144:80). Walton probably resided on more heavily improved land he owned, and the 80 acres out of the Gage Survey most likely had few, if any, improvements until at least 1915 (1908a, 1915a).

Walton sold the eastern 80 acres of the Gage Survey to H. R. Hunt and J. M. Hunt on December 1, 1916, for $2,800 (BC, DR 282:469). It appears that H. R. Hunt may have occupied the property between 1916 and 1920 (1919a).

H. R. Hunt and J. M. Hunt, with their respective wives, conveyed the 80 acres back to Walton on September 30, 1920, for cancellation of their debt (BC, DR 324:190). That day, Walton sold the property to Sam Tweedle for $3,000 (BC, DR 323:555). Tweedle probably resided on the land between 1920 and 1927 (1922a).

Tweedle defaulted on payment, and the land was sold at public auction to W. E. Montieth on October 4, 1927, for $500 (BC, DR 384:339). W. E. and Vera M. Montieth, of Harrison County, sold the 80 acres to John Weaks on February 23, 1933, for $700 (BC, DR 419:446). Weaks claimed the property as his homestead and probably resided on the land from 1933 until 1936 (1933a).

John and Ethel Weaks conveyed the property to C. O. Watkins on June 2, 1936, for $400 (BC, DR 445:295), and he probably occupied the Gage Survey from 1936 until 1938 (1937a). C. O. and Sudie Watkins sold the 80 acres to Mat L. Bosl Jr. on February 5, 1938, for $410 (BC, DR 463:20). Bosl probably occupied the Gage Survey between 1938 and 1946 (1938a).

Mat L. and Elizabeth Bosl Jr. sold 750 acres, comprised of seven different parcels of land, to Clarence and Anna Mae Bierschwale on October 8, 1946, for $18,225. The transaction included the eastern 80 acres out of the Gage Survey, on which 41BL352, 41BL478, and 41BL659 are located; the western 167 acres out of the Matias Curvier (also spelled Mateas, Curvien, or Cuvier) Survey, on which 41BL483 and 41BL484 are located; the northern 80 acres of the E. E. Clark Survey, on which 41BL664

and 41BL666 are located; and other land (BC, DR 556:60; 695:466).

The Bierschwales retained title to the 80 acres out of the Gage Survey, on which 41BL352, 41BL478, and 41BL659 are located, until December 2, 1953, when they sold the property to the United States government for $40,930. This transaction also included the western 167 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL483 and 41BL484 are located; and the northern 80 acres of the Clark Survey, on which 41BL664 and 41BL666 are located (BC, DR 695:464).

Summary: Robert C. Gage probably occupied his survey from 1868 until 1875. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied during the late 1870s; however, it is apparent that the property had few additional improvements until at least 1882. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and 1915. It appears that H. R. Hunt may have occupied the property between 1916 and 1920. Sam Tweedle probably resided on the land between 1920 and 1927. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1927 and 1933. John Weaks claimed the property as his homestead and probably resided on the land from 1933 until 1936. C. O. Watkins probably occupied the Gage Survey from 1936 until 1938, and Mat L. Bosl Jr. probably occupied the Gage Survey, on which 41BL352 and two other sites are located, between 1938 and 1946.

Site 41BL396 (Tract B-113-1)

Site History: Site 41BL396 is located in the north-central portion of the 320-acre Joseph Spoonts Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract B-113-1, which encompassed 145.5 acres in three surveys (Joseph Spoonts, Martha Smith, and M. F. Harmon) and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL396 is located between 1854 and 1867, see 41BL397.

In 1873, William D. Northcut sold a 75-acre tract out of the northwest portion of the Spoonts Survey to G. P. Herbert of Bell County for $250 (BC, DR T:253). This property remained in the ownership of the Herbert family until 1905. In that year, the heirs of G. P. and Martha Herbert were Alice Youmans, J. C. Youmans, K. R. Herbert, Gladiola Herbert, J. P. Herbert, Elmer Herbert, and Dewitt Herbert who, together, conveyed the 75 acres to J. Z. Herbert of Bell County in consideration of $600 (BC, DR 208:616). In 1912, Herbert and his wife, Eliza, conveyed the 75 acres, on which present-day 41BL396 is located, to A. L. Vandyke [also spelled Van Dyke] of Bell County for $600 in cash and notes (BC, DR 238:6). At the time of the conveyance, Vandyke also signed a deed of trust on the property with E. C. Clabaugh as trustee (BC, DR 168:518).

In 1925, Vandyke and his wife, Rosa Lee, conveyed three tracts, including the 75 acres out of the Spoonts Survey, to C. C. Holland and E. L. Waters [also spelled Watters] of Bell County in consideration of $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 364:514). The next year, E. L. Waters and his wife, Willie Mae, along with C. C. Holland conveyed the same three tracts, including the 75 acres, to R. T. Howell and his wife, Alma, of Bell County for $5,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 372:567).

The Howells retained ownership of the property until 1933, at which time Howell filed an affidavit stating that his homestead was located on his property in the Middleton, Harmon, and Spoonts Surveys, although a more precise location was not provided (BC, DR 455:158). In that year, Howell conveyed the same three tracts of land to D. O. Morgan for $3,200 in cash and notes owned by the Federal Land Bank of Houston. The original deed for this 1933 transaction was lost in a fire, and a replacement deed was filed in 1936 (BC, DR 448:557).

In 1937, Morgan and his wife, Hattie, of Bell County conveyed the three tracts, including the 75 acres out of the Spoonts Survey on which 41BL396 is located, to V. C. Farland for $1,000 in cash and notes owned by the bank (BC, DR 456:45). By 1939 the note on the property was in default, and the bank began proceedings to collect on the debt. The property was foreclosed and sold at auction on December 5, 1939, to the Federal Land Bank of Houston in consideration of $900, the highest bid (BC, DR 476:298).

In 1940, Tom G. Bowles Jr. purchased 219 acres out of three surveys from the Federal Land Bank of Houston for $1,400 in cash and notes. That acreage included 55.5 acres out of the Spoonts Survey, on which present-day 41BL396 is located, and which formerly had been security on a loan with the bank. The deed

noted the presence of both crops and tenants on the property (BC, DR 484:47). On March 11, 1954, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Waco Division, settled Civil Case No. 1515, in which the United States government acquired a total of 2,477.79 acres in 14 tracts from Tom G. Bowles Jr. et al. for $134,945. One of those tracts was Tract B-113-1, 145.5 acres out of the Spoonts, Smith, and Harmon Surveys, on which present-day 41BL396 is located (BC, DR 700:466–476).

Summary: It is not known if William and Y. E. Hensley occupied the Joseph Spoonts Survey prior to 1867. The survey appears to have been occupied as early as 1867, when W. D. Northcut owned it and was known to have a homestead there. From 1873 until 1912, the property was owned by the Herbert family, suggesting occupation by members of that family. A. L. Vandyke owned the land from 1912 until 1925, along with a debt on the property that was conveyed to subsequent owners. C. C. Holland and E. L. Waters only owned the property for a year, and they may have lived elsewhere. From 1926 until 1933, R. T. Howell and his family had their homestead somewhere on their property, although the precise location is unknown because their land included parts of three surveys. The Howell occupation possibly could be related to present-day 41BL396. From 1933 to 1937, D. O. Morgan owned he property, but his residence status is uncertain. The same can be said of V. C. Farland, who owned the land from 1937 until it was foreclosed upon in 1939 and purchased at auction by the Federal Land Bank of Houston, non-resident owners. From 1940 to 1954, the property on which present-day 41BL396 is located was part of large land-holdings owned by Tom G. Bowles Jr. Much of the property appears to have been utilized for crops, and tenants were in occupation.

Site 41BL397 (Tract 805)

Site History: Site 41BL397 is located on 89.5 acres in the southwestern portion of the 320-acre Joseph Spoonts Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 805, which encompassed 469.49 acres in six surveys and contained four sites: 41BL199, 41BL397, 41BL745, and 41BL746.

On January 5, 1854, Joseph Spoonts swore the he had settled on and improved land south of Cowhouse Creek in Bell County. In June of that year, H. F. Hoover, Milam District Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes describing a 320-acre parcel on Cowhouse Creek about 9 miles northwest of Belton. On September 16, 1857, the State of Texas patented the 320-acre parcel to William Potter, assignee of Joseph Spoonts. In June 1858, Spoonts transferred all his interest in the 320-acre parcel to William Potter for $250 (Texas. General Land Office 1859c).

There is a break in the chain of title between 1858 and 1867, and the next known owner of the survey was William Hensley. Hensley was a resident of Bell County and was married to Y. E. Hensley, the daughter of Jesse [Jessy] Pitts, also of Bell County. In 1863, Pitts had made a gift to his daughter and son-in-law of 112 acres out of the Martha Smith Survey, which was immediately adjacent to the north of the Spoonts Survey and the location of present-day 41BL1007 (BC, DR I:333). It is unknown if Hensley owned the Spoonts Survey at that time. However, in 1867, Hensley conveyed the entire 320-acre Spoonts Survey to W. D. Northcut [Northcutt] of Bell County for $150 cash (BC, DR 27:409). According to ad valorem tax records, Northcut lived on the property and operated a small farm (1867a, 1869a–1870a).

In June 1871, Northcut conveyed an 89.5-acre parcel out of the southwestern portion of the Spoonts Survey to J. E. Willis for $80, a price that suggests that the part of the Spoonts Survey on which 41BL397 is located was not improved at the time (BC, DR O:147). Two years later, in October 1873, Willis conveyed the 89.5-acre parcel to J. M. Middleton for $150 (BC, DR T:37). One month later, Middleton sold the land to James H. Forbes, again for $150 (BC, DR T:131). Forbes owned the land for several years, and according to ad valorem tax records, he farmed the acreage and perhaps lived there (1874a, 1879a). It appears that initial occupancy and improvements occurred during Forbes's ownership.

In August 1880, Forbes and his wife, E. J., sold 277.78 acres that included the 89.5-acre parcel in the Spoonts Survey, to J. S. Brown for $600 in cash and notes, an amount that suggests that improvements were located somewhere on the acreage (BC, DR 33:610). Since the only recorded historic site on this land is 41BL397, it is possible that the improvements were

associated with that site. In addition, ad valorem tax records show a substantial increase in the value of the 89.5-acre portion of Brown's land between 1879 and 1883, perhaps reflecting further improvements by Brown.

In October 1884, Brown and his wife, Eliza, conveyed the property to J. W. Mathews for a nominal cash consideration and the assumption by Mathews of Brown's notes (BC, DR 50:113). Mathews owned the land, which included the 89.5-acre parcel in the Spoonts Survey, for 9 years, and tax records suggest that he farmed and perhaps lived there (1885a).

In November 1893, Mathews and his wife, M. A., sold the property to F. M. Denman for $900 in cash and notes (BC, DR 94:540), an amount that suggests that the property was improved. Denman and his wife, Mamie, conveyed the land to T. C. Robertson in 1894 in exchange for other land (BC, DR 96:611). Robertson appears to have lived in Belton, but may have rented the land for farming purposes since the ad valorem tax value increased after he purchased it (1898a).

In July 1898, Robertson and his wife, M. F., conveyed 117.78 acres that included the 89.5-acre parcel in the Spoonts Survey to Parmelia Huling in exchange for another tract in Bell County (BC, DR 125:167). By 1903, Huling had died, and her heirs collectively sold their interests in the property to D. R. Walton for $1,100 (BC, DR 150:435; 160:98).

Walton executed several deeds of trust covering the property, most of which were released (BC, DR 313:119; 356:199). However, he apparently became embroiled in a controversy over other debts, because a former partner, Thomas Yarnell, sued Walton (BC, DC Cause No. 15,087). Yarnell won the suit, and J. R. Bigham, Bell County Sheriff, was ordered by the court to sell the 117.78-acre parcel to satisfy the judgment. Bigham conducted an auction in June 1925, and Yarnell was the high bidder at $525 (BC, DR 406:39).

In October 1934, Yarnell sold 142.28 acres that included the 89.5-acre parcel in the Spoonts Survey to Floyd Mitchell for $500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 463:152). In 1938, Mitchell and his wife, Vera, conveyed the property to Tom Bowles Sr. and Tom Bowles Jr. (BC, DR 463:179). Tom Bowles Jr. acquired his father's interest in the property in a partition in the early 1940s and added the land to his holdings in the area (BC, DR 495:229).

On March 11, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 469.48 acres in the M. F. Harmon, Martha Smith, Joseph Spoonts, C. C. Countess, J. M. Middleton, and J. F. Simpson Surveys (BC, DR 700:468). The land was identified as Tract 805, and Tom Bowles Jr. was identified as the owner. The government paid Bowles $47,055.96 as compensation for Tract 805 and for two Belton Reservoir tracts (B-113-1 and B-113-2) that contained a total of 154.2 acres.

Summary: Tract 805, on which site 41BL397 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1869, when W. D. Northcut owned 89.5 acres in the southwestern portion of the 320-acre Joseph Spoonts Survey. Tax records suggest that Northcut operated a small farm on the acreage and may have lived there. However, the purchase price in two early 1870s transactions suggest that the land was unimproved. James H. Forbes owned the 89.5-acre parcel between 1873 and 1880, and tax records indicate that he farmed the property and perhaps lived there. Initial occupancy and substantial improvements most likely occurred during Forbes's ownership.

J. S. Brown owned the 89.5-acre parcel between 1880 and 1884. Tax and land records suggest that Brown further improved the property. Other nineteenth-century owners who may have occupied the property include J. W. Mathews, F. M. Denman, T. C. Robertson, and Parmelia Huling.

Sales of the property in the early twentieth century indicate that the property was improved. Owners who may have rented the property rather than occupied it included D. R. Walton, Thomas Yarnell, and Floyd Mitchell. In 1938, Mitchell sold the property to Tom Bowles Sr. and Tom Bowles Jr., the latter of whom acquired his father's interest in the early 1940s.

Site 41BL399 (Tract 704)

Site History: Site 41BL399 is located on the 177-acre Elisha Davis Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 704, which encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites.

On January 20, 1838, the Matagorda County Board of Land Commissioners issued a head-right certificate (No. 183) to the heirs of Elisha Davis. The board certified that Davis had

arrived in the Republic of Texas in 1832, was a family man and was, therefore, entitled to 1 league and 1 labor of land. In 1850, Mary S. Ingram, administrator of the Elisha Davis Estate, successfully sued the State of Texas in order to claim the land. In April 1851, William Armstrong, Milam District Surveyor, surveyed 1 labor of land (177 acres) on the north prong of Nolan Creek about 8 miles above Nolansville. Josiah Blackman and Obediah Trimmier assisted as chainmen. On May 16, 1851, the State of Texas patented the 177-acre survey to the heirs of Elisha Davis (Texas. General Land Office 1851b).

Apparently the heirs of Elisha Davis, including Mary S. Ingram, did not live in Bell County (1852a, 1861a, 1872a). Ad valorem tax records classify the 177-acre Elisha Davis Survey as unrendered as late as 1877. Between 1881 and 1883, William F. Davis and Gatlieb Baer purchased the interests of several individuals in the 177 acres, as well as a much larger tract that straddles the Bell-Williamson County line. Each seller was identified as an heir of either Elisha Davis or of his daughter, Mary S. Ingram, both of whom were residents of Matagorda County (BC, DR 31:615; 34:455; 38:539, 541, 543; 44:221).

In June 1883, Baer (also a resident of Matagorda County) and Davis sold the 177-acre parcel to J. F. Morgan for $620 in cash and notes. About 3 years later, in December 1886, J. F. Morgan Sr. sold the property to J. F. Morgan Jr. for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 57:490), an amount that provides a strong indication that the elder Morgan had made substantial improvements to the land.

In November 1890, J. F. Morgan Jr. conveyed the 177-acre parcel to J. R. Boren and M. Boyd for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 73:544), an amount that suggests that Morgan had maintained the improvements on the property. Boren owned the land for about 15 years, selling it in November 1905 to R. H. Light for $3,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 167:334). The purchase price further substantiates the presence of improvements.

R. H. Light apparently experienced financial difficulties, because, in 1932, the property was foreclosed upon by Realty Trust Company. In June of that year, E. E. Clark, trustee for the company, auctioned the 177 acres to R. A. Ritchie, high bidder at $10 cash and the assumption of a $2,250 note to Realty Trust Company (BC, DR 417:35). The deed refers to several deeds of trust executed by Light and his widow, Elizabeth. Two months later, in August 1932, Ritchie sold the property to the Kansas City Life Insurance Company for the same consideration (BC, DR 417:279).

In 1940, Kansas City Life Insurance Company sold the 177-acre parcel to Roy C. Litteer for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 484:160), a price that apparently reflected the presence of improvements. In September 1951, Litteer and his wife, Kittie, conveyed the property to Tom G. Bowles for $7,000 (BC, DR 644:629), also suggesting the presence of improvements. The improvements may be associated with 41BL399 as it is the only recorded site on the 177-acre parcel.

On March 9, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 1,138 acres owned by Bowles (BC, DR 702:200). Designated Tract 704 and encompassing 1,138 acres in the Elisha Davis, Samuel Wheat, David Russell, J. R. Jones, D. D. Potter, J. M. Perryman, and Wiley Jones Surveys, the acreage also was the location of eight historic sites: 41BL399, 41BL420, 41BL783, 41BL804, 41BL805, 41BL812, 41BL813, and 41BL841.

Summary: Site 41BL399, located on the western 177 acres of Tract 704, may have been improved and occupied as early as the mid-1880s, when the price for the property increased from $620 to $2,000 in a 3-year period. J. F. Morgan Sr. owned the land during this time. Between 1890 and 1905, the 177-acre parcel sold twice, and the price rose from $2,000 to $3,000, suggesting further improvements to the property.

In the early 1930s, the property was foreclosed upon, sold at auction, and conveyed to Roy C. Litteer in 1940. The prices paid in these transactions appear to reflect the presence of improvements. In 1951, the 177-acre parcel sold for $7,000, further substantiating the improved nature of the property.

When the government condemned Tract 704 in 1954, the compensation paid to the owner, Tom G. Bowles Sr., suggests the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 704 encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL400 (Tract 802)

Site History: Site 41BL400 is located on approximately 150 acres in the western portion of the 320-acre Alexander Walters Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 802, which encompassed 253.66 acres out of two surveys and contained four sites: 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL738, 41BL741, and 41BL851.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL400 is located, see the site history for 41BL158.

Summary: Site 41BL400 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL158, 41BL738, 41BL741, and 41BL851. Site 41BL400 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a date or function to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records.

Site 41BL401 (Tract 804)

Site History: Site 41BL401 is located in the eastern portion of the 314-acre John P. Hall Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 804, which encompassed 191 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL401 is located from 1854 until 1874, when the Hall family partitioned the survey, see the site history for 41BL842.

John P. Hall acquired the eastern 191 acres of the survey in a partition that was precipitated by the death of his first wife, Elizabeth (BC, DR T:490). Elizabeth's children (from her marriage to Hall) acquired the western portion of the Hall Survey (see 41BL842 located on Tract 803). Ad valorem tax records suggest that John Hall farmed the property and lived there (1874a, 1880a, 1890a). Site 41BL401 is located on this 191-acre parcel.

By the early 1890s, both John Hall and his second wife, Sarah, apparently had died. One of the children from that second marriage, G. M. Hall, acquired the interests of the other siblings (BC, DR 80:423, 520; 152:181). By 1892, G. M. Hall appears to have owned full interest in the eastern portion of the J. P. Hall Survey. Ad valorem tax records suggest that G. M. Hall may have occupied the property (1895a, 1900a), but his use of it remains unclear.

In November 1903, G. M. Hall conveyed the 191-acre parcel to M. L. Hall, wife of John H. Hall, for $1,250 in cash and notes (BC, DR 152:282), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In 1906, M. L. and John Hall sold the property to J. E. Thomas for $2,000 in cash and notes, but Thomas apparently failed to pay the notes, and the land reverted back to the Halls (BC, DR 167:595). In 1910, they sold the 191-acre parcel to S. C. Mitchell for $3,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 207:578), indicating that the property was improved.

Between 1910, when S. C. Mitchell bought the property, and 1926, the 191-acre parcel was owned by S. C. Mitchell (1910–1911, 1912–1916), E. D. Mitchell (1911–1912), J. S. and N. M. Hathcock (1916–1918), N. M. Hathcock (1918, 1919–1921), Alfred Poe (1918–1919), J. B. Bush (1921–1926), and Effie E. Chaffin (1926) (BC, DR 229:239; 235:1; 269:623; 285:372; 294:553; 307:460; 324:599; 375:134). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $5,000 to $7,000, giving strong indications that the property was improved. Given the fact that 41BL401 is the only site recorded on the 191-acre parcel, it is likely that the improvements can be associated with the site.

In February 1928, Effie Chaffin and her husband, W. S., sold the 191-acre parcel to S. B. McCasland for $7,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 380:585). By 1939, McCasland's wife, Sarah, had died, and the land was conveyed to the Union Central Life Insurance Company for the cancellation of $3,000 in notes the McCaslands had given to purchase the land (BC, DR 470:517).

In May 1943, Union Central conveyed the property to Dalton L. Smith for $3,750 in cash and notes (BC, DR 509:351), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In July 1945, Smith and his wife, Odessa, sold the 191-acre parcel to A. L. Norris and his wife, Pearl, for $4,160 in cash and notes (BC, DR 532:558). In March 1950, the Norrises conveyed the land to David H. Mahaffey Jr. for $6,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 618:337).

On March 9, 1954, the U.S. government condemned Mahaffey's property along with other tracts of land (BC, DR 702:203). His parcel was identified as Tract 804 and consisted of 191 acres in the John P. Hall Survey. Total compensation paid by the government was $115,060 for 1,622.35 acres in multiple tracts.

Summary: The John P. Hall Survey, on which 41BL401 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1854, when Hall swore that he resided there. In 1856, the Bell County Clerk certified that Hall had resided on and cultivated a 314-acre tract for 3 years. After Hall obtained the patent in 1860, ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a small farm and lived on the property.

In 1874, Hall and the children from his first marriage partitioned the survey, with Hall getting the eastern 191 acres. It is probable, though not certain, that the Hall farmstead was located on this eastern parcel. The property stayed in the Hall family until 1910, when M. L. Hall and her husband sold it to S. C. Mitchell. The prices paid in the transactions that occurred between 1910 and 1930 rose steadily and appear to indicate the presence of improvements.

Between 1930 and 1950, the 191-acre parcel continued to show an increased value in transactions. Owners during this period who may have occupied the property included S. B. McCasland, Dalton L. Smith, A. L. Norris, and David H. Mahaffey Jr.

Site 41BL402 (Tract 803)

Site History: Site 41BL402 is located on the westerly 157 acres on the 314-acre John P. Hall Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 803, which encompassed 256.93 acres in four surveys and contained four sites: 41BL402, 41BL737, 41BL842, and 41BL849.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL402 is located, see the site history for 41BL842.

Summary: Site 41BL402 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL737, 41BL842, and 41BL849. Site 41BL402 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a date or function to the property based on legal or ad valorem tax records.

Site 41BL404 (Tract 903)

Site History: Site 41BL404 is located in the west-central portion of the 1,476-acre Harwood W. Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 903 which encompassed 596 acres in the Jones Survey and contained two sites, 41BL186 and 41BL404.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL404 is located from 1846 until 1870, when N. Mayblum owned the Jones Survey, see the site history for 41BL838.

In December 1875, Mayblum sold a 114-acre parcel in the west-central portion of the 1,476-acre Jones Survey to M. L. Crawford for $350 (BC, DR Y:65), a price that possibly suggests the presence of improvements. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Crawford farmed the property and may have lived there (1877a).

Crawford conveyed the 114 acres and the east-adjacent 25 acres to Cullender Keele in November 1881 for $600 (BC, DR 37:233), indicating further improvements to the land. Because 41BL404 is the only recorded site on either parcel, the improvements probably can be associated with that site. Tax records suggest that Keele and his family farmed the property and probably lived there during this period (1883a, 1893a).

In 1904 and 1905, J. W. Potter purchased interests in the property from the Cullender Keele heirs for a total of $800 (BC, DR 161:14, 37, 38, 55; 165:516), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In November 1905, Potter sold the two parcels to J. D. Guthrie for $700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 167:375), perhaps suggesting a decline in the condition of the improvements, but nonetheless indicating that the property was improved.

Guthrie owned the land for 4 years, selling it in July 1909 to Thomas J. Bell for $2,500 (BC, DR 198:275). The increase in purchase price suggests that the property was improved substantially between 1905 and 1909. In 1919, Bell and his wife, Lorena, conveyed 182 acres that included the 114-acre parcel where 41BL404 is located to Henry Helmers for $5,560 in cash and notes (BC, DR 320:160), suggesting further improvements.

Between 1919 and 1934, the 182-acre parcel was owned by Helmers (1919–1924), H. W. Wendell (1934–1926), John R. Wylie (1926–1927), H. W. Davidson (1927–1928), T. P. Whittington (1928–1930), Paul Matthews (1930–1932), and Ethel Harkins (1932–1934) (BC, DR 357:389; 371:216; 383:121; 394:432; 404:544; 417:186). The purchase prices in the early transactions ranged from a high of $7,750 (Davidson to Whittington in 1928), to a low of

$2,000 (Matthews to Harkins in 1932), suggesting either a decline in the condition of the improvements or, perhaps, reflecting general economic conditions in the early 1930s.

Harkins sold the 182-acre parcel to A. G. Vick for $600 in October 1934 (BC, DR 427:557). Vick added the property to his holdings in the vicinity and apparently operated a ranch on the land. His occupation of the property is less certain. For the legal history of the 114 acres where 41BL404 is located from 1934 until 1953, when the government acquired the property, see the site history for 41BL186.

Summary: The earliest owners of the 114-acre parcel in the 1,476-acre Harwood Jones Survey where 41BL404 is located appear to have lived outside Bell County. They include the heirs of Harwood Jones and N. Mayblum. Land and tax records suggest that the initial occupation of the 114 acres probably occurred between 1875 and 1881, when M. L. Crawford owned the property. Cullender Keele and his family, who owned the 114-acre parcel from 1881 until 1904, apparently lived on the property as well.

Rising purchase prices, from $2,500 in 1909 to $7,750 in 1928, suggest that the property continued to be improved. Between 1934 and 1953, when the government acquired the property, the 114-acre parcel was part of a ranch that consisted of over 1,200 acres before 1944 and 596 acres after that date. Occupation of the 114 acres is less certain during this period. Although the purchase prices in the transactions indicate that the land was improved, the presence of two sites, 41BL186 and 41BL404, precludes determining the relative value of the parcels (57.88 acres and 114 acres, respectively) where the sites are located.

Site 41BL420 (Tract 704)

Site History: Site 41BL420 is located on approximately 218 acres out of the 317.7-acre Samuel Wheat Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 704, which encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites.

On October 27, 1854, D. G. Chamberlin, Bell County Clerk, certified that Samuel Wheat had satisfied preemption claim requirements by residing upon and cultivating 318.5 acres situated on Nolan Creek for 3 years. In December 1854, Wheat swore that the original field notes for his preemption claim had been lost. A month later, S. W. Bigham, deputy surveyor for the Milam District, filed field notes describing 317.7 acres, a preemption survey for Samuel Wheat, located on the north prong of Nolan Creek about 7 miles northwest from Belton. Samuel Wheat and John Wheat assisted as chainmen. The State of Texas then patented the 317.7-acre preemption survey to Samuel Wheat on April 9, 1855, (Texas. General Land Office 1855c).

In September 1864, Wheat conveyed the 317.7-acre survey to William Potter for the obligation to deliver 1,200 bushels of wheat (BC, DR I:545). Potter owned the land for over 20 years, but available records do not clearly establish his use or occupancy. In November 1886, Potter sold the 317.7-acre parcel to Samuel J. Bates for $1,800, an amount that suggests that Potter had improved the property (BC, DR 58:92). Two years later, Bates conveyed the land to his wife, Ida J. Bates, apparently because he had used her money to buy the land.

On February 17, 1892, Bates and his wife sold the property to S. H. Underwood for $5,000 in cash and notes, a price that indicates that the property was improved (BC, DR 82:605). In November of the same year, Underwood and his wife, Annie, conveyed the 317.7-acre parcel to A. F. Bentley for $6,000 in cash and notes, suggesting that Underwood had further improved the property (BC, DR 87:8). Just 3 days later, on November 14, 1892, Bentley sold the property to W. J. Jones for $6,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 87:40).

There is a break in the chain of title between W. J. Jones, who acquired the 317.7-acre parcel in 1892, and a later owner, S. H. Boyd. However, in November 1910, Boyd and his wife, Roberta, sold a 243.4-acre parcel that consisted of approximately 218 acres in the Wheat Survey and approximately 25 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey to J. C Damron for $6,000 (BC, DR 217:47). The purchase price suggests that improvements associated with 41BL420 were located on the 243.4 acres.

Between 1910 and 1922, the 243.4-acre parcel was owned by Damron (1910–1911, and 1913), J. P. Hughes (1911–1913), R. L. Garner (1913–1918), and F. K. Austin (1918–1922) (BC, DR 228:41; 247:300; 248:301; 295:556). The prices in these transactions rose from the $6,000

that Damron paid in 1910 to $13,500 paid by Austin in 1918, increases that suggest that these owners further improved the property.

In 1922, Mary Austin, widow of F. K., exchanged the 243.4 acres for land in Hale County owned by W. H. Slay, U. M. Simon, Mike E. Smith, and Sam Levy (BC, DR 333:592). Slay and his partners apparently experienced financial difficulties in 1932, because they defaulted on loan payments to the Dallas Joint Stock Land Bank. The bank foreclosed and purchased the land at auction for $1,000 (BC, DR 416:397).

Over the course of the next few days, the 243.4-acre parcel was sold several times. On August 4, 1932, the bank sold the property to John H. Bloomer and Fred W. Guffy for $2,000 in cash (BC, DR 417:144). Two weeks later, Bloomer and Guffy conveyed it to H. C. Surghnor for $2,500 (BC, DR 416:476). On the same day, Surghnor sold the land to Roy C. Litteer for $3,500. The rising prices associated with these transactions suggest that, even though some of the owners experienced financial difficulties, the property maintained its value.

In December 1950, Litteer and his wife, Kittie, sold the 243.4-acre parcel to Tom G. Bowles for $15,000, a price that indicates the improved nature of the property (BC, DR 631:233). However, the sale also included the adjacent 105-acre parcel on which 41BL812 is located, thus precluding any firm conclusions regarding the relative value of each piece of land.

On March 9, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 1,138 acres owned by Tom G. Bowles(BC, DR 702:200). Designated Tract 704 and encompassing 1,138 acres in the Elisha Davis, Samuel Wheat, David Russell, J. R. Jones, D. D. Potter, J. M. Perryman, and Wiley Jones Surveys, the acreage also was the location of eight historic sites: 41BL399, 41BL420, 41BL783, 41BL804, 41BL805, 41BL812, 41BL813, and 41BL841.

Summary: Site 41BL420, located on 243.4 acres in the western portion of the 1,138-acre Tract 704, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when Samuel Wheat claimed residency to satisfy preemption claim requirements. The property sold only a few times during the remainder of the nineteenth century, and each conveyance appears to indicate the presence of improvements. Owners in this era included William Potter, Samuel Bates, and S.H. Underwood, and they may have occupied 41BL420, as well.

With exceptions occurring in the early 1930s, conveyances in the twentieth century continue the pattern of rising prices, suggesting further improvements and owner-occupancy. The improved nature of the property appears to have continued until the government acquired Tract 704 in 1954.

When the government condemned Tract 704 in 1954, the compensation paid to the owner, Tom G. Bowles Sr., suggested the presence of improvements. However, because Tracht 704 encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained sites, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL422 (Tract 819)

Site History: Site 41BL422 is located in the north-central portion of the 1,476-acre John Slaburn Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 819, which encompassed 1,374.26 acres in four surveys and contained five sites: 41BL342, 41BL422, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752.

On September 5, 1839, the Harrisburg County Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 498), entitling John Slaburn to a headright of one-third league of land. The certificate noted that Slaburn had been a volunteer in the army of the Republic of Texas. In April 1840, J. G. Erath, a Milam County Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes describing 1,476 acres of land for Slaburn. The land was situated on Nolan Creek about 18 miles above the three forks of the Little River. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted in the survey as chainmen. On April 7, 1849, the State of Texas patented the 1,476-acre tract to Slaburn (Texas. General Land Office 1849a).

About a year later, in April 1850, Slaburn, a resident of Harris County, sold the property to B. W. Bringhurst, also of Harris County, for $500 (BC, DR E:20). In November of that same year, Bringhurst conveyed the 1,476-acre Slaburn Survey to Robert Lockhart of Harris County for $250 (BC, DR E:21). Use and occupancy during this period remain uncertain.

Lockhart owned the property for many years, selling parcels to various individuals.

However, he apparently never resided in Bell County and purchased the land for speculative purposes. In July 1873, Lockhart sold a 150-acre parcel out of the north-central portion of the Slaburn Survey to H. W. and Susan Stephens for $350 in gold (BC, DR T:1). Initial occupation and improvements appear to have occurred during the Stephens's ownership. Ad valorem tax records reflect that they operated a small ranch on the property and probably lived there (1874a, 1880a). Site 41BL422 is located on the 150-acre portion of the Slaburn Survey.

In 1889, H. W. and Susan Stephens conveyed the 150-acre parcel to B. E. Ware for $1,125 in cash and notes (BC, DR 73:411), a price that suggests that the property was improved. Just a year later, in August 1890, Ware and his wife, C. A., sold the land to C. H. Robinson for $1,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 73:435), suggesting further improvements.

Robinson owned the land for many years, combining it with other parcels in the immediate vicinity. He appears to have lived on his land, but because his holdings contained several other recorded sites (41BL342, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752), it is difficult to determine which of the sites was his residence.

In June 1937, Robinson and his wife, Sallie, conveyed approximately 290 acres in the Slaburn and Conley Surveys to W. V. Robinson for $2,500 (BC, DR 456:625). The property included the 150-acre parcel where 41BL422 is located and 13.2 acres where 41BL447 is located; the price suggests the presence of improvements.

In 1954, the Robinsons conveyed 1,374.26 acres to the U.S. government for $63,150 and the right to remove a tenant house and two barns (BC, DR 703:89). The property encompassed land in the Shackelford, John Slaburn, James Conley, and Mary Harris Surveys, and contained five sites—41BL342 in the Shackelford Survey; 41BL422, 41BL423, and 41BL752 in the Slaburn Survey; and 41BL447 in the Conley Survey.

Summary: Portions of the John Slaburn Survey appear to have been occupied in the early 1870s. Initial occupation and improvement of the 150-acre parcel on which 41BL422 is located most likely occurred between 1873 and 1889, when H. W. and Susan Stephens owned the property.

C. H. Robinson and his wife, Sallie, owned the property from 1890 until 1937. They combined the parcel with other land in the vicinity and probably used the property as a ranch. It is unclear if the Robinsons lived on the parcel on which 41BL422 is located.

W. V. Robinson and his wife, Faxie, owned the property from 1937 until the government acquired the land in 1954, when it was part of 1,374.26 acres identified as Tract 819. The conveyance also included land in the Shackelford, Conley, and Harris Surveys which included five sites: 41BL342, 41BL422, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752. The price and reservation of the right to remove existing structures suggest the presence of improvements, but the location and the Robinsons' use of those improvements remains uncertain.

Site 41BL423 (Tract 819)

Site History: Site 41BL423 is located in the north-central portion of the 1,476-acre John Slaburn Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 819, which encompassed 1,374.26 acres in four surveys and contained five sites: 41BL342, 41BL422, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL423 is located from 1839 to the early 1870s, when Robert Lockhart owned the 1,476-acre Slaburn Survey, see the site history for 41BL422. For the remaining legal history of the land, see the site history for 41BL752.

Summary: Portions of the John Slaburn Survey appear to have been occupied in the early 1870s. It is possible, though not certain, that tenants may have occupied and improved the 42.5 acres where 41BL423 is located in the nineteenth century. However, initial owner-occupation of and improvements to the property most likely occurred after 1903, when J. E. Willess and his family purchased the land. The greatest part of the property stayed in the Willess family until 1941, when W. V. Robinson purchased their land, which included the 150-acre parcel where 41BL752 is located and the 42.5-acre parcel where 41BL423 is located. It is not clear whether Robinson occupied either parcel between 1941 and 1954.

Site 41BL424 (Tract 863)

Site History: Site 41BL424 is located on 1.5 acres in the south-central portion of the

1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 863, which encompassed 1.5 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL424 is located from 1839 until the early 1880s, when Amanda Cartwright owned land in the Conley Survey, see the site history for 41BL447.

In November 1881, Amanda Cartwright conveyed 90 acres out of the south-central portion of the Conley Survey to Woodson Leeper for $150 (BC, DR 39:640), a price that suggests that the property was unimproved at that time. In December 1881, Leeper sold the western 50 acres of his property to E. F. Eakin for $75 (BC, DR 46:275).

In November 1882, Eakin and his wife, Sarah, sold the 50 acres to Sam W. Eakin for $175 (BC, DR 46:276), a price that suggests that the property may have been improved. Sam Eakin and his wife, Elizabeth, then sold the land to L. Oswalt for $150 in September 1883 (BC, DR 46:378).

Oswalt owned the 50 acres for more than 10 years, selling small parcels, some of which became lots in the community of Brookhaven. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Oswalt farmed the acreage and may have lived there. However, it is unclear if his residence was situated on the 1.5-acre parcel where 41BL424 is located, or somewhere else on the land he had retained (1885a).

In October 1895, Oswalt and his wife, Francis, sold 2.5 acres out of their land to G. M. Eakin for $26 (BC, DR 139:20), a price that suggests that the property was unimproved. In November 1904, Eakin and his wife, S. L., conveyed the 2.5-acre parcel to C. W. Graves for $200 (BC, DR 174:414), a price that indicates that the Eakins had improved their property. However, it is unclear if the improvements were situated on the 1.5 acres where 41BL424 is located, or somewhere else on the 2.5 acres.

In November 1906, Graves and his wife, Hallie, sold the 2.5-acre parcel to Elizabeth Eakin for $300 (BC, DR 174:448), suggesting the presence of improvements, although it remains unclear if the improvements were associated with 41BL424. There is a break in the chain of title between November 1906, when Eakin acquired the 2.5-acre property, and 1907, when A. W. Jordan owned the land. Then, in October 1907, Jordan sold 1.5 acres out of the 2.5-acre parcel to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for $100 (BC, DR 182:332).

The church owned the property for more than 40 years, presumably using it for church-related activities. In January 1950, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church sold the 1.5-acre parcel to the trustees of the "people of Baptist, Methodist, and Church of Christ faith, residing in the community of Brookhaven," for $100 (BC, DR 603:617).

The U.S. government condemned the property as part of the Fort Hood expansion in 1954 when it was designated Tract 863 and encompassed 1.5 acres out of the James H. Conley Survey.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied as early as the mid-1870s. However, the earliest owners of land in the survey apparently did not reside in Bell County. L. Oswalt owned 50 acres that encompassed the 1.5-acre parcel on which 41BL424 is located from 1883 to 1895. Tax records suggest that he farmed the land and may have lived there, but it remains unclear if his improvements were located on the 1.5 acres or elsewhere on his property. Similarly, owners of the 2.5-acre parcel from which Tract 863 was later taken may have lived on the parcel. Between 1895 and 1906, these individuals included G. M. and S. L. Eakin, C. W. and Hollie Graves, Elizabeth Eakin, and A. W. Jordan. However, it is not clear if any of these parties was associated with 41BL424.

In 1907, A. W. Jordan sold 1.5 acres out of the 50-acre parcel to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who presumably directed church-related use of the property for more than 40 years. In 1950, ownership of the land passed to another group of trustees, but community-based worship appears to have continued until the government condemned the land in 1954.

Site 41BL425 (Tract C-208)

Site History: Site 41BL425 is located in the east-central portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract C-208, which encompassed 113 acres in the Conley and James P. Warnock Surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL425 is located from 1838 to 1883, see 41BL447.

Amanda Cartwright of San Augustine County owned the entire Conley Survey until she began to sell portions of it in the late 1870s and during the 1880s. In 1883, Cartwright conveyed a 100-acre tract located on the east-central boundary of the Conley Survey to E. T. Eakin of Bell County in consideration of $200 (BC, DR 44:337). This tract is the location of present-day 41BL425. That year, Eakin was not yet paying taxes on the land, but he did pay taxes on 1 carriage or buggy worth $35, 8 cattle worth $80, 6 hogs worth $10, and $5 worth of miscellaneous property (1883a). The next year, Eakin paid taxes on the 100 acres in the Conley Survey, which were valued at $200. Eakin's other holdings increased as well, and he paid taxes on 1 carriage or wagon worth $30, 2 horses or mules worth $80, 10 cattle worth $100, 2 hogs worth $10, and $10 in miscellaneous property (1884a). These values suggest that Eakin and his family were living on and farming the property, and had improved it.

In 1885, in consideration of $600, Eakin and his wife, Sarah E., conveyed a parcel of land out of the Conley Survey to Saleatha E. Hudlin of Bell County. The deed specified the 100-acre parcel, with the exception of 20 acres that had been sold off of its western end, thus making it an 80-acre parcel, on which present-day 41BL425 is located (BC, DR 50:441). That year, Hudlin did not pay taxes on the property, but her husband, George, paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $30, two horses or mules worth $50, and $10 in miscellaneous property (1885a). The next year, George Hudlin paid taxes on the 80 acres out of the Conley Survey, which were valued at $320. He also paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $10, two horses or mules worth $30, three cattle worth $25, and five hogs worth $5 (1886a). These values suggest that the Hudlins were living on and farming the 80 acres, and had made even more improvements to the property.

In September 1889, G. W. Hudlin and his wife, Saleatha, now of Lee County conveyed the 80 acres to J. K. Mason for $360 (BC, DR 175:174). By November of the same year, Mason and his wife, E. A. Mason, of Bell County conveyed the 80 acres to B. F. Eakin [also spelled Eaken and Aiken] in consideration of $375 in notes. Eakin and his wife, M. F. Eakin, of Bell County retained the property until 1898, when they conveyed the 80 acres to R. M. Hallmark of Bell County for $875 in cash and notes (BC, DR 126:218).

The next year, Hallmark and his wife, A. C. Hallmark, sold a parcel of land out of the Conley Survey to T. J. O'Neal of Bell County for $900 in cash and notes. The deed did not specify the acreage, but the legal description corresponds to the 80 acres on which present-day 41BL425 is located (BC, DR 135:48). O'Neal and his wife, Flora P., retained ownership until 1906. In that year, they conveyed a total of three tracts out of the Conley Survey to Moten Carpenter of Bell County for $150 in cash and notes. The transaction included the 80 acres on which present-day 41BL425 is located (BC, DR 174:292).

In 1909, Carpenter and his wife, Nettie, conveyed the same three tracts, including the 80 acres, to E. F. Bigham of Bell County for $181 in cash and notes (BC, DR 199:563). Bigham retained ownership of the 80 acres until his death, at which point his entire estate was bequeathed to his heirs. E. F. Bigham's widow, Mrs. Belle Bigham; along with Lee Edd Bigham and his wife, Margaret; and Maudine E. Nieto and her husband, Joseph, conveyed 113 acres out of the Warnock and Conley Surveys, on which present-day 41BL425 is located, to the United States government on May 20, 1953, for $15,300 (BC, DR 683:567).

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied in the early 1860s. However, it appears that the earliest owners of the survey did not reside in Bell County. E. T. Eakin (1883–1885) appears to have been living on and improving the property on which 41BL341 is located. Saleatha and G. W. Hudlin (1885–1889) appear to have made even more improvements on the property, but they were non-resident owners for at least part of the time. The residency status of J. K. Mason (1889) remains unclear because he owned the property less than a year. From 1889 until 1898, B. F. Eakin owned the property. This length of time suggests occupation or other possible utilization. R. M. Hallmark only owned the property for a year, whereas T. J. O'Neal owned the property from 1899 until 1906, which suggests possible occupation. Moten Carpenter owned the property for the following 3 years. The Bigham family owned the property and adjacent tracts

from 1909 until acquisition by the government, making for a strong association.

Site 41BL426 (Tract 809)

Site History: Site 41BL426 is located on approximately 146 acres in the east-central portion of the 1,280-acre Thomas Hemsworth Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 809, which encompassed 655.3 acres in three surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL426, 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL426 is located, see the site history for 41BL763.

Summary: Site 41BL426 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763. Site 41BL426 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL428 (Tract C-203)

Site History: Site 41BL428 is located in the southeastern corner of the 320-acre Isaac Dowess Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-203, which encompassed 322 acres in four surveys (Dowess, Thomas Gay, Thomas Hemsworth, and James P. Warnock) and contained two sites, 41BL428 and 41BL429.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL428 is located between 1838 and 1881, see 41BL586.

Sarah A. Reynolds had legal title to her late husband's estate, which included the southeastern portion of the Dowess Survey where present-day 41BL428 is located. By 1881, Mattie A. Daugherty [also spelled Dougherty] and her husband, George, gained title to unspecified acreage in the southeastern portion of the Dowess Survey from Reynolds, who was Mattie's mother (BC, DR 56:501). However, the Daugherty family's homestead was actually located on the McKeene Survey, and it is unlikely that they occupied the Dowess Survey (BC, DR 56:501).

In 1891, the Daughertys conveyed 110 acres to G. A. Kaiser of Bell County for $450 in cash and notes. The 110 acres consisted of two adjacent tracts out of the Gay and Dowess Surveys, on which present-day 41BL428 and 41BL429 are located (BC, DR 135:141). In 1892, Kaiser paid taxes on property in four surveys. Values suggest that all of the properties were improved, but the 185 acres in the Dowess Survey were the most heavily improved, being valued at $1,625 (1892a). Kaiser also paid taxes on nine cattle worth $35 and $20 in miscellaneous property. These values suggest occupation and cultivation on the Dowess Survey by Kaiser.

G. A. Kaiser retained title to this parcel, as well as other properties in the vicinity, until his death in 1922. Upon his death, his estate was without debt and bequeathed entirely to his wife, Mrs. Mary Emma Kaiser, who was also another daughter of Sarah A. Reynolds (BD CR 56:501). Mrs. Kaiser maintained the estate until her own death in 1946. The estate was still without debt, and the Kaiser heirs consisted of their four children and five grandchildren (BC, DR 574:4).

In 1947, Mrs. Ida Wills and her husband, J. C. Wills, of Bell County, being the daughter and son-in-law of G. A. and Mary Emma Kaiser, conveyed to Hiram G. Kaiser (a Kaiser son) of Sweetwater, Nolan County, title to 13 tracts of land for a consideration of $3,000. Included in the conveyance was Tract No. 6, which encompassed 110 acres in the Gay and Dowess Surveys on which present-day 41BL428 is located. On March 30, 1954, Hiram G. Kaiser and his wife conveyed a combined 322-acre tract out of the Gay, Hemsworth, Warnock, and Dowess Surveys, on which present-day 41BL428 and 41BL429 are located, to the United States government for $30, 650 (BC, DR 710:83).

Summary: Isaac Dowess transferred his interest in the 320-acre Dowess Survey to his assignee, Fredrick Niebling (also spelled Neibling, Nibling, Nibbling), who in turn bequeathed it to his heirs in 1846. Neither Washington Niebling nor his family appears to have used or improved the property until it passed out of Niebling family hands in 1867. From 1867 until 1881, members of the Reynolds family owned 185 acres out of the Dowess Survey and were the apparent first occupants; they appear to have improved the property slowly over time. From 1881 until 1891, the Daugherty family (Reynolds heirs) owned the southeastern portion of the Dowess Survey on which present-day 41BL428 is located. However, the Daugherty

family lived elsewhere, perhaps indicating that the property was vacant or occupied by tenants. From 1891 until 1947, members of the Kaiser family (also Reynolds heirs) owned the property. It appears that the Kaiser family was in residence and engaging in agriculture during that period. However, from 1947 to 1954, Hiram G. Kaiser and his wife were non-residents before the government acquired the property.

Site 41BL429 (Tract C-203)

Site History: Site 41BL429 is located in the southwestern portion of the 320-acre Isaac Dowess Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-203, which encompassed 322 acres in four surveys (Dowess, Thomas Gay, Thomas Hemsworth, and James P. Warnock) and contained two sites, 41BL428 and 41BL429.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL429 is located between 1838 and 1881, see 41BL586.

Members of the Reynolds family owned the entire 320-acre Dowess Survey until 1881, when they began to partition it. In 1886, Sarah A. Reynolds, H. B. Reynolds, and G. A. Kaiser and his wife, M. E. Kaiser, conveyed 56 acres out of the southwest corner of the Dowess Survey, on which present-day 41BL429 is located, to George Daugherty and his wife, M. A. Daugherty, of Bell County in consideration of $5 (BC, DR 56:499). H. B. Reynolds, M. E. Kaiser, and M. A. Daugherty were all children and heirs of Sarah A. Reynolds (BC, DR 56:501). Although the Daugherty family owned property in the Dowess Survey, their homestead was on the McKeene Survey (BC, DR 56:501).

In 1889, Daugherty conveyed two tracts of land to Hiram G. Kaiser (Daugherty's nephew) for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 574:4). The two tracts consisted of 15 acres out of the Hemsworth Survey and 66 acres out of the Dowess Survey, on which present-day 41BL429 is located (BC, DR 99:610). Kaiser was a resident of Sweetwater, Nolan County, and did not appear in ad valorem tax records for Bell County. However, G. A. Kaiser (Hiram's father) apparently was paying taxes on Hiram's Bell County property along with his own. In 1890, G. A. Kaiser paid taxes on 115 acres out of the Dowess Survey valued at $1,155 (on which present-day 41BL429 is located), 15 acres out of the Hemsworth Survey valued at $75, and 6 acres out of the Warnock Survey valued at $60. G. A. Kaiser also paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $40, two horses or mules worth $120, six cattle worth $25, and one hog worth $5 (1890a). These values suggest that the Dowess Survey was improved, and although the owner, Hiram G. Kaiser, was living elsewhere, his father or other members of the Kaiser family might have been using the property.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL429 is located from 1889 until acquisition in 1954, see 41BL428.

Summary: Isaac Dowess transferred his interest in the 320-acre Dowess Survey to his assignee, Fredrick Niebling, who in turn bequeathed it to his heirs in 1846. Neither Washington Niebling nor his family appears to have used or improved the property until it passed out of Niebling family hands in 1867. From 1867 until 1881, members of the Reynolds family owned 185 acres in the Dowess Survey and were the apparent first occupants; they appear to have improved the property slowly over time. Beginning in 1886, Reynolds heirs George and M. A. Daugherty owned the 56-acre tract on which 41BL529 is located, but lived elsewhere. From 1889 until 1947, the Kaiser family, Bell County residents and also Reynolds heirs, owned the improved property and possibly used it. From 1947 until 1954, Hiram G. Kaiser owned the land but lived elsewhere.

Site 41BL435 (Tract 817)

Site History: Site 41BL435 is located in the southwestern portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 817, which encompassed 260 acres in the James H. Conley Survey and contained three sites: 41BL435, 41BL449, and 41BL452.

For the legal history of the property on which site 41BL435 is located from 1838 until July 1909, when the heirs of L. Oswalt conveyed a 229.5-acre parcel on which 41BL435 is located to C. E. Oswalt, see the site history for 41BL447.

C. E. Oswalt and his wife, Amanda, owned the 229.5-acre parcel for many years, selling several small tracts, but retaining most of the land. C. E. Oswalt died in Lubbock County in 1932, and his widow and children sold their 211.25 acres to Clyde Oswalt for $3,000 in cash

and notes (BC, DR 416:230; 510:619). Less than a year later, Clyde Oswalt conveyed the property, along with 70 adjoining acres to the north, to John Weiss for $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 514:418).

On November 4, 1953, Weiss; his wife, Virgie; and his two children from a previous marriage conveyed the property to the U.S. government for $17,350 and the right to remove a chicken house, barn, and garage (BC, DR 695:589–592). When the government acquired the property, it encompassed 260 acres in the James H. Conley Survey and contained three sites: 41BL435 on the 211.25-acre parcel, and 41BL449 and 41BL452 on the 70-acre parcel adjoining to the north.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied in the early 1870s. However, it appears that the earliest owners of the survey did not reside in Bell County. L. Oswalt owned 229.5 acres in the southwest corner of the Conley Survey between 1885 and 1909. He appears to have occupied and improved his property, but because the 229.5-acre parcel contains two sites—41BL447 on Tract 819 and 41BL435 on Tract 817—it is difficult to determine whether one or both of the sites sustained improvements at this time.

A 221.25-acre remnant of the land remained in the Oswalt family until 1943, when Clyde Oswalt sold the property, along with a 70-acre parcel adjacent to the north, to John Weiss. The purchase prices in transactions during this period suggest the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 817 contains three sites—41BL435 on the 211.25-acre remnant, and 41BL449 and 41BL452 on the 70-acre parcel to the north—it is difficult to determine the specifics of occupation at any given site based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL437 (Tract C-211-1)

Site History: Site 41BL437 is located in the southwestern quadrant of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-211-1, which encompassed 47.3 acres and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL437 is located from 1838 to 1881, see 41BL447.

Amanda Cartwright of San Augustine County owned the Conley Survey until she began selling portions of it in the late 1870s and during the 1880s. In 1881, Cartwright conveyed a 100-acre tract, on which present-day 41BL437 is located, to Woodson Leeper [elsewhere L. W. Leeper], also of San Augustine County, for $150. A 10-acre tract was set aside out of the 100 acres for the location of a school (BC, DR 39:640). Leeper moved to Bell County in 1883, but was not paying taxes on his property in the Conley Survey. Instead, from 1883 until 1885, Leeper paid taxes on apparently improved property in the Womack [Warnock] Survey along with livestock, and by 1886 he had added more land out of the Cartwright Survey to his holdings as well (1881a–1886a). In 1887, Leeper paid taxes on different property: the 100 acres in the Conley Survey along with 67 acres in the Clements Survey, which together were valued at $335. Leeper also paid taxes on two horses or mules worth $150 and two cattle worth $15 (1887a). Based on this information, it appears that Leeper lived elsewhere until 1887, at which point he might have lived on the Conley Survey and made minor improvements to it.

Deeds for this portion of the Conley Survey are in the vicinity of Brookhaven. In the period from ca. 1887 to ca. 1919, deeds mention the presence of a cotton gin, a school, and two Methodist Episcopal churches in the Brookhaven area, although none has definite links to present-day 41BL437.

In 1901, Leeper and his wife, M. E. Leeper, now of Bell County, owned a total of 118.75 acres out of the central portion of the Conley Survey on which present-day 41BL437 is located. In January of that year, they conveyed the property to L. A. West of Bell County for $775 in cash and notes (BC, DR 147:165). By October, West and his wife, Quilla, conveyed the 118.75 acres to A. W. Jordan for $825 in cash and notes. The deed mentioned the Sparta to Brookhaven Road along the eastern perimeter of the property (BC, DR 140:208).

A. W. Jordan and his wife, Olive, had three children: Travis, Eva, and Byron (BC, DR 702:633). Jordan and his family were long-time residents of Runnels County and had their homestead in the town of Winters (BC, DR 702:632). Upon his death in 1938, Jordan bequeathed his estate equally to his wife and children (BC, DR 702:634). The estate of A. W.

Jordan conveyed ownership of the 47.3 acres in the Conley Survey on which present-day 41BL437 is located, plus another tract, to the United States government on March 8, 1954, for $2,615 (BC, DR 703:355).

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied in the early 1860s. However, it appears that the earliest owners of the survey did not reside in Bell County. Woodson Leeper was a non-resident in 1881 when he bought the property on which present-day 41BL437 is located, but the Leeper family moved to Bell County in 1883. They appear to have been living on other property until 1887, when they might have lived on and made improvements to their property in the Conley Survey. L. A. West owned the property for less than a year (1901), making owner occupation unlikely. From 1901 until acquisition in 1954, non-resident owner A. W. Jordan might have had tenants in occupation. The proximity of present-day 41BL437 to Brookhaven suggests some possibility that the site could be associated with specific agricultural or community functions, such as a school or cotton gin.

Site 41BL438 (Tract 821)

Summary: Site 41BL438 is located on 76.6 acres in the southeastern portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 821, which encompassed 76.6 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41BL438 and 41BL446.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL438 is located from 1838 until 1880, when Amanda Cartwright owned land in the Conley Survey, see the site history for 41BL447.

In 1880, Bell County claimed that Amanda Cartwright was rendering 1,056 acres out of the 1,476-acre Conley Survey. W. E. Hall, Bell County Tax Assessor-Collector, claimed the unrendered 420 acres for the county and auctioned 275 acres in the southeast corner of the survey to R. C. Bigham for $7.05 (BC, DR 40:227). Bigham owned the property for about 10 years until he died in 1890, survived by a widow and daughter who collectively owned the land until 1900 (BC, DR 322:516). The use and occupancy of the 275-acre parcel during this period remain unclear in ad valorem tax records (1882a, 1887a, 1892a, 1897a).

In November 1900, Eliza and Addie Bigham, the widow and daughter of R. C. Bigham, conveyed the 275-acre parcel to Harriett R. Graves and her husband, J. R. Graves of Lampasas County, for the nominal sum of $1 (BC, DR 129:320). There is a break in the chain of title between Harriett Graves and a subsequent owner, W. E. Spurlin. However, in 1903, Spurlin and his wife, Bettie, sold 60 acres out of the 275-acre parcel to Allie Hall and her husband, John, for $400 (BC, DR 149:228), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Sites 41BL438 and 41BL446 are located on these 60 acres. About 1 year later, in January 1904, the Halls conveyed 70 acres that included the 60-acre parcel to T. N. and J. H. Parks for $500 (BC, DR 241:196), perhaps suggesting the existence of additional improvements. It is possible that initial occupation of the 60-acre parcel occurred during this period.

In November 1912, the Parkses sold the 70 acres to J. T. Cockrell for $300 (BC, DR 243:82). In February 1919, Cockrell conveyed the property to L. C. Oldham (BC, DR 357:312). The purchase price in both transactions was $300. Owner-occupation of the property may have continued during this period.

The property stayed in the Oldham family for more than 20 years. In 1925, L. C. Oldham conveyed the 70-acre parcel to his wife, Mattie, for $500 (BC, DR 363:83), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. If initial occupation did not occur with earlier owners, it most likely did during the Oldhams' tenure. By 1942, L. C. Oldham had died, and Mattie and their children sold the property to O. J. Tucker and his wife, Aline, for $1,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 503:10). The Oldhams also had the land resurveyed, at which point it was described as consisting of 76.6 acres (BC, DR 501:537).

In March 1949, the Tuckers sold the 76.6-acre parcel to R. E. Cook and his wife, Hazel, for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 588:528), suggesting further improvements. On September 15, 1953, the Cooks sold the property to the U.S. government for $4,600 (BC, DR 698:565). When the government acquired the land, it was identified as Tract 821. It encompassed 76.6 acres located in the James H. Conley Survey and contained two sites, 41BL438 and 41BL446.

Summary: It is unclear if the 60 acres on which 41BL438 and 41BL446 are located were occupied between 1849, when the land was

patented to James H. Conley, and 1903, when W. E. Spurlin owned the 60-acre parcel in the southeastern portion of the survey. Owners during this period included Amanda Cartwright, R. C. Bigham and his family, and Harriett R. Graves.

Initial occupation and improvement most likely occurred in the early twentieth century. Owners during this period included W. E. Spurlin, Allie Hall, T. N. and J. H. Parks, and J. T. Cockrell. L. C. Oldham and his family owned the property from 1919 until 1942 and may have lived there. O. J. Tucker and R. E. Cook, and their respective spouses, owned the property (now combined with other acreage and resurveyed into a 76.6-acre parcel) from 1942 until 1953, when the government acquired the land. The purchase prices in these last three transactions suggest the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL440 (Tract C-202)

Site History: Site 41BL440 is located south of Cowhouse Creek in the southeastern quadrant of the 500-acre Thomas Gay Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-202, which encompassed 280 acres and contained five sites: 41BL440, 41BL441, 41BL442, 41BL443, and 41BL473.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL440 is located between 1838 and the 1880s, see 41BL469.

According to Macaulay (1998:67-69), G. W. Walton Sr. owned large tracts of land in several surveys, including the Gay Survey. He retained the property until the 1880s when he distributed some of it to his children. In 1890, G. W. Walton Jr. sold a 35-acre tract out of the Gay Survey, on which present-day 41BL440 is located, to Thomas C. Robertson; and in 1891, Walton sold Robertson the 65-acre tract adjoining to the west (the location of 41BL442) for $700, creating a 100-acre tract. Macaulay (1998:68) also noted that for the year 1891, Robertson paid taxes on the two tracts, which were valued at $700. Robertson also paid taxes on 1 wagon, 6 horses, 8 cattle, and 20 hogs, which were collectively valued at $1,130. Macaulay further observed that the value of the 100-acre tract continued to increase over the next 2 years, which suggested that Robertson made improvements.

According to Macaulay (1998:68), Robertson conveyed the 100-acre tract to J. G. Brown in 1895 in consideration of $2,000. The next year Brown paid taxes on the 100 acres, which were assessed at a value of $650. Brown also paid taxes on two horses, four hogs, one cow, and a wagon. The value of the property declined to $550 by 1899, which Macaulay interpreted as a lack of further improvements on the property by Brown. In 1900, Brown conveyed the 100 acres to N. H. Humphries for $2,000 in cash and notes. In 1902, the 100 acres were assessed at a value of $650. Macaulay interpreted this value to suggest that Humphries made improvements, although it might simply reflect rising land prices. Humphries also paid taxes on three horses, seven hogs, two cattle, and a wagon, with a collective value of $220.

According to Macaulay (1998:68), in 1903, George W. Cole Jr. acquired the 100 acres out of the Gay Survey on which present-day 41BL440 is located from Humphries for $200 in cash and other considerations. In total, Cole owned 300 acres out of the southeastern portion of the Gay Survey. Macaulay (1998:68–69) hypothesized that during the period 1903–1906 Cole might have been leasing the property to tenants.

For a legal history of the property on which 41BL440 is located between 1906 and its acquisition by the U.S. government in 1953, see 41BL442.

Summary: Thomas Gay had received his original second class certificate in 1838, but the land it entitled him to was not surveyed or patented until after his death. In the years 1851 and 1852, owners included William R. Baker, James Armstrong, William and Jane Armstrong, and Martin L. Walton. Due to the rapidity of changes in ownership, it is unlikely that any of these people were in residence on the Gay Survey. From about 1852, G. W. Walton assumed ownership from Martin Walton, and retained it until 1880. Although the Walton property was improved, the exact locations of those improvements are unknown. The 35-acre tract, on which present-day 41BL440 is located, was combined with a 65-acre tract to form a 100-acre tract, which was improved by T. C. Robertson in the period 1891–1895. From 1895 to 1900, J. G. Brown owned the property, but his occupation status is unclear. From 1900 to 1903, N. H. Humphries appears to have been in residence and made improvements on the 100 acres. George W. Cole retained ownership of the 200-acre tract from 1903 until 1930. Cole's widow sold 300 acres out of the Gay Survey to G. B.

Smith in 1953 who, in turn, conveyed it to the government in 1953. Neither Cole nor Smith appears to have been in residence on the property, and possibly were renting it to tenants.

Site 41BL441 (Tract C-202)

Site History: Site 41BL441 is located south of the old Sparta Road in the southwestern corner of the 500-acre Thomas Gay Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-202, which encompassed 280 acres and contained five sites: 41BL440, 41BL441, 41BL442, 41BL443, and 41BL473.

Site 41BL441 is located approximately 900 feet west of 41BL442. For the legal history of the property on which 41BL441 is located, see 41BL442.

Summary: Due to the close proximity between 41BL441 and 41BL442, there is most probably a direct relationship between the two. However, the exact nature of that relationship cannot be discerned from archival research alone.

Although Thomas Gay had received his original second class certificate in 1838, the land it entitled him to was not surveyed or patented until 1852, after his death. In the years 1851 and 1852, owners included William R. Baker, James Armstrong, William and Jane Armstrong, and Martin L. Walton. Due to the rapidity of changes in ownership in the year of patent, it is unlikely that any of these people lived on the Gay survey. From about 1852, G. W. Walton assumed ownership from Martin Walton, and retained it until 1880 when he began to distribute some of his landholdings to his children. In 1880, G. W. Walton Jr. received 65 acres out of the Gay Survey from his father, which he kept until 1891. G. W. Walton Jr. might represent the first occupant at present-day 41BL441 or 41BL442. In 1891, G. W. Walton Jr. sold to the 65 acres to Thomas C. Robertson. Robertson combined the 65 acres, on which present-day 41BL441 and 41BL442 are located and where Robertson possibly lived, with the 35 acres on which 41BL440 is located in the Gay Survey. Robertson sold the resulting 100-acre tract to J. G. Brown in 1895. From 1900 until 1908, owners consisted of N. H. Humphries, George W. Cole Jr., T. N. and Mary Spruell, and Cole again. The Spruells apparently farmed at the site of present-day 41BL441 or 41BL442. Once Cole regained ownership, he kept the property until 1930 as part of a combined 300-acre tract out of the Gay Survey on which present-day 41BL441 and 41BL442 are located. Cole's widow sold the 300 acres to G. B. Smith in 1953 who, in turn, conveyed it to the government in 1953. Neither Cole nor Smith appears to have been in residence on the property.

Site 41BL442 (Tract C-202)

Site History: Site 41BL442 is located south of the old Sparta Road in the southeastern corner of the 500-acre Thomas Gay Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-202, which encompassed 280 acres and contained five sites: 41BL440, 41BL441, 41BL442, 41BL443 and 41BL473.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL442 is located between 1838 and 1880, see 41BL469.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL442 is located between 1880 and 1895, see 41BL440.

Macaulay (1998:68) noted that Robertson owned other lands in the Gay Survey, and the 65 acres became part of a 100-acre tract. In the years 1891 to 1893, the value of the 100-acre tract increased, suggesting that Robertson made improvements. Robertson sold the 100 acres to J. G. Brown in 1895 for $2,000. Brown kept the 100 acres for 5 years, and during that period the value decreased, suggesting that no improvements were made under his ownership. Brown then conveyed the 100 acres to N. H. Humphries in November of 1900 for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 134:635). Based on the increase in value of the property, Humphries apparently made improvements. In 1903, Humphries conveyed the 100 acres to George W. Cole Jr. for $200 in cash plus other considerations. Macaulay (1998:68) theorized that Cole might have been renting the property to tenants from 1903 to 1906.

Cole conveyed the 100 acres to T. N. and Mary Spruell in 1906 for $2,000 in notes. Value of the property increased during Spruell's ownership and Macaulay (1998:69) believes that the Spruells had a successful farm located at present-day 41BL442. For unknown reasons, 2 years later, Spruell sold the 100 acres back to Cole for $1,100. As had been the case with

Robertson, Cole owned adjacent properties, and the 100 acres became part of a 300-acre tract out of the Gay Survey. Cole was a resident of Belton, and by 1920 value of the 300 acres had decreased. Cole retained ownership of the 300 acres until 1930. By that point, Cole had died and his widow, Mary, sold the 300 acres to G. B. Smith for $17,200. While Smith owned the 300 acres, its value fluctuated. Smith retained ownership until 1953. In July of that year, Smith conveyed 280 acres of his property out of the Gay Survey to the United States government for $34,000.

Summary: Thomas Gay had received his original second class certificate in 1838, but the land it entitled him to was not surveyed or patented until after his death. In the years 1851 and 1852, owners included William R. Baker, James Armstrong, William and Jane Armstrong, and Martin L. Walton. Due to the rapidity of changes in ownership, it is unlikely that any of these people were in residence on the Gay Survey. From about 1852, G. W. Walton assumed ownership from Martin Walton, and retained it until 1880 when he began to distribute some of his landholdings to his children. In 1880, G. W. Walton Jr. received 65 acres out of the Gay Survey from his father, which he kept until 1891. G. W. Walton Jr. might represent the first occupant at present-day 41BL442. In 1891, G. W. Walton Jr. sold to the 65 acres to Thomas C. Robertson. Robertson combined the 65 acres, on which present-day 41BL442 is located and where Robertson possibly lived, with the 35 acres on which 41BL440 is located in the Gay Survey. Robertson sold the resulting 100-acre tract to J. G. Brown in 1895. From 1900 until 1908, owners consisted of N. H. Humphries, George W. Cole Jr., T. N. and Mary Spruell, and Cole again. The Spruells apparently farmed at the site of present-day 41BL442. Once Cole regained ownership, he kept the property until 1930 as part of a combined 300-acre tract out of the Gay Survey on which present-day 41BL442 is located. Cole's widow sold the 300 acres to G. B. Smith in 1953, who in turn conveyed it to the government in 1953. Neither Cole nor Smith appears to have been in residence on the property.

Site 41BL443 (Tract C-202)

Site History: Site 41BL443 is located south of the old Sparta Road in the southeastern corner of the 500-acre Thomas Gay Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-202, which encompassed 280 acres and contained five sites: 41BL440, 41BL441, 41BL442, 41BL443, and 41BL473.

Site 41BL443 is located approximately 600 ft east of 41BL442. For the legal history of the property on which 41BL443 is located, see 41BL442.

Summary: Due to the close proximity of 41BL442 and 41BL443, there most probably is a direct relationship between the two sites. Macaulay (1998:66) has suggested that 41BL442 was a habitation, and that 41BL443 was a dump site created by nearby residents.

Although Thomas Gay had received his original second class certificate in 1838, the land it entitled him to was not surveyed or patented until 1852, after his death. In the years 1851 and 1852, owners included William R. Baker, James Armstrong, William and Jane Armstrong, and Martin L. Walton. Due to the rapidity of changes in ownership in the year of patent, it is unlikely that any of these people lived on the Gay Survey. From about 1852, G. W. Walton assumed ownership from Martin Walton, and retained it until 1880 when he began to distribute some of his landholdings to his children. In 1880, G. W. Walton Jr. received 65 acres out of the Gay Survey from his father, which he kept until 1891. G. W. Walton Jr. might represent the first occupant at present-day 41BL442. In 1891, G. W. Walton Jr. sold the 65 acres to Thomas C. Robertson. Robertson combined the 65 acres, on which present-day 41BL442 and 41BL443 are located and where Robertson possibly lived, with the 35 acres on which 41BL440 is located in the Gay Survey. Robertson sold the resulting 100-acre tract to J. G. Brown in 1895. From 1900 until 1908, owners consisted of N. H. Humphries, George W. Cole Jr., T. N. and Mary Spruell, and Cole again. The Spruells apparently farmed at the site of present-day 41BL442. Once Cole regained ownership, he kept the property until 1930 as part of a combined 300-acre tract out of the Gay Survey on which present-day 41BL442 and 41BL443 are located. Cole's widow sold the 300 acres to G. B. Smith in 1953 who, in turn, conveyed it to the government in 1953. Neither Cole nor Smith appears to have been in residence on the property.

Site 41BL445 (Tract 812)

Site History: Site 41BL445 is located on approximately 70 acres in the southeastern portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 812, which encompassed 164 acres in the Conley Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL445 is located from 1838 until the mid-1880s, when Amanda Cartwright owned land in the Conley Survey, see the site history for 41BL447.

In June 1883, Amanda Cartwright sold 100 acres in the southeastern portion of the Conley Survey to E. F. Eakin for $200 (BC, DR 44:337). Site 41BL445 is located on the western 80 acres of this 100-acre parcel. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Eakin farmed the property and probably lived there (1884a). Initial occupation and improvement most likely occurred while Eakin owned the property.

In December 1885, Eakin and his wife, Sarah, conveyed the 80-acre parcel to Sabatha E. Hudlin and her husband, G. W., for $600 (BC, DR 50:441), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The Hudlins conveyed the 80 acres to J. R. Mason for $360 in September 1889, although a deed was not filed until 1906 (BC, DR 175:174). In November 1889, Mason and his wife, E. A., sold the property to B. F. Eakin for $375 (BC, DR 96:489). Eakin operated a small farm on the land and probably lived there (1890a).

In December 1891, Eakin and his wife, M. F., conveyed the 80-acre parcel to R. M. Hallmark for $875 (BC, DR 126:218), a substantial increase that suggests further improvements. In June 1899, Hallmark and his wife, A. C., sold the property to T. J. O'Neal (BC, DR 135:48). Ad valorem tax records suggest that O'Neal farmed and lived on the property (1900a).

In October 1906, O'Neal and his wife, Flora, sold the property to M. Carpenter for $1,750 in cash and notes (BC, DR 174:292), suggesting that additional improvements had been made to the 80-acre parcel. In 1909, Carpenter conveyed the land to E. F. Bigham for $1,761 (BC, DR 199:563).

The property remained in the Bigham family for many years. E. F. Bigham died in 1933, and title to the land passed to his widow and children, who sold the land to the U.S. government in 1953 for $14,375 (BC, DR 695:516, 518). When the government acquired the property, it encompassed 164 acres in the James H. Conley Survey and contained one site. The property was identified as Tract 812 and included the 80-acre parcel where 41BL445 is located.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied as early as the 1870s. However, the earliest owners of land in the Conley Survey apparently did not live in Bell County. E. F. Eakin owned 100 acres in the southeastern portion of the survey from 1883 until 1885, during which time he farmed and lived on the property. Initial occupation and improvements most likely occurred during this period of time. Subsequent nineteenth-century owners, including Sabatha Hudlin, B. F. Eakin, R. M. Hallmark, and T. J. O'Neal, also appear to have lived on the property. The purchase prices in two transactions in the first decade of the twentieth century suggest ongoing improvements to the property. In 1909, E. F. Bigham acquired the land, and it remained in his family until the government purchased it from his heirs for a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL446 (Tract 821)

Site History: Site 41BL446 is located on 76.6 acres in the southeastern portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 821, which encompassed 76.6 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41BL438 and 41BL446.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL446 is located from 1838 until 1880, when Amanda Cartwright owned land in the Conley Survey, see the site history for 41BL447. For the remainder of the legal history of the property, see the site history for 41BL438.

Summary: Site 41BL446 is proximate to and on the same tract 41BL438. Site 41BL446 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation to the site based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL447 (Tract 819)

Site History: Site 41BL447 is located in the southwestern portion of the 1,476-acre

James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 819, which encompassed 1,374.26 acres in four surveys and contained five sites: 41BL342, 41BL422, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752.

In February 1838, the Sabine County Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 95) to James H. Conley who had immigrated to Texas in 1834 and was entitled to a headright of one-third league. Conley assigned his interest to George W. Cartwright. In April 1840, G. B. Erath, the Milam District Surveyor, filed field notes describing 1,476 acres on Cowhouse Creek about 19 miles above the three forks of the Little River for Cartwright, assignee of Conley. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted as chainmen. On December 19, 1849, the State of Texas patented the 1,476-acre survey to G. W. Cartwright, assignee of James H. Conley (Texas. General Land Office 1849e).

Cartwright owned the property until 1862, when he sold it to Matthew Cartwright for $2,214 (BC, DR L:342), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Neither G. W. Cartwright nor Matthew Cartwright lived in Bell County, and their use of the property remains unclear. Matthew Cartwright died prior to 1871, survived by his widow, Amanda, and six children (BC, DR 221:196). In May 1871, the six children conveyed their interest in various lands including the 1,476-acre Conley Survey, to their mother, Amanda Cartwright, to effect the partition of Matthew Cartwright's estate (BC, DR 26:220). Amanda Cartwright owned the land outright for many years, but, according to ad valorem tax records, did not reside in Bell County (1880a, 1884a).

In January 1885, Amanda Cartwright conveyed 229.5 acres in the southwest corner of the Conley Survey to L. Oswalt for $688.50 in cash and notes (BC, DR 57:613). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Oswalt farmed the land and may have lived there (1885a–1886a). Initial occupation and improvements most likely occurred while Oswalt owned the property.

In July 1909, the heirs of L. Oswalt conveyed approximately 250 acres, including the 229.55-acre parcel, to C. E. Oswalt for $1,250 (BC, DR 383:96), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In October 1911, Oswalt and his wife, Amanda, conveyed a 37-acre parcel out of the 229.5 acres to C. H. Robinson for $257.50 (BC, DR 228:607). Robinson owned the land for many years, combining it with several other parcels in the immediate vicinity. He appears to have lived on his land, but because his holdings contained several recorded sites (41BL342, 41BL422, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752), it is difficult to determine which of the sites was his residence (Stabler 1999:39–42).

In June 1937, Robinson and his wife, Sallie, conveyed approximately 290 acres in the Slaburn and Conley Surveys to W. V. Robinson for $2,500 (BC, DR 456:625). The property included the 150-acre parcel where 41BL422 is located and 13.2 acres where 41BL447 is located, and the price suggests the presence of improvements.

For the remainder of the legal history of the land on which site 41BL447 is located, see the site history for 41BL422.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied in the early 1860s. However, it appears that the earliest owners of the survey did not reside in Bell County. Between 1885 and 1911, L. Oswalt owned 229.5 acres in the southwest corner of the Conley Survey. He appears to have occupied and improved the property, but because the 229.5-acre parcel contains two sites (41BL447 on Tract 819 and 41BL435 on Tract 817), it is difficult to determine whether one or both of the sites were the locations of improvements at this time.

C. H. Robinson and his wife, Sallie, owned a 13.2-acre property from 1890 until 1937. Site 41BL447 is located on the 13.2 acres. They combined the parcel with other land in the vicinity and appear to have operated a ranch there. It is unclear if the Robinsons lived on the parcel that was the location of 41BL447.

W. V. Robinson and his wife, Faxie, owned the 13.2-acre parcel from 1937 until the government acquired the land in 1954, when it was part of a 1,374.26-acre tract identified as Tract 819. The conveyance also included land in the Shackelford, Slaburn, and Harris Surveys, and contained five sites: 41BL342, 41BL422, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752. The price and reservation of the right to remove existing structures suggest the presence of improvements, but the location and Robinson's use of those improvements remain uncertain.

Site 41BL449 (Tract 817)

Site History: Site 41BL449 is located in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 817, which encompassed 260 acres in the James H. Conley Survey and contained three sites: 41BL435, 41BL449, and 41BL452.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL449 is located from 1838 until the mid-1880s, when Amanda Cartwright owned land in the James H. Conley Survey, see the site history for 41BL447.

In October 1885, Amanda Cartwright sold 72 acres out of the northwestern portion of the Conley Survey to S. D. Eakin for $200 (BC, DR 50:239), a price that suggests that the property was unimproved or minimally improved at that time. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Eakin operated a small farm on the land and probably lived there for the next several years (1886a, 1891a). Initial occupancy and improvements appear to have occurred during this period.

In 1892, S. D. Eakin sold the property, now called 70 acres, to W. A. Eakin for $300 (BC, DR 101:24), the one-third increase in purchase price also suggests the presence of improvements. Ad valorem tax records suggest that W. A. Eakin occupied the property, and that he operated a small farm there (1893a).

In March 1895, W. A. Eakin and his wife, L. N., conveyed the 70-acre parcel to Elizabeth Eakin for $500 (BC, DR 99:573), a price that suggested that additional improvements had been made to the property. Elizabeth Eakin may have lived on and farmed the property, although ad valorem tax records carry the property in the name of S. D. Eakin during the period (1896a–1897a, 1900a, 1902a–1903a). This may reflect some gender bias at the taxing entity, or may suggest that S. D. Eakin paid the taxes on the property during the period. Nonetheless, the property rose in value between 1895 and 1906, when Elizabeth Eakin sold the land to M. E. Oswalt in November 1906 for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 222:357). This price reflected a substantial increase from the $500 Eakin paid in 1895. In October 1912, Oswalt conveyed the land to T. E. Culp for $1,400 (BC, DR 238:95). The purchase prices in both these transactions suggest the presence of improvements.

Between 1912, when Oswalt bought the property, and 1926, the 70-acre parcel was owned by Isaac M. Carpenter (1913–1917), J. P. Murrah (1917–1922), Margaret Berry (1922–1923), D. L. and Minnie Dickey (1923, 1924–1925), Ona Lee Dickey (1923), B. F. Ashcraft (1923–1924), Ona Lee Croft (1925–1926), Russell Durham (1926), M. H. and Floyd Kirk (1926), and C. A. Zachary (1926) (BC, DR 256:168; 294:43; 331:299; 342:204; 348:2, 431; 351:365; 363:117; 373:68; 374:15; 378:368). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from the $1,900 Carpenter paid Culp in 1913, to $6,000 Ashcraft paid Ona Lee Dickey in 1923. Although the prices varied over the period, they never dropped below a level that would indicate the presence of improvements.

There is a break in the chain of title between C. A. Zachary in 1926 and M. H. and Floyd Kirk. Zachary declared bankruptcy in McLennan County in the same year that he purchased the 70-acre parcel from the Kirks. He apparently defaulted on the note associated with that purchase, which included his assumption of a note the Kirks had given to Anabel Burford when they bought the property. In June 1928, Burford foreclosed on the note and purchased the 70 acres at the ensuing auction for $500 (BC, DR 387:180). He then owned the property until November 1942, when he sold it to Clyde Oswalt for $800 (BC, DR 501:590).

Clyde Oswalt also had acquired a 211.25-acre parcel to the south of the 70 acres. Sites 41BL447 and 41BL452 are located on the 70-acre parcel; 41BL435 is located on the 211.15-acre parcel. For the remainder of the legal history of the 70 acres from 1942 until the government acquired the property in 1953, see the site history for 41BL435.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied in the early 1870s. However, it appears that the earliest owners of the survey did not reside in Bell County. S. D. Eakin acquired approximately 70 acres in the northwest portion of the Conley Survey in 1885, and it appears that he improved and lived on the property until 1892. Subsequent ninteenth-century owners, W. A. and Elizabeth Eakin, may have lived on the land and appear to have farmed it. The purchase prices of the property steadily rose over this period.

Between 1900 and 1928, the 70-acre parcel sold more than a dozen times. The purchase

prices suggest the presence of improvements, but rapid changes in ownership cloud the use and occupancy during the period.

Clyde Oswalt purchased the property in 1942 and added it to his 211.25-acre parcel to the south. Oswalt and subsequent owners may have lived on there, but multiple sites (41BL435 on the 211.15 acres; 41BL449 and 41BL452 on the 70-acre parcel) preclude a strong association between rising purchase prices and specific improvements.

In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the purchase price and structure reservation suggested that the property was improved.

Site 41BL450 (Tract 815)

Site History: Site 41BL450 is located on a 50-acre parcel in the northwest portion of the 1476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 815, which encompassed 92 acres in one survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL450 is located from 1838 until the mid-1880s, when Amanda Cartwright owned land in the Conley Survey, see the site history for 41BL447.

In August 1885, Amanda Cartwright sold a 50-acre parcel in the northwest corner of the Conley Survey to S. D. Eakin for $200 (BC, DR 53:185), perhaps suggesting the presence of improvements. Eakin owned the property for several years, and, according to ad valorem tax records, farmed there (1886a, 1891a, 1896a). Eakin may have lived on the 50-acre parcel, but he also owned an adjacent 70-acre parcel that contained two other sites (41BL449 and 41BL452 on Tract 817). From the documentation available, it is difficult to establish which of these recorded sites may have been his residence, and which were other sites associated with his farm operation.

In November 1898, Eakin sold the 50-acre parcel to his son, S. D. Eakin Jr., for $200 (BC, DR 125:269). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Eakin Jr. farmed the property and may have lived there (1900a, 1902a–1903a). If the property was not occupied initially by Eakin Sr., it most likely was occupied initially by Eakin Jr.

In October 1943, S. D. Eakin Jr. and his wife, Cordie, sold the 50-acre parcel to Clyde Watson for $500 (BC, DR 510:577). Watson combined the acreage with his other holdings in the vicinity, which included the 9.5-acre Tract 814 where 41BL456 is located. Although his occupancy of the 50 acres on which 41BL450 is located remains unclear, it appears that he may have maintained a farm and ranch operation on his land.

On March 8, 1954, the U.S. government condemned approximately 140 acres that included Watson's 92-acre Tract 815 and his 9.5-acre Tract 814 (BC, DR 702:188). The 50 acres where 41BL450 is located is part of the 92-acre Tract 815; 41BL456 is located on Tract 814. The government paid $5,630 for the total acreage.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied as early as the mid-1870s, but it appears that the earliest owners of the land did not reside in Bell County. S. D. Eakin owned 50 acres in the northwest corner portion of the survey from 1885 until 1898, but because he also owned an adjacent 70-acre parcel that contains two recorded sites (41BL449 and 41BL452 on Tract 817), it is difficult to determine which site or sites were associated with S. D. Eakin's occupancy.

Eakin's son, S. D. Eakin Jr., owned the 50 acres from 1898 until 1943. Tax records suggest that he operated a small farm on the land and probably lived there. If initial occupation did not occur with Eakin Sr., it most likely occurred with Eakin Jr.

The property was owned by Clyde Watson from 1943 until the government acquired it in 1954. Watson combined the 50 acres with other land in the area, and his use and occupation of the property under review remain unclear.

Site 41BL452 (Tract 817)

Site History: Site 41BL452 is located in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 817, which encompassed 260 acres in the James H. Conley Survey and contained three sites: 41BL435, 41BL449, and 41BL452.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL452 is located, see the site history for 41BL449.

Summary: Site 41BL452 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL435 and 41BL449. Site 41BL452 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property,

but it is not possible to assign a date or function to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL456 (Tract 814)

Site History: Site 41BL456 is located on a 91-acre parcel in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 814, which encompassed 9.5 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL456 is located from 1838 until 1849, when the survey was patented to G. W. Cartwright as assignee of James H. Conley, see the site history for 41BL447.

Cartwright owned the property for many years, but did not live in Bell County. In 1861, his agent, X. B. Saunders, sold a 320-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the survey to D. H. Summers for $640 in cash and notes (BC, DR H:701). Summers was a Bell County resident, but his use and occupation of the property remain uncertain (1862a). In November 1862, Summers sold the 320 acres to Harvey Smith for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR I:428). Although the purchase price suggests the presence of improvements, Smith's use and occupancy also are unclear (1863a).

In October 1868, Smith conveyed the 320-acre parcel to Jeremiah Scott for $1,958 in cash and notes (BC, DR K:535), a price that indicates that the property was improved. Scott owned the property for a number of years and was a resident of Bell County for a period of time. However, his use and occupation of the property remain uncertain (1870a, 1872a, 1874a, 1880a, 1887a).

Scott sold the property to Ed F. Lee in January 1889 for $2,500 (BC, DR 68:407), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Even though the purchase price in earlier transactions indicates that the property was improved, initial owner occupation most likely occurred while Lee owned the 320-acre parcel. Ad valorem tax records suggest that he farmed the land and probably lived there (1889a, 1894a).

In August 1899, Lee conveyed the property to his three children, W. T. Lee, B. F. Lee, and Harriett Graves, for $10 (BC, DR 123:421). Less than 6 months later, the children partitioned the property, with Brown F. Lee acquiring the eastern 182.4 acres of the 320-acre parcel in the northeast portion of the Conley Survey for $10 (BC, DR 131:295). In August 1900, Lee, a resident of Tom Green County, conveyed the 182.4 acres to E. J. Carter for $2,028.50 in cash and notes (BC, DR 134:298). Site 41BL456 is located on a 9.5-acre remnant in the southeast corner of this 182.4-acre parcel.

Carter owned the property for over 40 years. He combined the land with other acreage in the area to form a ranch of nearly 500 acres. In 1943, Carter and his wife, Martha, partitioned the property among their children and grandchildren, with Clarence and William Hugh Carter acquiring the easterly 91 acres of the 182.4-acre parcel (BC, DR 511:367). One year later, in March 1944, Beulah Lee Carter, guardian of Clarence and William Carter, sold the property to Clyde Watson for $3,000 (BC, DR 530:337). Clyde Watson was married to Leona Carter Watson, a daughter of E. J. and Martha Carter. The 91 acres includes the 9.5-acre parcel where 41BL456 is located.

For the remainder of the legal history of the land on which 41BL456 is located, see the site history for 41BL450.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied as early as the mid-1870s. However, it appears that the earliest owners did not reside in Bell County. Although the purchase prices of a 320-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the survey in 1862, 1868, and 1889 seem to indicate the presence of improvements, tax records do not clarify use and occupancy between 1850 and 1890.

Ed F. Lee owned the 320-acre parcel from 1889 until 1899. Initial occupation most likely occurred during this period of time. E. J. Carter owned the property from 1900 until 1943, and he may have lived on the property. Clyde Watson, related by marriage to the Carters, owned the 9.5-acre remnant where 41BL456 is located from 1944 until the government acquired it in 1954.

Site 41BL458 (Tract 1302)

Site History: Site 41BL458 is located in the northern portion of a 57.6-acre parcel of the 320-acre H. F. Hoover Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1302, which consisted of 57.6 acres and contained sites 41BL458, 41BL459, and 41BL460.

In an affidavit, H. F. Hoover swore that he had lived on, improved, and cultivated a 320-acre tract of vacant public land in the Milam Land District since 1849. In May 1852, C. S. James, deputy surveyor for the district, filed field notes that described a 320-acre tract of land on the waters of Cowhouse Creek about 12.5 miles from Belton. Edmund Person and Jordan Scott assisted James as chainmen. The Bell County Clerk issued a preemption certificate (No. 7) to Hoover for the 320-acre tract in December 1852; and on June 8, 1857, the State of Texas patented the land to H. F. Hoover (Texas. General Land Office 1857b; BC, DR G:57).

Hoover owned the 320-acre survey until 1875, but it is unclear if he occupied or used the property. In 1875 and 1878, W. C. Claunch bought partial interests in the land from Hoover's former wife and one of his five children (BC, DR 45:266–267). Less than a year later, Claunch sold his interest in the 320-acre survey to William Snell, who, between 1878 and 1885, acquired additional interests from three more of H. F. Hoover's children (BC, DR 29:149; 45:264; 51:629; 53:1). Sometime after 1885, Snell died, and his widow, Ellen, completed the purchase by acquiring the interest of the fifth Hoover child in 1893 (BC, DR 92:46).

It is unclear if William or Ellen Snell occupied or used the property. Bell County assessed William Snell for 320 acres in the Hoover Survey in 1878 and valued the land at $800. In 1882, the county assessed Ellen Snell $1,000 for the same land. No personal property was assessed in either year, suggesting that the Snells did not occupy or use the land. Between 1883 and 1893, the ad valorem tax evaluation fluctuated between $1,200 and $2,500, amounts that suggest substantial improvements, even though the county listed the owner of the tract as "Unknown."

In 1893, Ellen Snell sold the 320-acre survey to F. P. Knight for $1,500 (BC, DR 95:613); Knight owned the property for about 5 years. Tax records during the period indicate that he used the land as a small farm, suggesting probable occupation and possible improvements (1894a–1895a, 1900a).

On October 31, 1898, Knight and his wife, Hattie, conveyed the 320-acre survey to Ed F. Lee (BC, DR 122:394). Less than a year later, Lee conveyed the eastern 241 acres of the Hoover Survey to three of his children (BC, DR 123:421). In 1900, two of the siblings conveyed their interests in the 241-acre parcel to the third, thus vesting title in the tract in W. T. Lee (BC, DR 129:396). It is unclear if Lee or any of his children occupied or used the land.

On November 22, 1900, W. T. Lee and his wife, V. C., sold the 241-acre parcel to B. F. Sims and his wife, M. J., for $1,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 139:49). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Sims improved the land substantially between 1901 and 1910. The assessments also indicate that Sims maintained a small farm operation on the property.

Sims's ownership continued until 1925, when he and his wife both died (BC, DR 378:315). In 1927, the Sims heirs partitioned the land owned by the deceased couple, and several of them jointly acquired the 241-acre parcel (BC, DC Cause No. 16,562; DR 371:406). In 1933, A. D. Reed and his wife, Onie, who was a daughter of B. F. and M. J. Sims, acquired a 109-acre parcel out of the eastern 241 acres of the Hoover Survey for $1 and the assumption of a $3,000 note (BC, DR 427:58). Site 41BL458 is located in the northern 57.6 acres of this 109-acre parcel, as are sites 41BL459 and 41BL460.

On October 6, 1953, the Reeds conveyed their 57.6 acres to the U.S. government for $12,625, and it was designated Tract 1302. As additional consideration for the tract, the Reeds reserved the right to remove several structures, including a smokehouse, chicken house, barn, and various other outbuildings (BC, DR 691:505; 699:39). The presence of these structures suggests, and it is probable that the remnants of these structures are associated with one or more of the three sites located on the property.

Summary: It is unclear if the property on which 41BL458 is located was occupied between 1857 and 1900. It is possible that William and Ellen Snell occupied the property between 1878 and 1893, but land and tax records provide inconclusive evidence of that occupation. B. F. Sims and his wife, M. J. Sims, probably occupied the property from 1900 until 1925, and they appear to have used the land for a farming operation. Land records suggest that subsequent owners also occupied Tract 1302 and continued to improve the property. However, because three sites are located on the tract (41BL458, 41BL459, and 41BL460), the association of sites and specific occupants is unclear.

Site 41BL459 (Tract 1302)

Site History: Site 41BL459 is located in the southern portion of a 57.6-acre parcel of the 320-acre H. F. Hoover Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1302, which consisted of 57.6 acres and contained sites 41BL458, 41BL459, and 41BL460.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL459 is located, see 41BL458.

Summary: Site 41BL459 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL458 and 41BL460. It is probable that 41BL459 is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL460 (Tract 1302)

Site History: Site 41BL460 is located in the southern portion of a 57.6-acre parcel of the 320-acre H. F. Hoover Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1302, which consisted of 57.6 acres and contained sites 41BL458, 41BL459, and 41BL460.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL460 is located, see 41BL458.

Summary: Site 41BL460 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL458 and 41BL459. It is possible that 41BL460 is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL464 (Tract C-210)

Site History: Site 41BL464 is located in the southern portion of the 320-acre Obadiah Taylor Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-210, which consisted of 370 acres in the Taylor and James H. Conley Surveys and contained three sites: 41BL341, 41BL464, and 41BL471.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL464 is located from 1857 to 1900, see 41BL527.

In 1900, M. E. Potter sold the southerly 145 acres of the 320-acre Taylor Survey, on which present-day 41BL464 is located, to E. J. Carter for $1,150 (BC, DR 134:454). Carter also owned 450 acres south of the 145-acre parcel in the Taylor Survey and 79.25 acres in the Conley Survey on which 41BL471 is located. The Bell County ad valorem tax evaluation suggests that he improved the land and maintained a substantial farm and ranch operation (1901a, 1906a, 1910a). A later deed located the Carter house on the Conley Survey, probably at 41BL471 (BC, DR 576:235).

In 1928, Carter and his wife, Martha Jane, conveyed Tract No. 2 of the subdivision of the Carter lands, which consisted of 130 acres out of the Taylor and Conley Surveys (the locations of present-day 41BL464 and 41BL471, respectively) to Fannie Curry as her sole and separate property in 1928. Carter retained rights to rents from the property and paid taxes on it until his death in 1943 (BC, DR 504:491). Fannie was 1 of 10 Carter children. She married Lote Curry, and the couple resided in Bell County (BC, DR 517:496).

In 1945, Fannie Curry and her husband conveyed to Jim Bundrant and his wife, Minnie, the 130 acres out of the Taylor and Conley Surveys on which present-day 41BL464 and 41BL471 are located in consideration of $3,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 526:146). On July 17, 1948, Bundrant conveyed the property, plus another tract, to A. B. Carothers, Marvin Brister, and O. C. Lacewell for $11,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 576:235).

There is an apparent gap in the chain of title from Carothers et al. in 1948 to Clyde W. Watson in 1953, possibly due to an unrecorded deed between the two parties.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL464 is located at acquisition in 1953, see 41BL341.

Summary: The property on which 41BL464 is located may have been occupied as early as 1856, when Newton Parks resided on the 320-acre Obadiah Taylor Survey. Hamilton Parks, an heir of Newton Parks, appears to have continued to occupy the Taylor Survey until 1884, when he sold the property. Between 1886 and 1900, all or part of the Taylor Survey was owned by J. W. and M. E. Potter, who may have improved and occupied the property. In 1900, 145 acres out of the Taylor Survey, on which present-day 41BL464 is located, was conveyed to E. J. Carter. Carter used the land but lived

elsewhere. In 1928, the Carters divided their property among their children, and the 130 acres on which present-day 41BL464 is located went to their daughter, Fannie Curry, upon Carter's death in 1943. Curry owned the property until 1945. By 1948, Jim Bundrant owned the entire Taylor Survey, and he appears to have lived there; however, it is not possible to determine which of the sites located on the Taylor Survey were occupied by Bundrant. In 1948, Bundrant conveyed the Taylor Survey to A. B. Carothers, Marvin Brister, and O. C. Lacewell. The status of the property between 1948 and 1953 is unclear. Clyde W. Watson apparently had tenants in occupation in 1953.

Site 41BL465 (Tract C-214)

Site History: Site 41BL465 is located in the northeastern portion of a 28.2-acre parcel out of the southwest corner of the 320-acre H. F. Hoover Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract C-214, a Belton Reservoir tract that encompassed 28.2 acres in one survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL465 is located from 1857, when the survey was patented to Hoover, until 1898, when Ed F. Lee owned the land, see the site history for 41BL458.

On January 2, 1899, Ed F. Lee and his wife, R. A., conveyed a 79-acre parcel out of the western portion of the Hoover Survey to B. F. Eakin for $700 cash (BC, DR 125:336). Less than a month later, on January 24, 1899, Eakin sold the property to John T. Potter for $750 in cash and notes (BC, DR 198:440).

Potter owned the 79-acre parcel for about 2 years, selling it to G. W. Riggle for $800 in cash and notes on November 28, 1900 (BC, DR 192:571). Riggle owned the 79-acre parcel for about 5 years, and during that time he appears to have occupied the property, improved it, and used it as a small farm (1901a, 1903a, 1906a).

On December 4, 1906, Riggle and wife, Bell, sold the 79-acre parcel to John Yielding and wife, Martha C., for $1,265 cash (BC, DR 175:508), a sum that suggests that Riggle had improved the property. Yielding appears to have further improved the property, as the Bell County tax evaluations rose from $640 in 1907, to $900 in 1910. Tax records also suggest that Yielding occupied the parcel and continued its use as a farm.

On April 18, 1910, Yielding and his wife conveyed the 79-acre parcel out of the western portion of the Hoover Survey to B. F. Sims for $1,600 in cash and notes (BC, DR 207:311). Sims's ownership continued until 1925, when he and his wife both died (BC, DR 378:315). In 1927, the Sims heirs partitioned the land owned by the deceased couple, and several of the heirs jointly acquired the 79-acre parcel and other land for $11,000 in cash and notes (BC, DC Cause No. 16,562; DR 371:406). In 1933, Howard Kelly and wife, Goldie Sims Kelly, a daughter of B. F. and M. J. Sims, acquired the 79-acre parcel out of the Hoover Survey for $1 and the assumption of a $1,200 note (BC, DR 427:45).

On November 7, 1953, Howard and Goldie Kelly conveyed a total of 28.2 acres to the U.S. government for $3,770. As additional consideration for the property, which was the location of 41BL465 and was designated Tract C-214, the Kellys reserved the right to remove all growing crops before December 1, 1953 (BC, DR 691:605).

Summary: It is unclear if the property on which 41BL465 is located was occupied between 1857 and 1900. It is possible that William and Ellen Snell occupied the property between 1878 and 1893, but land and tax records provide inconclusive evidence of that occupation. G. W. Riggle and John Yielding appear to have occupied the property between 1900 and 1910. B. F. Sims and his wife, M. J., probably occupied the property from 1910 until 1925, and they appear to have used the land for a farming operation. Land records suggest that subsequent owners also occupied what became Tract C-214 and continued to improve the property.

Site 41BL468 (Tract C-218)

Site History: Site 41BL468 is located in the northeastern quarter of the 369-acre James P. Warnock Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-218, which encompassed 118 acres in the Warnock and Dowess Surveys and contained two sites, 41BL468 and 41BL586.

On April 27, 1838, the board of land commissioners for the County of Harrisburg granted James P. Warnock an augmented headright for one-third league by virtue of the fact that Warnock had arrived in Texas in 1830 and was a single man. The certificate (No. 522) noted that Fredrick Niebling located the land

by power of attorney. A survey was made for James P. Warnock for 369 acres located on the Cowhouse Creek about 6 miles above its junction with the Leon River. It was surveyed on September 14, 1842, by George B. Erath with J. Mackay and W. Jones as chain carriers. The 369-acre survey was patented to Warnock on July 15, 1851 (Texas. General Land Office 1851d).

Before Warnock received his patent from the State of Texas, he had sold the 369-acre survey for $240 to John Williams of Bell County on February 26, 1851 (BC, DR A:104). The ad valorem tax records as of January 1, 1851, indicate that Williams did not pay a tax on the land, but he did have 6 horses worth $300, 100 cattle worth $400, and $150 worth of merchandise on hand (1851a). Williams had not yet legally acquired the Warnock Survey, but it is possible that he was using it already, although he could have been somewhere else instead. A year later, Williams paid tax on 354 acres out of the Warnock Survey worth $354, along with 4 horses worth $200, and 100 cattle worth $466 (1852a). These values suggest that Williams perhaps was using the Warnock Survey for grazing, but had not yet improved it. In 1855, Williams paid tax on the entire 369-acre Warnock Survey, now valued at $1,580, an amount that definitely suggests improvements. In addition, Williams was taxed on 5 horses worth $450, 158 cattle worth $1,060, and an unspecified number of sheep and hogs worth $275 (1855a).

Williams and his wife, Emily J., owned the Warnock Survey until 1857, when they sold it to Joseph S. Hawkins of Bell County for $1,110 in cash and notes (BC, DR G:93). Hawkins, his wife Francis, and their family lived somewhere on the Warnock Survey. In 1860, Hawkins paid taxes on the 369 acres, which were assessed at a value of $2,585, suggesting a heavily improved property. Notably, Hawkins also paid taxes on 10 slaves valued at $6,000, 4 horses valued at $190, 55 cattle valued at $350, and $250 worth of miscellaneous property (1860a). Hawkins's ownership of many slaves and little livestock suggests that crop farming, perhaps cotton, was the focus of agricultural effort.

Sometime before 1866, Joseph had died and left his estate to his wife. By 1866, Francis had also died. At that time, the probate inventory noted that Hawkins had 14 acres of the Warnock Survey in cultivation. Upon Francis' death, the 369 acres were partitioned into six lots, and interest in them was divided among the Hawkins children and grandchildren. Mary, a daughter of Joseph and Francis, had married James Gunn and moved to Pike County, Arkansas, where they had a family of six children. By 1866, Mary Gunn was herself deceased, and her minor heirs received rights to Lot No. 5 out of the Warnock Survey (BC, PM B:550), which contained 32 acres and is the location of present-day 41BL468.

The heirs of Mary Gunn continued to reside in Arkansas, so in 1877 S. E. Gunn, J. H. Gunn, and J. W. Watson and his wife B. C. Watson conveyed their cumulative 50 percent interest in Lot No. 5, the 32 acres, to W. J. Pittman of Bell County for $90 (BC, DR Y:303). In 1879, Pittman paid taxes on 31 acres out of the Warnock Survey valued at $100. He also had 1 carriage or wagon worth $10, 3 horses or mules worth $30, 7 cattle worth $35, 10 hogs worth $5, and $25 worth of miscellaneous property (1870a). These values and the presence of livestock suggest that Pittman possibly had a small-scale, subsistence farm with minor improvements.

On August 31, 1880, Pittman and his wife, H. C. Pittman, conveyed four tracts of land out of the Warnock Survey, including a half interest in the 32-acre Lot No. 5, to G. M. White of Bell County for $225 (BC, DR 46:407). Four months later, those same portions of the Warnock Survey were conveyed from White and his wife, M. E. L. White, to Z. T. Cartwright of Bell County for $350 (BC, DR 35:85).

In 1881, Cartwright and his wife, M. A. Cartwright, conveyed a half interest in the 32 acres, plus other portions of the Warnock Survey, to John Yielding and his wife, Margaret E., for $250 (BC, DR 47:316). The Yieldings obtained the remaining interest in the 32-acre Lot No. 5 out of the Warnock Survey 2 years later from J. N. Dixon and his wife, F. C. Dixon, and L. M. Gunn (an heir of Mary Gunn) for $50 (BC, DR 47:318).

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL468 is located between 1890 and 1953, see 41BL586.

Summary: James P. Warnock patented his survey in 1851, but before that patent was ever issued, he had sold the 369 acres to John Williams who retained ownership until 1857. During that time, the Williams family was in

residence on the property and made improvements. From 1857 until 1866, Joseph S. Hawkins, his wife, Francis, and their family lived somewhere on the Warnock Survey and made substantial improvements. Upon Francis's death in 1866, the Warnock Survey was partitioned into six lots that were distributed to the Hawkins children and grandchildren. Title to the 32-acre lot, on which 41BL468 is located, went to grandchildren living in Arkansas. Those heirs retained ownership until 1880. During that period, it is possible the 32 acres were not occupied. In 1880 and 1881, interest in the 32 acres, plus other tracts in the Warnock Survey, were owned consecutively by W. J. and H. C. Pittman, G. M. and M. E. L. White, and Z. T. and M. A. Cartwright. The Pittmans apparently had a small farm on the 32 acres. By 1883, full interest in the 32 acres was conveyed to John and Margaret E. Yielding. Along with other acreage, the property became known as the Yielding place. From 1895 until 1912, owners included Jonathan R. and J. A. Sims, M. Boyd, W. H. and Kate Hurd, George W. Cole, and T. N. Parks. In 1912, Parks sold 216 acres in the Dowess and Warnock Surveys, plus another parcel, to E. J. Carter and his family. Both the Carter family and their tenants, the Smith family, lived on the Carter property until 1943. After E. J. Carter's death in 1943, the acreage in the Dowess and Warnock Surveys, where 41BL465 and 41BL586 are located, was conveyed to Carter's daughter, Maude Herring, who was a resident of California. It is possible that tenants remained on the property until it was acquired by the government in 1953.

Site 41BL469 (Tract C-219)

Site History: Site 41BL469 is located in the northern portion (north of Cowhouse Creek) of the 500-acre Thomas Gay Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract C-219, which encompassed 98.5 acres in the Gay and Dowess Surveys and contained one site.

On July 19, 1838, the board of land commissioners of Harrisburg County issued a conditional second class headright certificate for 640 acres to Thomas Gay by virtue of the fact that he had immigrated to Texas previous to October 1, 1837. However, before any acreage was even patented, rights to Thomas Gay's certificate were transferred. On October 8, 1851, an order of sale was issued out of the Harris County Court for Gay's headright certificate. William R. Baker of Harris County was the highest bidder, so for $30 the certificate was conveyed from Gay's administrator, J. Isbell, to Baker (BC, DR D:62). Early the next year, for valuable consideration received, Baker conveyed rights to the entire certificate to James Armstrong of Williamson County (BC, DR D:64).

The 640 acres were located in two separate surveys. A 140-acre survey was located between the Little and San Gabriel Rivers. The 500-acre survey on which present-day 41BL469 is situated was located on Cowhouse Creek about 11 miles above Belton. William Armstrong, district surveyor for the Milam Land District, surveyed the 500 acres for Thomas Gay on October 21, 1851, with J. Blackman and William W. Dodd as chain carriers. The 500-acre survey was patented to the heirs of Thomas Gay on November 3, 1852 (Texas. General Land Office 1852). That month, James Armstrong conveyed the 500 acres located on Cowhouse Creek to William Armstrong of Milam County for $500 (BC, DR D:65). By December, William and his wife, Jane, conveyed the same 500 acres to Martin L. Walton of Bell County for $1,000 (BC, DR B:623).

According to Macaulay (1998:71), Martin Walton's relative, G. W. Walton, paid the taxes on the property and apparently assumed ownership of it along with other properties. Macaulay (1998:71–73) also notes that G. W. Walton owned large tracts of land in several surveys where he grew crops and raised stock. Walton had improvements on his property, but they were assessed in such a way that it is difficult to discern their location. Macaulay (1998:73–74) also states that it was not until November 1885 that G. W. Walton conveyed the 70 acres out of the Gay Survey on which present-day 41BL469 is located to Z. T. Cartwright for $1,000 in cash and notes. The next year, Cartwright sold the 70 acres to T. E. Tomlinson. In 1888, the valuation of the property was such that the presence of improvements is suggested. Tomlinson then conveyed the 70 acres to Sam Dunn for $1,200 in cash and notes in November 1889. A year later, Dunn conveyed the 70 acres to W. J. Sliger for $1,200 and other considerations. The value of the property actually decreased during that year. Sliger was not able

to meet his obligations, and Tomlinson still owned the notes on the property, so he resold the 70 acres, this time in January 1893 to Martin Whalen for $1,100 in cash and notes. The value of the property continued to decline in 1895, but increased in 1896. Macaulay (1998:74) interpreted the increase in value as a suggestion of some sort of improvements or repairs. However, the increase simply could reflect rising land prices. Whalen retained ownership of the 70 acres until November of 1898, when he conveyed title to M. Boyd for $1,200 (Macaulay 1998:74).

In 1900, M. Boyd conveyed the 70 acres out of the Gay Survey to W. H. Hurd of Bell County for $5,000 (BC, DR 129:173).

For a legal history of the property on which 41BL469 is located between 1900 and 1943, when owner E. J. Carter died, see 41BL586.

At the time of Carter's death, his property was distributed among his heirs. Based on an instrument dated 1928 but not effective until 1943, Carter conveyed to his daughter, Nora, who married Jess Parks and resided in Belton, a total of 143 acres designated as Tract No. 7 of the subdivision of the Carter lands. This acreage included 70 acres out of the Gay Survey, on which present-day 41BL469 is located, and 73 acres out of the Dowess Survey (BC, DR 465:389; 517:496).

Nora M. Parks and her husband, Jesse H. Parks, conveyed 98.5 acres on which present-day 41BL469 is located to the United States government on July 28, 1953, for $7,875. It was noted in the deed that the Parks retained the right to harvest crops from the land on or before September 1 of that year (BC, DR 690:441).

Summary: Thomas Gay had received his original second class certificate in 1838, but the land it entitled him to was not surveyed or patented until after his death. In the years 1851 and 1852, owners included William R. Baker, James Armstrong, William and Jane Armstrong, and Martin L. Walton. Due to the rapidity of changes in ownership, it is unlikely that any of these people were in residence on the Gay Survey. From about 1852, G. W. Walton assumed ownership from Martin Walton, and retained it until 1885. Although the Walton property was improved, the exact locations of those improvements are unknown. From 1885 until 1912, owners consisted of Z. T. Cartwright, T. E. Tomlinson, Sam Dunn, W. J. Sliger, Martin Whalen, M. Boyd, W. H. and Kate Hurd, George W. Cole, and T. N. Parks. During this period, the property saw both decline and improvement, suggesting that it was abandoned or otherwise not maintained, and then subsequently reoccupied, possibly by Whalen. In 1912, Parks sold 70 acres in the Gay Survey, plus other parcels, to E. J. Carter and his family. Both members of the Carter family and their tenants, the Smith family, lived at locations on the Carter property until 1943, although those locations are unknown. After E. J. Carter's death in 1943, the acreage in the Gay and Dowess Surveys, where 41BL469 is located, was conveyed to Carter's daughter, Nora M. Parks and her husband. Because the Parks were long-time residents of Belton but the property was under cultivation, it is probable that tenants remained on the property until it was acquired by the government in 1953.

Site 41BL471 (Tract C-210)

Site History: Site 41BL471 is located in the northwestern corner of the 1,476-acre James H. Conley Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-210, which encompassed 370 acres in the Conley and Obadiah Taylor Surveys and contained three sites: 41BL341, 41BL464, and 41BL471.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL471 is located from 1838 to 1884, see 41BL447.

Amanda Cartwright of San Augustine County owned the entire Conley Survey until she began to sell portions of it in the early 1870s and during the 1880s. In 1884, Cartwright conveyed a 79.5-acre tract located north of Cowhouse Creek in the Conley Survey, on which present-day 41BL471 is located, to E. J. Carter for $225 in cash and notes (BC, DR 48:79). A later deed documented the presence of the Carter house on the Conley Survey in a location that corresponds closely to the location of present-day 41BL471 (BC, DR 576:235), which suggests this site might be the remains of the Carter home. In 1884, Elias Carter paid taxes on 79.25 acres in the Conley Survey, which were valued at $400. Carter also paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $10, two horses or mules worth $70, one cow worth $25, six hogs worth $5, and $10 in miscellaneous property (1884a). These values, along with other data,

suggest that this property might have been the Carter home.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL471 is located from 1900 until 1948, see 41BL464.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL471 is located from 1948 until 1953, see 41BL341.

Summary: Portions of the James H. Conley Survey may have been occupied in the early 1860s. However, it appears that the earliest owners of the survey did not reside in Bell County. From 1884 until 1948, the property was part of the E. J. Carter family lands, and there is a strong association between the location of the Carter home and present-day 41BL471. The status of the property is unclear between 1948 and 1953. Clyde W. Watson apparently had tenants in occupation on the property at the time of acquisition, perhaps reoccupying the Carter home.

Site 41BL473 (Tract C-202)

Site History: Site 41BL473 is located south of Cowhouse Creek in the central portion of the 500-acre Thomas Gay Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract C-202, which encompassed 280 acres and contained five sites: 41BL440, 41BL441, 41BL442, 41BL443, and 41BL473.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL473 is located from 1838 to 1885, see 41BL469.

According to Macaulay (1998:65–70), G. W. Walton of Bell County retained ownership of his land in the Gay Survey until the 1880s. In 1885, Walton conveyed 200 acres out of the south-central portion of the Gay Survey to T. E. Tomlinson for $700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 51:371). In 1893, Tomlinson, a resident of Hill County, conveyed the 200 acres on which present-day 41BL473 is located, plus a tract in the Richardson Survey, to G. W. Cole Jr. in consideration of $3,750 (BC, DR 91:376).

For a legal history of the property on which 41BL473 is located from 1903 until 1906, see 41BL440.

For a legal history of the property on which 41BL473 is located from 1906 until acquisition in 1953, see 41BL442.

Summary: Although Thomas Gay had received his second class certificate in 1838, the land it entitled him to was not surveyed or patented until 1852, after his death. In the years 1851 and 1852, owners included William R. Baker, James Armstrong, William and Jane Armstrong, and Martin L. Walton. Due to the rapidity of changes in ownership in the year of patent, it is unlikely that any of these people were in residence on the Gay Survey. From about 1852, G. W. Walton assumed ownership from Martin Walton, and retained it until 1880. Although the Walton property was improved, the exact locations of those improvements are unknown. T. E. Tomlinson owned the 200 acres on which present-day 41BL473 is located from 1885 until 1893. Tomlinson was not a resident of Bell County, and possibly rented the property to tenants. George W. Cole retained ownership of the 200-acre tract from 1893 until 1930. Cole's widow sold 300 acres out of the Gay Survey to G. B. Smith in 1953, who in turn conveyed it to the government in 1953. Neither Cole nor Smith appears to have been in residence on the property, and possibly were renting to tenants.

Site 41BL474 (Tract 1128)

Site History: Site 41BL474 is near the southeast corner of the 160-acre H. K. Harrison Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1128, which encompassed 40 acres in two surveys and contained one site, 41BL474.

Between January 1, 1871, and October 20, 1872, G. W. Hallmark had occupied 160 acres surveyed for him by R. P. Bigham on December 22, 1871. In an application for preemption, H. K. Harrison stated that he was a settler on vacant public land on November 27, 1872. Ed Rucker, Bell County Surveyor, located 160 acres on Cowhouse Creek and the Leon River on December 1, 1873, with William Blackburn and Sam Bishop serving as chain carriers.

Harrison was deceased by May 1874; and G. W. and Rebecca L. Hallmark transferred their interests in the claim to Harrison's heirs on May 27 for $500. Harrison's widow, Ellen E. Harrison, was a settler on the land that she and her deceased husband had occupied and improved since October 20, 1872. The State of Texas patented the land to Harrison's heirs, assignee, on June 22, 1874 (Texas. General Land Office 1874b; BC, DR 24:298).

Ellen E. Harrison sold her one-half interest and a life interest in the 160 acres to Mattie K. Barclay of Hamilton County on August 20, 1875, in exchange for a house and lot in Rockdale, which were valued at $600 (BC, DR 24:299). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1875 and 1885 (1882a–1883a).

Mattie K. Barclay and her husband, W. A., by now of Falls County, conveyed the one-half and the life interests in the Harrison Survey to F. L. Denison on June 29, 1885, for $300 (BC, DR 53:7). Five months later, Denison sold the one-half and the life interests in the land to A. J. McDaniel for $150 (BC, DR 50:260). McDaniel probably occupied an adjacent and more heavily improved parcel of land between 1885 and 1888, and it remains unclear whether the Harrison Survey was occupied during this period (1886a).

A. J. and M. J. McDaniel sold 7.75 acres out of the southeast corner of the Harrison Survey, on which 41BL474 is located, and the eastern 72.25 acres out of the adjacent W. F. Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL610 is located, to brothers T. E. Tomlinson and J. D. Tomlinson on June 9, 1888, for $260 (BC, DR 64:189). J. D. and Sallie F. Tomlinson then conveyed their half interest in the 7.75 acres out of the Harrison Survey and other land to his brother, T. E. Tomlinson, for $1,000 (BC, DR 71:522). T. E. Tomlinson probably resided on a more heavily improved parcel of land between 1888 and the early 1890s, when he moved to Hillsboro (1890a, 1895a). It remains unclear whether the 7.75 acres out of the Harrison Survey were occupied since the property had few, if any, improvements during the 1890s and 1900s (1890a, 1895a, 1899a, 1908a).

T. E. and Laura Tomlinson sold the 7.75 acres out of the Harrison Survey, on which 41BL474 is located, to W. B. McGarity on January 9, 1909, for $3,000. This transaction also included 60 acres out of the S. W. Bishop Survey; 72.25 acres out of the Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL610 is located; and the 160-acre E. T. Eakin Survey, on which 41BL344 is located (BC, DR 191:396). McGarity resided in Belton (1910a).

On December 31, 1910, W. B. and Roy O. McGarity sold the 7.75 acres to G. W. Hilliard for $103.50 (BC, DR 216:187). The Hilliards also had acquired the remaining 152.25 acres out of the Harrison Survey (BC, DR 229:70). Owners of the Harrison Survey between 1910 and 1923 were J. G. Hearn, who paid $3,000 in 1911 (BC, DR 229:70); J. W. Pittman, who paid $7,500 for the survey on August 30, 1920 (BC, DR 322:57); and W. R. West, who paid $7,000 on October 12, 1923 (BC, DR 347:596). About 1 year later, W. R. and C. C. West sold 40 acres out of the southeast corner of the Harrison Survey, on which 41BL474 is located, to G. D. Dennis for $1,600 (BC, DR 331:546). Owners of the 40 acres after 1924 were Lorence Eckenfels of Falls County, who paid $1,500 for the property on November 18, 1937 (BC, DR 461:191); C. J. and Louise B. Spence who paid $1,600 on November 20, 1944 (BC, DR 525:425); Alva and Alma A. Garrett, who paid $2,100 on September 15, 1947 (BC, DR 569:264); W. G. Keese, who bought the 40 acres for $2,000 on May 22, 1950 (BC, DR 618:448); and Dorrance and Daisy Lee Brewer, of Milam County, who paid $2,750 in 1951 (BC, DR 639:129). In 1952, the Brewers divorced, and Dorrance Brewer conveyed his interest in the property to his ex-wife, who remarried in 1953 (BC, DR 678:196; 706:203).

Daisy Lee Brewer Whitley and her husband, J. E. Whitley, retained title to the 40 acres out of the Harrison Survey, on which 41BL474 is located, until March 31, 1954, when the United States government acquired the land for $5,270. At that time the property had a dwelling, a privy, a barn with a shed, a cow shed, and two poultry houses (BC, DR 707:255).

Summary: G. W. Hallmark occupied his claim from 1871 until 1872. H. K. Harrison resided on his preemption survey from 1872 until 1874. Harrison's widow, Ellen E. Harrison, continued to live on the property until about 1875. It is unclear whether the Harrison Survey was occupied between 1875 and 1924. Based on sustained sales prices between 1924 and 1954, it is apparent that the property was improved. Possible owner-occupants of the 40 acres out of the Harrison Survey, on which 41BL474 is located, during this period include: G. D. and Edith Dennis (1924–1937), Lorence Eckenfels (1937–1944), C. J. and Louis B. Spence (1944–1947), Alva and Alma A. Garrett (1947–1950), W. G. and Lutie Keese (1950–1951), Dorrance and Daisy Lee Brewer (1951–1952), and Daisy Lee Brewer and J. E. Whitley (1952–1954).

Site 41BL475 (Tract 1127)

Site History: Site 41BL475 is near the north boundary of the 160-acre E. T. Eakin Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the

site was part of Tract 1127, which encompassed 514 acres in four surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL475, 41BL602, 41BL603, 41BL604, 41BL605, 41BL606, and 41BL610.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL475 is located from 1873 until 1909, see 41BL344.

Following W. B. McGarity's death, his widow, Roy O. McGarity, retained 158 acres out of the Eakin Survey, on which 41BL475 and 41BL480 are located, until October 25, 1933, when she sold the land to W. R. West for $1,000. This conveyance also included 22 acres out of the W. F. Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL610 is located; and 9 acres out of the Samuel W. Bishop Survey, on which 41BL477, 41BL479, and 41BL481 are located. In addition, it included a residence, known as the Renfro house, which was moved off the property within 6 months of the transaction. However, it remains unclear whether the building was on the Eakin Survey, the Bleeker Survey, or the Bishop Survey (BC, DR 430:77).

West died in 1939, by which time he had acquired several other parcels of land. In 1923, he had acquired the 160-acre H. K. Harrison Survey, on which 41BL603 and 41BL605 are located. In 1929, and again, in 1938, he had acquired the 146-acre Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad Company Survey, on which 41BL602 is located. In the 1930s, he had acquired 63 acres out of the Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL604 and 41BL606 are located, and 22 acres out of the Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL610 is located.

West's heirs retained title to 123 acres out of the Eakin Survey, on which 41BL475 is located, as well as other properties, until January 7, 1954, when the United States government acquired them in a civil action (No. 1481) for $39,580.32 (BC, DR 700:112). This transaction also included acquisition of land out of the Harrison Survey, on which 41BL603 and 41BL605 are located; the 146-acre Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad Company Survey, on which 41BL602 is located; and the Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL604, 41BL606, and 41BL610 are located.

Summary: E. T. Eakin probably resided on his preemption survey briefly in 1873. L. C. Arvin could have occupied the land from about 1873 until 1876. It appears unlikely that the Eakin Survey was occupied between 1876 and 1910. It remains unclear whether the Eakin Survey, on which 41BL475 is located, was occupied after 1910.

Site 41BL476 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL476 is near the east boundary of the 53-acre George R. Kyle Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

R. P. Bigham, Bell County Surveyor, located 53 acres for George R. Kyle as a preemption on July 16, 1894. Kyle filed an application to purchase 53 acres of grazing land from the General Land Office on November 2, 1901. Kyle authorized adoption of the 1894 field notes, which described the same 53 acres, and H. E. Bradford certified these notes. Kyle submitted full payment for the land on April 19, 1902, and the State of Texas patented the land to him on May 16, 1902 (Texas. General Land Office 1902).

George R. and A. F. Kyle sold the 53 acres and the west half of the adjacent 160-acre Robert C. Gage Survey to brothers J. F. Morgan and J. P. Morgan on September 20, 1902, for $1,674.50 (BC, DR 149:29). However, the Morgans each probably resided on more-heavily improved land, and it remains unclear whether the Kyle Survey was occupied between 1902 and about 1907. Taxes on the property went unrendered between 1905 and 1907 (1903a–1905a; 1907a).

Thomas Yarrell had acquired the land by 1907 (1905a–1907a). Yarrell sold the Kyle Survey and the west half of the Gage Survey to W. T. McHenry on June 11, 1907, for $1,350 (BC, DR 158:244). McHenry conveyed the Kyle Survey and the west half of the Gage Survey to his wife, Lou Frances McHenry, on June 1, 1926 (BC, DR 372:422). It is apparent that McHenry occupied his property; however, it is unclear whether his home was on the Kyle Survey or the Gage Survey (1909a, 1910a).

Owners of the two parcels after 1926 were James A. Ferguson, who paid $6,000 for them on December 13, 1926 (BC, DR 378:382); Andy A. and Tennie Raney, who paid $4,500 on October 10, 1928 (BC, DR 395:97); J. S. Gough,

who paid $2,500 on January 1, 1943 (BC, DR 409:428); and Mrs. Ethel Mamie Weaks, who paid $2,650 in September 1943 (BC, DR 417:230).

Weaks sold the northern 47 acres out of the Kyle survey and 60 acres out of the adjoining Gage Survey to J. L. Hyman on August 16, 1943, for $2,500 (BC, DR 510:599). Hyman also owned other, adjacent, parcels of land. In March 1933, he had acquired a 25-acre parcel out of the Matias Curvier Survey, on which 41BL493 is located. He also probably had acquired 50 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL486 is located, although this parcel remained unidentified at the time. That same month, he acquired an adjoining 30-acre parcel out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL698 and 41BL700 are located. In 1946, he acquired 45 acres out of the E. T. Eakin Survey and Samuel W. Bishop Survey, on which 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, and 41BL481 are located. In 1950, he acquired 100 acres out of the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL485 and 41BL492 are located.

J. L. and Clara Hyman retained title to their land out of the Kyle Survey, on which 41BL476 is located, and other properties, until October 31, 1953, when the United States government acquired it for $18,900. This transaction also included land out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700 are located; the Eakin Survey, and the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, and 41BL481, are located; and the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL485 and 41BL492 are located. When the government acquired the tract, it was the location of a dwelling, two tenant houses, three barns, two poultry houses, a brooder house, a goat house, a trough, a crib and shed, a windmill, and a privy (BC, DR 694:521).

Summary: It is apparent that the property's earliest owners did not occupy the land. W. T. and Lou Frances McHenry may have occupied the Kyle Survey, on which 41BL476 is located, between 1907 and 1926. Based on the sustained sales prices of the land between 1926 and 1953, it is likely that the property retained improvements. Possible owner occupants include: James A. and Katie May Ferguson (1926–1928), Andy A. and Tennie Raney (1928–1943), J. S. and Eva A. Gough (1932), Ethel Mamie Weaks (1932–1943), and J. L. and Clara Hyman (1943–1953).

Site 41BL477 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL477 is in the northwest quadrant, not far from the west boundary, of the 160-acre Samuel W. Bishop Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL477 is located from 1868 to 1888, see 41BL345. For the history from 1888 to 1909, see 41BL344. For the history from 1909 to 1939, see 41BL475.

Carrie West, the widow of W. R. West, retained 45 acres out of the Bishop Survey and the adjoining E. T. Eakin Survey until she quitclaimed her interest in the property to her son, C. H. West, on September 7, 1945. This conveyance included 9 acres out of the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL477, 41BL479, and 41BL481 are located, and an adjoining 36-acre parcel out of the E. T. Eakin Survey, on which 41BL480 is located (BC, DR 536:330).

C. H. and Virgie West sold the 45 acres to Bertha King and her husband, Arch, on January 30, 1945, for $1,400 (BC, DR 528:264). The Kings then conveyed the 45 acres to J. L. and Clara Hyman on October 12, 1946, for $1,150 (BC, DR 554:368).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL477 is located from 1946 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: Site 41BL477 is on a 9-acre parcel out of the Bishop Survey. It is likely that those who occupied and/or carried on ranching activities on the land were associated with this site. Possible occupants or operators of the land include: Samuel W. Bishop (1868–1888), T. E. Tomlinson (1888–1901, 1903–1909), S. J. Crawford (1901–1903), W. B. McGarity (1909–1933), W. R. West and heirs (1933–1945), and J. L. Hyman (1945–1953).

Site 41BL478 (Tract 1126)

Site History: Site 41BL478 is near the northeast corner of the 160-acre Robert C. Gage Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1126, which encompassed 750 acres in six surveys and contained seven sites:

41BL352, 41BL478, 41BL483, 41BL484, 41BL659, 41BL664, and 41BL666.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL478 is located, see 41BL352.

Summary: Robert C. Gage probably occupied his survey from 1868 until 1875. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied during the late 1870s; however, it is apparent that the property had few additional improvements until at least 1882. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and 1915. It appears that H. R. Hunt may have occupied the property between 1916 and 1920. Sam Tweedle probably resided on the land between 1920 and 1927. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1927 and 1933. John Weaks claimed the property as his homestead and probably resided on the land from 1933 until 1936. C. O. Watkins probably occupied the Gage Survey from 1936 until 1938, and Mat L. Bosl Jr. probably occupied the Gage Survey, on which 41BL478 and two other sites are located, between 1938 and 1946.

Site 41BL479 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL479 is in the northwest quadrant, not far from the west boundary, of the 160-acre Samuel W. Bishop Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL479 is located from 1868 to 1888, see 41BL345. For the history from 1888 to 1909, see 41BL344. For the history from 1909 to 1946, see 41BL475. For the history from 1946 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: Samuel W. Bishop resided on his survey from 1868 until 1881. Between 1881 and 1888, he resided on a 60-acre parcel out of his survey. It remains unclear whether the land out of the Bishop Survey, on which 41BL479 is located, was occupied after 1888.

Site 41BL480 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL480 is near the northeast corner of the 160-acre E. T. Eakin Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL480 is located from 1873 to 1909, see 41BL344. For the history from 1909 to 1939, see 41BL475. For the history from 1939 to 1946, see 41BL477. For the history from 1946 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: E. T. Eakin probably resided on his preemption survey briefly in 1873. L. C. Arvin probably occupied the land from about 1875 until 1876. It appears unlikely that the Eakin Survey was occupied between 1876 and 1910. It remains unclear whether the land out of the Eakin Survey, on which 41BL480 is located, was occupied after 1910.

Site 41BL481 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL481 is near the center of the east boundary of the 160-acre E. T. Eakin Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL480 is located from 1873 to 1933, see 41BL344. For the history from 1909 to 1939, see 41BL475. For the legal history from 1939 to 1946 see 41CV477. For the legal history from 1946 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: E. T. Eakin probably resided on his preemption survey briefly in 1873. L. C. Arvin probably occupied the land from about 1875 until 1876. It appears unlikely that the Eakin Survey was occupied between 1876 and 1910. It remains unclear whether the land out of the Eakin Survey, on which 41BL481 is located, was occupied after 1910.

Site 41BL483 (Tract 1126)

Site History: Site 41BL483 is near the southern boundary of the western portion of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1126, which encompassed 750 acres in six surveys and contained seven sites:

41BL352, 41BL478, 41BL483, 41BL484, 41BL659, 41BL664, and 41BL666.

As a result of his service in the Republic of Texas Army between November 1, 1836, and May 1, 1837, Matias Curvier was entitled to 640 acres of land. On October 24, 1838, the Republic of Texas issued a certificate (No. 4373) to Curvier's assignees, William Houston and Robert T. Walker. Houston transferred his interest in Certificate No. 4373 and eight other certificates to Jabez Dean (elsewhere recorded as Deane or Deans) on December 8, 1840, for $1,000. Dean transferred his interest in Certificate No. 4373 and the eight other certificates to Samuel Cassidy on January 24, 1855, for $1,000. On May 30, 1872, Ed Rucker, Deputy Surveyor of Bell County, located 640 acres on the Leon River with Bill Pendleton and George Warren serving as chain carriers.

Samuel Cassidy, of Louisville, Kentucky, conveyed Certificate No. 4373 to A. A. Cassidy (elsewhere recorded as Cassedy and Cassaday), of Waco, on August 12, 1872. Rucker corrected the field notes when he resurveyed the land in December 1872, with M. L. Newmann and William Taylor serving as chain carriers. The State of Texas patented the land to A. A. Cassidy and the heirs of Robert Walker, assignees, on April 24, 1873 (Texas. General Land Office 1873d; BC, DR T:4).

It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1873 and 1887, since taxes went unrendered on the land (1873a–1874a, 1877a, 1882a–1883a, 1886a–1887a). Cassidy died in 1880 (BC, DR 129:333); and his widow, Mary B. Cassidy, and her two sons conveyed 570 acres out of the Curvier Survey to R. L. Storey (elsewhere recorded as Story) on November 11, 1887, for an undisclosed price (BC, DR 129:333). Storey may have occupied the property from 1887 to 1889 (1888a).

Storey sold the land to John D. Morrow, of McLennan County, on May 23, 1889, for $1,200 (BC, DR 129:335). Morrow sold 500 acres to D. J. Davis and J. C. P. Nelson on September 17, 1891, for $855 (BC, DR 81:442). On September 5, 1893, Davis and Nelson were foreclosed on, and the property was sold at public auction to the First National Bank of Waco for $500 (BC, DR 91:516). Taxes went unrendered on the land; thus, it is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and 1904 (1889a–1891a, 1899a).

The bank sold 167 acres, which comprised much of the western portion of the Curvier Survey, to L. R. Reveile (elsewhere recorded as Reveille) on December 1, 1904, for $80 (BC, DR 163:530). Reveile sold the 167 acres to W. A. Lamb on October 5, 1905, for $150 (BC, DR 169:1; 175:438). Lamb may have occupied the property between 1905 and 1907 (1906a).

W. A. and S. B. Lamb sold the 167 acres to George W. Cole Jr. on January 8, 1907, for $500 (BC, DR 175:437). Cole conveyed four parcels of land to Charles S. Fisher on October 2, 1907, for $1,552.50. This transaction included 167 acres out of the Curvier Survey on which 41BL483 and 41BL484 are located, 105.5 acres out of the eastern portion of the Curvier Survey on which 41BL487 is located, 25 acres out of the Curvier Survey on which 41BL493 is located; and one other parcel of land out of the Curvier Survey (BC, DR 199:11). This transition probably also included 50 acres out the Curvier Survey on which 41BL486 is located, although this parcel of land remained unidentified at the time. It is unclear whether Fisher occupied his land (1907a–1908a).

Charles S. Fisher, a bachelor, sold the four parcels of land to T. N. Williams on February 26, 1909, for $3,545 (BC, DR 199:488). Williams defaulted on payment, and the four parcels of land were sold at public auction to W. A. Fisher on August 6, 1912, for $775 (BC, DR 245:278).

W. A. Fisher, a bachelor who resided in Belton, sold the four parcels of land to L. O. Hicks on September 10, 1913, for $4,500 (BC, DR 249:13; 250:207). Hicks defaulted on payment of a loan from the Wichita Mill and Elevator Company, and the four parcels were sold at public auction to the Company on February 10, 1917, for $427.80 (BC, DR 283:581).

The Wichita Mill and Elevator Company sold the four parcels of land to C. W. Nolen, of Wichita County, on December 8, 1921, for an undisclosed price (BC, DR 332:334). Nolen, by now a resident of Dallas, conveyed the 167-acre parcel out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL483 and 41BL484 are located, and one other parcel of land to Mat L. Bosl Jr. on March 30, 1938, for an undisclosed price (BC, DR 463:389).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL483 is located from 1938 to 1953, see 41BL352.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and

1904. W. A. Lamb may have occupied the property between 1905 and 1907. It is unclear whether the 167 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL483 and one other site are located, were occupied after 1907.

Site 41BL484 (Tract 1126)

Site History: Site 41BL484 is near the southern boundary of the western portion of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1126, which encompassed 750 acres in six surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL352, 41BL478, 41BL483, 41BL484, 41BL659, 41BL664, and 41BL666.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL484 is located from 1838 to 1938, see 41BL483. For the legal history from 1938 to 1953, see 41BL352.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and 1904. W. A. Lamb may have occupied the property between 1905 and 1907. It is unclear whether the 167 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL484 and one other site (41BL483) are located, was occupied after 1907.

Site 41BL485 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL485 is in the northeast quadrant, not far from the east boundary, of the 160-acre Samuel W. Bishop Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL485 is located from 1868 to 1881, see 41BL345.

Samuel W. Bishop conveyed 100 acres, comprising much of the northern half of the Bishop Survey, to A. Q. Clements on October 1, 1881 (BC, DR 37:148). Clements probably resided on the property from 1881 until 1909 (1882a, 1891a, 1898a, 1903a, 1905a), when he and S. H. Clements sold the 100 acres to E. F. Tweedle for $1,350 (BC, DR 198:424). Tweedle died on July 10, 1935. His widow, Georgia, married J. L. Sellers in 1936. J. L. Sellers died in 1948 (BC, DR 626:589).

Georgia Tweedle Sellers and her heirs sold the 100 acres out of the Bishop Survey to J. L. and Clara Hyman on October 7, 1950, for $3,000 (BC, DR 626:587).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL485 is located from 1950 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: Samuel W. Bishop probably resided on his survey from 1868 until 1881. A. Q. and S. H. Clements probably occupied the 100 acres on which 41BL485 is located from 1881 until 1909. It is likely that the property retained improvements through 1950 as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the 100 acres out of the Bishop Survey between 1909 and 1950 include: E. F. and Georgia Tweedle (1909–1935), J. L. and Georgia Tweedle Sellers (1936–1948), and Georgia Tweedle Sellers (1948–1950). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1950.

Site 41BL486 (Tract 1140)

Site History: Site 41BL486 is in the southern portion of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1140, which encompassed 50 acres in one survey and contained one site.

The 50 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL486 is located, is not identified in local deed records until the United States government acquired the property in 1954. After the Curvier Survey was patented in 1873, no legal description included this 50-acre parcel until 1954. It is possible that the individuals who owned a 25-acre parcel out of the Curvier Survey that was located directly south of this 50-acre parcel, used both pieces of land as if they were one and the same. Therefore, it is presumed that the legal history for the 50 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL486 is located, paralleled that of the 25-acre parcel out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL493 is located.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL486 is located from 1838 to 1893, see 41BL483. For the legal history from 1898 to 1899, see 41BL493. For the legal history from

1899 to 1907, see 41BL487. For the legal history from 1907 to 1923, see 41BL483. For the legal history from 1923 to 1933, see 41BL493. For the legal history from 1933 to 1954, see 41BL476.

Hyman retained title to his property out of the Curvier Survey until March 4, 1954, when the United States government acquired the 50 acres, on which 41BL486 is located, in a civil action (No. 1505) (BC, DR 702:122).

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and 1907. W. A. Lamb may have occupied the property between 1905 and 1907. It is unclear whether the 50 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL486 is located, was occupied after 1907.

Site 41BL487 (Tract 1114)

Site History: Site 41BL487 is in the eastern portion, near the eastern boundary, of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1114, which included 93.8 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL487 is located from 1838 to 1897, see 41BL483.

On September 2, 1897, the First National Bank of Waco conveyed 105.5 acres out of the eastern portion of the Curvier Survey to F. M. Denman for $102.24 (BC, DR 125:505). Denman probably resided on other land he owned between 1897 and 1899 (1897a–1898a).

F. M. and Mamie Denman sold the 105.5 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL487 is located, 25 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL493 is located, and one other parcel of land to George W. Cole on June 14, 1899, for $350 (BC, DR 126:295). This transaction probably also included 50 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL486 is located although this parcel of land remained unidentified at the time. Cole probably resided on other land he owned between 1899 and 1907 (1900a).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL487 is located from 1907 to 1921, see 41BL483.

C. W. Nolen, of Wichita County, sold the 105.5 acres to W. W. Ports, also of Wichita County, on May 22, 1931, for $10 (BC, DR 406:460). The following March, W. W. Ports sold the property to C. G. Ports, of Caddo County, Oklahoma, for $10 (BC, DR 415:238). Two months later C. G. Ports conveyed the property back to W. W. Ports for $10 (BC, DR 463:535). On December 4, 1937, W. W. Ports sold the property to Tom W. Pruett, of Wichita Falls, for $10 (BC, DR 463:532). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied during this period (1938a–1939a).

Tom W. and Sadie Pruett conveyed the 105.5 acres out of the Curvier Survey to O. C. Whitaker on August 29, 1941, for an undisclosed price (BC, DR 515:78). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1941 and 1954 (1942a, 1944a).

Whitaker retained title to his property out of the Curvier Survey until March 4, 1954, when the United States government acquired 93.8 acres, on which 41BL487 is located, in a civil action (No. 1505) for $2,350 (BC, DR 702:122).

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. The legal history of the 105.5 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL487 is located, does not reveal if the property was occupied after 1889.

Site 41B492 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL492 is near the center of the 160-acre Samuel W. Bishop Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL492 is located from 1868 to 1881, see 41BL345. For the history from 1881 to 1950, see 41BL485. For the history from 1950 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: Samuel W. Bishop resided on his survey from 1868 until 1881. A. Q. and S. H. Clements probably occupied the 100 acres on which 41BL485 is located from 1881 until 1909. It is likely that the property retained improvements through 1950 as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period.

Possible owner-occupants of the 100 acres out of the Bishop Survey between 1909 and 1950 include: E. F. and Georgia Tweedle (1909–1935) and J. L. and Georgia Tweedle Sellers (1936–1948), and Georgia Tweedle Sellers (1948–1950). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1950.

Site 41BL493 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL493 is near the west boundary of the southern portion of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL493 is located from 1838 to 1893, see 41BL483.

The First National Bank of Waco conveyed a parcel of 25 acres out of the Curvier Survey on which 41BL493 is located to F. M. Denman on March 19, 1898 (BC, DR 125:503); the conveyance occurred 6 months after Denman had purchased 105.5 acres out of the Curvier Survey on which 41BL487 is located. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1898 and 1899, when Denman probably resided on more-heavily improved land (1898a).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL493 is located from 1899 to 1907, see 41BL487. For the legal history from 1907 to 1921, see 41BL483.

Charles W. Nolen sold the 25 acres to Howard Renfro and D. H. Whitehill on September 14, 1923, for $10 (BC, DR 331:165). The chain of title is broken between 1923 and 1933. It remains unclear whether the land was occupied between 1923 and 1933, when taxes on most of the Curvier Survey went unrendered (1923a, 1927a, 1932a).

W. R. Roudam quitclaimed the 25 acres out of the Curvier Survey on which 41BL493 is located to Roy Treese on March 1, 1933, for $1 (BC, DR 419:459). One week later, Treese quitclaimed the property to J. L. Hyman for $25 (BC, DR 419:458).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL493 is located from 1933 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. It is likely that the 25 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL493 is located, was unoccupied after 1889.

Site 41BL494 (Tract 1112)

Site History: Site 41BL494 is near the northeast corner of the 177-acre Joseph B. Waldron Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1112, which encompassed 151.4 acres in three surveys and contained two sites: 41BL494 and 41BL498.

The Washington County Board of Land Commissioners had issued a first class certificate (No. 107) to Joseph B. Waldron on May 29, 1839. One league of the total was located for Waldron. By August 10, 1859, Waldron was deceased and the General Land Office issued a certificate for the unlocated labor (177 acres) to the administrator of his estate, Charles S. Waldron. The Bell County Surveyor, M. V. Wiseman, located the labor on Cowhouse Creek for Charles S. Waldron on April 19, 1870, with A. I. Harris and W. Rucker as chain carriers. The State of Texas patented the land to the heirs of Joseph B. Waldron, assignee, on June 15, 1870 (Texas. General Land Office 1870a; BC, DR 38:539).

Waldron's heirs had sold their interest in the unlocated labor to George W. Gentry on May 6, 1856, for $785 (BC, DR 38:515). Gentry resided on the property or another parcel of land he owned in Bell County by the late 1870s until 1884 (1877a, 1880a).

Gentry was deceased by May 1884, and the Waldron Survey was divided among A. J. Smith and J. F. Carter, who received 25 acres; William Adams, who received 5 acres; and W. D. Farish, who received the balance of 147 acres on which 41BL494 is located (BC, DR 48:154, 159, 187, 304). The smaller parcels were in the southeast quadrant of the survey.

Farish sold the 147 acres out of the Waldron Survey to Sam Dunn on May 8, 1886, for $157 (BC, DR 58:34). The property had few, if any, improvements in 1886 (1886a). However, by 1887, Dunn had improved the property, and he probably occupied it until 1888 (1887a).

Sam and Mattie Dunn conveyed the 147 acres to W. A. Sivils on January 28, 1888, for

$1,000 (BC, DR 65:68). Sivils probably occupied the 147 acres from 1888 until 1892 (1888a, 1892a), by which time he had acquired additional land out of the Waldron Survey (BC, DR 61:546; 71:121).

On December 2, 1892, Sivils sold the land to R. L. Walton for $801 (BC, DR 87:203). By 1897, Walton held title to the entire Waldron Survey (BC, DR 98:86; 114:37). However, it remains unclear which of several parcels of land served as his home between 1892 and 1897 (1893a, 1896a).

R. L. and Laura A. Walton sold 107 acres out of the northern portion of the Waldron Survey and adjoining land out of the Christian Anderson Survey to W. G. Roberts and Grant Roberts on January 16, 1897, for $250 (BC, DR 134:393). Grant Roberts then deeded his interest in the property to W. G. Roberts (BC, DR 135:560), who probably occupied the property from 1897 until 1902 (1898a).

W. G. Roberts and Mrs. Jennie Roberts conveyed the 107 acres out of the Waldron Survey and adjoining land to R. H. and Lillian Denman on December 10, 1902, for $2,500 (BC, DR 147:636). The following day, the Denmans sold the property to brothers J. F. Morgan and J. P. Morgan for $1,500 (BC, DR 149:154). It remains unclear which of several parcels of land the Morgan brothers owned served as their respective homes between 1902 and 1904 (1902a).

J. F. Morgan and J. P. Morgan and their wives sold the 107 acres and the adjoining land to J. W. Daniel on October 20, 1904, for $500 (BC, DR 205:31). It is likely that Daniel resided on his own preemption survey between 1904 and 1908, but it appears that he occupied the Waldron Survey between 1909 and 1911 (1905a, 1909a).

J. W. and H. L. Daniel sold the property to J. E. Wiseman on September 28, 1911, for $1,050 (BC, DR 229:77). Three months later, J. E. and Mattie Wiseman conveyed the property to J. P. Crass for $2,500 (BC, DR 238:273). Subsequent owners and the prices paid for the land included Boyd (1920–1929; $4,100), W. L. Fincher (1929–1941; $3,000) J. B. West (1941–1944; $2,500), and J. R. Haire, who purchased the 107 acres and two adjoining parcels on November 15, 1944, for $3,000 (BC, DR 317: 201; 399:598; 495:1; 530:157). Haire retained title to the 107 acres out of the Waldron Survey, on which 41BL494 and 41BL498 are located, and adjoining land out of the Christian Anderson and Matias Curvier Surveys until January 27, 1954, when they sold the property to the United States government for $10,025. When the government acquired the tract, it had a dwelling, cabin, storm cellar, barn, pig sty, crib, chicken shed, and chicken house (BC, DR 698:625).

Summary: It is unlikely that the property's earliest owners occupied the land on which 41BL494 is located. George W. Gentry may have resided on the property or another parcel of land he owned in Bell County by the late 1870s until 1884. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1884 and 1886, when the land had few, if any, improvements. However, by 1887, Sam Dunn had improved the property, and he probably resided there until 1888. W. A. Sivils probably occupied the land from 1888 until 1892. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land served as R. L. Walton's home between 1892 and 1897. W. G. Roberts probably occupied the property from 1897 until 1902. It remains unclear which of the several parcels of land brothers J. F. Morgan and J. P. Morgan owned served as their respective homes between 1902 and 1904. It is likely that J. W. Daniel resided on his own preemption survey between 1904 and 1908, but it appears that he occupied the Waldron Survey between 1909 and 1911. It is likely that the property retained improvements through the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1911 and 1954 include: J. P. and Ora Crass (1911–1920), R. Lee and Mary Boyd (1920–1929), W. L. and Daisy Fincher (1929–1941), J. B. and Bessie West (1941–1944), and J. R. and Wilma Haire (1944–1954).

Site 41BL498 (Tract 1112)

Site History: Site 41BL498 is near the center of the north half of the 177-acre Joseph B. Waldron Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1112, which encompassed 151.4 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41BL494 and 41BL498.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL498 is located, see 41BL494.

Summary: It is unlikely that the property's earliest owners occupied the land on which 41BL498 is located. George W. Gentry may have

resided on the property or another parcel of land he owned in Bell County by the late 1870s until 1884. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1884 and 1886, when the land had few, if any, improvements. However, by 1887, Sam Dunn had improved the property, and he probably resided there until 1888. W. A. Sivils probably occupied the land from 1888 until 1892. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land served as R. L. Walton's home between 1892 and 1897. W. G. Roberts probably occupied the property from 1897 until 1902. It remains unclear which of the several parcels of land brothers J. F. Morgan and J. P. Morgan owned served as their respective homes between 1902 and 1904. It is likely that J. W. Daniel resided on his own preemption survey between 1904 and 1908, but it appears that he occupied the Waldron Survey between 1909 and 1911. It is likely that the property retained improvements through the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1911 and 1954 include: J. P. and Ora Crass (1911–1920), R. Lee and Mary Boyd (1920–1929), W. L. and Daisy Fincher (1929–1941), J. B. and Bessie West (1941–1944), and J. R. and Wilma Haire (1944–1954).

Site 41BL499 (Tract 1313)

Site History: Site 41BL499 is located in the eastern portion of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad (GC&SF) Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part was part of Tract 1313, which consisted of 1,380 acres in two surveys, and contained sites 41BL499, 41BL501, and 41BL503.

On March 29, 1900, H. E. Keys applied to the General Land Office to purchase the north 480 acres of the 640-acre GC&SF Survey for $1 per acre. The land was classified as vacant school land. Keys paid the interest due to the state for several years, but in 1907, he forfeited his claim (Texas. General Land Office 1900c). Bell County tax records suggest that Keys lived in Temple during this time (1900a, 1903a, 1905a).

On August 20, 1907, Keys filed another application to purchase the same 480-acre tract for $1 per acre. He again paid the interest due to the state, but forfeited this claim in 1913 (Texas. General Land Office 1907). Tax records suggest that Keys maintained a residence in Temple during this time, as well (1908a–1909a).

On February 17, 1913, Martha E. and Martin A. Purnell filed an application to purchase the 480-acre tract for $10 per acre. The Purnells paid the interest due to the state until 1916, when they forfeited their claim (Texas. General Land Office 1913).

On September 3, 1918, Jeff Gill filed an application to purchase a 160-acre home tract for $6 per acre. The property was identified as the eastern 160 acres of the northern 480 acres of the GC&SF Survey. Gill paid the minimum due to the state until 1920, when he forfeited his claim (Texas. General Land Office 1918). Sites 41BL499 and 41BL501 appear to be located on this 160-acre portion of Tract 1313.

On August 16, 1923, Max M. Bayer filed an application to purchase the 160-acre tract from the state at $16.12 per acre. Bayer paid the state until 1927, when he also forfeited his claim (Texas. General Land Office 1923).

On February 17, 1954, the U.S. government condemned the land that was designated Tract 1313 and was comprised of 1,380 acres out of the GC&SF Survey and the Joe Hallum Survey owned by the State of Texas (CC DR 190:248).

Summary: Tract 1313 contains three sites. Sites 41BL499 and 41BL501 appear to be located in the eastern 160 acres of the northern 480 acres of the GC&SF Survey; 41BL503 appears to be located on 80 acres in the southeast corner of the survey. The land never was patented, but applications to purchase were filed by several persons beginning in 1900. It is possible, though not certain, that the property was improved and perhaps occupied by one or more of these applicants. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL501 (Tract 1313)

Site History: 41BL501 is located in the eastern portion of the GC&SF Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1313, which consisted of 1,380 acres in two surveys and contained sites 41BL499, 41BL501, and 41BL503.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL501 is located, see the site history for 41BL499.

Summary: Tract 1313 contains three sites, sites 41BL499 and 41BL501, appear to be located in the eastern 160 acres of the northern 480 acres of the GC&SF Survey; 41BL503 appears to be located on 80 acres in the southeast corner of the survey. The land never was patented, but applications to purchase were filed by several persons beginning in 1900. It is possible, though not certain, that the property was improved and perhaps occupied by one or more of these applicants.

Site 41BL503 (Tract 1313)

Site History: 41BL503 is located in the southern portion of the Gulf, Colorado, & Santa Fe (GC&SF) Railroad Co. Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired Tract 1313, it consisted of 1380 acres in two surveys, and it contained sites 41BL499, 41BL501, and 41BL503.

On August 15, 1896, J. R. Murray applied to the General Land Office to purchase 80 acres in the southern portion of the GC&SF Survey for $1 per acre. The land was classified as vacant school land (Texas. General Land Office 1896b). Murray made payments to the state for several years, and during that time he may have improved and occupied the land (1895a, 1900a).

For the legal history from 1902, when Murray sold the 80-acre parcel along with 142 acres in the Lusk Survey and 5 acres in the Defoor Survey, until 1922, when M. B. Somerford owned the property, see the site history for 41BL551.

On August 31, 1922, Murray forfeited his claim to the 80-acre parcel in the GC&SF Survey, and even though others claimed through him, the property reverted back to the State of Texas (Texas. General Land Office 1896b).

On September 2, 1922, J. D. Conger filed an application to purchase 80 acres in the southern portion of the GC&SF Survey from the General Land Office. Conger paid the state for 5 years, but on July 1, 1927, he forfeited his claim (Texas. General Land Office 1922). It is unclear if Conger occupied the property.

On February 17, 1954, the U.S. government condemned Tract 1313, a 1380-acre tract out of the GC&SF Survey and the Joe Hallum Survey owned by the State of Texas (CC DR 190:248).

Summary: Tract 1313 contains 3 sites: 41BL499 and 41BL501 appear to be located in the eastern 160 acres of the north 480 acres of the GC&SF Survey; 41BL503 appears to be located on 80 acres in the southern portion of the survey. The land was never patented, but J. R. Murray filed an application to purchase the 80-acre parcel in 1896. Subsequent owners conveyed the 80-acre parcel as fee land, combining it with other property. It is possible, though not certain, that the property was improved and perhaps occupied by Murray or one of those claiming title under him. However, Murray forfeited the 80-acre parcel in 1922, and title reverted to the state in 1922.

Later that same year, J. D. Conger applied to purchase the 80-acre parcel in the southern portion of the GC&SF Survey, but he forfeited his claim in 1927. In 1954, the government condemned Tract 1313, taking the land from the State of Texas.

Site 41BL508 (Tract 1307)

Site History: Site 41BL508 is located on 156 acres out of the 160-acre B. L. Clements Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1954, when the government acquired Tract 1307, it encompassed 184 acres in two surveys. Site 41BL508 is in the west-central portion of Tract 1307, and is located in Bell County.

On December 22, 1868, B. L. Clements filed an affidavit stating his intention to occupy 160 acres of vacant public land for the purpose of obtaining a patent on the land. On the same date, field notes were filed with the General Land Office, describing a 160-acre tract of land on Taylor Branch west of a survey in the name of Patrick Lusk, about 14 miles northwest of Belton. In 1871, Clements filed a certificate of occupancy claiming to be a bona fide settler on 160 acres of vacant public land. He also stated that he had lived on the property for 3 consecutive years, was the head of a family, and was entitled to the claim under an act to regulate disposal of public land approved August 12, 1871. On July 21, 1873, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre tract to Clements (Texas. General Land Office 1873e).

Clements may have occupied the property. He was assessed for an increasing land value and for ranch livestock (1869a, 1874a). In addition, the description for another piece of property in the Clements Survey uses the "trail to Bird Clements house" as one of the boundary lines (BC, DR 29:601).

On November 16, 1874, Clements and his wife, S. E., sold the 160-acre survey and 180 acres they had acquired in the adjacent Lusk Survey to I. H. Scoggin for $500 (BC, DR W:405). The Bell County ad valorem tax evaluation rose following this sale, suggesting the presence of improvements; and Scoggin was assessed for cattle and horses, suggesting a mid-sized ranch operation (1875a, 1880a, 1885a).

In January 1887, Scoggin and his wife, M. E., conveyed a 60-acre parcel out of the Clements Survey to Woodson Leeper for $200 (BC, DR 59:279). Leeper appears to have lived on the property and to have grazed cattle there (1997a, 1892a).

On June 15, 1893, Leeper sold the 60-acre parcel in the Clements Survey to F. P. Knight for $250 (BC, DR 91:510). Knight may have lived on the property and used it for a small farm and ranch operation (1895a).

No deed was found from Knight to anyone for the Clements Survey acreage, but in 1941, he and E. T. Jordan executed a quitclaim deed to R. K. Allen for a 124-acre parcel in the survey (BC, DR 496:621). Allen may have been in possession of the property for many years, and perhaps obtained the quitclaim deed to replace a lost or unrecorded instrument. Allen also had the property resurveyed, and the quitclaim reflects the new description and acreage (BC, DR 496:620). Site 41BL508 is situated on the 124-acre parcel in the Clements Survey. Allen also acquired other land within the survey, making the parcel 156 acres.

In 1943, Allen conveyed a one-half interest in 156 acres in the Clements Survey and 28 acres in the Lusk Survey to his brother, George H. Allen, for $10 and other valuable consideration (BC, DR 509:309). Later that same year, George H. Allen reconveyed his one-half interest in the land back to R. K. Allen, along with several other tracts, for the same consideration (BC, DR 510:369).

In July 1944, R. K. Allen and his wife, Mattie, sold a 2,000-acre ranch to Walter O. Cloudt for the assumption of a $10,000 note and other unrecited consideration (BC, DR 523:227). The description included 156 acres in the Clements and 28 acres in the Lusk Surveys. In a 1945 lawsuit between Cloudt and R. K. Allen, Cloudt testified that he had owned the land for more than 10 years and that there were no adverse claims against his ownership (BC, DC Cause No. 25,956). Cloudt prevailed in the suit, rejecting any claim Allen may have had; he appears to have used the property as part of a large ranch operation, but his occupation and the presence of improvements are unclear.

By the mid-1940s, Walter Cloudt lived in Kerr County, and he died there in 1946. He left his entire estate to his widow, Mrs. Willie M. Cloudt (BC, DR 574:300). On March 8, 1955, the U.S. government condemned the property for $3,725 (BC, DR 719:353). In the declaration of taking, Tract 1307 is described as 156 acres in the Clements Survey; Tract 1352 is described as 25 acres in the Lusk Survey.

Summary: Tract 1307, on which 41BL508 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1868, when B. L. Clements filed an affidavit with the General Land Office stating his intention to live on the property. Occupation and improvement appear to have continued until 1900. Owners during this period included I. H. Scoggin, Woodson Leeper, and F. P. Knight.

There is a break in the chain of title between Knight in 1893 and R. K. Allen in 1941. Allen obtained a quitclaim deed from Knight in 1941 and had the land resurveyed. Walter Cloudt, who purchased the 156-acre parcel in the Clements Survey and an adjacent 28-acre parcel in the Lusk Survey from Allen in 1944, prevailed in a lawsuit against Allen and others, clearing the title. Allen and Cloudt appear to have used the land as part of a large ranch, but their occupation and the presence of improvements are uncertain. As a result, it is not possible to associate 41BL508 with specific occupants during the period 1941 and 1954 when the property was owned by R. K. Allen and Walter Cloudt.

Site 41BL509 (Tract 1219)

Site History: Site 41BL509 is located in the western portion of the 320-acre Roswell Barnes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1219, which encompassed 471.9 acres in four surveys and contained six sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL509 is located from 1852 to 1871, when R. M. Cox owned the 320-acre Roswell Barnes Survey, see the site history for 41BL518.

In February 1871, Cox sold the western 55 acres of the survey to S. W. Cross for $150 (BC, DR N:435). Ad valorem tax records suggest that

Cross farmed the property and probably lived there (1872a, 1881a). In 1882, Cross also acquired the east-adjacent 55-acre parcel giving him title to the western 110 acres of the Roswell Barnes Survey. It appears that 41BL509 is located on the westernmost 55-acre parcel.

Cross and his family owned the property until 1911, when his heirs sold the 110-acre parcel to Fred McLaughlin for $565 in cash and notes (BC, DR 221:367), a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

For the legal history from 1911, when the property became part of the McLaughlin holdings, until 1954, when Gerald R. Worthington sold 471.9 acres identified as Tract 1219 to the U.S. government, see the site history for 41BL511.

Summary: It is possible that R. M. Cox, assignee of Roswell Barnes, occupied the 320-acre Barnes Survey as early as the mid-1850s. By 1862, Cox owned several thousand acres and was a large slaveholder. However, because his Bell County holdings were non-contiguous, it is difficult to determine from legal and ad valorem tax records alone where he lived.

Initial occupation of the western portion of the Barnes Survey, where 41BL509 is located, probably occurred between 1871 and 1911, when S. M. Cross and his heirs owned the property. Subsequent owners held blocks of several hundred acres that included the western portion of the Roswell Barnes Survey, making the use and occupation of any given site there difficult to determine. However, it appears that twentieth-century owners continued to improve the land and use it for farming and ranching purposes.

Site 41BL510 (Tract 1219)

Site History: Site 41BL510 is located in the central portion of the 113.5-acre G. S. Feltman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1219, which encompassed 471.9 acres in four surveys and contained six sites.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL510 is located, see the site history for 41BL511.

Summary: Site 41BL510 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL511 and 41BL515. Site 41BL510 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation to the site based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL511 (Tract 1219)

Site History: Site 41BL511 is located in the north-central portion of the 113.5-acre G. S. Feltman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1219, which encompassed 471.9 acres in four surveys and contained six sites.

In August 1871, G. S. Feltman swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public domain. Later that month, M. V. Wiseman, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Feltman's 113.5-acre preemption on Bear Creek about 12.5 miles northwest of Belton. On August 11, 1871, Feltman swore that he had occupied and improved the land since January 1, 1868. He further swore that he was the head of a family. On February 15, 1873, the State of Texas patented the 113.5-acre tract to Feltman (Texas. General Land Office 1873c).

Feltman was a resident of Bell County, but his use and occupation of the property remain uncertain based on ad valorem tax records (1873a, 1874a). There is a break in the chain of title between G. S. Feltman and M. L. Crass, and Crass's use and occupation of the property also are uncertain (1877a, 1878a). However, in December 1877, Crass and his wife, Emma, sold the 113.5-acre Feltman Survey to F. M. Grizzard for $300 (BC, DR 29:22), a price that could suggest the presence of improvements. Grizzard's occupation of the property is uncertain (1878a, 1882a). In fact, Bell County assessed J. C. Graves for the property in 1882, along with livestock and tools typically associated with a small farm.

There is a break in the chain of title between Grizzard and M. E. Miller, but in September 1896, Miller sold the 113.5-acre parcel to J. C. Graves (BC, DR 107:552). About a year later, in October 1897, Graves and his wife, M. J., conveyed a half interest in the property to J. W. Matthews for $50 (BC, DR 123:123). There also is a break in the chain from Graves for the remaining half interest.

In November 1920, Matthews and his wife, M. A., sold their interest in the 113.5-acre parcel to Fred McLaughlin for $200 (BC, DR 326:140). In March 1921, J. T. Sellers and his wife, M. E., sold a half interest in the property to

McLaughlin for $175 (BC, DR 326:574). McLaughlin owned the property until his death, apparently in the late 1930s, when his heirs sold the property to Paul McLaughlin for $10 (BC, DR 482:337).

Paul McLaughlin initiated a trespass to try title lawsuit in 1943 for the purpose of dealing with the gaps in the chain of title into his predecessor, Fred McLaughlin. The suit named Feltman, Crass, Grizzard, and Miller, along with their heirs, as defendants, and claimed that Paul McLaughlin should recover clear title. The court agreed and vested clear title to the 113.5-acre parcel in him (BC, DC Cause No. 24,340).

In December 1948, McLaughlin and his wife, Dena, conveyed 875.5 acres that included the 113.5-acre Feltman Survey to Ray Calloway for $12,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 593:196). The purchase price suggests the presence of improvements, but because the land conveyed contained several sites in addition to the three located in the Feltman Survey (see 41BL509, 41BL519, 41BL521, and 41BL523), it is difficult to determine how much each parcel and its associated site(s) contributed to the total value.

In August 1950, Calloway and his wife, Louie, sold 237.5 acres located in six surveys, including the 113.5-acre Feltman Survey, to Gerald Worthington and his wife, Rena, for $7,125 in cash and notes (BC, DR 626:532). Again, the price suggests the presence of improvements, but multiple sites on several tracts preclude associating specific sites with proportionate value.

On February 9, 1954, Worthington and his wife sold 471.9 acres, identified as Tract 1219, to the U.S. government for $26,375 and the right to remove several structures, including two houses, a barn, and related farm outbuildings (BC, DR 701:204). The property was located in the John Lane, Roswell Barnes, J. Sirkel, and G. S. Feltman Surveys, and it contained six sites: 41BL510, 41BL511, and 41Bl515 in the Feltman Survey, and 41BL509, 41BL519 and 41BL521 in the Roswell Barnes Survey.

Summary: It is possible that the G. S. Feltman Survey, on which 41BL510, 41BL511, and 41BL515 are located, was occupied as early as the early 1870s, when Feltman swore that he had lived on and improved the property to satisfy preemption claim requirements. However, there are gaps in the chain of title between Feltman and subsequent nineteenth-century owners, making firm establishment of initial occupation and use difficult to determine.

In 1920 and 1921, Fred McLaughlin purchased the property and owned it for nearly 20 years. His heirs sold the property to Paul McLaughlin, who filed a successful lawsuit to clear title. Paul McLaughlin accumulated several hundred acres in the immediate vicinity and probably improved the land. However, his holdings contained several sites in addition to 41BL510, 41BL511, and 41BL515.

Site 41BL515 (Tract 1219)

Site History: Site 41BL515 is located in the central portion of the 113.5-acre G. S. Feltman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1219, which encompassed 471.9 acres in four surveys and contained six sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL515 is located, see the site history for 41BL511.

Summary: Site 41BL515 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL510 and 41BL511. Site 41BL515 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation to the site based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL518 (Tract 1213)

Site History: Site 41BL518 is located in the eastern portion of the 320-acre Roswell Barnes Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1213, which encompassed 95 acres in one survey.

On February 12, 1852, Roswell Barnes swore that the land upon which he resided and which he had improved was vacant and unappropriated public land. In May 1852, William Armstrong, the District Surveyor for the Milam Land District, filed field notes describing Barnes's 320-acre preemption claim in Bell County. The land was located on Bear Creek (a branch of Owl Creek) about 12 miles northwest of Belton. D. Barnes and Asa Dennis assisted as chainmen. In June 1854, Roswell Barnes transferred his claim to D. Barnes. Six months later, D. Barnes transferred the claim to John Hughes. In April of 1855, John Hughes

transferred the claim to Ramsey M. Cox, and on August 26, 1855, the State of Texas patented the 320-acre Roswell Barnes Survey to R. M. Cox (Texas. General Land Office 1855b).

Cox owned the 320-acre survey for about 15 years, and apparently used the land as part of a large farming operation. In 1857 and 1862, Bell County assessed him for nearly 3,200 acres of land, large herds of horses and cattle, and between 10 and 19 slaves. After the Civil War, he continued to own the land, but appears to have concentrated his business on ranching, adding a large herd of sheep to his other livestock (1867a). It is unclear if Cox occupied the Barnes Survey.

In May 1871, Cox sold the eastern 110 acres of the Barnes Survey to E. E. Clark for $300 (BC, DR O:81). Five months later, in September 1871, Clark sold the western 95 acres of the 110-acre parcel to M. R. Pruitt for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR P:48), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Ad valorem tax records indicate that by 1877, Pruitt farmed the land and may have lived there (1872a, 1877a).

In November 1881, Pruitt and his wife, M. J., conveyed the 95-acre parcel to Ellen Ludwick for $700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 57:596). Bell County assessed Ludwick for over 500 acres, including 95 acres in the Roswell Barnes Survey, and the records suggest that she operated a farm (1882a, 1888a). Even though the assessed value of Ludwick's holdings rose while she owned the property, the location of her residence remains unclear.

On November 23, 1894, Ludwick sold the 95-acre parcel to M. E. Mitchell for $400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 150:553). Mitchell appears to have lived on and farmed the property during this period (1896a). Tract 1213, the location of 41BL518, consists of this 95-acre parcel.

Between 1896, when Mitchell sold the land, and 1920, the 95-acre tract was owned by John E. Tanner (1896–1906), D. L. Cummins (1906–1912), A. L. Hyden (1912–1913), Arch Watts (1913–1916), and I. D. Duncan (1916–1920) (BC, DR 150:553; 169:332; 238:402; 248:392; 283:52). The purchase prices in these transactions rose steadily from $400 to $1,500, suggesting that the property was improved substantially between 1896 and 1916.

In November 1920, I. D. Duncan conveyed the 95-acre tract to C. W. Ingram for $2,050 in cash and notes (BC, DR 324:493). By 1927, G. W. Ingram and his first wife, L. A., were dead, and later that same year their heirs conveyed the property to I. D. Duncan for $1 and the assumption of notes held against the land (BC, DR 384:620, 628). The Ingrams appear to have lived on the land and operated a small farm there (BC, DR 384:616).

In May 1928, T. B. Duncan, widow of I. D. Duncan, sold the 95-acre tract to D. L. Bond for $1,100 in cash and notes (BC, DR 384:623). It is unclear if the Duncans occupied or used the property.

In 1935, Bond and his wife, Dorothy, conveyed the 95-acre tract to Julia James for $10 and the assumption of debt against the property (BC, DR 438:223). James continued to own the land until her death. On December 10, 1953, her apparent heirs, Robert B. James, Julie B. James, and Annie J. Young, and their respective spouses, conveyed Tract 1213 to the U.S. government for $4,600.

Summary: Site 41BL518, located on Tract 1213, may have been occupied as early as 1852, when Roswell Barnes swore he lived on a 320-acre parcel that included present-day 41BL518. John Hughes may have resided on the property in early 1855, and the next owner Ramsey M. Cox maintained a large farm and ranch operation of over 3,000 acres until the early 1870s, when he sold the 320-acre Roswell Barnes Survey to E. E. Clark. Several owners subsequent to Clark, including James Cox and E. C. Ludwick appear to have farmed, and may have occupied all or part of the Barnes Survey during the next 30 years. It is clear that the value of the property rose during this period, suggesting improvements. By 1900, Tract 1213 had reached its present-day size and shape; 41BL518 is located on the 95-acre Tract 1213.

Between 1900 and 1935, most of the owners of Tract 1213 appear to have occupied the property and used it for farm purposes. The purchase prices in these conveyances suggest the presence of improvements. Owners during this period include J. E. Tanner, D. L. Cummins, A. L. Hyden, Arch Watts, I. D. Duncan, C. W. Ingram, and D. L. Bond. In 1935, Bond's widow sold Tract 1213 to Julia James. James maintained ownership for many years, and her heirs conveyed Tract 1213 to the U.S. government in 1953. The consideration paid by the government suggests the presence of improvements, but occupation of the site by the James family is uncertain.

Site 41BL519 (Tract 1219)

Site History: Site 41BL519 is located in the central portion of the 320-acre Roswell Barnes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1219, which encompassed 471.9 acres in four surveys and contained six sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL519 is located from 1852 to 1871, when R. M. Cox owned the 320-acre Roswell Barnes Survey, see the site history for 41BL518.

In April 1871, Cox sold the central 100 acres of the Roswell Barnes Survey to A. Pruett for $400 (BC, DR O:82), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Sites 41BL519 and 41BL521 are located on this 100-acre parcel. Three months later, Pruett conveyed the 100 acres to L. S. Columbus for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR O:351), indicating further substantial improvements to the property. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Columbus farmed the property and may have lived there (1874a). In December 1879, Columbus and his wife, S. L., sold the 100-acre parcel to Ellen Ludwick for $800 (BC, DR 58:309), a price that indicates a decline in value but, nonetheless, suggests the presence of improvements.

Ellen Ludwick owned the property for nearly 20 years. Ad valorem tax records suggest that she farmed the property, and indicate that she farmed and lived on the property (1882a). In November 1898, Ludwick sold the property to Fred McLaughlin for $300 (BC, DR 163:524), a price that suggests that the improvements had diminished in value.

McLaughlin accumulated several hundred acres that included the 100-acre parcel where 41BL519 and 41BL521 are located. For the legal history from 1911, when the property became part of the McLaughlin holdings, until 1950, when Roy Calloway owned the 100-acre parcel along with other land, see the site history for 41BL511.

In June 1950, Calloway sold 250 acres that included all of the middle 100-acre parcel in the Roswell Barnes Survey, to the Veterans' Land Board of Texas for $7,500 (BC, DR 626:58), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The board immediately entered into a contract of sale with Gerald L. Worthington for the same land at the same price. In June 1954, the Veterans' Land Board conveyed the 250 acres to Worthington for the $7,500 agreed upon in the contract of sale (BC, DR 699:229).

On February 9, 1954, Worthington and his wife sold 471.9 acres, identified as Tract 1219, to the U.S. government for $26,375 and the right to remove several structures, including two houses, a barn, and related farm outbuildings (BC, DR 701:204). The property was located in the John Lane, Roswell Barnes, J. Sirkel, and G. S. Feltman Surveys and contained six sites—41BL510, 41BL511, and 41Bl515 in the Feltman Survey, and 41BL509, 41BL519, and 41BL521 in the Roswell Barnes Survey.

Summary: It is possible that R. M. Cox, assignee of Roswell Barnes, occupied the 320-acre Barnes Survey as early as the mid-1850s. By 1862, Cox owned several thousand acres and was a large slaveholder. However, because his Bell County holdings were non-contiguous, it is difficult to determine from legal and ad valorem tax records alone where he lived.

Initial occupation of the central 100 acres of the Barnes Survey, where 41BL519 and 41BL521 are located, probably occurred between 1871 and 1879, when L. S. Columbus owned the property, or between 1879 and 1898, when Ellen Ludwick owned the land. Land and tax records suggest occupation and farm use by both of these individuals.

Subsequent owners, beginning with Fred McLaughlin, held blocks of several hundred acres that included the western portion of the Roswell Barnes Survey, making the use and occupation of any given site difficult to determine. However, it appears that twentieth-century owners continued to improve the land and use it for farming and ranching purposes.

Site 41BL521 (Tract 1219)

Site History: Site 41BL521 is located in the central portion of the 320-acre Roswell Barnes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1219, which encompassed 471.9 acres in four surveys and contained six sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL521 is located, see the site history for 41BL519.

Summary: Site 41BL521 is proximate to and on the same tract as 41BL519. Site 41BL521 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a

specific date of occupation to the site based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL523 (Tract 1218)

Site History: Site 41BL523 is located in the eastern portion of the 320-acre John S. Lane Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1218, which encompassed 417.6 acres in five surveys and contained one site.

In July 1874, the General Land office issued a duplicate bounty warrant (Certificate No. 32/119) to John S. Lane to replace Lane's original (Certificate No. 7) dated November 1837. In April 1881, J. W. Turner, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing 320 acres on the dividing ridge between Owl and Bear Creeks about 12 miles northwest of Belton. N. R. Altuna assisted with the survey. On August 11, 1942, the State of Texas patented the property to John S. Lane (Texas. General Land Office 1942).

Lane's occupation of the property is uncertain, and Bell County did not assess him for the property. Indeed, between 1875 and 1905, the county classified the property as unrendered, assessing no one. In an affidavit dated in the early 1940s, however, I. H. Sparks stated that Fred McLaughlin took possession of the 320 acres in about 1900. McLaughlin, according to Sparks, had purchased the land from Lane's widow, Mariah Lane Davis, in 1894 or 1895, but the deed was lost before it could be recorded or replaced. In addition, the Bell County Tax Assessor-Collector issued a tax certificate stating that Fred McLaughlin and his heirs paid taxes on the 320-acre John S. Lane Survey from 1910 to 1941 (Texas. General Land Office 1942). McLaughlin's use of the property remains unclear, but he operated a ranch on adjacent land and probably included the land in the Lane Survey as part of this endeavor.

In March 1940, Fred McLaughlin's heirs conveyed their interests in 980 acres that included the 320-acre Lane Survey to Paul McLaughlin for $1 and other valuable considerations (BC, DR 482:337). A few months later, Paul McLaughlin filed suit to resolve the title problems associated with the property. He prevailed in the suit, and the court awarded a valid title to him (BC, DC Cause No. 24,340).

In December 1948, Paul McLaughlin and his wife, Dena, sold about 900 acres that included the 320-acre Lane Survey to Roy Calloway for $12,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 593:196), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. However, because the land conveyed also contained other sites (see 41BL509, 41BL510, 41BL511, 41BL515, 41BL519, and 41BL521 on Tract 1219), it is difficult to associate proportionate value with any given site.

On January 7, 1954, the U.S. government condemned approximately 3,500 acres that included 417.6 acres identified as Tract 1218. Collectively, the government compensated the various owners of the land $170,515 for the properties, including Roy Calloway, owner of Tract 1218 was among those compensated. However, the document did not specify the amount for individual tracts. When the government acquired Tract 1218, it consisted of 417.6 acres in the Daniel Alexander, Roswell Barnes, Davidson Barnes, Edwin Parks, and John S. Lane Surveys, and it contained one site.

Summary: Neither John S. Lane nor his remarried widow, Mariah A. Davis, the first owners of the land on which 41BL523 is located, are believed to have lived on or used the property. Evidence suggests that Fred McLaughlin took possession of the land in the early 1900s. He apparently incorporated the 320 acres into a ranch operation that he maintained in the area until his death in the late 1930s. Initial occupation most likely occurred during this period. His son, Paul McLaughlin, appears to have continued this use until 1948, when he sold the property. However, multiple sites on the land that McLaughlin sold preclude a strong association between sites and improved value.

Site 41BL527 (Tract 1304)

Site History: Site 41BL527 is located in the central portion of the 320-acre Obadiah Taylor Survey, which straddles the Bell and Coryell County line. The site is situated in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1304, a 396.6-acre tract in two surveys that contained sites 41BL527, 41BL534, and 41BL723.

On May 5, 1857, Newton Parks, assignee of Obadiah Taylor, swore that he had lived on, improved, and cultivated a 320-acre tract of vacant public land in the Milam Land District since December 1856, and was thus entitled to

a preemption certificate for the land. In 1869, M. V. Wiseman, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes on behalf of Parks, describing 320 acres of land on Cowhouse Creek, about 16 miles northwest of Belton. Hamilton Parks and Washington Searcy served as chainmen. Newton Parks died while in possession of the land. In May, 1871, Hamilton Parks, an heir of Newton Parks and assignee of Newton Parks's widow, Elizabeth, swore that he had occupied and improved the 320-acre tract for 3 consecutive years. On August 17, 1876, the State of Texas patented 320 acres to the heirs of Newton Parks (Texas. General Land Office 1876a).

Between 1881 and 1884, Hamilton Parks acquired additional interest in the 320-acre parcel from most of the heirs of Newton and Elizabeth Parks (BC, DR 45:502, 504; 46:77–79, 526–527; 47:568–571; 54:128). The purchase prices for these interests ranged from $25 to $300, sums that suggested improvement. The Bell County tax assessment during this period included livestock, suggesting use of the property for farming (1869a, 1875a, 1880a).

In 1884, when Hamilton Parks sold the 320 acres to J. W. Willard, the deed provided for a consideration of $1,200 and specifically conveyed a 16/19 interest in the property (BC, DR 46:527). Two years later, Willard sold a 16/19 interest in the 320-acre parcel to J. W. Potter for $1,200 (BC, DR 54:130). It is unclear if Willard occupied the property.

Potter acquired additional interest in the 320-acre Taylor Survey from the Newton Parks heirs between 1886 and 1889 (BC, DR 58:231–232; 99:66). In 1896, J. W. Potter conveyed his interest in the land to his wife, M. E. Potter, for $1,500 (BC, DR 111:59). Mrs. Potter acquired what appears to have been the remaining 1/19 interest in the property in 1897 (BC, DR 132:1). Bell County tax records suggest that the Potters improved the land and that they used it for farming purposes (1886a, 1891a, 1896a).

Although there is no deed filed in Bell County, M. E. Potter apparently sold the northerly 175 acres of the Taylor Survey to J. A. Redding sometime between 1897 and 1903, when Redding conveyed the 175-acre parcel to T. H. Tucker (BC, DR 150:329). Bell County tax records suggest that Tucker improved the land between 1906 and 1910 and that he farmed there. However, because both 41BL527 and 41BL534 appear to be located on the 175-acre parcel, the associations of improvements and property owners are unclear.

By 1932, T. H. Tucker and his wife, Sarah, were dead. They were survived by several children who joined in a lawsuit to partition the deceased couple's property (BC, DC Cause No. 20,412). In 1933, Owen Carpenter, who was appointed receiver in the partition suit, conveyed the 175-acre parcel to Jim Bundrant (BC, DR 420:410).

By 1948, Bundrant apparently had acquired all of the 320-acre Taylor Survey and the 160-acre Blair Survey to the north by 1948. On July 17, 1948, Bundrant conveyed the land to A. B. Carothers, Marvin Brister, and O. C. Lacewell for $11,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 576:235). In 1954, Carothers, Brister, and Lacewell conveyed 396.6 acres designated as Tract 1304 in the Taylor and Blair Surveys to the U.S. government for $19,100 and the right to remove growing crops.

Summary: The property on which site 41BL527 is located may have been occupied as early as 1856, when Newton Parks occupied the 320-acre Obadiah Taylor Survey. Hamilton Parks, an heir of Newton Parks, appears to have continued to occupy the Taylor Survey until 1884, when he sold the property. Between 1886 and 1903, all or part of the the Taylor Survey was owned by J. W. and M. E. Potter who may have improved and occupied the property.

T. H. Tucker acquired the northerly 175 acres of the Taylor Survey in 1903 and may have lived on the property until his death in 1932. Jim Bundrant bought both the southern and northern parcels of the Taylor Survey between 1933 and 1948, and he appears to have lived there. However, it is not possible to determine which of the sites located on the Taylor Survey was occupied by Bundrant.

Site 41BL533 (Tract 1339)

Site History: Site 41BL533 is located in the southeastern portion of the 160-acre J. M. Everett Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1339, which consisted of 180 acres in two surveys that contained 41BL533 and 41BL535.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL533 is located, see the site history for 41BL535.

Summary: Site 41BL533 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as site 41BL535. Site 41BL533 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL534 (Tract 1304)

Site History: Site 41BL534 is located in the central portion of the 320-acre Obadiah Taylor Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. The site is situated in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1304, a 396.6-acre tract in two surveys that contained sites 41BL527, 41BL534, and 41BL723.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL534 is located, see the site history for 41BL527.

Summary: Site 41BL534 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as site 41BL527. Site 41BL534 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL535 (Tract 1339)

Site History: Site 41BL535 is located in the southeastern portion of the 160-acre J. M. Everett Survey in Bell County. In 1953 when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1339, which consisted of 180 acres in two surveys that contained sites 41BL533 and 41BL535.

On July 15, 1876, J. M. Everett swore that he was a bona fide settler on 160 acres of vacant public land in the Milam Land District, and that he was entitled to a preemption claim on the land because he had occupied and improved it for 3 years. Hamilton Parks and W. R. Paulk corroborated Everett's claim. In July 1876, John T. Pope, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Everett's land as 160 acres on Cowhouse Creek about 13 miles northwest of Belton. On April 6, 1877, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre tract to Everett (Texas. General Land Office 1877b).

J. M. Everett and his wife, Martha, owned the 160-acre tract for nearly 20 years. During that time they appear to have occupied and farmed the land. In addition, the ad valorem tax value rose from $160 to $640, suggesting that they improved the property (1880a, 1885a, 1890a, 1895a).

By 1895, Martha Everett had died, and her heirs verbally agreed to partition the survey into east-west 80-acre tracts (BC, DR 277:352). In September of that year, her two sons, L. W. and J. D. Everett, sold the western 80 acres to G. W. Cole Jr., and J. M. Everett sold Cole the eastern 80 acres (BC, DR 101:594; 104:84). Cole paid a total of $700 for the two tracts, a price that, again, suggested improvements.

Cole apparently maintained a substantial ranching operation on several thousand acres scattered throughout Bell County. As the county assessed ad valorem taxes on the total acreage, it is unclear if Cole further improved the Everett Survey acreage, or if he occupied the property (1897a, 1899a, 1900a).

In 1900, Cole sold the 160-acre Everett Survey to G. W. Cox for $1,300 in cash and notes (BC, DR 134:399). The substantial increase in purchase price between 1895 and 1900 may have reflected further improvements by Cole. Bell County ad valorem tax records indicate that Cox farmed the land, and he may have occupied the property as well (1901a–1902a).

Between 1902, when Cox sold the property, and 1905, the 160-acre Everett Survey was owned by J. M. Morgan (1902–1903), W. H. Spurlin (1903–1904), and G. W. Cole Jr. (1904–1905) (BC, DR 149:122, 446; 161:129). The purchase prices in these transactions dropped from $1,300 to $1,150, suggesting a decline in either the improvements or land values. It is unclear if Morgan, Spurlin, or Cole occupied the property.

On November 29, 1905, Cole sold the property to A. W. Gallaher for $650 in notes (BC, DR 274:285). Gallaher owned the land for about 10 years. Early in this period, the Bell County assessment reflected a value of $465 and livestock usually associated with a small farm (1906a). By 1910, the land value rose to $650, perhaps suggesting improvements, but the assessment included no personal property.

In 1916, Gallaher and his wife, B. F., sold the 160-acre tract to B. F. Sims for $1,600 in cash (BC, DR 253:442), again suggesting the presence of improvements. By 1926, both B. F. Sims and his wife, M. J., had died (BC, DR

378:315). Later that year, their heirs entered into a lawsuit to partition the deceased couple's land; and in January 1927, Hugh Smith, receiver in the case, conveyed 639 acres in various surveys to four of the heirs for $6,500 in cash and notes (BC, DC Cause No. 16,562; DR 371:406). The conveyance included the 160-acre Everett Survey on which 41BL535 is located.

In 1933, three of the owners, Onie Reed, Vada Reed, and Goldie Kelly, and their spouses, conveyed the 160-acre Everett Survey and a 20-acre parcel in an adjoining survey to the south to the fourth owner, Rena Griffin and her husband, J. L. Griffin, for $1 and the assumption of $800 of the existing debt (BC, DR 427:49). This 180-acre parcel is present-day Tract 1339, which is the location of 41BL535 and 41BL533.

The Griffins owned the land until 1951 when they sold it to the Veterans' Land Board of Texas (VLB) for $7,500 cash (BC, DR 653:344). In a companion instrument, the VLB entered into a contract for sale with Jim L. Mason for $7,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 653:342). The purchase price suggests the presence of improvements, but the association of improvements and owners is unclear because both 41BL535 and 41BL533 are located on Tract 1339.

In 1953, the VLB conveyed the 180 acres to Mason for satisfaction of the obligations contained in the contract for sale (BC, DR 699:43). In December of the same year, Mason sold a 180-acre parcel in the J. M. Everett and H. F. Hoover Surveys to the U.S. government, making no structure reservations (BC, DR 699:44).

Summary: It is possible that 41BL535, located on the 160-acre Everett Survey portion of Tract 1339, was occupied as early as 1877, when the land was patented to J. M. Everett who appears to have occupied and farmed the land. Between 1895 and 1905, the use and occupation of the 160-acre tract are unclear. A. W. Gallaher owned the land from 1905 until 1916, and it appears that he may have farmed and occupy the land in the early portion of this period. Use and occupancy in the latter years of Gallaher's ownership are unclear.

In 1916, B. F. Sims acquired the property, and it stayed in his family until 1951, when Rena Griffin and her husband, J. L., sold the land to the VLB. The board sold the land to Jim Mason, who conveyed it to the U.S. government in 1953. Land records suggest the presence of improvements and occupancy, but multiple sites on the tract hinder making a firm association of sites and owners.

Site 41BL536 (Tract 1301)

Site History: Site 41BL536 is located in the southwestern portion of the J. H. Bone Survey, a 160-acre survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1301, which consisted of 272 acres situated in four surveys. Site 41BL536 lies on the same 160-acre parcel as sites 41BL541, 41BL542, and 41BL543.

On April 22, 1868, John H. Bone swore that he had occupied vacant public land for 4 months and, that under the provisions of an act approved in 1866, he was entitled to have the land surveyed. On April 24, 1868, T. N. Pope, Bell County Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes that described a 160-acre tract in the name of John H. Bone. Guy Broshier and Washington Hallmark assisted in the survey as chainmen. On June 30, 1871, Bone filed a certificate of occupancy setting out that he had occupied and improved the 160-acre tract since December 22, 1867. The certificate was corroborated by J. M. Everett and M. D. T. Hallmark. On August 2, 1871, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre tract to Bone (Texas. General Land Office 1871e).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that Bone continued to occupy the property, maintaining a small farm and ranch operation (1871b, 1877b, 1882b) until about August 10, 1883, when he conveyed the 160-acre tract to Marion Jones for $500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 221:549). Jones may have occupied the property, and he appears to have used it as a small farm (1884a, 1888a).

In 1895, Jones apparently sold the 160-acre tract to S. F. Burns, although no deed was filed in Bell County. The county assessed Burns for the property, and the assessments reflect apparent improvement and use as a farm (1895a, 1898a).

In 1899, Burns sold 60 acres of the 160-acre tract to D. Hopkins for $300 in cash and notes (BC, DR 134:129). Between 1899 and 1904, the property was owned by Hopkins (1899–1900), J. A. Dickey (1900–1902), Levi Oldham (1902), and W. H. Spurlin (1902–1904) (BC, DR 129:553; 150:340; 152:236). Occupancy and use during this period is unclear, but rising purchase prices suggest the presence of improvements.

On November 10, 1904, Spurlin conveyed the 60-acre parcel to Amanda Parks for about $600 in cash and notes (BC, DR 159:446). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Parks farmed the land and continued to improve the property (1905a) until about 1909, when she and her husband, S. Parks, sold the 60-acre parcel to R. M. Walker for about $700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 229:500). Tax records suggest occupancy and use of the land for farming (1909a).

In 1911, A. W. Jordan acquired the 100-acre balance of the Bone Survey from S. F. Burns for $400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 238:526). In 1912, Jordan bought the 60-acre parcel from R. M. Walker and his wife, Belle, for $800 in cash and notes (BC, DR 229:501). The prices Jordan paid suggest that the 60-acre parcel was improved more than the 100-acre parcel. However, the 160-acre Bone Survey portion of Tract 1301 contains 4 sites (41BL536, 41BL541, 41BL542, and 41BL543), making the association of sites and occupants/owners unclear.

Jordan's ownership of the 160-acre Bone Survey continued until 1917, when he sold it along with other land, to T. M. Woodard for $11,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 292:546). The purchase price suggests that the property was improved, but because the deed conveyed a total of 445 acres, the association of sites and occupants is unclear.

Between 1917 and 1930, the 445-acre property was owned by Woodard (1917–1919), Sid Lansford (1919–1920), Sid Post (1920), G. W. Barcus and Alva Bryan (1920), Sunshine Petroleum Company (1920), T. L. Griffith (1920–1921), A. Schraeder (1921), the Temple State Bank (1921), the Guaranty State Bank of Temple (1921–1922), James W. Crum (1922–1924), John Burwell Pope (1924–1925), Edmund Travis (1925–1927), T. D. Adamson (1927), Paul Pfeifer (1927–1928), and Charles L. Baggett (1928–1930) (BC, DR 298:638; 317:48; 318:27, 29; 320:281; 326:166; 327:109; 328:311; 334:493; 349:322; 378:245–246; 386:385). The early (1917–1921) conveyances covered the 445-acre parcel acquired by Woodard from Jordan, and the considerations were primarily assumptions of the note contained in that deed. The later conveyances (1922–1930) cover only the 160-acre Bone Survey, and the prices, which began at $500 and rose to $2,400, suggest ongoing improvements. Use and occupancy during this period are unclear.

On August 20, 1930, Charles L. Baggett and his wife, Inez, sold the 160-acre Bone Survey, on which 41BL536 is located, to North Millican for $1,700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 405:122). The price suggests improvements, but the association of sites and occupants is unclear. Millican and his wife, Mildred, sold the land to Charles I. Hallmark in 1944 for $1,000 (BC, DR 517:437). On August 20, 1953, Hallmark and wife, Lollie, conveyed 280 acres that encompassed land in the Bone, Hoover, Hallmark, and Conley Surveys and comprised Tract 1301 to the U.S. government for $32,700 (BC, DR 690:443).

Summary: Site 41BL536 may have been occupied as early as 1867, when the 160 acres on which it is located were occupied by John H. Bone. Between 1883 and 1900, subsequent owners, including Marion Jones and S. F. Burns, also appear to have occupied, improved, and used the property.

In 1900, the property was subdivided into a 60-acre parcel and a 100-acre parcel. Land and tax records suggest that both parcels were improved and occupied until 1912, when A. W. Jordan reunited the two parcels. Land records indicate that Jordan further improved the land.

Between 1917, when Jordan sold the 160-acre tract, and 1930, the property underwent numerous ownership changes. Use and occupancy during this period are unclear.

In 1930, North Millican bought the 160-acre Bone Survey from Charles L. Baggett. Millican sold the property to Charles I. Hallmark in 1944, and in 1953, Hallmark conveyed it to the U.S. government. When the government bought Hallmark's property, it encompassed 272 acres in four surveys including all of the 160-acre J. H. Bone Survey as well as portions of the Hoover, Hallmark, and Conley Surveys. However, because multiple sites (41BL536, 41BL541, 41BL542, and 41BL543) are located on the 160-acre Bone Survey portion of Tract 1301, the associations of sites and property owners are unclear.

Site 41BL540 (Tract 1300)

Site History: Site 41BL540 is located in the northwestern portion of the 160-acre F. M. Defoor Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1300, which encompassed 421 acres in parts of four surveys.

On April 1, 1870, F. M. Defoor swore that he was a bona fide settler on 160 acres of vacant public land, and that he had occupied the land for 3 consecutive years. J. H. Bone and S. F. Arthur affirmed Defoor's statement. On November 21, 1873, Ed. T. Rucker, Bell County Surveyor, surveyed land for Defoor. The field notes described a 160-acre tract of land near Cowhouse Creek located 12 miles northwest of Belton (BC, SR B:432). On October 3, 1878, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre survey to Defoor under the terms of legislation regulating the disposal of public lands dated August 12, 1870 (Texas. General Land Office 1878b).

F. M. Defoor and his wife, N. A. Defoor, owned the land and may have occupied the property for the next 6 years. They apparently improved their property because the ad valorem tax value of the land rose approximately 25 percent during this period. In addition, the evaluation included livestock and tools, suggesting the presence of a small farm (1878a, 1884a).

In 1884, the Defoors conveyed the survey (less 6 acres in the northeast corner) to Isaac H. Scoggin for $550 (BC, DR 48:353). Less than 6 months later, Scoggin sold the 154-acre tract to R. H. Light for $550 in cash and notes (BC, DR 48:355). According to tax records, Light owned the property until 1895, and the evaluation rose substantially, suggesting further improvement and continued use as a farm (1886a, 1891a, 1895a).

There is a break in the chain of title between Light (1895) and W. B. Bruton (1910). Because Bell County apparently taxed an intervening owner during this period, use and occupancy of the land are unclear.

Bruton owned the 154-acre parcel from 1910 until the mid-1930s. He also acquired adjacent land in the Laws and Paulk Surveys. By March 22, 1939, Bruton had died, and H. C. Preston, who had been appointed receiver in a lawsuit among the Bruton heirs, conveyed the Bruton property, consisting of about 295 acres in three surveys, to D. L. Sellers for $600 cash (BC, DC Case No. 22,747; DR 470:101).

On November 1, 1940, D. L. Sellers, and wife, Aline, who had acquired more land, conveyed the 421 acres that comprise present-day Tract 1300 to W. C. Talley for $1,500 (BC, DR 483:178). Tally kept the property until October 16, 1951, when he and his wife, Stella, sold their land to J. F. Jenkins for $9,100 (BC, DR 645:178), an amount that suggests substantial additional improvements. However, because Tract 1300 contains six sites (41BL587 on the Laws Survey; 41BL540, 41BL544, and 41BL546 on the Defoor Survey; and 41BL196 and 41BL580 on the Cartwright Survey), the association of sites with specific owners is unclear (BC, DR 645:566). Jenkins retained ownership until March 11, 1954, when his 421 acres in the Cartwright, Defoor, Laws, and Paulk Surveys were condemned by the U.S. government for $19,547.69 and designated Tract 1300 (BC, DR 700:466).

Summary: The 154-acre parcel on which 41BL540 is located may have been occupied by F. M. Defoor as early as 1867. The property appears to have been further improved and possibly occupied by R. H. Light between 1884 and 1895. Ownership, use, and occupancy from 1895 until 1910 are unclear. Land records from 1910 until the government acquired the tract in 1954 suggest improvement and probable occupation by W. B. Bruton, D. L. Sellers, W. C. Talley and J. F. Jenkins. However, multiple sites on Tract 1300, including three on the Defoor Survey, preclude a firm connection between sites and specific owners.

Site 41BL541 (Tract 1301)

Site History: Site 41BL541 is located in the southeastern portion of the J. H. Bone Survey, a 160-acre survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1301, which consisted of 272 acres situated in four surveys. Site 41BL541 lies on the same 160-acre parcel as sites 41BL536, 41BL542, and 41BL543.

Summary: Site 41BL541 is proximate to and on the same tract as sites 41BL536, 41BL542, and 41BL543. Site 41BL541 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL542 (Tract 1301)

Site History: Site 41BL542 is located in the north-central portion of the J. H. Bone Survey, a 160-acre survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, it

was part of Tract 1301, which consisted of 272 acres situated in four surveys. Site 41BL542 lies on the same 160-acre parcel as sites 41BL536, 41BL541, and 41BL543.

Summary: Site 41BL542 is proximate to and on the same tract as sites 41BL536, 41BL541, and 41BL543. Site 41BL542 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL543 (Tract 1301)

Site History: Site 41BL543 is located in the north-central portion of the J. H. Bone Survey, a 160-acre survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1301, which consisted of 272 acres situated in four surveys. Site 41BL543 lies on the same 160-acre parcel as sites 41BL536, 41BL541, and 41BL542.

Summary: Site 41BL543 is proximate to and on the same tract as sites 41BL536, 41BL541, and 41BL542. Site 41BL543 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL544 (Tract 1300)

Site History: Site 41BL544 is located in the southwestern portion of the 160-acre F. M. Defoor Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1300, a 421-acre tract consisting of parts of four surveys.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL544 is located, see 41BL540.

Summary: Site 41BL544 is proximate to and on the same parcel and tract of land as sites 41BL540 and 41BL546. It is possible that 41BL544 is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL546 (Tract 1300)

Site History: Site 41BL546 is located in the southeastern portion of the 160-acre F. M. Defoor Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1300, a 421-acre tract consisting of parts of four surveys.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL546 is located, see 41BL540.

Summary: Site 41BL546 is proximate to and on the same parcel and tract of land as sites 41BL540 and 41BL544. It is possible that 41BL546 is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL551 (Tract 1306)

Site History: Site 41BL551 is located on the eastern 142 acres of the Patrick Lusk Survey, Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1306, which consisted of 320 acres in three surveys.

On October 5, 1862, the Washington County Board of Land Commissioners issued a headright certificate (No. 2560/2661) to Patrick Lusk for 287 acres of vacant public land. This certificate represented the unclaimed balance of a 320-acre certificate (No. 428) issued to Lusk in 1847. On June 20, 1858, H. E. Bradford, the surveyor for the Milam Land District, filed field notes for Lusk, locating a 287-acre tract on Taylor's Branch, a tributary of Cowhouse Creek about 12 miles northwest of Belton. Thomas Lath and John Sparks assisted as chainmen. On February 20, 1861, the State of Texas patented the 287-acre tract to William Wilkes, assignee of Patrick Lusk (Texas. General Land Office 1861c).

In March 1870, Wilkes sold the 287-acre tract to J. D. O'Keefe for $140 (BC, DR R:421). O'Keefe apparently lived on and farmed the property during his ownership (1871a–1872a) until about November 30, 1872, when he conveyed the eastern 142 acres of the Lusk Survey to J. P. Roberson for $600 (BC, DR R:423). Roberson owned the parcel for 13 years, and during that period the Bell County ad valorem tax evaluation rose from $300 to $1,000, suggesting that he improved, occupied, and farmed the property (1873a, 1877a, 1882a, 1886a).

In March 1886, Roberson sold the 142-acre parcel to G. W. Rea for $1,400 (BC, DR 54:251). Between 1886 and 1894, the property was owned by Rea (1886–1887), D. D. Dyches (1887–1891), Willis M. Light (1891–1892), and Harrison

Roberts (1892–1894) (BC, DR 62:261; 82:87; 86:422). Bell County assessed each of these four owners for tools and livestock that suggested occupation and farm use (1887a–1888a, 1891a–1893a).

On November 27, 1894, Roberts and his wife, Mary, conveyed the 142-acre parcel in the Lusk Survey, and an adjoining 5-acre parcel in the Defoor Survey, to G. W. and J. R. Murray for $1,300 (BC, DR 99:403). The brothers farmed the land and may have lived there until 1900 (1985a, 1900a), when G. W. sold his interest to J. R. (BC, DR 134:488).

In early 1902, J. R. Murray conveyed the property to E. A. Johnson for $1,800 in cash and notes (BC, DR 147:420). Johnson lived in Waco and apparently did not use the property, although he acquired an adjacent 80-acre parcel of land (1905a, 1908a–1909a).

On April 5, 1909, Johnson sold a total of 227 acres to Harry Moore for $3,000 (BC, DR 199:14), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Between 1909 and 1931, the property was owned by Moore (1909), W. R. Thomas (1909–1910), J. B. Farley (1910), J. M. Chapman (1910–1911), R. C. Hibbett (1911), W. P. Blackstock (1911–1912), McGregor Oil & Manufacturing Co. (1912–1913), M. L. Garrett (1913–1916), J. P. McPherson (1916–1920), S. B. Rutledge (1920–1921), R. H. McDonald (1921), H. H. Meador (1921), M. B. Somerford (1921–1925), J. E. Warren (1925–1926), C. E. Bowers (1926–1929), and A. G. Vick (1929–1931) (BC, DR 199:94; 204:311; 217:471, 473; 222:348; 239:206; 272:367; 275:363; 319:341; 327:327, 333; 333:486; 373:318, 320; 410:4). The disclosed purchase prices in these transactions ranged from a low of $3,150 (Farley to Chapman) to a high of $17,000 (Rutledge to McDonald and McDonald to Meador), and suggest the presence of substantial improvements. However, the occupancy and usage of the property during this period is unclear.

In October 1931, A. G. Vick and his wife, Edna, sold the 227-acre parcel to W. L. Flewellan for $10 and other valuable considerations (BC, DR 409:7). About 3 years later, Flewellan conveyed 147 acres in the Lusk and Defoor Surveys to Carl Clawson for $750 in cash and notes (BC, DR 431:221). Clawson then sold the 147-acre parcel to W. E. Magee in October for $1,000 (BC, DR 452:14), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Magee also acquired land in the adjacent Clements Survey, giving Tract 1306 its present-day, 320-acre size and shape.

In July 1937, Magee and his wife, Holly, conveyed the 320 acres to Preston Gobble for $2,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 457:109). Gobble and his wife, Lucy, lived on the land and operated a farm and ranch there (BC, DR 574:343; 694:374). They held it until October 9, 1953, when they sold 320 acres in the Lusk, Clements, and Defoor Surveys (Tract 1306), to the U.S. government for $20,055 (BC, DR 694:376). The Gobbles reserved the right to remove several structures before December 1, 1953, including a dwelling, garage, sheep barns, and related farm outbuildings.

Summary: The 142-acre parcel on which 41BL551 is located may have been occupied by J. D. O'Keefe as early as 1870. The property appears to have been occupied and improved by subsequent owners until 1909. Owners during this period included J. P. Roberson, G. W. Rea, D. D. Dyches, Willis Light, Harrison Roberts, G. W. and J. R. Murray, and E. A. Johnson.

Between 1909 and 1937, use and occupancy of the 142-acre parcel are unclear. The purchase price in various transactions rose substantially, but the short ownership periods make it difficult to identify the locations and conditions of any improvements.

Preston Gobble acquired the land that became Tract 1306 in 1937. He and his wife lived on the land and operated a farm and ranch there. In 1953, when the government purchased their property, the Gobbles reserved the right to remove several structures, suggesting that 41BL551 is associated with some remnant of their occupation.

Site 41BL552 (Tract 1212)

Site History: Site 41BL552 is located in the west-central portion of the 160-acre William Potter Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1212 which encompassed 1,179 acres in nine surveys and contained five sites—41BL552 and 41BL553 in the William Potter Survey, 41BL571 and 41BL573 in the James Clements (also spelled Clemments) Survey, and 41BL572 in the G. E. Hallmark Survey.

In February 1857, William Potter swore that he had settled on vacant and unappropriated

public land, and that he had lived on the property for about 6 months. Less than a week later, J. E. Bradford, Milam Land District Surveyor, filed field notes for Potter's 160-acre parcel. The land was located on Cowhouse Creek about 12 miles northwest from Belton. On September 16, 1859, the State of Texas patented the property to Potter (Texas. General Land Office 1859d).

In October 1859, less than a month after Potter received the patent, he sold the 160-acre parcel to J. F. Arthur for $400 in cash and notes (BC, DR H:184), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Arthur owned the land for many years, maintained an expanding farm operation on the property, and probably lived there (1862a, 1870a, 1880a). Arthur died in the early 1880s, survived by his second wife, Millie, and his children from two marriages (BC, DR 256:505).

Millie Arthur and the children from J. F.'s first marriage informally partitioned the 160 acres, with Millie getting 70 acres and the three children getting approximately 30 acres each (BC, DR 256:506). In 1887, Millie Arthur Sutton, now married to Floyd Sutton, purchased the interest of one child, Sarah Sellers, for $250 (BC, DR 61:585). In that same year, J. M. Arthur, a second child, sold his interest to the third child, Martha Garner, for $250 (BC, DR 77:302). Ad valorem tax records suggest that both Millie Arthur Sutton and Martha Garner farmed their respective acreages and probably lived on the property (1890a).

Millie Arthur Sutton died in the early 1890s, and her five children inherited her property (BC, DR 256:506). Martha Garner died in about 1900, and her property was inherited by her daughter, Elizabeth Garner Smith Fairey (BC, DR 258:176). The use and occupation of the property during this period remain uncertain.

Between 1903 and 1916, G. E. Hallmark purchased the interests from what appear to be all the heirs of J. F. Arthur, Millie Arthur Sutton, and Elizabeth Smith (BC, DR 162:608; 167:526; 170:201; 183:380–383; 186:357; 257:123; 275:175). The prices in these partial-interest purchases ranged between $300 and $400.

Hallmark and his wife, Martha, owned approximately 800 acres in the area around the community of Sparta. The Hallmarks had a large family consisting of 13 children, but it is unclear from the records examined if they lived on the 160-acre Potter Survey. Hallmark apparently farmed some of the land himself, and he probably rented the remainder out to his children or tenants (BC, DR 490:501, 504, 508).

In 1941, the Hallmark heirs sold 274 acres that included the 160-acre Potter Survey to R. K. Allen for $4,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 494:121). The price suggests the presence of improvements, but because four sites (41BL552 and 41BL553 on the Potter Survey, and 41BL571 and 41BL573 on the Clements Survey) are located on the lands conveyed, the value of any given site cannot be established.

In 1943, R. K. Allen sold a one-half interest in the property to his brother, George (BC, DR 504:113). Less than 6 months later, George reconveyed his interest in the property back to R. K. (BC, DR 510:369). In 1944, Allen and his wife, Mattie, conveyed approximately 2,000 acres that included the 160-acre Potter Survey to Walter O. Cloudt for $10,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 523:227). Cloudt died in 1944, and his wife, Willie, inherited the land (BC, DR 574:300).

On January 7, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 3,629.5 acres that included a 1,179-acre parcel owned by Willie M. Cloudt (BC, DR 700:112). Cloudt was paid $52,697.18 for the land. The property, identified as Tract 1212, encompassed land in nine surveys—the GC&SF, James Clements, Z. T. Cartwright, J. W. J. T. Hallmark, J. I. Doss, William Potter, McKinney and Williams, M. Hunt, and G. E. Hallmark Surveys. When the government acquired the property, Tract 1212 contained five sites—41Bl552 and 41BL553 on the Potter Survey, 41BL571 and 41BL573 on the Clements Survey, and 41BL572 on the G. E. Hallmark Survey.

Summary: The William Potter Survey, on which 41BL552 and 41BL553 are located, may have been occupied as early as 1857, when Potter swore residency on the property. Land and tax records suggest that J. F. Arthur, who owned the land between 1859 and the early 1880s, farmed and lived on the 160-acre Potter Survey.

After Arthur died, the land was owned and perhaps occupied by members of his family, including his widow, Millie, and the children from his first marriage. It is possible that the second site found on the property dates from this period when Martha Garner, one of J. F. Arthur's children, owned, farmed, and perhaps occupied, part of the property.

Between 1903 and 1916, G. E. Hallmark bought the partial interests in the Potter Survey from the heirs of J. F. and Millie Arthur in 1903. Hallmark owned the survey until the late 1930s, but his occupation remains uncertain. His heirs sold the land in 1941 to R. K. Allen, who conveyed it to Walter O. Cloudt in 1943. The government condemned the property in 1954, when Walter Cloudt's widow owned it, compensating her more than $52,000, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL553 (Tract 1212)

Site History: Site 41BL553 is located on the west-central portion of the 160-acre William Potter Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1212 which encompassed 1,179 acres in nine surveys and contained five sites—41BL552 and 41BL553 in the William Potter Survey, 41BL571 and 41BL573 in the James Clements Survey, and 41BL572 in the G. E. Hallmark Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL553 is located, see the site history for 41BL552.

Summary: Site 41BL553 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL552. Site 41BL553 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation to the site based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL557 (Tract 1215)

Site History: Site 41BL557 is located in the eastern portion of the 160-acre, Section 4, GC&SF Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1215, which encompassed 160 acres and contained one site.

In January 1899, T. J. McLaughlin filed an application to purchase 160 acres about 14 miles northwest of Belton. In his accompanying affidavit, McLaughlin swore that he was an actual, bona fide settler on the land and that he was purchasing the property for his home. McLaughlin made payments on the land between 1899 and 1908; most of the payments were for interest due. Beginning in 1909, Fred McLaughlin, probably T. J.'s son, made interest payments until sometime in the early 1920s. However, Fred McLaughlin forfeited the claim to the 160-acre parcel in September 1925 (Texas. General Land Office 1899).

The McLaughlins owned adjacent land and apparently used the 160-acre parcel as part of their ranch operation. Bell County classified the property as unrendered through 1910, and the McLaughlins' occupation remains uncertain (1899a, 1900a, 1902a, 1905a, 1910a).

On January 9, 1954, when the U.S. government condemned the 160-acre parcel, it compensated the State of Texas $3,200. The property contained one site, 41BL557.

Summary: It is possible, though not certain, that the 160-acre parcel where 41BL557 is located may have been occupied as early as 1899, when T. J. McLaughlin swore that he was a bona fide settler on the property. Even though McLaughlin, and later his apparent son, Fred McLaughlin, paid the interest to keep the application valid, the claim was forfeited to the state in 1925. The land never was patented.

Site 41BL565 (Tract 1217)

Site History: Site 41BL565 is located in the southern portion of the 320-acre Tom B. Craig Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1217, which encompassed 1,000 acres in seven surveys and contained three sites.

In June 1899, Tom B. Craig applied to purchase 320 acres of vacant school land for $312. The land was described in the application as being part of the Section 4 of the GC&SF Survey in Bell County. In May 1901, Craig transferred all his interest in the land to Ed F. Lee for $160 and the assumption by Lee of the $312 purchase price due to the state. In June 1901, H. E. Bradford, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Craig's 320 acres located on the waters of Cowhouse Creek about 12 miles northwest of Belton. F. M. Defoor and G. M. White assisted as chainmen. On July 20, 1901, the State of Texas patented the 320-acre parcel to Ed F. Lee (Texas. General Land Office 1901).

In November 1903, the heirs of Ed F. Lee conveyed the 320-acre Craig Survey to W. P. Denman for $250 (BC, DR 151:451). It is unclear if Denman occupied the property (1901a–1903a, 1905a).

In February 1906, Denman and his wife, Roxie, sold approximately 1,700 acres that included the 320-acre Craig Survey to J. C. Damron for $9,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 172:18), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Ad valorem tax and deed records suggest that Damron rented the land to tenants (1908a; BC, DR 484:402). Damron sold a one-half interest in the property to O. P. Quick in 1909, but reacquired the interest from Quick less than a year later (BC, DR 198:262; 209:60).

In March 1914, Damron sold approximately 1,120 acres that included the 320-acre Craig Survey to B., W. H., and R. T. Badger, operating as Badger and Sons, for $4,480 (BC, DR 258:79), a price that indicates further improvements of the property. In addition, 41BL565 appears to be the only recorded site located on the 1,120-acre parcel, suggesting that the improvements can be associated with that site.

Brandt Badger was a resident of Burnet County, and he died there in May 1920 (BC, DR 484:402, 404; 485:413). W. H. and R. T. Badger continued to own the property until W. H.'s death in 1940 (BC, DR 485:413). In February 1941, R. T. Badger and Bettie Badger, acting individually and on behalf of the estates of Brandt and W. H. Badger, respectively, sold approximately 600 acres that included the 320-acre Craig Survey to R. K. Allen for $3,481 (BC, DR 484:432).

For the legal history of the 320-acre Tom B. Craig Survey, where 41BL565 is located, from 1941 until 1954, when the government acquired the property, see the site history for 41BL214.

Summary: The 320-acre Tom B. Craig Survey, where 41BL565 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1903, when W. P. Denman owned the property. Evidence suggests that tenants may have occupied the property between 1903 and 1914, when Denman and J. C. Damron owned the land.

Between 1914 and 1941, the Badger family owned approximately 1,100 acres that included the 320-acre parcel in the Craig Survey. The per-acre increases in the purchase prices for the property (between 1914 and 1941) probably reflect improvements associated with 41BL565.

R. K. Allen and Mrs. H. H. Storm owned the land from 1941 until 1954, when the government acquired it. During this period, the property encompassed the 320-acre Craig Survey where 41BL565 is located, the 160-acre T. J. Wilkerson Survey where 41BL214 is located, and the northern portion of the H. K. Harrison Survey where 41BL601 is located, making firm associations among parcels of land, possible improvements, and sites difficult to determine. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved.

Site 41BL571 (Tract 1212)

Site History: Site 41BL571 is located in the northeastern portion of the 160-acre James Clements Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1212, which encompassed 1179 acres in nine surveys and contained five sites—41BL552 and 41BL553 in the William Potter Survey, 41BL571 and 41BL573 in the James Clements Survey, and 41BL572 in the G. E. Hallmark Survey.

In November 1862, James Clements swore that he had settled on vacant public land on the waters of Taylor's Branch, a tributary of Cowhouse Creek. In June 1863, Clements swore that he was a bona fide settler, head of a family, and had not made any other preemption claim. The next month, John Q. Allen, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing a 160-acre tract on Taylor's Branch about 15 miles northwest of Belton. John Dalton and James Clements assisted as chainmen. Clements died in 1868, and in January 1880, A. G. Clements, his surviving heir, swore that, prior to 1868, James Clements had lived on and cultivated a 160-acre tract for more than 3 consecutive years. On June 23, 1885, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre parcel to the heirs of Clements (Texas. General Land Office 1885b).

According to Macaulay (1998:83–94), James Clements died in 1868, but his widow, Nancy, and their children continued to occupy the property, where they maintained a small farm operation. However, because there are three sites on the 160-acre parcel (41BL571 and 41BL573 on Tract 1212, and 41BL574 on Tract 1220), it is difficult to determine from legal or ad valorem tax records the use and occupation of any given site.

In the early 1870s, Nancy Clements married J. H. Bone, who apparently moved with his children to the Clements farm. The couple continued to make their home on the Clements Survey until January 1894, when they sold the

property to G. E. Hallmark for $550 in cash and notes, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Hallmark and his wife, Martha, owned approximately 800 acres in the area around the community of Sparta. The Hallmarks had a large family consisting of 13 children, but it is unclear if they lived on the Clements Survey. Hallmark apparently farmed some of the acreage himself and probably rented the remainder out to his children or tenants (BC, DR 490:501, 504, 508). Records suggest that James Hallmark may have occupied 41BL571 and its associated outbuilding/dump, and that W. C. Hallmark may have occupied 41BL574.

For the remainder of the legal history of that portion of the Clements Survey comprising the part of the 1,179-acre Tract 1212, on which 41BL571 is located, see the site history for 41BL552.

Summary: Initial occupation of the 160-acre James Clements Survey probably occurred in the early 1860s, when Clements swore that he resided on the land to satisfy preemption claim requirements. Records suggest that his widow continued to live on the property until she and her second husband, J. H. Bone, sold the land to G. E. Hallmark in 1894.

Hallmark owned the property until the late 1930s, but his occupation remains uncertain. Evidence suggests that two of his sons, James and W. C., may have rented from their father and occupied 41BL571 and 41BL574, respectively. The G. E. and Martha Hallmark heirs sold the land in 1941 to R. K. Allen, who conveyed it to Walter O. Cloudt in 1943. The government condemned the property in 1954, when Walter Cloudt's widow owned it, compensating her more than $52,000, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL572 (Tract 1212)

Site History: Site 41BL572 is located in the southwestern portion of the 80-acre G. E. Hallmark Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1212, which encompassed 1,179 acres in nine surveys and contained five sites—41BL552 and 41BL553 in the William Potter Survey, 41BL571 and 41BL573 in the James Clements Survey, and 41BL572 in the G. E. Hallmark Survey.

In October 1898, G. E. Hallmark filed an application to purchase 80 acres of land in the southern part of Section 4 of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad Company (GC&SF) lands. The property was classified as dry grazing land and valued at $1.10 per acre. Hallmark also swore that he was a bona fide settler on the land, which was in the vicinity of the community of Sparta. In April 1899, H. E. Bradford filed field notes describing Hallmark's 80 acres; N. S. Garner and J. Gibson served as chainmen. Although Hallmark forfeited his claim in 1904, his claim was reinstated in October 1907, when he swore that he was the original purchaser of the 80-acre parcel, that he had actually settled on the land, and that he had made his home on the property for 3 consecutive years. On August 1, 1930, the State of Texas patented the 80-acre parcel to Hallmark (Texas. General Land Office 1930).

G. E. Hallmark and his wife, M. A., acquired about 800 acres in the vicinity of the 80-acre parcel before they died in the late 1930s. For the legal history of the land on which 41BL572 is located from 1941, when the Hallmark heirs sold the property, until the government acquisition in 1954, see the site history for 41BL552.

Summary: It is possible that the 80-acre G. E. Hallmark Survey was occupied and improved as early as the late 1890s, when Hallmark swore that he lived on the property. However, because Hallmark acquired several other tracts of land in the vicinity, it is difficult to establish which was the location of his residence and which were occupied by others, probably tenants. Subsequent owners of the 80-acre parcel, including R. K. Allen, Walter O. Cloudt, and Willie M. Cloudt, also owned adjacent land.

Site 41BL573 (Tract 1212)

Site History: Site 41BL573 is located in the northeastern portion of the 160-acre James Clements Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1212, which encompassed 1,179 acres in nine surveys and contained five sites—41BL552 and 41BL553 in the William Potter Survey, 41BL571 and 41BL573 in the James Clements Survey, and 41BL572 in the G. E. Hallmark Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL573 is located, see the site history for 41BL571.

Summary: Site 41BL573 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as site 41BL571. Site 41BL573 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation to the site based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL574 (Tract 1220)

Site History: Site 41BL574 is located in the southeastern portion of the 160-acre James Clements Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1220 which encompassed 78 acres in two surveys and contained two sites—41BL574 in the Clements Survey and 41BL578 in the J. F. Cartwright Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL574 is located from 1862 until the late 1930s, when the G. E. Hallmark Estate owned all of the Clements Survey, see the site history for 41BL571.

According to Macaulay (1998:83–94), G. B. Hallmark, as agent and attorney-in-fact for the G. E. and Martha Hallmark heirs, conveyed 78 acres that included the southern 28 acres of the Clements Survey where 41BL574 is located to W. C. Hallmark in June 1941. W. C. Hallmark paid taxes on the property and appears to have occupied a house there. Hallmark and his wife sold the 78 acres, identified as Tract 1220, to the U.S. government in 1954 for $4,625, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Summary: Initial occupation of the 160-acre James Clements Survey probably occurred in the early 1860s, when Clements swore that he resided on the land to satisfy preemption claim requirements. Records suggest that his widow continued to live on the property until she and her second husband, J. H. Bone, sold the land to G. E. Hallmark in 1894.

Hallmark owned the property until the late 1930s, but his occupation remains uncertain. Evidence suggests that two of his sons, James and W. C., may have rented from their father and occupied 41BL571 and 41BL574, respectively. The G. E. and Martha Hallmark heirs sold the land in 1941 to W. C. Hallmark and his wife, Maggie, who conveyed it to the government in 1954 for a price that suggests that improvements were present.

Site 41BL576 (Tract 1201)

Site History: Site 41BL576 is located in the northwestern portion of the 378-acre John Houchin Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1201, which encompassed 56.3 acres out of one survey and contained two sites, 41BL576 and 41BL621.

In October 1838, the Washington County Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 147) to John Houchin. Houchin proved that he had arrived in the Republic of Texas before October 1, 1837 and that he was married and, therefore, was entitled to a grant of 1,280 acres. In November 1848, the commissioners issued a second certificate (No. 519) to Houchin. He had claimed 902 acres and was entitled to a balance of 378 acres to satisfy the original grant of 1,280 acres. In August 1851, William Armstrong, Milam Land District Surveyor, filed field notes describing Houchin's 378-acre parcel. John Taylor and Thomas Kinsey assisted as chainmen. On April 9, 1853, the State of Texas patented 378 acres to John Houchin (Texas. General Land Office 1853a).

In January 1857, Houchin sold the 378-acre parcel to James M. Harris and J. A. Wilkins for $415 (BC, DR L:283). In 1862, Wilkins conveyed his undivided one-half interest in the property to C. B. Francis for $375 (BC, DR L:285); the next year, Harris conveyed his half interest to his daughter, Emily Francis, for $1 (BC, DR L:282). Emily and C. B. Francis owned the property for nearly 30 years. However, use and occupation during this period remain unclear. Bell County showed the property as unrendered until 1890, when the tract was rendered in the C. B. Francis Estate (1853a, 1860a, 1862a, 1867a, 1870a, 1882a, 1890a).

In May 1892, N. B. Francis and Emily Whitever and her husband, E. A., sold the 378 acres to M. H. Francis and Mary Blackburn, identified as the heirs of C. B. Francis, for $5 (BC, DR 84:444). Less than a year later, in February 1893, Francis and Blackburn conveyed the property to M. N. Walton for $2,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 88:450), a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

For many years, M. N. Walton owned approximately 1,400 acres that included the 378-acre parcel. He apparently farmed some of the property himself and rented other portions of his holdings. His homestead was located on a portion of 425 acres in the Halfpenny Survey (BC, PM 38:572). Walton was married twice, fathering five children with his first wife, Lizzie, and three children with his second wife, Mattie, who survived him (BC, DR 193:583). Walton died in 1926 at his home in Sparta, and his inventory listed a one-half interest in 378 acres in the Houchin Survey (BC, PM 38:53).

Between 1927 and 1930, Walton's widow purchased the other heirs's interest in the estate (BC, DR 380:620; 386:618, 625; 394:639; 395:626–627; 402:480; 403:38). The purchase prices for these interests ranged from $1,800 to $2,500 in cash, or the exchange of properties, suggesting the presence of improvements. However, because the estate owned so much land, it is difficult to determine the locations and identities of the improvements.

In June 1946, M. M. Walton conveyed the 378-acre parcel on which 41BL576 is located to her three daughters, Nettie W. Watson, Faxie W. Robinson, and Pauline W. Patterson, for love and affection (BC, DR 550:5). On February 27, 1954, the daughters conveyed a portion of the property to the U.S. government for $1,410 (BC, DR 703:143). The land, identified as Tract 1201, encompassed 56.3 acres and appears to be the west residue of the 378 acres.

Summary: The John Houchin Survey does not appear to have been occupied from the patent in 1853 until the early 1890s, when M. N. Walton purchased the 378-acre survey. It is possible that Walton farmed the property or rented it for farming purposes. Land and tax records suggest that the property was improved during the early twentieth century. However, Walton owned over 1,400 acres in the vicinity, so his use and occupation of Tract 1201 remain unclear.

Walton, his widow, and three of his children owned the property from 1893 until it was acquired as part of the Fort Hood expansion. In 1954, when the government purchased the land, Tract 1201 consisted of 56.3 acres. The tract was the western residue of the 378-acre Houchin Survey less the portion taken for the Belton Reservoir; it contained two sites, 41BL576 and 41BL621.

Site 41BL577 (Tract 1221)

Site History: Site 41BL577 is located in the central portion of the 151.8-acre J. F. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1221 which encompassed 98.35 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41BL577 and 41BL584.

For the early legal history of the land on which 41BL577 is located from 1879 to 1890, when Levi Paulk owned the 151.8-acre J. F. Cartwright Survey, see the site history for 41BL578.

According to Macaulay (1998:95–102), Paulk divided the Cartwright Survey among his three sons between 1890 and 1892. W. R. Paulk received the central 50-acre portion where 41BL577 is located and bought the eastern 50 acres from his brother, J. S. Paulk. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Paulk farmed the property and probably lived there.

In 1893, Paulk sold the 100 acres to W. F. Sellers, who conveyed the property to I. J. Tallon less than a month later. Tallon may have lived on the land. In October 1895, he sold the western 50 acres of his land, where 41BL577 is located, to George W. Cole Jr. It is uncertain if the site was occupied at this time. From 1896 to 1910, Bell County classified the property as unrendered.

Cole retained the 50-acre parcel on which 41BL577 is located until 1911, when he sold it to W. F. Sellers and his wife, Martha, for $600, a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Records indicate that Sellers owned other land, most of which he rented out. In 1934, after the death of his wife, W. F. Sellers partitioned his land among his children. A. L. Sellers received the 50-acre parcel on which 41BL577 is located. By 1920, A. L. Sellers also had acquired the western-adjacent 50-acre parcel.

In January 1936, Sellers sold the 100 acres to A. G. Vick and Owen P. Carpenter for $500 in cash and notes, but they apparently defaulted on the note, and Sellers reacquired title to the property. In 1942, he conveyed the property to Bertie Hutchinson for $650, a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In addition, Hutchinson was assessed for two houses on the parcel; 41BL577 probably was one of those houses. In 1947, Hutchinson and her husband, Tommie, sold the 100-acre parcel to Preston and Lucy Gobble for $1,000 in cash and notes.

The Gobbles conveyed the 100 acres to E. E. and Angie Gordon for $1,800. The Gordon's property, identified as Tract 1221, was condemned by the U.S. government on March 4, 1954, for a consideration of $10,500. When the government acquired the tract, it consisted of 98.35 acres in the J. F. Cartwright Survey and contained two sites: 41BL577 and 41BL584.

Summary: Initial occupation of the J. F. Cartwright Survey, where 41BL577 is located, appears to have occurred during the late 1870s and early 1880s, when J. F. Cartwright and Nathan Ensor swore they lived on the property to meet preemption claim requirements. However, the location of their improvements remains unclear. Levi Paulk and his family may have occupied the 151.8-acre survey between 1889 and 1893.

W. F. Sellers acquired the 50 acres where 41BL577 is located in 1911. Sellers also acquired the western-adjacent 50-acre parcel where 41BL584 is located during the same period. Sellers appears to have rented the property out for farm use. The 100 acres remained in the ownership of his family until 1943. Between 1943 and 1954, when the government acquired the property, it remained occupied and improved.

Site 41BL578 (Tract 1220)

Site History: Site 41BL578 is located in the eastern portion of the 151.8-acre J. F. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1220, which encompassed 78 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL574 in the James Clements Survey and 41BL578 in the Cartwright Survey.

In February 1879, J. F. Cartwright swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land. In July of that year, John Harvey, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Cartwright's land. In January 1881, Cartwright and his wife, Mary, transferred all their rights in the preemption claim to Nathan Ensor for $300 in cash and cotton. In May 1882, Ensor swore that he was a bona fide settler on 151.8 acres of vacant public land, and that he had occupied and improved the property for 3 consecutive years. In December 1882, Ensor and his wife, Kate, transferred all their rights in the property to Mrs. Eva Brown for $200. In February 1885, J. W. Turner, Bell County Surveyor, filed corrected field notes describing the 151.8-acre tract as being on the waters of Cowhouse Creek about 11.5 miles northwest of Belton; and on August 14 of that year, the State of Texas patented the 151.8-acre parcel to Eva Brown (Texas. General Land Office 1885e).

According to Macaulay (1998:95–102), neither Ensor nor Brown appeared in the Bell County tax schedules between 1881 and 1885, and the J. F. Cartwright Survey was listed as unrendered. However, Brown and her husband were assessed for several other parcels of land in Bell County.

In October 1888, the Browns sold the property to Sam Parks and his wife, Amanda, but they apparently defaulted on the note, which Levi Paulk assumed. Paulk took ownership of the property in 1889. Between 1890 and 1892, Paulk divided the property into three parcels of 50 acres each for his sons. Site 41BL578 is located on the eastern 50 acres of the survey, and Levi Paulk conveyed that parcel to his son, J. S. Paulk. J. S. Paulk then conveyed the 50-acre parcel to his brother, W. R., who, in 1893, sold both 50-acre parcels to W. F. Sellers.

Less than a month later, Sellers sold the 100 acres to I. J. Tallon. Bell County assessed Tallon $250 and $280 for the land in 1894 and 1895. In January 1896, he sold the eastern 50 acres of the J. F. Cartwright Survey to G. E. Hallmark. Between 1896 and 1906, the land apparently was unoccupied, because it was listed as unrendered on the tax rolls during that period.

The 50 acres where 41BL578 is located stayed in the Hallmark family until it was purchased by the government in 1954. G. E. Hallmark paid taxes on the property until his death in 1938, but his use and occupation of the land remain unclear as he owned nearly 800 acres in the vicinity. When the estate was partitioned, W. C. Hallmark received the 50-acre tract where 41BL578 is located, along with other land. In 1954, W. C. Hallmark and his wife, Maggie, sold 78 acres, identified as Tract 1220, to the government for $4,634. The property consisted of 50 acres in the Cartwright Survey, where 41BL578 is located, and 28 acres in the James Clements Survey, where 41BL574 is located.

Summary: Initial occupation of the J. F. Cartwright Survey, where 41BL578 is located, appears to have occurred during the late 1870s

and early 1880s, when J. F. Cartwright and Nathan Ensor swore they lived on the property to meet preemption claim requirements. However, the location of their improvements remains unclear.

Between 1893 and 1896, when G. E. Hallmark purchased the property, use and occupation of the property are uncertain. It is possible that 41BL578 was occupied by one of G. E. Hallmark's children between 1900 and 1940, when the estate was partitioned. In that division, W. C. Hallmark received the 50 acres where 41BL578 is located, along with an adjacent 28-acre parcel where 41BL574 is located.

Site 41BL580 (Tract 1300)

Site History: Site 41BL580 is located in the southeastern portion of an 85-acre parcel out of the 160-acre Z. T. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1300, a 421-acre tract consisting of parts of four surveys.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL580 is located, see the site history for 41BL196.

Summary: Site 41BL580 is proximate to and located on the same parcel and tract as 41BL196. It is possible that 41BL580 is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL584 (Tract 1221)

Site History: Site 41BL584 is located in the western portion of the 151.8-acre J. F. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1221, which encompassed 98.35 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41BL577 and 41BL584.

For the legal history of 41BL584 from 1879 to 1890, when Levi Paulk owned the 151.8-acre J. F. Cartwright Survey, see the site history for 41BL578.

According to Macaulay (1998:95–102), Paulk divided the Cartwright Survey among his three sons between 1890 and 1892. H. B. Paulk received the western 50 acres of the survey where 41BL584 is located but apparently sold the property to George W. Cole Jr. in the late 1890s. It is uncertain if the site was occupied at this time.

Cole conveyed the 50-acre parcel, along with an additional 85 acres in the Z. T. Cartwright Survey, to C. E. Harris and his wife, Ida. In 1918, Harris sold the 135 acres to J. M. Ray for $2,700 (BC, DR 253:617), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Less than 2 years later, Ray conveyed the 50-acre parcel to W. F. Sellers for $550 (BC, DR 253:617), suggesting that the 85-acre parcel was more-heavily improved. Sellers also acquired other land in the survey and, by 1920, owned all of the 151.8-acre J. F. Cartwright Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL584 is located from 1920, when W. F. Sellers acquired the western 50 acres of the Cartwright Survey where 41BL584 is located, to 1954, when the government acquired the property, see the site history for 41BL577.

Summary: Initial occupation of the J. F. Cartwright Survey, where 41BL584 is located, appears to have occurred during the late 1870s and early 1880s, when J. F. Cartwright and Nathan Ensor swore they lived on the property to meet preemption claim requirements. However, the location of any improvements remains unclear. Levi Paulk and his family may have occupied the 151.8-acre survey between 1889 and 1893.

W. F. Sellers acquired the 50 acres where 41BL584 is located in 1911. Sellers also acquired the eastern-adjacent 50-acre parcel where 41BL577 is located during the same period. He appears to have rented the property out for farm use. The 100 acres remained in the Sellers family until 1943. Between 1943 and 1954, when the government acquired the property, it remained occupied and improved.

Site 41BL585 (Tract 1141)

Site History: Site 41BL585 is near the center of the 146-acre State of Texas Survey in Bell County. In 1955, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1141, which encompassed 33.86 acres in one survey and contained one site.

The 33.86 acres on which 41BL585 is located is not identified in local deed records. This property once may have been school land. It is apparent that no individual legally acquired the

land from the State of Texas in either the nineteenth or the twentieth centuries. A 1919 plat map reveals that the land was vacant and had neither an abstract number nor an indication of acreage at that time (Montieth Abstract Co. 1919). The land never was patented (Texas. General Land Office n.d.).

It is possible that the individuals who owned the M. L. Newman Survey, adjacent to and west of the 33.86 acres, also may have used this parcel of land as if it was part of the Newman Survey. If so, the history of the use of the 33.86 acres may parallel that of 41BL591.

The State of Texas retained title to the 33.86 acres until May 6, 1957, when the United States government acquired the property in a civil action (No. 1652) for $975 (Texas. General Land Office n.d.).

Summary: Since it is possible that the individuals who owned the Newman Survey also may have used the 33.86 acres on which 41BL585 is located, the history of the use of this parcel possibly parallels that associated with 41BL591. If this is the case, it is likely that M. L. Newman used this land from 1872 until 1879, W. F. Bleeker probably used the land between 1879 and 1881; and Z. W. Cobb (also spelled J. W. Cobb) may have used the land between 1881 and 1882. Since the Newman Survey sustained few, if any, improvements between 1882 and 1910, and since it is unclear whether the Survey was occupied after 1882, it also remains unclear who may have used the 33.86 acres on which 41BL585 is located.

Site 41BL586 (Tract C-218)

Site History: Site 41BL586 is located in the northwestern quarter of the 320-acre Isaac Dowess Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract C-218, which encompassed 118 acres in the Warnock and Dowess Surveys and contained two sites, 41BL468 and 41BL586.

On March 6, 1838, the Republic of Texas issued Bounty Certificate No. 2557 to Isaac Dowess for 320 acres by virtue of his having served in the Army of Texas for 3 months in 1836, and being honorably discharged. The certificate was conveyed to Fredrick Niebling, Dowess's assignee. On September 14, 1842, a survey was made for Niebling of 320 acres situated on Cowhouse Creek about 5½ miles above its junction with the Leon River. George B. Erath made the survey with D. McKay and Wiley Jones as chain carriers, and it was patented to Dowess on February 8, 1847 (Texas. General Land Office 1847a).

Fredrick Niebling had large property holdings in Milam and Burleson Counties, the City of Galveston, and elsewhere, as well as business interests in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to 1846, he paid Isaac Dowess $50 for the 320-acre Dowess Survey, which was deeded to the Niebling heirs on December 27, 1850 (BC, DR A:194; 130:259). When Niebling died in 1846, he left behind five children and his wife, Mary A. Niebling, who subsequently married James A. Graves, and the Graves were residents of Bell County by 1852 (BC, DR 178:293). From 1846 until 1864, Washington Niebling owned the Dowess Survey as one of eight properties he inherited from his father. The properties were administered first by his mother and later by his stepfather, and taxes were paid on the properties each year. Values for the 320-acre Dowess Survey were $75 in 1852, $95 in 1853, $320 every year from 1854 to 1860, $160 in 1861, $200 in 1862 and 1863, and $300 in 1864. No livestock were ever associated with any of the properties (1852a–1858a, 1860a–1864a). The values assigned to the Dowess Survey suggest that, although the property might have been valuable as vacant land, it was not improved or used by Washington Niebling or his mother. Washington Niebling reportedly died in 1862 in the service of the Confederate Army, but apparently his stepfather continued to administer his estate (BC, DR 178:293). By 1867, James A. Graves and his wife Mary A., were residents of Burleson County; that year they sold the 320-acre Dowess Survey to R. B. Reynolds of Bell County for $320 (BC, DR L:86).

In 1869, Reynolds paid taxes on 304 acres out of the Dowess Survey that was valued at $305. Reynolds also paid taxes on 3 horses worth $120, 13 cattle worth $35, and $5 worth of miscellaneous property (1869a). These values suggest that Reynolds might have made modest improvements to and been in residence on the property. He died in late 1869, leaving his wife, two sons, and three daughters (BC, DR 56:501). In 1870, G. W. Walton acted as agent for Mrs. R. B. (Sarah A.) Reynolds, who paid taxes on 304 acres out of the Dowess Survey, which was valued again at $305. She also paid taxes

on four horses worth $125 (1870a). This suggests that Mrs. Reynolds stayed on the property, perhaps in somewhat reduced circumstances.

Mrs. Reynolds was a stepmother to at least some of the Reynolds children, one of whom, G. B. Reynolds of Bell County, conveyed to Sarah all his interest in his inheritance from his father for $85 in 1871 (BC, DR O:256). In 1873, Sarah A. Reynolds paid taxes on 303 acres out of the Dowess Survey, now valued at $430. She also paid taxes on two horses worth $100 (1873a). These values suggest that Reynolds continued to improve and reside on her property. In 1875, another of Reynolds's children, R. F. Griffith, and her husband of McLennan County, sold the portion of the Dowess Survey on which present-day 41BL586 is located to Sarah A. Reynolds for $100 (BC, DR Y:118).

Sarah A. Reynolds retained ownership of the property until 1881, when she sold 185 acres out of the Dowess Survey to her son-in-law George Daugherty of Bell County for $1,200 (BC, DR 34:561; 56:501). In 1881, Daugherty paid taxes on a total of 250 acres out of the survey, which was valued at $1,000. He also paid taxes on 2 carriages or wagons worth $100, 5 horses or mules worth $150, 5 cattle worth $125, 8 hogs worth $10, and $5 worth of miscellaneous property (1881a). These values suggest that further improvements were made to the property during Daugherty's ownership. However, the Daugherty family homestead was actually on the McKeene Survey, which suggests that tenants occupied the Dowess Survey.

Daugherty and his wife, Martha A., split the 185-acre tract into two parcels, and both were sold to John Yielding. The first parcel, 60 acres, was sold to Yielding in 1882 for $410, and the second parcel, 125 acres on which 41BL586 is now located, went to Yielding a year later for $795 (BC, DR 40:336; 45:380).

John Yielding, a resident of Bell County, was married to Margaret E. Yielding, and they had seven children. Margaret died in 1884, leaving John with four minor children who had inherited an interest in 216 acres that consisted of the 185 acres in the Dowess Survey where present-day site 41BL586 is located, and 32 acres out of the J. P. Warnock Survey where present-day site 41BL468 is located. In order to obtain a more valuable inheritance for his minor children, John Yielding, along with his adult children (John D. Yielding, Martha A. P. Sellers and her husband, and Lillie D. Huling and her husband), exchanged the 216 acres for an interest in 82 acres in Arcadia Parish, Louisiana. The 216 acres then were deeded to Jonathan R. Sims on September 27, 1890. It was noted at the time of the exchange that the land was leased and in cultivation, and that the location of the Yielding cemetery with two graves was reserved. After the land exchange, John Yielding moved his family to the property in Louisiana (Bell County Probate Records G:432; BC DR 73:586).

In 1895, Jonathan R. Sims and his wife, J. A. Sims, sold the 216 acres out of the Dowess and Warnock Surveys on which 41BL586 and 41BL468 are located to M. Boyd of Bell County for $2,425. It was noted at that time that the property was known as the John Yielding place (BC, DR 100:491). In 1900, M. Boyd conveyed the 216 acres plus other parcels that included 70 acres and the location of 41BL469 to W. H. Hurd of Bell County for $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 129:173). W. H. Hurd and his wife, Kate Hurd, in turn sold the land to George W. Cole Jr. of Bell County for $2,000 plus other considerations in December 1902 (BC, DR 150:3). By 1906, Cole sold the 216 acres plus another parcel to T. N. Parks, a single man from Bell County, for $6,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 158:168). Parks retained ownership of the 216 acres until 1912 when he sold it and another parcel to E. J. Carter for $7,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 238:265).

E. J. Carter, his wife, Martha Jane, and members of his family lived on and cultivated the land acquired in the 1912 purchase until Carter died in April 1943. During that period of use, the J. L. Smith family also lived on the property as tenants and worked for Carter. According to Smith, the Carter property had been completely fenced with a good and substantial fence capable of turning stock for a period of more than 40 years (BC, DR 517:496). At the time of Carter's death in 1943, the property was distributed among his heirs. Based on an instrument dated 1928 but not effective until 1943, Carter conveyed to his daughter, Maude Herring of Los Angeles, California, a total of 144 acres designated as Tract No. 6 of the subdivision of the Carter lands. This acreage included 32 acres out of the Warnock Survey on which 41BL468 is located and 113 acres out of the Dowess Survey, where present-day site 41BL586 is located (BC, DR 503:494).

In 1953, Maude M. Herring and her husband, Lester L. Herring, conveyed their property out of the Dowess and Warnock Surveys to the United States government for $8,100. At that time, the parcel that had been described previously as 144 acres was described as consisting of 118 acres (BC, DR 689:437).

Summary: Isaac Dowess transferred his interest in the 320-acre Dowess Survey to his assignee, Fredrick Niebling who, in turn, bequeathed it to his heirs in 1846. Neither Washington Niebling nor his family appears to have used or improved the property until it passed out of Niebling family hands in 1867. From 1867 until 1881, members of the Reynolds family owned 185 acres out of the Dowess Survey, and were the apparent first occupants. In 1881, the 185 acres were sold to George and Martha A. Daugherty, who lived elsewhere, but possibly had tenants on the land. They sold it in two parcels over the period of a year to John Yielding. John and Margaret Yielding and their seven children were in residence somewhere on the 185 acres, possibly at 41BL586. The property came to be known as the Yielding place, and a family cemetery was established at the southwestern corner of the acreage. After Margaret's death, the Yielding family moved to Louisiana in 1890. From 1890 until 1912, owners included Jonathan R. and J. A. Sims, M. Boyd, W. H. and Kate Hurd, George W. Cole, and T. N. Parks. In 1912, Parks sold 216 acres in the Dowess and Warnock Surveys, plus another parcel, to E. J. Carter and his family. Both the Carter family and their tenants, the Smith family, lived at locations on the Carter property until 1943. After E. J. Carter's death in 1943, the acreage in the Dowess and Warnock Surveys, where 41BL586 is located, was conveyed to Carter's daughter, Maude Herring, who was a resident of California. It is possible that tenants remained on the property until it was acquired by the government in 1953.

Site 41BL587 (Tract 1300)

Site History: Site 41BL587 is located in the central portion of a 104.5-acre parcel out of the William Laws Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1300, a 421-acre tract consisting of parts of four surveys.

On May 18, 1882, William Laws swore that he was the head of a family and a good faith settler on vacant public land situated near Cowhouse Creek. On the same day, J. W. Turner, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing a 110.5-acre parcel as being about 12 miles northwest of Belton near Cowhouse Creek, a tributary of the Leon River. On June 11, 1885, Adam Trischman swore that he was a bona fide settler on 110.5 acres of vacant public land, and that he and his assignors, William Laws and J. I. Tray, had occupied the land as a homestead for 3 consecutive years. J. H. Hawkins and G. M. White corroborated Trischman's statement. On July 6, 1885, the State of Texas patented the 110.5-acre William Laws Survey to Trischman (Texas. General Land Office 1885d).

Although there is no deed of record from Trischman, he apparently sold the land to R. H. Light in 1885. In 1886, Bell County assessed Light for 110 acres in the Laws Survey, along with land in the adjacent F. M. Defoor Survey. Light may have occupied the land, and the assessment reflects his use of the property as a farm. Light's ownership continued until 1895, as did his apparent use and occupancy (1891a, 1895a). When the county evaluated the parcels in the Laws and Defoor Surveys separately, the lower value was placed on the 110-acre tract in the Laws Survey, suggesting that it was improved to a lesser degree.

There is a break in the chain of title between Light (1895) and W. B. Bruton (1910). Because Bell County apparently taxed an intervening owner during this period, use and occupancy of the land are unclear.

For a legal history of the land on which 41BL587 is located between 1910 and 1954, see 41BL540.

Summary: The 104.5-acre parcel on which 41BL587 is located may have been occupied s early as 1882 by William Laws, or his assignees, J. I. Tray and Adam Trischman. R. H. Light appears to have occupied and improved the property between 1885 and 1895. Ownership, use, and occupancy from 1895 until 1910 are unclear. Land records from 1910 until the government acquired the tract in 1954 suggest further improvements and probable occupation by W. B. Bruton, D. L. Sellers, W. C. Talley and J. F. Jenkins. However, multiple sites on Tract 1300 preclude a firm connection between sites and specific occupants based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL591 (Tract F-519)

Site History: Site 41BL591 is located in the south-central portion of the 160-acre M. L. Newman Survey in Bell County. In 1955, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract F-519, which encompassed 88 acres in the Newman and Matias Curvier Surveys and contained four sites: 41BL591, 41BL680, 41BL685, and 41BL687.

On April 20, 1872, M. L. Newman appeared before James Leach, the Bell County Clerk, and swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public domain and had no other homestead. He claimed the land under an act providing for the disposal of public lands that had been approved August 12, 1870. In December of the same year, 160 acres situated on Bull Branch (a tributary of the Leon River), about 8 miles from Belton, were surveyed for Newman by E. J. Rucker with M. Taylor and W. Taylor as chain carriers. On February 17, 1877, Newman and witnesses appeared before W. G. W. Stone, the Bell County Clerk, and swore that Newman had settled on the 160 acres, had it surveyed, had occupied and improved it for 3 years prior to the survey, and had paid all fees on the property. In July of the same year, surveyor E. J. Rucker filed a corrected set of field notes for the Newman Survey. The 160-acre survey was patented to Newman on January 19, 1878 (Texas. General Land Office 1878a). Newman probably occupied his survey from 1872 until 1879 (1879a).

The year after the survey was patented, Newman and his wife, E. H. Newman, conveyed a piece of property to W. F. Bleeker for $400 in cash and notes. Neither the survey name nor acreage is specified in the deed, but the legal description matches the Newman Survey, on which present-day 41BL591 is located (BC, DR 34:485). Bleeker probably occupied the survey between 1879 and 1881 (1880a). In 1881, Bleeker and his wife, F. Bleeker, of Bell County conveyed the 160 acres to Z. W. Cobb of Bell County for $225 (BC, DR 34:487). A year later, Cobb conveyed the entire 160-acre Newman Survey to Vermell Miller for $232 (BC, DR 41:66–67). It is unclear whether the land was occupied between 1882 and 1887, when Miller first probably occupied more-heavily improved land and, later, had moved from Bell County. It is likely that the Newman Survey sustained few, if any, improvements by 1887 (1883a, 1887a).

Miller and her husband, Ceriuls, were residents of Bastrop County by 1888. That year, the Millers took part in a land exchange with P. A. Kelly (elsewhere recorded as Kelley), and his wife, M. A. Kelly, also of Bastrop County. The Kellys exchanged 100 acres in Bastrop County for two tracts in Bell County, being 43 acres out of the Robertson League and the 160-acre Newman Survey, on which present-day 41BL591 is located (BC, DR 65:448). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1888 and 1893, when Kelly probably occupied more-heavily improved land (1889a, 1892a).

On May 8, 1893, Mrs. M. A. Kelly, now of Bell County, acting on behalf of herself and as community administrator for her minor children, E. L. Kelly and C. W. Kelly, conveyed the entire Newman Survey to Ed S. Flint of Bell County for $450. In this deed, the Newman Survey was described as "containing 200 acres more or less," which reflects discrepancies in the legal description of this survey over time (BC, DR 90:477). By December of the same year, Flint conveyed the 160-acre Newman Survey to C. B. Stephens for $660.95 in cash and notes (BC, DR 146:222). In a subsequent, undated deed, Stephens and his wife, Maggie, of Bell County, conveyed the 160-acre Newman Survey back to Flint in consideration of $1 and assumption of the notes on the property, plus an exchange for a house and lot in Temple (BC, DR 119:1). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1893 and 1898 (1896a, 1897a).

Flint retained ownership of the Newman Survey until 1898, at which time he conveyed the 160-acre property to J. B. Messer of Bell County for $700 (BC, DR 125:133). The next year, Messer sold the Newman Survey to J. E. Jones of Bell County for $625 in cash and notes (BC, DR 134:87). In 1900, Jones and his wife, Edna, conveyed two tracts of land to W. O. Kemp of Bell County for $750 in cash and notes. The tracts consisted of 70 acres out of the Curvier Survey and the entire 160-acre Newman Survey, on which present-day 41BL591 is located (BC, DR 134:625). It is unclear which of these two parcels of land included Kemp's residence between 1900 and 1902 (1901a).

Kemp owned the property until September 1902, when he and his wife, Lena, conveyed both tracts to D. R. Walton for $650 in cash and notes (BC, DR 149:149). Two months later, Walton signed a deed of trust with A. M. Montieth, who

was trustee for Thomas H. Shepherd of Allegan County, Michigan, in order to secure $500 that Walton owed Shepherd. The 70 acres out of the Curvier Survey and the 160-acre Newman Survey were used as collateral (BC, DR 156:332, 185:173). This debt was transferred with the property over several years as it was conveyed from one owner to another. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1902 and 1904, when it retained few, if any, improvements (1903a). Although he was living elsewhere (the Walton homestead was in Belton), Walton retained ownership of the two tracts until 1904 when he conveyed them both to W. A. Lamb of Bell County for $850 in cash and notes (BC, DR 150:483, 300:238). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1909 and 1910 (1909a, 1910a).

A year later, Lamb and his wife, S. B. Lamb, conveyed both tracts to W. A. Morgan and his wife, Josie B., in consideration of $850 in cash and notes (BC, DR 188:626). The Morgan family retained ownership of the property until February 8, 1909, when they conveyed the two tracts back to previous owner D. R. Walton for $690.10 in cash and notes (B C DR 188:629). Four days later, Walton sold the property again for $750 in notes to S. D. Kemp of Bell County (BC, DR 198:488).

By 1915, Walton's original deed of trust was still attached to the two tracts. Shepherd, as owner of the notes, had not been paid, and his trustee, A. M. Montieth had died. M. E. Montieth was appointed as the new trustee and was given instructions to act on the terms of the deed of trust (BC, DR 290:621). Because the notes on the property were past due, and the current owner, Kemp, had not paid them, the two tracts were put up for auction on January 4, 1916. Thomas H. Shepherd was the highest bidder at $500, the same amount of money owed him, and he regained title to the 70 acres out of the Curvier Survey and the 160-acre Newman Survey, on which present-day 41BL591 is located (BC, DR 290:626).

Despite Shepherd's previous problems with Walton and unpaid debt, on October 20, 1917, Shepherd and his wife, Josephine, still residents of Michigan, once again conveyed the same two tracts to Walton for $1,178 in cash and notes (BC, DR 290:619). On the same day, Walton signed another deed of trust to Shepherd with M. E. Montieth as trustee (BC, DR 289:398). This time, Walton retained ownership of the property until 1924, but still did not pay off his debt. Shepherd appointed R. E. Sutton as a substitute trustee to carry out the terms of the deed of trust (BC, DR 355:192). Because the note payable by Walton to Shepherd was overdue, the two tracts were sold at auction once again. On May 6, 1924, the property was conveyed from trustee, R. E. Sutton, to the highest bidder, the First National Bank of La Grange in consideration of $300 (BC, DR 355:190).

In August 1925, the First National Bank of La Grange, Fayette County, conveyed the two tracts to W. D. McElroy of Bell County for $800 in cash (BC, DR 364:103). By September of the same year, McElroy and his wife, Ora, conveyed the two tracts to J. D. Cooksey for $2,950 and notes (BC, DR 364:110). Cooksey apparently did not live on the Newman Survey but, instead, had a house built on the Moreno League (ML 7:32).

By April 5, 1927, J. D. Cooksey still owned the 70 acres out of the Curvier Survey along with the entire 160-acre Newman Survey, on which present-day 41BL591 is located. W. D. McElroy also had an interest in the property in the form of notes he held. In that year, the property was put up for auction by order of the Bell County District Court. Sheriff John R. Bigham conducted the auction, at which Charles O. Austin, the Banking Commissioner of Texas, was the highest bidder. In consideration of $230, both tracts of land were conveyed by McElroy and Cooksey to Austin, who was for the Bartlett State Bank of Bartlett, Texas (BC, DR 375:355).

However, in January 1926, the Bartlett State Bank had been closed by its board of directors and had been placed into the hands of Charles O. Austin in his capacity as the Banking Commissioner in order for him to liquidate and distribute the bank's assets. Therefore, on August 16, 1927, Austin conveyed the 70 acres out of the Curvier Survey, the 160-acre Newman Survey, and other properties to C. N. Avery of Austin in consideration of $22,000 (BC, DR 383:114; 385:631). A few days later, Avery and his wife, Adla, conveyed the 70 acres out of the Curvier Survey and the 160-acre Newman Survey, on which present-day 41BL591 is located, to F. L. Denison of Bell County for $1,000 and other considerations (BC, DR 383:112).

In October 1928, Denison conveyed both tracts to the First National Bank of Whitney, located in Hill County, in consideration of $1,000

(BC, DR 394:356). On September 7, 1929, the bank conveyed the two tracts to A. J. Hicks, also of Hill County, for $1,160 in cash and notes (BC, DR 399:447). The same day, Hicks and his wife, Etta, conveyed the two tracts of land to C. R. Jameson of Bosque County for $1,160 in cash and notes (BC, DR 399:448). The next year, in consideration of $5,750 in cash and notes, Jameson conveyed the two tracts to the Southwestern Drug Corporation of McLennan County (BC, DR 402:256).

Although the Southwestern Drug Corp. retained legal title to the Newman Survey after 1930, some conflicts arose. On March 11, 1954, the United States government issued a condemnation order for Tract F-519 that included portion of the Newman Survey, along with other property. In 1955, the Bell County District Court ruled on Cause No. 33158, W. D. Brown vs. Southwestern Drug Co., Brown was awarded title to the Newman Survey at that time (BC, DR 752:363). This suggests that, although Brown did not have legal title prior to that time, he apparently had claims or was otherwise using lands in the Newman Survey. Long-standing discrepancies in the legal description of the property appear to have caused problems. Also in that year, both Brown and the General Land Office stipulated that the Newman Survey contained an excess 108.5 acres, for which the government compensated the State of Texas, not Brown, in the taking of that property. On December 15, 1955, Brown conveyed two tracts to the government in consideration of $13,125. Of the two tracts, one was Tract F-519, the 88 acres on which present-day 41BL591 is located (BC, DR 746:259).

Summary: Initial occupation on the Newman Survey was by Newman himself as early as 1869, although the exact location of his improvements is unknown. He apparently was in residence until at least 1879. W. F. Bleeker probably occupied the survey between 1879 and 1881. Z. W. Cobb probably occupied the land between 1881 and 1882. The Newman Survey sustained few, if any, improvements between 1882 and 1910. It is unclear whether the property was occupied after 1882. However, W. D. Brown may have used the Newman Survey between ca. 1930 and 1954; he may have resided there though he lacked legal title to the property. It is possible that 41BL591 is associated with Brown's activities.

Site 41BL601 (Tract 1217)

Site History: Site 41BL601 is located in the northern portion of the 160-acre H. K. Harrison Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1217, which encompassed 1,000 acres in seven surveys and contained three sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL601 is located from 1871 to 1875 see 41BL474.

Ellen Harrison, widow of H. K., sold the 160-acre parcel to M. K. Barclay in August 1875 in exchange for a house and lot in Rockdale valued at $600 (BC, DR 24:299). The exchange value suggests that the 160 acres were improved. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Barclay farmed the property and probably lived there (1877a, 1879a, 1883a).

Barclay and his wife, W. A., sold the 160 acres to F. L. Denison in June 1885 for $300 (BC, DR 53:7). Six months later, Denison conveyed the property to A. J. McDaniel for $250 in cash and notes. Tax records suggest that McDaniel farmed the property and may have occupied it until his death sometime in the 1890s (1886a, 1893a).

In January 1897, A. Y. King, the remarried widow of A. J. McDaniel, and her husband, M. J., conveyed the 160-acre parcel to S. B. Bishop in exchange for a house in Temple and three horses valued at $400 (BC, DR 114:441). Bishop appears to have improved the property because in November 1900 he sold it to J. J. Bishop for $1,600 (BC, DR 139:45).

Bishop, member of a pioneer Bell County family and author of a history of Sparta (Bishop 1952), owned the property until August 1910, when he and his wife, Rosa, conveyed the 160-acre parcel to G. W. Hilliard for $2,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 217:577). Hilliard and his wife, Ada, sold the property to J. G. Hearn for $3,000 in cash and notes in September 1911. The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements.

In August 1920, Hearn and his wife, M. N., sold the property to J. W. Pittman for $7,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 322:57). In October 1923, Pittman and his wife, Esther, conveyed the 160-acre parcel to W. R. West for $7,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 347:596). One year later, in September 1924, W. R. West and his wife, C. C., sold the northern 64 acres of the Harrison

Survey where 41BL601 is located to J. B. West for $1,920 in cash and notes (BC, DR 359:597). The prices in these transactions suggest that these owners continued to improve and maintain the property.

In March 1941, West and his wife, Bessie, sold 224 acres that included the 64-acre parcel in the Harrison Survey where 41BL601 is located and 160 acres in the Wilkerson Survey where 41BL214 is located to R. K. Allen for more than $4,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 488:366). The price suggests that the property had sustained improvements. Allen also acquired other land in the area during this period, including 320 acres in the Craig Survey where 41BL565 is located.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL601 is located from 1941 until 1954, when the government acquired Tract 1217, see the site history for 41BL214.

Summary: The H. K. Harrison Survey, where 41BL601 is located, may have been occupied by G. W. and Rebecca Hallmark by at least the early 1870s, and by H. K. and E. E. Harrison, who swore that they occupied and improved the land beginning January 1, 1871. M. K. Barclay appears to have farmed the property between 1875 and 1885, and he probably lived there. A. J. McDaniel and his family occupied and farmed the 160-acre Harrison Survey from 1885 until 1897. Because 41BL601 is the only recorded site on the H. K. Harrison Survey, it is probable that any improvements to the property can be associated with this site.

Twentieth-century owners paid prices that suggest continued improvements. These owners include S. B. Bishop, J. J. Bishop, G. W. Hilliard, J. G. Hearn, J. W. Pittman, W. R. West, J. B. West, R. K. Allen, and Mrs. H. H. Storms. By the 1940s, the 160 acres were part of a much larger ranch, making firm associations between owners and sites difficult to determine. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved.

Site 41BL602 (Tract 1127)

Site History: Site 41BL602 is in the southeast quadrant of the 146-acre Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway Company Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1127, which encompassed 514 acres in four surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL475, 41BL602, 41BL603, 41BL604, 41BL605, 41BL606, and 41BL610.

On September 28, 1881, the General Land Office gave the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway Company a certificate (No. 4792), that entitled the railroad to 640 acres of land. The railroad transferred the certificate to George J. Butler on October 17, 1882, for $32. On January 2, 1883, C. C. Allen requested that the unlocated balance of the certificate be surveyed in two equal tracts, one for state school lands and one for the railroad. J. W. Turner, Bell County Surveyor, located the railroad's 146 acres on Cowhouse Creek on January 5, 1883, with John W. Turner and Butler serving as chain carriers. The State of Texas patented the land to Butler, assignee, on January 8, 1884 (Texas. General Land Office 1884).

Butler had sold the survey to W. A. Staton on October 8, 1883, for $75 (BC, DR 51:202). It is unclear whether the 146 acres were occupied between 1883 and 1887, when ad valorem records suggest that Staton probably resided on more-heavily improved land (1883a–1885a).

Staton sold the survey to Martin Whalon on January 5, 1887, for $300 (BC, DR 75:415), and Whalon probably occupied the land from 1887 until 1894 (1887a, 1893a). Martin and N. C. Whalon conveyed the survey to W. S. Wiseman on July 24, 1894, for $250 (BC, DR 117:299). It appears that Wiseman occupied the property between 1894 and 1897 (1896a).

W. S. and Mary Wise sold the survey to George W. Cole Jr. on September 4, 1897, for $250 (BC, DR 117:319). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1897 and 1900, when Cole probably occupied more-heavily improved land (1899a). Cole conveyed the 146-acre survey to J. F. Doss on June 29, 1900, for $750 (BC, DR 134:267), and Doss also probably occupied more-heavily improved land between 1900 and 1908 (1900a–1901a).

Between 1908 and 1938, the 146 acres on which 41BL602 is located were owned by Mrs. C. A. Jones (1908–1912), who paid $410 for the property (BC, DR 191:131); R. L. Boyd (1912–1919), who paid $700 (BC, DR 238:384); W. A. Gill (1919–1924), who paid $1,500 but eventually defaulted (BC, DR 316:141; 359:78); W. E. Montieth (1924–1929), who bought the 146

acres at auction for $25 (BC, DR 359:78); W. R. West (1929), who bought the land for $1,000 and sold it 11 days later to T. H. Ripple (1929–1932) (BC, DR 399:578; 400:89); Emmit West (1932–1938), who paid $1,000; and W. R. West, who bought the land again in 1938, this time paying $800 (BC, DR 465:18).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL602 is located from 1938 to 1954, see 41BL475.

Summary: It is apparent that the property's earliest owners did not occupy the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway Company Survey on which 41BL602 is located. Martin Whalon probably occupied the land from 1887 until 1894. W. S. Wiseman resided on the property between 1894 and 1897. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1897 and 1912. It is likely that the property retained improvements through the late 1930s as indicated by the generally sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1912 and 1938 include: R. Lee and M. A. Boyd (1912–1919), W. A. Gill (1919–1924), W. E. and Vera Montieth (1924–1929), W. R. West (1929), T. M. Ripple (1929-1932), and Emmit and Clara Pearl West (1932–1938). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1938.

Site 41BL603 (Tract 1127)

Site History: Site 41BL603 is in the southwest quadrant and near the western boundary of the 160-acre H. K. Harrison Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1127, which encompassed 514 acres in four surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL475, 41BL602, 41BL603, 41BL604, 41BL605, 41BL606, and 41BL610.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL603 is located from 1871 until 1888, see 41BL474. A. J. and M. J. McDaniel retained 152.25 acres out of the Harrison Survey until 1897, but they occupied an adjacent and more-heavily improved parcel of land between 1895 and 1897 (1890a, 1896a). Thus, it remains unclear whether the Harrison Survey was occupied during this period.

On January 12, 1897, A. J. and M. J. McDaniel sold the 152.25 acres to S. B. Bishop for an undisclosed price (BC, DR 114:441). S. B. Bishop sold the land to J. J. Bishop on November 27, 1900, for $1,600 (BC, DR 139:45). It is unclear whether Bishop occupied the property between 1900 and 1910 (1905a, 1909a).

J. J. and Rosa Bishop sold the 152.25 acres to B. W. Hilliard on August 2, 1910, for $2,500 (BC, DR 217:577). Hilliard had also acquired the remaining 7.75 acres out of the Harrison Survey in 1910 (BC, DR 216:187).

The following year, G. W. and Ada Hilliard sold the 160-acre Harrison Survey to J. G. Hearn for $3,000 (BC, DR 229:70). J. G. and M. N. Hearn conveyed the land to J. W. Pittman on August 30, 1920, for $7,500 (BC, DR 322:57). On October 12, 1923, J. W. and Esther Pittman sold the 160 acres to W. R. West for $7,000 (BC, DR 347:596).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL603 is located from 1923 to 1954, see 41BL475.

Summary: G. W. Hallmark occupied his claim from 1871 until 1872. H. K. Harrison resided on his preemption survey from 1872 until 1874. Harrison's widow, Ellen E. Harrison, continued to live on the property until about 1875. It is unclear whether the land out of the Harrison Survey, on which 41BL603 is located, was occupied after 1875. The values associated with sales of the property between 1900 and 1923 suggest that the land may have been improved.

Site 41BL604 (Tract 1127)

Site History: Site 41BL604 is in the northwest portion of the 160-acre W. F. Bleeker Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1127, which encompassed 514 acres in four surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL475, 41BL602, 41BL603, 41BL604, 41BL605, 41BL606, and 41BL610.

In July 1873, W. F. Bleeker was a settler on vacant public land. Ed Rucker surveyed 160 acres on Cowhouse Creek on November 17, 1873, with Samuel W. Bishop and E. T. Eakin serving as chain carriers. That December, Bleeker and his wife, Frances, transferred their interest in the claim to Thomas McDaniel for $232.50. By May 1879, McDaniel had occupied and improved the land as a homestead since January 1, 1874. The State of Texas patented the land to McDaniel, assignee, on May 3, 1880 (Texas. General Land Office 1880; BC, DR 397:266).

Thomas McDaniel probably occupied the survey between 1874 and 1886 (1882a, 1885a).

On January 30, 1886, Thomas McDaniel and Mrs. Julia A. McGuire sold the 160-acre Bleeker Survey to one of his two sons, A. J. McDaniel, for $500 (BC, DR 62:339). A. J. McDaniel probably occupied the Bleeker Survey between 1886 and 1888 (1886a, 1888a). It is unclear whether A. J. McDaniel resided on the Bleeker Survey or an adjoining parcel of land between 1889 and 1901 (1889a, 1895a, 1900a). By 1901, A. J. McDaniel was deceased (BC, DR 133:601).

The administrator of A. J. McDaniel's estate sold 88.25 acres, which constituted the western portion of the Bleeker Survey, to S. B. Bishop on May 20, 1901, for $401.50 (BC, DR 133:601). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1901 and 1903, when S. B. Bishop probably resided on more-heavily improved land (1901a–1903a).

S. B. and Rosa Bishop sold the 88.25 acres to J. J. Bishop on November 24, 1903, for $100 (BC, DR 152:237). It is unclear whether J. J. Bishop occupied the Bleeker Survey or another adjoining parcel of land between 1903 and 1905 (1905a). Owners during the next 3 years included J. E. Virdell who bought the property on October 24, 1905, for $800 (BC, DR 167:537); O. B. Hoover, who paid $800 for the land on December 19, 1907 (BC, DR 182:554); and Z. A. Moore, who paid $1,497 on March 16, 1908 (BC, DR 158:565).

Moore defaulted on payment, and the property was sold at auction to E. F. Lanham on February 2, 1910, for $305 (BC, DR 208:110). The following month, Lanham conveyed the property to J. B. Bechtal, for $1,842.50 (BC, DR 207:449); and Bechtal then sold the property to A. E. Noble on July 22, 1911, for $1,750 (BC, DR 217:613). Noble and his wife, Zena, sold the 88.25 acres to L. S. Williamson on March 2, 1912, for $2,750 (BC, DR 228:601). That same day, L. S. and Mabel C. Williamson sold the property to A. M. Knoll for $3,000 (BC, DR 228:600).

On September 16, 1937, A. M. and Louise Knoll conveyed a portion of the property, being the westernmost 63 acres out of the Bleeker Survey, to W. R. West for $200 (BC, DR 458:324). For the legal history of the land on which 41BL604 is located from 1937 to 1954, see 41BL475.

Summary: W. F. Bleeker probably occupied his survey briefly in 1873. Thomas McDaniel probably resided on the land from 1874 until 1886. One of his sons, A. J. McDaniel, probably resided on the property from 1886 until 1888. A. J. McDaniel may have continued to reside on the land between 1889 and 1901, or he may have resided on an adjoining parcel of land. It remains unclear whether the 88.25 acres out of the Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL604 is located, were occupied between 1901 and 1905. It is likely that the property retained improvements through 1937 as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1905 and 1937 include: J. E. and M. E. Virdell (1905–1907), O. B. and Lena Hoover (1907–1908), Z. A. Moore (1908–1910), J. B. Bechtal (1910–1911), A. E. and Zena Noble (1911–1912), and A. M. and Louise Knoll (1912–1937). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1937.

Site 41BL605 (Tract 1127)

Site History: Site 41BL605 is in the southwest quadrant and near the southern boundary of the 160-acre H. K. Harrison Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1127, which encompassed 514 acres in four surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL475, 41BL602, 41BL603, 41BL604, 41BL605, 41BL606, and 41BL610.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL605 is located from 1871 until 1888, see 41BL474. For the legal history from 1888 to 1923, see 41BL603. For the legal history from 1923 until 1954, see 41BL475.

Summary: G. W. Hallmark occupied his claim from 1871 until 1872. H. K. Harrison resided on his preemption survey from 1872 until 1874. Harrison's widow, Ellen E. Harrison, continued to live on the property until about 1875. It is unclear whether the land out of the Harrison Survey, on which 41BL605 is located, was occupied after 1875. The values associated with sales of the property between 1900 and 1923 suggest that the land may have been improved.

Site 41BL606 (Tract 1127)

Site History: Site 41BL606 is in the northwest portion of the 160-acre W. F. Bleeker Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954,

when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1127, which encompassed 514 acres in four surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL475, 41BL602, 41BL603, 41BL604, 41BL605, 41BL606, and 41BL610.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL606 is located from 1873 to 1937, see 41BL604. For the history from 1937 to 1954, see 41BL475.

Summary: W. F. Bleeker probably occupied his survey briefly in 1873. Thomas McDaniel probably resided on the land from 1874 until 1886. One of his sons, A. J. McDaniel, probably resided on the property from 1886 until 1888. A. J. McDaniel may have continued to reside on the land between 1889 and 1901, or he may have resided on an adjoining parcel of land. It remains unclear whether the 88.25 acres out of the Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL606 is located, were occupied between 1901 and 1905. It is likely that the property retained improvements through 1937 as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1905 and 1937 include: J. E. and M. E. Virdell (1905–1907), O. B. and Lena Hoover (1907–1908), Z. A. Moore (1908–1910), J. B. Bechtal (1910–1911), A. E. and Zena Noble (1911–1912), and A. M. and Louise Knoll (1912–1937). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1937.

Site 41BL607 (Tract 1110)

Site History: Site 41BL607 is near the northwest corner of the eastern portion of the 160-acre C. C. Doss Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1110, which encompassed 278 acres in two surveys and contained three sites: 41BL607, 41BL614, and 41BL616.

C. C. Doss began to occupy vacant land in Bell County on November 20, 1868. G. W. Walton, the deputy county surveyor, located the land 8 days later. Ed Rucker again surveyed the 160 acres on Cowhouse Creek on November 28, 1873, with F. M. Bleecker and E. T. Eakin as chain carriers. Ten days later, Doss appeared before the district clerk and stated that he had occupied and improved the land. The State of Texas issued a patent for the land to Doss on March 23, 1874 (Texas. General Land Office 1874d; BC, DR 522:535). Doss probably occupied his preemption survey until his death in the early 1880s (1877a, 1881a–1882a). It is unclear whether Mrs. V. Doss, who paid taxes on the property beginning in the early 1880s, occupied the Doss Survey or the Asa Reed Survey, which was adjacent and to the northwest, until 1895 (1882a, 1893a).

Doss's heirs sold the eastern 120 acres of the survey to E. L. Carpenter on November 20, 1895, for $450 (BC, DR 109:347, 356; 162:442). The following August, E. L. and S. J. Carpenter conveyed the land to George W. Cole Jr. for $190 (BC, DR 107:451).

In December 1897, Cole and his wife, M. J., sold the property to J. M. Morgan for $1,000 (BC, DR 119:306). By this time, ad valorem tax records suggest that the property had considerable improvements (1898a) and it is likely that Morgan resided there.

On October 3, 1898, J. M. and M. J. Morgan sold the 120 acres to J. Wiley Jones for $1,000 (BC, DR 123:110). Jones probably occupied the property from 1898 until at least 1909, by which time he had made substantial improvements to the land (1902a, 1909a). Jones was deceased by 1922, and his widow resided on the property until her death in about 1932 (1922a, 1930a–1932a). Her estate continued to be assessed for taxes on the property until 1944, and the property retained its value throughout this period (1933a, 1937a, 1944a). Thus, it is possible that tenants occupied the land between 1932 and 1944.

In a judgment against Mrs. Jones's heir, Wilson Jones, the Bell County District Court auctioned 120 acres out of the Doss Survey to J. B. West on January 23, 1945, for a high bid of $1,500 (BC, DR 526:171). West occupied the property in 1945 (1945a) and then, with his wife, Bessie, sold the 120 acres to John W. Beall on August 25, 1945, for $10 and payment of taxes on the property for that year (BC, DR 536:275).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL607 is located from 1945 until 1953, see 41BL614.

Summary: C. C. Doss probably occupied his preemption survey from 1868 until his death in the early 1880s. It is unclear whether Mrs. V. Doss, occupied the land between the early 1880s and 1895. By 1897, the 120 acres out of the Doss Survey, on which 41BL607 is located, had considerable improvements, and it is likely that J. M. and M. J. Morgan resided on the land from

1897 to 1898. J. Wiley Jones probably occupied the property from 1898 until his death, which had occurred by 1922. It is likely that his widow occupied the property until about 1932. Tenants may have resided on the land from about 1932 until 1944. J. B. West occupied the property in 1945. The property's last owners, John W. and Mary Beall, resided in Belton; thus, it remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1945.

Site 41BL609 (Tract 1134)

Site History: Site 41BL609 is in the northeast quadrant and near the northern boundary of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1134, which encompassed 278.97 acres in two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL609, 41BL625, 41BL626, 41BL629, and 41BL644.

For a legal history of the tax property on which 41BL609 is located from 1848 to 1868, see 41BL619.

Brown retained 190 acres, which included the northernmost one-third of the Allen Survey, until July 30, 1868, when he sold the property to Moses H. Denman for $285 (BC, DR L:345). Denman probably occupied other more heavily improved land he owned in Bell County (1868a, 1879a).

Moses H. Denman was deceased by 1905, when his son and daughter-in-law, W. P. and Roxie Denman, sold the 94 acres out of the northeast corner of the Allen Survey and the adjoining 27 acres out of the Joseph C. Yates Survey to J. B. Carden on March 15, 1905, for $200 (BC, DR 167:85; 248:7). Carden probably improved and resided on the 94-acre parcel between 1905 and 1913 (1905a–1908a).

J. B. and B. R. Carden conveyed the 94 acres and the adjoining parcel of land to Howard C. Preston on July 15, 1913, for $5,000 (BC, DR 245:521). Two weeks later, Preston and his wife, Nettie M., sold the land to John C. Preston for $3,250 (BC, DR 248:205). Subsequent owners between 1913 and 1917 included John C. and Willie M. Preston, who conveyed the 94 acres and adjoining land to Bascom Humphrey on October 25, 1915, for $4,500 (BC, DR 247:220); E. A. Lamar, who purchased the property on November 1, 1915, for $1 (BC, DR 274:211); Charles B. Smith, who bought it about a year later for $5,550 (BC, DR 277:147); and W. N. Gray, who bought the property on February 15, 1917, for an undisclosed amount (BC, DR 281:521).

The chain of title is broken between 1917 and 1922. However, Jeannette C. Wylie had acquired the property by 1922. Wylie, a single female, sold the 94 acres and adjoining land to T. M. Collins on April 11, 1922, for $4,600 (BC, DR 337:31). Subsequent owners between 1922 and 1929 included T. M. and Rachel Collins, of Travis County, who conveyed the land to August Meissner on February 13, 1923, for $4,500 (BC, DR 343:377); and Carl Wendlandt, who bought the property from Meissner on December 21, 1925, for $1 (BC, DR 364:564). Wendlandt's widow, Sophie W. Wendlandt, sold the property to J. M. Hunt and G. P. Hunt on January 6, 1930, for $1,750 (BC, DR 400:362, 379, 389); and the Hunts and their respective spouses conveyed the land back to Sophie Wendlandt on October 12, 1939, for $1,650 (BC, DR 477:77).

Wendlandt, by now of Travis County, sold the 94 acres and adjoining land to C. L. Harris on November 4, 1946, for $2,100 (BC, DR 556:349). Harris added that property to 19 acres out of the Allen Survey, on which 41BL626 is located, and 141.63 acres out of the adjoining Joseph C. Yates Survey, on which 41BL644 is located, which he had acquired in 1940 (see 41BL626 and 41BL644).

C. L. and Winnie Harris retained title to their land until February 18, 1954, when they sold 278.97 acres out of the Allen Survey and the adjoining Yates Survey to the United States government for $23,235. The transaction included 94 acres out of the Allen Survey, on which 41BL609, 41BL625, and 41BL629 are located; 19 acres out of the Allen Survey, on which 41BL626 is located, and 141.63 acres out of the Yates Survey, on which 41BL644 is located. When the government acquired the property, it was the location of several buildings and structures, including a dwelling, barn, poultry house, storage building, hog shed, windmill with storage, underground butane tank, and septic tank (BC, DR 701:618).

Summary: It is apparent that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. J. B. Carden probably improved and resided on the 94-acre parcel out of the Allen Survey on which 41BL609 is located between 1905 and 1913. It is likely that the property retained

improvements until the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1913 and 1954 include: John C. and Willie M. Preston (1913–1915), Bascom and Imogene L. Humphrey (1915), E. A. Lamar (1915–1916), Charles B. Smith (1916–1917), T. M. and Rachel Collins (1922–1923), August and Lina Meissner (1923–1925), Carl and/or Sophie W. Wendlandt (1925–1930), J. M. Hunt and/or G. P. Hunt (1930–1939), Sophie Wendlandt (1939–1946), and C. L. and Winnie Harris (1946–1954).

Site 41BL610 (Tract 1127)

Site History: Site 41BL610 is in the southeast portion of the 160-acre W. F. Bleeker Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1127, which encompassed 514 acres in four surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL475, 41BL602, 41BL603, 41BL604, 41BL605, 41BL606, and 41BL610.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL610 is located from 1873 to 1888, see 41BL604. For the history from 1888 to 1909, see 41BL474.

By 1909, W. B. McGarity had acquired 72.25 acres out of the Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL610 is located (BC, DR 191:396). McGarity resided in Belton (1910a). Following his death, McGarity's widow, Ray Osborne McGarity, retained 22 acres out of the Bleeker Survey, along with adjoining land, until October 25, 1934, when she sold it to W. R. West for $1,000 (BC, DR 430:77).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL610 is located from 1934 to 1954, see 41BL475.

Summary: W. F. Bleeker probably occupied his survey briefly in 1873. Thomas McDaniel probably resided on the land from 1874 until 1886. One of his sons, A. J. McDaniel, probably resided on the property from 1886 until 1888. It remains unclear whether the land out of the Bleeker Survey, on which 41BL610 is located, was occupied after 1888.

Site 41BL614 (Tract 1110)

Site History: Site 41BL614 is in the east half of the 160-acre Asa Reed Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1110, which encompassed 278 acres in two surveys and contained three sites: 41BL607, 41BL614, and 41BL616.

For a legal history of the land on which 41BL614 is located from 1868 to 1871, see 41BL617. Reed probably occupied the northern portion of his preemption survey between 1867 and 1882 (1871a, 1882a).

Asa and M. D. Reed sold the northern 100 acres out of the Reed Survey to R. L. Garner on December 4, 1882, for $400 (BC, DR 78:361). Garner probably occupied the 100 acres until his death in about the early 1890s. W. S. Garner rendered taxes on the property intermittently in the 1890s and may have occupied the land (1883a, 1888a, 1890a–1891a, 1894a; Macaulay 1998:114).

Garner's heirs conveyed the 100 acres to R. L. Garner Jr. on November 6, 1899, for $450 (BC, DR 143:13). Garner Jr. probably occupied the property from 1899 to 1905 (1902a).

R. L. and Amanda Garner Jr. sold the 100 acres to James T. Wiseman on September 16, 1905, for $450 (BC, DR 167:161). Wiseman probably occupied the Reed Survey during most of the first half of the twentieth century; however, it is unclear which of two parcels may have served as his home (1909a; Macaulay 1998:110). He died in 1943 (Macaulay 1998:110).

Wiseman's heirs conveyed the 100 acres, along with 58 acres comprising most of the southern portion of the Reed Survey, to John W. Beall on February 15, 1945, for $1,750 (BC, DR 529:244). Beall resided in Belton (Macaulay 1998:111) and he also owned 120 acres in the Doss Survey on which 41BL607 is located. He died on January 8, 1947 (BC, DR 700:446). It appears that his widow, Mary Beall, continued to reside in Belton following his death. It is unclear whether the property in the Reed Survey was occupied between 1945 and 1953 (Macaulay 1998:111).

Beall's heirs retained title to 88 acres out of the east side of the Reed Survey, on which 41BL614 and 41BL616 are located, until December 5, 1953, when they sold it, along with 120 acres out of the C. C. Doss Preemption Survey, on which 41BL607 is located, and other land to the United States government for $12,300 (BC, DR 699:221). Tract 1110 encompassed land in the Reed and Doss Surveys and contained

three sites: 41BL607 on the Doss Survey, and 41BL614 and 41BL616 on the Reed Survey.

Summary: Asa and M. D. Reed probably occupied the northern 100 acres of his survey, on which 41BL614 and 41BL616 are located, between 1867 and 1882. R. L. Garner probably occupied the property from 1882 until the early 1890s and W. S. Garner may have occupied the land in the 1890s. R. L. and Amanda Garner Jr. probably resided on the 100 acres from 1899 to 1905. James T. Wiseman probably occupied the Reed Survey during most of the first half of the twentieth century; however, it is unclear which of two parcels he owned may have served as his home. John W. and Mary Beall resided in Belton, and it remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1943.

Site 41BL616 (Tract 1110)

Site History: Site 41BL616 is in the east half of the 160-acre Asa Reed Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1110, which encompassed 278 acres in two surveys and contained three sites: 41BL607, 41BL614, and 41BL616.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL616 is located from 1868 to 1871, see 41BL617. For the legal history from 1882 to 1953, see 41BL614.

Summary: Asa and M. D. Reed probably occupied the northern 100 acres of his survey, on which 41BL614 and 41BL616 are located, between 1867 and 1882. R. L. Garner probably occupied the property from 1882 until the early 1890s, and W. S. Garner may have occupied the land in the 1890s. R. L. and Amanda Garner Jr. probably resided on the 100 acres from 1899 to 1905. James T. Wiseman probably occupied the Reed Survey during most of the first half of the twentieth century; however, it is unclear which of two parcels he owned may have served as his home. John W. and Mary Beall resided in Belton, and it remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1943.

Site 41BL617 (Tract B-123)

Site History: Site 41BL617 is located in the southwestern quarter of the 160-acre Asa Reed Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract B-123, which encompassed 70 acres and contained two sites, 41BL617 and 41BL618.

On October 9, 1868, Asa Reed filed an affidavit and application for survey in which he swore that he selected and improved the 160 acres of vacant land on Taylor's Branch on which he was residing. Reed claimed the land in accordance with an Act of the 11th Legislature approved November 12, 1866, that made 160 acres of land available to actual settlers on the public domain. On the same day, a survey of the 160 acres located 9½ miles northwest of the town of Belton was made for Reed by G. W. Walton with C. C. Doss and James Clements (also recorded as Clemments) as chain carriers. On May 19, 1871, Reed filed a certificate of settlement in which he swore that he was the head of a household and had improved the land as a homestead for the period of 3 consecutive years beginning December 1, 1867. The State of Texas patented the 160-acre Asa Reed Survey to Reed on June 7, 1871 (Texas. General Land Office 1871c).

According to Macaulay (1998:117–122), in November of 1873, Reed sold the southern 60 acres of his survey, on which present-day 41BL617 is located, to C. C. Doss for $63. In 1875, Doss paid $50 in taxes on the 60-acre tract and a year later paid $60 in taxes, amounts that suggested improvements on the property and perhaps initial occupation of the 60 acres. In 1880, the Doss farmstead consisted of a house, outbuildings, fences, and 60 acres improved out of the total 220 acres that he owned.

Doss maintained ownership of the 60 acres out of the Reed Survey until his death in 1881. At that point, the land passed to his wife, Harriet A. Doss. In 1882, the value of the 60 acres increased to $100, again suggesting improvements. Harriet married Berry R. Vineyard in 1883 and moved with him and their family to Oklahoma. During the period of her absence (1884 to 1893), the 60 acres of land were listed as unrendered property in the tax rolls, suggesting that the property was unoccupied. Harriet subsequently divorced Vineyard, returned to Bell County and married J. J. Worley. In 1895, Harriet A. Worley (née Doss) and her children (the Doss heirs) conveyed the 60 acres to her son and his wife, Joel Franklin and A. M. Doss, for $100. The 60 acres remained in the Doss family until it was sold to George W. Cole Jr. in October 1899 for $300.

In 1900, Cole conveyed 58 acres, on which present-day 41BL617 is located, to J. T. Wiseman of Bell County for $450 in cash and notes. Two acres were set aside from the tract, with 1 acre designated as the Doss Cemetery and the other as the Worley homestead. In 1900, Wiseman was residing at a location between G. E. Hallmark and H. A. Worley, which seems to correspond with the location of presentday 41BL617. In 1910 and 1920, other members of the Wiseman family were renters in the same vicinity. Wiseman retained ownership of the 58 acres until his death in 1943. In 1944, Wiseman's widow, J. T. Wiseman of Scurry County, and their children conveyed 158 acres (the entire Reed Survey less the 2 acres previously set aside) to John W. Beall for $1,750.

Beall was a resident of Belton and may have been leasing out the 158 acres. Beall himself passed away in 1947. With Beall's death, the 158 acres were conveyed to Robert Nelson Beall by Rebecca J. Beall (John W.'s mother) of Tyler County, thus keeping the property within the ownership of Beall heirs (Macaulay 1998:127). Beall's widow, Mary, continued to pay taxes on the 158 acres plus other properties out of his estate (Macaulay 1998:122). On December 28, 1953, she conveyed 70 acres out of the Reed Survey, including the present-day locations of 41BL617 and 41BL618, to the United States government for $5,600. The balance of the Beall property was included under other tract designations.

Summary: Asa Reed and his family resided on his 160-acre survey, on which 41BL617 and 41BL618 are located, beginning on December 1, 1867. However, the exact location of his improvements is not known. Macaulay (1998:118) suggests that occupation was located at present-day site 41BL616. In 1873, Reed sold the southern 60 acres of the survey to C. C. Doss, and members of the Doss family owned the property until 1899. The Doss family appears to have occupied the property from ca. 1873 until 1881. From 1884 to 1893, the property apparently was abandoned. J. T. Wiseman may have occupied 41BL617 beginning in 1900; or members of his family may have leased the property from him and lived at 41BL617 until the early 1940s, when he died. It is not known if the property was occupied between 1944 and 1953, when it was owned by John W. Beall, who lived in Belton.

Site 41BL618 (Tract B-123)

Site History: Site 41BL618 is located in the southwestern quarter of the 160-acre Asa Reed Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract B-123, which encompassed 70 acres, and contained two sites, 41BL617 and 41BL618.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL618 is located between 1868 and 1899, see 41BL617.

According to Macaulay (1998:123-127), the widow Harriet A. Worley (née Doss) had sold 60 acres out of the southern portion of the Asa Reed Survey to George W. Cole in 1899, but a year later he sold 1 acre of it back to her for the nominal sum of $1. This acre contained the Worley homestead and present-day 41BL618. Both the 1900 and 1910 censuses listed Harriet as a widow living with her daughter. Also, a 1919 school consolidation map noted Harriet Worley on the 1 acre. Worley retained ownership of the acre until her death in 1931. After Worley's death, it is unclear how the single acre was disposed of. However, when John W. Beall, the owner of the remaining 158 acres in the Reed Survey died in 1947, the 1-acre homestead was included with the rest of the acreage from the Reed Survey, as was the 1-acre cemetery.

With Beall's death, the 158 acres, plus the two 1-acre tracts were conveyed to Robert Nelson Beall by Rebecca J. Beall (John W.'s mother) of Tyler County, thus keeping the property within the ownership of Beall heirs. On December 28, 1953, Beall's widow, Mary, conveyed 70 acres out of the Reed Survey, including the locations of present-day 41BL617 and 41BL618, to the United States government for $5,600.

Summary: Asa Reed and his family resided on his 160-acre survey, on which 41BL617 and 41BL618 are located, beginning on December 1, 1867. However, the exact location of his improvements is not known. Macaulay (1998:118) suggests that occupation was located at present-day site 41BL616. In 1873, Reed sold the southern 60 acres of the survey to C. C. Doss, and members of the Doss family owned the property until 1899. The Doss family appears to have occupied the property from ca. 1873 until 1881. From 1884 to 1893, the property apparently was abandoned. Between 1899 and 1900, George W. Cole owned the 60 acres. In 1900, Cole sold a 1-acre farmstead back to Doss's

widow, who had married twice, been divorced, and then widowed a second time. The association between the single acre of land and the Worley farmstead is strong, suggesting occupation by Worley at 41BL618 from the late 1890s until 1931. From 1931 until 1947, ownership status of the 1-acre and improvements on it is uncertain. From 1947 to 1953, the acre had come under the ownership of the heirs of John W. Beall, a resident of Belton. The property might have been leased during this period. Beall's widow, Mary, conveyed the 1-acre as part of the 70-acre tract to the government in 1953.

Site 41BL619 (Tract B-120)

Site History: Site 41BL619 is located in the northwestern quadrant of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract B-120, which encompassed 127 acres in the Allen and C. C. Doss Surveys and contained one site.

On December 22, 1848, the State of Texas issued Donation Certificate No. 143 to Moses Allen by virtue of the fact that he had participated in the Siege of Bexar. The certificate was issued in accordance with an Act of the Congress of the Republic of Texas that was passed December 21, 1837. On May 26, 1850, William Armstrong, a deputy surveyor for the Milam Land District surveyed 640 acres of land situated on Cowhouse Creek above its junction with the Leon River for Moses Allen, with Silas Perkins and John Taylor as chain bearers. The 640-acre survey was patented to Allen on October 16, 1850. (Texas. General Land Office 1850d).

Moses Allen was a resident of Milam County, and a month after he patented his survey, he sold the 640 acres to Joseph S. Brown for $320 cash (BC, DR A:148). During Brown's ownership, the Allen Survey never was rendered for taxation in Bell County, which suggests that he was not a resident of the county and, therefore, probably never occupied the Allen Survey (1851a–1858a, 1860a–1867a).

In 1867, Joseph S. Brown conveyed 200 acres out of the Allen Survey, on which present-day 41BL619 is located, to C. M. Brown of Bell County for $450 (BC, DR K:21). In 1868, Brown was a resident of Salado, and he never rendered his property in the Allen Survey for taxation in Bell County (1867a–1870a). C. M. Brown retained ownership of the 200 acres until 1870, when he conveyed them to William Hodge for $400 (BC, DR M:99).

Hodge was a resident of Burnet County, and a year after his purchase of the 200 acres, he sold them to John Edwards and his wife, Ret, of Bell County for $5 (BC, DR 92:107). The reason for this low purchase price is unclear, as neither Hodge nor Edwards rendered the property for taxation in Bell County (1870a, 1871a). The nominal price suggests that Hodge was related to the Edwardses, possibly Ret, and that the land was a gift. As a result, Edwards saw a great return on the property when he sold the 200 acres in 1872 to Elisha Kinsey of Coryell County for $800 cash (BC, DR 30:400).

That same year, Kinsey conveyed the 200 acres to Isaac H. Scoggin for $1,000 cash (BC, DR R:23). In 1873, Scoggin paid taxes on 100 acres out of the Allen Survey, which were valued at $500. Scoggin owned several other properties as well, both unimproved and more improved than the Allen Survey property. Scoggin also paid taxes on 25 horses worth $375, 35 cattle worth $120, 6 mules worth $130, and $205 worth of miscellaneous property (1873a). These values suggest that although the Allen Survey property appears to have been improved and possibly was occupied by tenants, Scoggin probably lived on one of his more-improved properties.

In 1876, Scoggin conveyed 10 acres, on which 41BL619 is located, out of the Allen Survey to Mrs. H. J. Davis of Bell County for $100 (BC, DR 25:375). In 1877, Mrs. H. J. Davis paid taxes on 60 acres out of the Allen Survey, which was valued at $600. In addition, she owned another unimproved property. Davis also paid tax on one carriage or wagon worth $25, $5 worth of manufacturer's tools, 3 horses or mules worth $60, 15 cattle worth $75, 3 hogs worth $10, and $80 worth of miscellaneous property (1877a). These values suggest that the property was a heavily improved farm on which Davis was a resident.

In 1887, Mrs. H. J. Davis, the surviving wife of C. H. Davis, deceased, along with Mrs. M. J. Hallmark and her husband, M. J. Hallmark; A. H. Davis; J. B. Davis; Mrs. Clara A. McElroy and her husband, A. K. McElroy; and Mrs. Nettie Matthews and her husband I. W. Matthews, all the children and heirs of C. H. Davis of Bell County, conveyed to M. F. Davis two tracts out

of the Allen Survey in consideration of $800 in cash and notes. Those adjacent tracts consisted of 50 acres and 10 acres on which present-day 41BL619 is located (BC, DR 92:74).

In 1893, Davis and his wife, S. E. Davis, of Bell County conveyed those same two tracts to J. J. Bishop and S. B. Bishop of Bell County for $1,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 91:489). Two years later, S. B. Bishop conveyed his half interest in the two tracts out of the Allen Survey to J. J. Bishop in consideration of $600 (BC, DR 107:502). In 1900, J. J. Bishop and his wife, R. A. Bishop, conveyed the two tracts to J. G. Brown for $1,500 (BC, DR 140:618).

Brown retained ownership of the property until 1910, when he and his wife, Tabulah E., of Bell County, conveyed three tracts out of the Allen Survey to John Dykes in consideration of $3,250 in cash and notes. The three adjacent tracts consisted of two 50-acre parcels and the 10-acre parcel on which present-day 41BL619 is located (BC, DR 207:612). In 1914, Dykes and his wife, S. F. M. Dykes, of Bell County conveyed the same three tracts to J. H. Parks of Bell County for $4,400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 260:351).

Parks and his wife, Nora, retained ownership of the three tracts until 1944. In that year, they conveyed the property out of the Allen Survey to Willie Porter and his wife, Rae [also spelled Ray], of Bell County for $4,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 523:256). In 1947, Willie and Rae Porter conveyed the three tracts out of the Allen Survey, plus the western portion of the Doss Survey, to J. M. Goode and his wife, Stella K., of Bell County in consideration of $6,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 573:100). J. M. Goode and his wife then conveyed a 127-acre tract out of the Allen and Doss Surveys, on which present-day 41BL619 is located, to the United States government on December 3, 1954 (BC, DR 700:232–233).

Summary: From 1848 until 1850, Moses Allen was a resident of Milam County and probably did not occupy his survey. From 1850 until 1867, Joseph S. Brown owned the entire 640 acres, but apparently lived elsewhere, as did C. M. Brown, a resident of Salado, who owned 200 acres of the Allen Survey until 1870. William Hodge (1870–1871) was not a resident of Bell County, and the residency status of John and Ret Edwards remains unclear. From 1872 to 1876, owners were Elisha Kinsey and then Isaac H. Scoggin. By 1873, the 200 acres appears to have been improved, but Scoggin most likely lived elsewhere, suggesting tenant occupation. From 1876 until 1893, the 10-acre tract, on which 41BL619 is located, was owned by members of the Davis family, was heavily improved, and mostly likely was occupied. From 1893 to 1900, members of the Bishop family owned the property along with many others, leaving residency status unclear. From 1900 until 1910, J. G. Brown owned and added to his holdings out of the Allen Survey, suggesting that occupation was possible. John Dykes owned the property from 1910 until 1914, but his residency status is unclear. J. H. Parks owned the land out of the property from 1914 until 1944, when tenants may have occupied it. Willie Porter owned the property from 1944 until 1947, but his residency status is unclear. The same can be said of J. M. Goode and his wife, who owned the property on which 41BL619 is located from 1947 until 1954.

Site 41BL621 (Tract 1201)

Site History: Site 41BL621 is located in the northwestern portion of the 378-acre John Houchin Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1201, which encompassed 56.3 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41BL576 and 41BL621.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL621 is located, see the site history for 41BL576.

Summary: Site 41BL621 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL576. Site 41BL621 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation to the site based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL622 (Tract C-220)

Site History: Site 41BL622 is located north of Cowhouse Creek in the northeastern quadrant of the 500-acre Thomas Gay Survey. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part Tract C-220, which encompassed 161 acres in the Gay and James Richardson Surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL622 is located between 1838 and 1880, see 41BL469.

G. W. Walton Sr. owned the Gay Survey until he began distributing it among his children in the 1880s. In 1880, Walton conveyed 105 acres on which present-day 41BL622 is located to his daughter, Virginia R. Denman, in a deed of gift. Although Walton had deeded the Gay Survey to his children, he continued to pay taxes on the entire 500 acres in 1880, when they were valued at $2,000. Walton also owned 880 acres in the Halfpenny Survey, valued at $2,500, and 80 acres in the Allen Survey, valued at $80. In addition, Walton paid taxes on 1 carriage or wagon worth $40, $250 worth of manufacturer's tools, 8 horses or mules worth $200, 27 cattle worth $150, and $5 in miscellaneous property (1880a). These values suggest that the Gay Survey was improved, and as the most valuable of lands owned by G. W. Walton Sr., the Walton family might have lived there. Walton appears to have been engaged in farming and/or ranching, and possibly some kind of manufacturing as well. Also in 1880, Virginia Denman's husband, Moses H. Denman Jr., did not pay taxes on land, but did pay taxes on 2 horses or mules worth $50 and 2 cattle worth $10 (1880a). It is possible that the Denmans were already living on the 105 acres in the Gay Survey while Walton paid the taxes in both 1880 and 1881 (1881a).

In 1882, Denman paid taxes on 100 acres in the Gay Survey that were valued at $200. Denman also paid taxes on four horses or mules worth $75 and five cattle worth $35 (1882a). These values suggest that the property was modestly improved, and the Denmans might have had a small farm. Two years later, by the time the Denmans sold the property, it was valued at $600 (1884a). This increase in value suggests that during their ownership, the Denmans made many improvements.

In 1884, Virginia and Moses Denman conveyed the 105 acres to John W. Walker of Bell County for $900 in cash and notes (BC, DR 49:251). In 1885, Walker paid taxes on a town lot in Warren worth $25, 5 acres in the Yates Survey worth $20, and the 105 acres in the Gay Survey worth $600. Walker also paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $15, $15 worth of manufacturer's tools, one horse or mule worth $75, five hogs worth $20 and $10 in miscellaneous property (1885a). Although the 105 acres continued to show evidence of improvements, Walker might have lived in town and possibly had tenants in occupation on the Gay Survey.

In January 1887, Walker and his wife, Alice O., conveyed the 105 acres to T. R. Walton of Bell County for $712 in cash and notes (BC, DR 57:569). In 1887, Walton paid taxes on 100 acres in the Gay Survey, which were now only valued at $375. Walton also paid taxes on two horses or mules worth $55 and $10 in miscellaneous property (1887a). These values suggest that the property was still improved despite its lower assessment.

By November 1887, T. R. Walton and his wife, Lucy, conveyed a tract out of the Gay Survey to relative R. L. Walton of Bell County for $950. The acreage was not specified, but the legal description was of the 105 acres on which present-day 41BL622 is located (BC, DR 62:258). In 1888, R. L. Walton paid taxes on 110 acres in the Gay Survey worth $110 and 90 acres in the Halfpenny Survey worth $900. Walton also paid taxes on 1 carriage or wagon worth $10, 1 horse or mule worth $50, 14 cattle worth $70, and 4 hogs worth $10 (1888a). These values suggest that Walton was in residence on other, more valuable, property.

R. L. Walton and his wife, Laura A., retained ownership of the property until 1890, when they conveyed the 105 acres to E. D. Gregg of Bell County for $100 in cash and notes (BC, DR 94:39). In 1903, Gregg and his wife, Carrie, conveyed the 105 acres to D. R. Walton, a resident of Belton in consideration of $1,200 cash and notes (BC, DR 150:451). In 1922, George W. Cole Jr. and W. P. Denman swore that the 105 acres out of the Gay Survey, along with the Richardson Survey adjacent to the east, had been owned by D. R. Walton for the previous 25–35 years and had been fenced for that long. Part of the property had been in continuous cultivation. They also stated that both tracts had been built on and occupied for 20 or more years (BC, DR 342:632). Because D. R. Walton was a resident of Belton, this suggests occupation and farming by tenants.

In 1924, Walton executed a deed of trust with three tracts of land out of the adjacent Gay, Richardson, and Allen Surveys as collateral; the property included 105 acres on which present-day 41BL622 is located. Walton did not pay off the notes, and the property was sold at auction on May 7, 1929. The Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut,

was both the holder of the notes and the highest bidder and, therefore, became owner in consideration of $1,500 (BC, DR 397:287). The insurance company retained ownership until September 1941, when it conveyed two tracts consisting of the 105 acres in the Gay Survey and 90.7 acres in the Richardson Survey to Willie Porter and his wife, Rae Vandyke Porter, of Belton in consideration of $2,750 in cash and notes. The deed noted that the property was rented to R. I. Mitchell until December of that year (BC, DR 490:456).

In 1945, Porter conveyed a total of 352.5 acres (part of which consisted of the two tracts out of the Gay and Richardson Surveys) to John W. Beall for $4,500 (BC, DR 531:102). Beall was a Belton resident and died in 1947. He left as his heirs his widowed mother, six siblings, one nephew, and two nieces. At that time, only one sister, Mrs. Lula Johnson, and his nephew, Oliver O. Beall Jr., were Belton residents. All the other Beall heirs lived outside Bell County (BC, DR 568:48). In 1949, John's mother, Mrs. Henry L. (Rebecca Jane) Beall of Harris County, conveyed the two tracts to John's brother, Robert Nelson Beall also of Harris County, in consideration of $10 (BC, DR 603:71).

On September 24, 1953, the Beall heirs conveyed the property now designated as Tract C-220 to the United States government for $11,955. The tract consisted of 161 acres out of the Gay and Richardson Surveys and encompassed the location of present-day 41BL622 (BC, DR 694:415).

Summary: Thomas Gay had received his second class certificate in 1838, but the land was not surveyed or patented until 1852 after his death. In the years 1851 and 1852, owners included William R. Baker, James Armstrong, William and Jane Armstrong, and Martin L. Walton. It is unlikely that any of these people were in residence on the Gay Survey. From about 1852, G. W. Walton assumed ownership from Martin Walton and retained it until 1880. By that time, Walton apparently had improved the property, and the Walton family might have been living there. From 1880 to 1884, the 105 acres on which present-day 41BL622 is located apparently were occupied by the Denman family who made many improvements to the property. John W. Walker (1884–1887) possibly lived elsewhere. T. R. Walton (1887) probably did not live on the 105 acres. R. L. Walton (1887–1890) probably lived elsewhere. The residence status of E. D. Gregg (1890–1903) is unclear. D. R. Walton (1903–1929) was a Belton resident. However, under D. R. Walton's ownership, the property was fenced, improved, farmed, and possibly occupied by tenants. Tenant occupation apparently continued from 1929 to 1941 when an out-of-state insurance company owned the property. By 1941, R. I. Mitchell was renting the property. Owners Willie Porter (1941–1945) and John W. Beall along with the Beall heirs (1945–1953) also were non-residents, and tenant occupation might have continued.

Site 41BL625 (Tract 1134)

Site History: Site 41BL625 is in the northeast quadrant of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1134, which encompassed 278.97 acres in two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL609, 41BL625, 41BL626, 41BL629, and 41BL644.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL625 is located from 1848 to 1868, see 41BL619. For the history from 1868 to 1954, see 41BL609.

Summary: It is apparent that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. J. B. Carden probably improved and resided on the 94-acre parcel out of the Allen Survey on which 41BL625 is located between 1905 and 1913. It is likely that the property retained improvements until the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1913 and 1954 include: John C. and Willie M. Preston (1913–1915), Bascom and Imogene L. Humphrey (1915), E. A. Lamar (1915–1916), Charles B. Smith (1916–1917), T. M. and Rachel Collins (1922–1923), August and Lina Meissner (1923–1925), Carl and/or Sophie W. Wendlandt (1925–1930), J. M. Hunt and/or G. P. Hunt (1930–1939), Sophie Wendlandt (1939–1946), and C. L. and Winnie Harris (1946–1954).

Site 41BL626 (Tract 1134)

Site History: Site 41BL626 is near the center of the east boundary of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954,

when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1134, which encompassed 278.97 acres in two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL609, 41BL625, 41BL626, 41BL629, and 41BL644.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL626 is located from 1848 to 1850, see 41BL619.

Joseph S. Brown sold 200 acres, which included a swath that cut across the middle of the Allen Survey, to C. M. Brown on November 13, 1867, for $450 (BC, DR K:21). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1867 and 1870 (1867a–1869a).

Brown sold the 200 acres to William Hodge on March 26, 1870, for $400 (BC, DR M:99). Hodge, of Burnet County, conveyed the land to John and Ret Edwards on September 19, 1871, for $5 (BC, DR 92:107). Four months later, the Edwardses sold the property to Elisha Kinsey for $800 (BC, DR 30:400). Three months later, Kinsey sold the land to Isaac H. Scoggin for $1,000 (BC, DR R:23). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1872 and 1877, when Scoggin probably occupied more-heavily improved land (1873a, 1877a). By 1877, Scoggin had sold some of his parcel out of the Allen Survey, but he retained a 60-acre parcel on which 41BL626 is located (1877a).

The chain of title is broken between 1877 and 1892. It appears that taxes on the property went unrendered during this period; thus, it remains unclear whether the property was occupied (1878a, 1884a, 1889a–1890a).

By 1892, M. D. Denman had acquired the 60 acres out of the Allen Survey (1892a). Denman had also acquired 165 acres out of the Yates Survey between 1894 and 1900 (1894a, 1897a–1900a, 1903a). Denman probably occupied either his land out of the Yates Survey or out of the Allen Survey between 1892 and about 1912; however, it remains unclear which of his two parcels of land may have included a dwelling (1894a, 1897a–1900a, 1903a).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL626 is located from 1912 to 1940, see 41BL644. For the history from 1940 to 1954, see 41BL609.

Summary: It is apparent that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. M. D. Denman may have occupied his land out of the Allen Survey between 1894 and 1912. It remains unclear whether the 19 acres out of the Allen Survey, on which 41BL626 is located, were occupied after 1912.

Site 41BL629 (Tract 1134)

Site History: Site 41BL629 is in the northeast quadrant of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1134, which encompassed 278.97 acres in two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL609, 41BL625, 41BL626, 41BL629, and 41BL644.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL629 is located from 1848 to 1868, see 41BL619. For the history from 1868 to 1954, see 41BL609.

Summary: It is apparent that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. J. B. Carden probably improved and resided on the 94-acre parcel out of the Allen Survey on which 41BL629 is located between 1905 and 1913. It is likely that the property retained improvements until the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1913 and 1954 include: John C. and Willie M. Preston (1913–1915), Bascom and Imogene L. Humphrey (1915), E. A. Lamar (1915–1916), Charles B. Smith (1916–1917), T. M. and Rachel Collins (1922–1923), August and Lina Meissner (1923–1925), Carl and/or Sophie W. Wendlandt (1925–1930), J. M. Hunt and/or G. P. Hunt (1930–1939), Sophie Wendlandt (1939–1946), and C. L. and Winnie Harris (1946–1954).

Site 41BL630 (Tract 1107)

Site History: Site 41BL630 is near the east side of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1107, which encompassed 24.59 acres and contained two sites, 41BL630 and 41BL631.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL630 is located from 1848 to 1866, see 41BL619.

On December 24, 1866, Joseph S. Brown sold 250 acres out of the southeast corner of the Allen Survey to J. H. Denman for $500 (BC, DR J:182). Denman appears to have resided on the land from 1867 through the early twentieth century

(1867a, 1881a, 1902a) before dying at his home in Beaver County, Oklahoma, in 1904 (BC, DR 374:379).

Denman's heirs had conveyed 60 acres on which 41BL630 is located to John Dykes before November 3, 1905, for $200, but fire had destroyed the earlier deed (BC, DR 176:92). Dykes may have occupied the Allen Survey, but it is unclear which of several parcels he owned, including those in other surveys, served as his home (1909a; Montieth Abstract Co. 1919).

John and Fannie Dykes conveyed the 60 acres and adjoining land to C. F. Dykes and E. C. Dykes on September 17, 1926, for $14,000 (BC, DR 374:277). Three years later, C. F. Dykes and E. C. Dykes and their wives sold the 60 acres and adjoining land to J. P. (elsewhere recorded as J. B.) Hellums, of Lubbock County for $10,000 (BC, DR 401:81). It appears that Hellums resided on the Allen Survey from 1929 until about 1940, although it is unclear which parcel on the survey served as his homestead (1930a).

On April 2, 1940, Hellums defaulted on a loan and, with his wife Frances, conveyed their land to the Kansas City Life Insurance Company for $3,000 (BC, DR 480:217). Two years later, the company sold the property to H. C. and Josephine D. Surghnor for $6,426 (BC, DR 496:217). The Surghnors sold the 60 acres and adjoining land to Oscar Bell Teague on November 12, 1943, for $7,000 (BC, DR 515:115). It appears that Teague resided on the Allen Survey from 1943 until about 1947, although it is unclear which parcel on the survey served as his homestead (1946a).

Teague, a single man, sold the 60 acres and adjoining land to W. H. Stokes on March 7, 1947, for $8,000 (BC, DR 563:47). Stokes and his heirs retained title to their land in the Allen Survey on which 41BL630 and 41BL631 are located until March 8, 1954, when the United States government acquired 24.59 acres of it as part of Tract 1107 in a civil action (No. 1511) for $809.62 (BC, DR 702:188). The tract contained two sites, 41BL630 and 41BL631.

Summary: J. H. Denman appears to have resided on the Allen Survey from 1867 to at least 1902. It is unclear whether John and Fannie Dykes lived on the land out of the Allen Survey on which 41BL630 and 41BL631 are located, or on other property they owned, between 1905 and about 1926. However, the sales prices indicate the presence of considerable improvements by 1926. Subsequent owners, J. P. and Frances Hellums (1929–1940), and Oscar Bell Teague (1943–1947), probably resided on the Allen Survey; however, it is unclear which parcel served as their respective home. The property sustained substantial improvements until 1954.

Site 41BL631 (Tract 1107)

Site History: Site 41BL631 is near the east side of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1107, which encompassed 24.59 acres and contained two sites, 41BL630 and 41BL631.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL631 is located from 1848 to 1866, see 41BL619. For the legal history of 41BL631 from 1866 to 1954, see 41BL630.

Summary: J. H. Denman appears to have resided on the Allen Survey from 1867 to at least 1902. It is unclear whether John and Fannie Dykes lived on the land out of the Allen Survey, on which 41BL630 and 41BL631 are located, or on other property they owned between 1905 and about 1926. However, the sales price indicates the presence of considerable improvements by 1926. Subsequent owners, J. P. and Frances Hellums (1929–1940), and Oscar Bell Teague (1943–1947), probably resided on the Allen Survey; however, it is unclear which parcel served as their respective homesteads. The property sustained substantial improvements until 1954.

Site 41BL632 (Tract 1106)

Site History: Site 41BL632 is in the southeast quadrant of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1106, which encompassed 206 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL632 and 41BL633.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL632 is located from 1848 to 1866, see 41BL619. For the history from 1866 to 1871, see 41BL630.

On October 6, 1871, J. H. Denman sold 54 acres out of the southeast corner of the Allen Survey to W. M. Denman for $1 (BC, DR P:316). Marion Denman, possibly the same individual as W. M. Denman, probably resided on the

property in the early 1870s, when he paid taxes on the land. However, by the mid-1870s, he no longer appeared on Bell County tax rolls (1872a, 1875a).

Denman apparently defaulted on taxes assessed on the property, and the 54 acres and other land were conveyed to Walter Tipps, W. Clements, and Joseph Faust on February 7, 1884, for a high bid of $20 (BC, DR 49:40). Tipps, Clements, and Faust sold the property to J. R. Whiteley on March 23, 1885, for $400 (BC, DR 51:606). It is unclear whether this or another parcel of land served as Whiteley's home (1886a, 1902a, 1909a).

Apparently, Whiteley was deceased by December 1916, when his heirs conveyed the 54 acres and adjoining land to J. C. Damron for $6,000 (BC, DR 274:621). Damron then sold the 54 acres and adjoining land to W. S. Wiseman on February 1, 1917, for $1,000 (BC, DR 283:289). It is unclear whether Wiseman occupied his land out of the Allen Survey or the adjoining parcel between 1917 and ca. 1954, since both were heavily improved (1920a).

The Wiseman heirs retained title to their land in the Allen Survey, on which 41BL632 and 41BL633 are located, until February 10, 1954, when they sold 27 acres of it to the United States government for $805 (BC, DR 703:41).

Summary: Marion Denman probably resided on the 54 acres on which 41BL632 and 41BL633 are located in the Allen Survey in the early 1870s. However, from the mid-1870s to 1885, it is unclear whether the property was occupied. It is uncertain whether J. R. Whiteley resided on this parcel of land or another property between 1885 and about 1916, but the property's sale price suggests considerable improvements by 1916. It is unclear whether W. S. Wiseman occupied his land in the Allen Survey or an adjoining parcel between 1917 and about 1954.

Site 41BL633 (Tract 1106)

Site History: Site 41BL633 is in the southeast quadrant of the 640-acre Moses Allen Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1106, which encompassed 206 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL632 and 41BL633.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL633 is located from 1848 to 1866, see 41BL619. For the history from 1866 to 1871, see 41BL630. For the legal history of the property from 1871 to 1954, see 41BL632.

Summary: Marion Denman probably resided on 54 acres out of the Allen Survey on which 41BL632 and 41BL633 are located in the early 1870s. However, from the mid-1870s to 1885, it is unclear whether the property was occupied. It is uncertain whether J. R. Whiteley resided on this parcel of land or another property between 1885 and about 1916, but the property's sale price suggests considerable improvements by 1916. It is unclear whether W. S. Wiseman occupied his land in the Allen Survey or an adjoining parcel between 1917 and about 1954.

Site 41BL639 (Tract 1105)

Site History: Site 41BL639 is in the central portion of the 55.53-acre J. D. Henderson Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1105, which encompassed 362.67 acres in four surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL639, 41BL641, 41BL647, 41BL650, 41BL651, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655.

On August 6, 1894, J. D. Henderson applied for a preemption survey as an actual settler on vacant land. R. P. Bigham, Bell County Surveyor, located 55.53 acres on Cowhouse Creek on October 9, 1894, with J. T. Mitchell and S. C. Mitchell as chain carriers. In a September 1898 affidavit, Henderson stated that he had occupied and improved the property for 3 consecutive years (Texas. General Land Office 1900a; BC, DR 130:635).

On May 20, 1899, J. D. and Mary Z. Henderson sold their preemption survey to W. A. Kelley for about $160. Kelley, of Coleman County, sold the land to B. F. Gibson on October 25, 1900, for $150. The State of Texas patented the land to Gibson, assignee, on November 26, 1900 (Texas. General Land Office 1900a).

B. F. and M. N. Gibson had sold the Henderson Survey, on which 41BL639 and 41BL641 are located, and the adjoining 68.87-acre Gibson Survey, on which 41BL647 is located, to J. C. Collier on November 3, 1900, for $500 (BC, DR 134:425). Collier probably occupied another parcel of land during the early twentieth century (1901a).

J. C. and M. E. Collier conveyed the Henderson Survey and the adjoining Gibson

Survey to George W. Cole Jr. on February 2, 1904, for $400 (BC, DR 152:519). Cole sold both surveys to L. H. Roberts on December 26, 1905, for $500 (BC, DR 158:70). Roberts probably occupied the land between 1905 and 1907; however, it remains unclear which of the two surveys may have served as his home (1907a).

L. H. and Ida Roberts conveyed both surveys to J. E. Carpenter on November 12, 1907, for $500 (BC, DR 228:297). Carpenter probably occupied the land between 1907 and 1909; however, it remains unclear which survey served as his home (1908a).

On January 23, 1909, J. E. Carpenter, a widower, sold both surveys to W. A. Collier for $500 (BC, DR 228:308). Collier probably occupied the land between 1909 and 1911; however, it remains unclear which survey served as his home (1909a)

On November 14, 1911, W. A. and Ruth Collier sold both surveys back to Cole (BC, DR 228:282), who with his wife, Mary J., occupied other land (BC, DR 273:268). The Coles conveyed the surveys to Charles B. Smith on October 19, 1916, for $800 (BC, DR 276:101). Smith apparently defaulted on payments due, and the land was again in the Coles's possession by April 11, 1919, when they sold it to L. E. Posey for $2,500 (BC, DR 305:446). Posey's home was elsewhere, and he sold the property to T. P. Morrow about 2 weeks later for $3,250 (BC, DR 307:171).

Morrow, a single man who resided in Dallas County, conveyed both surveys to A. B. Wisdom, a single female, on January 24, 1921, for $500 (BC, DR 327:538). Wisdom may have also defaulted on the land since, by April 1922, both surveys were again in the Coles's possession after they acquired them at auction (BC, DR 337:286; 342:494).

Cole sold both surveys to P. T. and N. F. Mangan on December 27, 1922, for $1,200 (BC, DR 343:102). The Mangans defaulted on their payments, and the land was sold at auction to Clem C. Countess on November 4, 1924, for $950 (BC, DR 356:430). Neither survey served as a homestead for the Countesses (BC, DR 408:652).

Clem C. and Emily W. Countess sold both surveys to A. J. Moore on January 9, 1932, for $1,000 and payment of any outstanding taxes (BC, DR 408:652). Moore already owned several other adjacent parcels of land by this time. In 1911, he had acquired 109 acres out of the west side of the Christian Anderson Survey on which 41BL650 is located, and an adjoining 18 acres out of the J. B. Waldron Survey on which site 41BL651 is located (BC, DR 229:175). In 1921, Moore had purchased 80 acres constituting the southeast corner of the Anderson Survey (BC, DR 332:353) on which 41BL653 and 41BL654 are located. In 1931, he had acquired 40 acres out of the northeast quadrant of the Anderson Survey (BC, DR 409:423) on which 41BL655 is located. It is most likely that Moore and his wife occupied 92 acres out of the 109-acre parcel they owned in the Anderson Survey between 1911 and about 1934 (1915a, 1920a, 1925a, 1935a). It remains unclear whether his other parcels of land were occupied during this period. By December 1934, Moore was deceased, and his widow, Martha L. Crass Moore, resided in Hockley County.

Martha Moore and her heirs retained title to the 55.53-acre Henderson Survey and other properties until March 24, 1954, when the United States government acquired them as part of Tract 1105 in a civil action (No. 1515) for $40,175 (BC, DR 700:466). The tract encompassed land in the Henderson, B. F. Gibson, Joseph B. Waldron, and Christian Anderson Surveys, and contained eight sites: 41BL639 and 41BL641 on the Henderson Survey; 41BL647 on the Gibson Survey; 41BL651 on the Waldron Survey; and 41BL650, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655 on the Anderson Survey.

Summary: J. D. and Mary Z. Henderson occupied his 55.53-acre preemption survey, on which 41BL639 and 41BL641 are located, from 1894 until 1899. From 1900 until 1954, the Henderson Survey and the adjoining B. F. Gibson Survey, on which 41BL647 is located, were united and shared the same owners. Several of the property's twentieth-century owners resided elsewhere in Bell County. While the sales prices of the land suggest that the property may have sustained improvements throughout the mid-twentieth century, it remains unclear whether it was occupied during this period.

Site 41BL640 (Tract 1104)

Site History: Site 41BL640 is in the southwest quadrant of a 60-acre parcel out of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1104, which encompassed 61.6 acres out of the Parker

Survey and contained two sites, 41BL640 and 41BL714.

A. H. Parker filed an affidavit stating that he began to occupy the land he had settled on about September 20, 1853; the document was witnessed by H. H. Hoover, deputy surveyor of the Milam Land District. On April 25, 1854, Hoover surveyed 320 acres on the north side of Cowhouse Creek for Parker, with S. L. Parker and A. H. Parker, himself, as chain carriers. Parker proved that he had resided on and cultivated the land for 3 years, and J. C. Caddel, Bell County Clerk, issued him a third class certificate (No. 48) on February 4, 1857. The State of Texas issued a patent for the land to Parker on June 2, 1859 (Texas. General Land Office 1859b; BC, DR H:150).

Parker probably occupied the land from 1853 to the mid-1860s (Texas. General Land Office 1859b). He owned two slaves between 1856 and 1861, and eight slaves in 1862. It is likely that these slaves resided on the Parker Survey, since that was the only parcel of land Parker owned during those years (1856a, 1858a, 1860a–1862a). It is unclear whether Parker resided on the property between the late 1860s and 1880, when it and another parcel of land he owned were equally improved (1880a).

On July 6, 1881, Parker conveyed 60 acres in the southern portion of his survey to J. D. McMahen (elsewhere documented as McMahon) for $120 (BC, DR 36:191). Two days later, McMahen sold the land to M. E. and S. W. Miller for $120 (BC, DR 65:419).

M. E. and S. W. Miller, and J. M. Miller conveyed 57 acres out of the 60-acre parcel to R. L. Story on October 16, 1884, for $85 (BC, DR 53:122). Three months later, R. L. and M. E. Story sold the 57 acres and other land to William H. Tweedle for $300 (BC, DR 53:125). Tweedle and his wife, Ellen, probably resided on this parcel until 1911 (1886a, 1899a, 1901a, 1908a).

The Tweedles sold the 57 acres to R. H. Harrison on December 11, 1911, for $600 (BC, DR 229:206). It appears that Harrison resided on the property from 1911 to 1943 (1915a, 1929a, 1940a).

On November 1, 1943, R. H. Harrison, a widower, and his heirs conveyed the 57 acres to Orb Fincher for $1,250 (BC, DR 515:278). Orb and Artie Mae Fincher sold the property to Newt L. Raney 4 months later, for $1,290 (BC, DR 517:342). In November 1944, Raney sold the property to J. R. and Mattie Lou Lucky for $1,500. The Luckys resided on an adjacent 200-acre parcel out of the Parker Survey (BC, DR 522:532).

In 1953, the 57-acre parcel was resurveyed and was determined to actually be 68.3 acres (BC, DR 694:255). The Luckys retained title to 61.6 acres out of the Parker Survey until February 13, 1954, when they sold the land to the United States government for $6,200 (BC, DR 703:83).

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It also is likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1880. It also is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1881 and 1884; however, the low sales prices during this period indicate a lack of improvements. William H. and Ellen Tweedle Sr. probably resided on the 57 acres out of the Parker Survey, on which 41BL640 and 41BL714 are located, from 1885 to 1911. It appears that R. H. Harrison occupied the property from 1911 to 1943.

Site 41BL641 (Tract 1105)

Site History: Site 41BL641 is in the central portion of the 55.53-acre J. D. Henderson Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1105, which encompassed 362.67 acres in four surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL639, 41BL641, 41BL647, 41BL650, 41BL651, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL641 is located, see 41BL639.

Summary: J. D. and Mary Z. Henderson occupied his 55.53-acre preemption survey, on which 41BL639 and 41BL641 are located, from 1894 until 1899. The Henderson Survey and the adjoining B. F. Gibson Survey, on which site 41BL647 is located, were united and shared the same owners from 1900 until 1954. Several of the property's twentieth-century owners resided elsewhere in Bell County. While the sales prices of the land suggest that the property may have sustained improvements throughout the mid-twentieth century, it remains unclear whether it was occupied during this period.

Site 41BL642 (Tract 1130)

Site History: Site 41BL642 is in the southwest quadrant of the 416-acre Joseph C. Yates Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1130, which encompassed 62.7 acres in one survey and contained one site.

The Shelby County Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 86) to Joseph C. Yates on September 29, 1841. J. W. Smith had acquired the certificate by 1852, and he transferred it to Samuel L. McClure. On January 10, 1852, McClure had transferred the certificate to Andrew Wolf for $105 (BC, DR 32:113). Two years later, the General Land Office issued a certificate (No. 3804/3905), which entitled Yates's heirs to the unlocated balance of Headright Certificate No. 86. On July 21, 1870, J. M. V. Wiseman, Bell County Surveyor, located 416 acres on a mountain north of Cowhouse Creek, with G. W. Walton and W. Rucker serving as chain carriers. The State of Texas patented the land to Yates's heirs on August 23, 1870 (Texas. General Land Office 1870c; BC, DR 32:117).

By 1872, Wolf was deceased, and it remains unclear whether the Yates Survey was occupied between 1872 and 1880 (1872a, 1879a). The administrator of Wolf's estate sold most of the Yates Survey to T. E. Tomlinson on June 1, 1880, for $498.37. This conveyance included the southernmost 251 acres of the survey and 15 five-acre lots out of the northern portion of the survey (BC, DR 33:426). It is unclear whether this acreage in the Yates Survey was occupied between 1880 and 1886, when Tomlinson probably resided on more-heavily improved land (1882a, 1885a).

Tomlinson sold the 251-acre parcel to Z. F. Cartwright on July 31, 1886, for $500 (BC, DR 56:498). That December, Z. F. and M. H. Cartwright sold the land to D. L. Elms for $600 (BC, DR 58:413). Elms conveyed the property to George W. Cole 4 months later for $300 (BC, DR 59:329). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1886 and 1888 (1887a).

George M. and M. J. Cole sold the 251 acres to F. M. Sanders and G. W. Sanders on June 25, 1888, for $800 (BC, DR 64:203), but it is unclear whether the property was occupied during the Sanders's ownership between 1888 and 1889 (1888a). F. M. Sanders and G. W. Sanders, with their wives, conveyed the property back to Cole on December 7, 1889, for $800 (BC, DR 72:149). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and 1906, when Cole probably occupied more-heavily improved land (1900a).

Cole sold 80 acres out of the southwest corner of the Yates Survey to W. A. Roberts on October 1, 1906, for $1,200 (BC, DR 163:616). W. A. Roberts probably occupied the land between 1906 and 1907 (1907a) and then, with his wife, Ollie, conveyed the 80 acres to L. H. Roberts on July 27, 1907, for $1,200 (BC, DR 182:200). L. H. Roberts probably occupied the property between 1908 and 1919 (1909a).

L. H. and Ida Roberts sold the 80 acres to Mrs. A. V. Yielding, a widow, and Roy Yielding, a bachelor, on October 6, 1919, for $2,500 (BC, DR 306:460). About 1 year later, Yielding and Yielding sold the property to R. F. Sandlin for $3,000 (BC, DR 324:14). R. F. and Ethel Sandlin sold the 80 acres to George Franklin Pearce on August 12, 1944, for $1,500 (BC, DR 523:370). The property was resurveyed in 1953 and found to contain 62.7 acres (BC, DR 685:554).

George Franklin and Gerda Pearce retained title to the 62.7 acres of land in the Yates Survey, on which 41BL642 is located, until February 25, 1954, when the United States government acquired it for $5,520. When the government acquired the property it had a dwelling and a barn (BC, DR 699:307).

Summary: It remains unclear whether the property's earliest owners occupied the land. W. A. Roberts probably resided on the property between 1906 and 1907, and L. H. Roberts probably resided there between 1908 and 1919. The 62.7 acres out of the Yates Survey on which 41BL642 is located retained improvements through the mid-twentieth century. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1919 and 1954 include: Mrs. A. V. Yielding and/or Roy Yielding (1919–1920), R. F. and Ethel Sandlin (1920–1944), and George Franklin and Gerda Pearce (1944–1954).

Site 41BL643 (Tract 1135)

Site History: Site 41BL643 is in the eastern portion of the 416-acre Joseph C. Yates Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1135, which encompassed 102.3 acres in one survey and contained site: 41BL643.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL643 is located from 1841 to 1906, see 41BL642.

George W. Cole Jr. sold a 135-acre parcel out of the Yates Survey, on which 41BL643 is located, to E. D. Carpenter on October 1, 1906, for $2,800 (BC DR 174:269). Carpenter probably occupied the property between 1906 and 1910 (1909a).

E. D. and Ida Carpenter conveyed the 135 acres to J. P. and Ora Crass on January 1, 1910, for $700 (BC DR 209:572). Crass probably resided on the property between 1910 and 1911 (1910a).

The Crasses sold the property to J. W. Sandlin on December 2, 1911, for $3,700 (BC DR 229:193). Sandlin died about 1947 (BC DR 691:604).

His widow, Maud Sandlin, and her heirs retained 102.3 acres out of the Yates Survey, on which 41BL643 is located, until October 1, 1953, when the United States government acquired it for $14,615. When the government acquired the property it had the following buildings and structures: two poultry houses, a windmill and storage tank, two barns, a shed, and a hog shed (BC DR 694:568).

Summary: It remains unclear whether the property's earliest owners occupied the land. E. D. and Ida Carpenter probably occupied the property between 1906 and 1910. J. P. and Ora Crass probably resided on the property between 1910 and 1911. J. W. Sandlin probably occupied the land from 1911 until his death in 1947. It is likely that his widow, Maud Sandlin, continued to reside on the property until 1953.

Site 41BL644 (Tract 1134)

Site History: Site 41BL644 is in the north portion of the 416-acre Joseph C. Yates Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1134, which encompassed 278.97 acres in two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL609, 41BL625, 41BL626, 41BL629, and 41BL644.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL644 is located from 1841 to 1870, see 41BL642.

Andrew Wolf owned the Yates Survey until his death in about 1872. George W. Walton, the administrator of Wolf's estate, divided the northern portion of the survey into 36 five-acre lots in 1880 (BC, DR 33:124). In 1880, Walton conveyed 15 lots (Lots 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 19, 22, 26, 27, 28, and 34) and other land out of the Wolf Estate to T. E. Tomlinson (BC, DR 33:426). Walton sold the remaining lots to several individuals and bought four lots (Lots 6, 17, 20, and 29) himself for $115 (BC, DR 33:124).

M. D. Denman gradually acquired the lots that comprised the northern portion of the Yates Survey in the 1890s. By 1894, Denman owned 30 acres out of the Yates Survey; by 1897, he owned 45 acres; by 1898, he owned 60 acres; by 1899, he owned 130 acres; and, by 1900, he owned the entire 165 acres that comprised most of the northern portion of the Yates Survey (1894a, 1897a–1900a, 1903a). Denman had also acquired 60 acres out of the Allen Survey in 1892 (1892a). Denman probably occupied either his land out of the Yates Survey or out of the Allen Survey between 1892 and about 1912; however, it remains unclear which of his parcels of land may have included a dwelling (1894a, 1897a–1900a, 1903a).

M. D. Denman was deceased by 1912, and his heirs conveyed their respective interests in 160.63 acres to J. H. Denman for $831.20 (BC, DR 232:36). This property was composed of 141.63 acres out of the northwest quadrant of the Yates Survey, on which 41BL644 is located, and an adjoining 19 acres out of the Moses Allen Survey, on which 41BL626 is located.

J. H. and L. A. Denman sold the two parcels to C. B. Humphrey on November 11, 1913, for $4,800 (BC, DR 256:67). Humphrey defaulted on payment and the property was sold at public auction to Hitie E. Montieth on December 6, 1916, for $3,000 (BC, DR 283:320).

Mrs. Montieth, a single female, conveyed the 141.63 acres out of the Yates Survey and the adjoining 19 acres out of the Allen Survey to A. M. Hunt on January 1, 1921, for $4,768 (BC, DR 326:36). Hunt defaulted on payment and the property was sold back to Montieth at public auction on November 3, 1925, for $500 (BC, DR 377:191).

Montieth was deceased by 1935, and her heirs conveyed the 141.43-acre and 19-acre parcels to Earl H. Shepherd on June 1, 1935, for $10 (BC, DR 446:233).

Shepherd was deceased by 1939, when his widow, Clara M. Shepherd, and their heirs sold the 141.63 acres out of the Yates Survey and the 19 acres out of the Allen Survey, along with other land, to C. A. Montieth for $2,760 (BC, DR 470:218; 472:470). In early 1940, C. A. and Ruth

Montieth, by now of Allegan County, Michigan, conveyed the two parcels to C. L. Harris for $1,250 (BC, DR 480:375).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL644 is located from 1940 to 1954, see 41BL609.

Summary: It remains unclear whether the property's earliest owners occupied the land. M. D. Denman may have occupied his land out of the Yates Survey between 1894 and 1912. It remains unclear whether the 140.63 acres out of the Yates Survey, on which 41BL644 is located, was occupied after 1912.

Site 41BL645 (Tract 1139)

Site History: Site 41BL645 is in the southwest quadrant of the 177-acre Joseph B. Waldron Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1139, which encompassed 70 acres out of the Waldron Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL645 is located from 1839 to 1899, see 41BL494.

R. L. and Laura A. Walton sold 60 acres, comprising the southwest corner of the Waldron Survey, to Stephen Collier Sr. on January 2, 1899, for $468 (BC, DR 192:14). By 1912, Collier had acquired an additional 10 acres out of the Waldron Survey from W. A. Sivils and his heirs (BC, DR 247:34–35; 248:12; 249:10). Collier probably resided on the 60 acres from 1899 until 1912 (1899a; 1909a).

Owners of the 60- and 10-acre parcels on which 41BL645 is located after 1912 were D. R. Walton, who paid $1,400 for them on February 17, 1912, for $1,400 (BC, DR 222:433; 285:270); W. E. Carpenter, who paid $400 on December 19, 1913 (BC, DR 282:477); and C. C. Sandlin, who paid $1,350 on August 15, 1936 (BC, DR 448:43). C. C. and Addie L. Sandlin retained title to the 70 acres out of the Waldron Survey, on which 41BL645 is located, until November 21, 1953, when they sold them to the United States government for $10,435. The property was the location of a double garage and a brooder house at the time (BC, DR 691:608).

Summary: It is unlikely that the property's earliest owners occupied the land on which 41BL645 is located. George W. Gentry may have resided on the property or another parcel of land he owned in Bell County by the late 1870s until between 1856 and 1884. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1884 and 1886, when the land had few, if any, improvements. However, by 1887, Sam Dunn had improved and probably resided on the land until 1888. W. A. Sivils probably occupied the land from 1888 until 1892. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land served as R. L. Walton's home between 1892 and 1899. Stephen Collier Sr. probably resided on the 60 acres from 1899 until 1912. It is likely that the property retained improvements until the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the generally sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1912 and 1954 include: D. R. Walton (1912–1913), W. E. and Viola Carpenter (1913–1936), and C. C. and Addie L. Sandlin (1936–1953).

Site 41BL646 (Tract 1136)

Site History: Site 41BL646 is near the southeast corner of the 416-acre Joseph C. Yates Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1136, which encompassed 43 acres in one survey and contained one site: 41BL646.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL646 is located from 1841 to 1896, see 41BL642.

George W. Cole Jr. sold 43 acres out of the southeast corner of the Yates Survey, on which 41BL646 is located, to M. P. Franklin (elsewhere recorded as Franks) on March 13, 1896, for $215 (BC DR 109:131). Franklin probably resided on the property between 1896 and 1905 (1897a; 1902a).

M. P. Franklin conveyed the 43 acres to J. P. Crass on October 2, 1905, for $850 (BC DR 167:517). Crass probably resided on the property between 1905 and 1909 (1909a).

J. P. and Ora Crass sold the property to S. F. Collier on January 1, 1910, for $1,000 (BC DR 209:517). That August, S. F. and Mittie Collier conveyed the property to G. E. Hilliard for $1,200 (BC DR 207:504).

G. E. and Janie Hilliard conveyed the 43 acres to E. W. Mitchell on October 29, 1913, for $1,600 (BC DR 248:234).

E. W. and Gertie Mitchell sold the property to J. F. Crass on February 26, 1917, for $1,200 (BC DR 283:441).

J. F. and Florence Crass, by now of Anderson County, conveyed the 43 acres to Mrs. Lou M. Moore on July 1, 1922, for $1,250 (BC DR 337:487).

Moore retained title to the 43 acres, on which 41BL646 is located, until September 5, 1953, when the United States government acquired it for $2,950 (BC DR 694:370).

Summary: It remains unclear whether the property's earliest owners occupied the land. M. P. Franklin probably resided on the 43 acres out of the Yates Survey, on which 41BL646 is located, between 1896 and 1905. J. P. and Ora Crass probably occupied the property between 1905 and 1909. It is likely that the property retained improvements through the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the sustained sales prices during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1910 and 1953 include: G. E. and Janie Hilliard (1910-1913), E. W. and Gertie Mitchell (1913-1917), J. R. and Florence Crass (1917-1922), and Mrs. Lou M. Moore (1922-1953).

Site 41BL647 (Tract 1105)

Site History: Site 41BL647 is in the central portion of the 68.87-acre B. F. Gibson Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1105, which encompassed 362.67 acres in four surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL639, 41BL641, 41BL647, 41BL650, 41BL651, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655.

On June 3, 1895, B. F. Gibson applied for a preemption survey as an actual settler on vacant land. H. E. Bradford, Bell County Surveyor, located 68.87 acres on Cowhouse Creek on May 20, 1896, with F. Gibson and J. D. Riesinger as chain carriers. In a March 1899 affidavit, Gibson stated that he had occupied and improved the property for 3 consecutive years. The State of Texas patented the land to Gibson on November 24, 1900 (Texas. General Land Office 1900b; BC, DR 130:486). Gibson probably had vacated his preemption survey by 1900 (1900a).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL647 is located from 1900 to 1954, see 41BL639.

Summary: B. F. and M. N. Gibson resided on his 68.87-acre preemption survey from 1895 to 1900. The Gibson Survey, on which 41BL647 is located, and the adjoining J. D. Henderson Survey, on which 41BL639 and 41BL641 are located, were united and shared the same owners from 1900 until 1954. Several of the property's twentieth-century owners resided elsewhere in Bell County. While the sales prices of the land suggest that the property may have sustained improvements throughout the mid-twentieth century, it remains unclear whether it was occupied during this period.

Site 41BL650 (Tract 1105)

Site History: Site 41BL650 is near the center of the west edge of the 268 4/7-acre Christian Anderson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1105, which encompassed 362.67 acres in four surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL639, 41BL641, 41BL647, 41BL650, 41BL651, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655.

Christian Anderson immigrated to the Republic of Texas in January 1840. The Galveston County Board of Land Commissioners issued a fourth class certificate (No. 393) to Anderson on July 3, 1847, for 320 acres. That day, Anderson sold the certificate to John S. Sydnor in Galveston County for $18. Sydnor transferred the certificate to Henry B. Martin, also in Galveston County, on May 24, 1851, for $65. Martin transferred the certificate to Walter M. Booth of Travis County in February 1854 for $65. On April 3, 1874, Ed Rucker surveyed the land for Booth's heirs. He located 268 4/7 acres in the forks of the Leon River and Cowhouse Creek, with M. T. Cox and William Cox as chain carriers. The remaining 51 3/7 acres were located elsewhere in Bell County (Texas. General Land Office 1875d; BC, DR W:347). The State of Texas patented the land to Booth's heirs, as assignee, on February 27, 1875 (Texas. General Land Office 1875d; BC, DR W:347).

On July 21, 1873, Booth's heirs had sold the certificate to J. E. Ferguson of Bell County for $160 (Texas. General Land Office 1875d; BC, DR 80:365). Ferguson sold 109 acres out of the west side of the Anderson Survey and interest in another survey to William Wilson on December 1, 1874, for $619 (BC, DR 24:340). Wilson, however, probably resided on another parcel of land he owned, which was heavily improved (1878a, 1880a). It is unclear whether the property was occupied throughout the 1880s and early 1890s (1883a, 1888a).

Wilson's heirs sold the 109 acres to F. M. Denman and W. H. Hunt on February 24, 1892, for $310 (BC, DR 86:277). The following September, Denman and Hunt, with their wives, conveyed the land to N. C. Dison for $600 (BC, DR 86:315). On December 14, 1892, N. C. and S. H. Dison sold the property to R. L. Walton for $350 (BC, DR 96:601). However, it is unclear which of several parcels of land Walton owned served as his farmstead (1896a).

On January 16, 1897, R. L. and Laura Walton conveyed the 109 acres and 18 adjoining acres out of the southeast corner of the J. B. Waldron Survey, on which 41BL651 is located, to J. B. Collier and J. P. Morgan for $800 (BC, DR 174:586). Collier may have occupied the property from 1897 and into the early twentieth century, although it remains unclear which parcel served as his home (1900a, 1909a).

J. B. Collier, with Stephen and Susie Collier, sold the 109 acres and adjoining land to A. J. Moore on November 24, 1911, for $2,400 (BC, DR 229:175). A. J. and Martha Moore probably occupied 92 acres out of this parcel in the Anderson Survey between 1911 and about 1934 (1915a, 1920a, 1925a, 1935a).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL650 is located from 1934 to 1954, see 41BL639.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. Improvements to the land in the Anderson Survey on which 41BL650 is located may have been made between 1892 and 1897, during the ownership of R. L. Walton. However, it remains unclear whether Walton and his wife, Laura, resided on this land or another of the several parcels they owned in Bell County. Similarly, J. B. Collier appears to have made improvements to the property between 1897 and 1911, although it remains uncertain whether he resided on the land. A. J. and Martha Moore probably occupied 92 acres out of this parcel in the Anderson Survey between 1911 and about 1934.

Site 41BL651 (Tract 1105)

Site History: Site 41BL651 is near the southeast corner of the Joseph B. Waldron Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1105, which encompassed 362.67 acres in four surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL639, 41BL641, 41BL647, 41BL650, 41BL651, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL651 is located from 1859 to 1884, see 41BL494. William Adams acquired 5 acres out of the southeast corner of the Waldron Survey, on which 41BL651 is located, in 1884 (BC, DR 48:154, 159). It is unlikely that Adams resided on the land (1890a). On January 8, 1897, he sold the property to R. L. Walton for $12 (BC, DR 114:37). For the legal history from 1897 to 1934, see 41BL650. For the legal history from 1934 to 1954, see 41BL639.

Summary: It is unlikely that the property's earliest owners occupied the land on which 41BL651 is located. George W. Gentry may have resided on the property or another parcel of land he owned in Bell County between 1856 and 1884. It is unlikely that the property was occupied between 1884 and 1897. It is apparent that the property's twentieth-century owners, J. B. Collier, and A. J. and Martha Moore, resided on an adjacent parcel of land; thus, it remains unclear whether this parcel of land was occupied during that time.

Site 41BL653 (Tract 1105)

Site History: Site 41BL653 is near the center of the 268 4/7-acre Christian Anderson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1105, which encompassed 362.67 acres in four surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL639, 41BL641, 41BL647, 41BL650, 41BL651, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL653 is located from 1840 to 1873, see 41BL650. For the legal history of the land from 1875 to 1921, see 41BL654. For the legal history from 1934 to 1954, see 41BL639.

Summary: Site 41BL653 probably is associated with the occupation of the land in the Anderson Survey on which 41BL653 and 41BL654 are located. It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. Instead, improvements to the land may have been made in the mid-1890s as reflected in the increased sales price. J. B. Carden appears to have occupied the property between 1896 and 1899, and F. M. and N. C. McClelland probably resided on the land from 1900 to 1921. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied

between 1921 and 1954, since it is likely that A. J. and Martha Moore occupied another parcel out of the Anderson Survey during that period.

Site 41BL654 (Tract 1105)

Site History: Site 41BL654 is in the southeast quadrant of the 268 4/7-acre Christian Anderson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1105, which encompassed 362.67 acres in four surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL639, 41BL641, 41BL647, 41BL650, 41BL651, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL654 is located from 1840 to 1875, see 41BL650.

J. E. Ferguson sold the eastern 160 acres out of the Anderson Survey to Sarah J. Cox on May 15, 1875 (BC, DR 24:448). Ad valorem tax records suggest that the property probably was not improved (1875a). Six months later, Cox and her husband, Mabry T., conveyed 80 acres out of the southeast corner of the Anderson Survey to W. J. Long and J. H. Reese for $400 (BC, DR 24:625).

The 80 acres, the southeast quadrant of the Anderson Survey, became the subject of a lawsuit in the late 1870s, and Naumberg, Kraus, Tauer & Company had acquired the land by about 1879 (BC, DR 11:626; 31:506; 32:84). In 1880, the property did not appear to be improved, and after 1887, it appears that taxes on the property went unrendered (1880a, 1887a, 1895a)

Naumberg, Kraus, Tauer & Company sold the 80 acres to F. M. Denman on March 17, 1896, for $200 (BC, DR 106:401). Eight months later, F. M. and Mauir Denman sold 80 acres out of the southeast corner of the Anderson Survey to J. B. Carden (elsewhere recorded as Gordon) for $450 (BC, DR 111:535). Carden probably occupied the property between 1896 and 1899 (1897a).

On January 2, 1899, J. B. Carden sold the 80 acres to George W. Cole Jr. for $300 (BC, DR 126:173). Cole sold the 80 acres to F. M. McClelland (elsewhere recorded as McLelland) on November 7, 1900, for $600 (BC, DR 139:2). McClelland probably occupied the property until 1921 (1902a, 1909a; Montieth Abstract Co. 1919).

F. M. and N. C. McClelland conveyed the land to A. J. Moore on November 12, 1921, for $2,725 (BC, DR 332:353). By December 1934, Moore was deceased and his widow, Martha L. Crass Moore, resided in Hockley County (BC, DR 431:449). It is likely that A. J. and Martha Moore occupied another parcel out of the Anderson Survey between 1921 and 1934 (1925a, 1935a). Thus, it remains unclear whether the 80-acre parcel, on which 41BL654 is located, was occupied during that period.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL654 is located from 1934 to 1954, see 41BL639.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. Improvements to the land on which 41BL653 and 41BL654 are located may have been made in the mid-1890s as reflected in the increased sales price. J. B. Carden appears to have occupied the property between 1896 and 1899. F. M. and N. C. McClelland probably resided on the land from 1900 to 1921. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1921 and 1934, since it is likely that A. J. and Martha Moore occupied another parcel out of the Anderson Survey during that period.

Site 41BL655 (Tract 1105)

Site History: Site 41BL655 is in the northeast quadrant of the 268 4/7-acre Christian Anderson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1105, which encompassed 362.67 acres in four surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL639, 41BL641, 41BL647, 41BL650, 41BL651, 41BL653, 41BL654, and 41BL655.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL655 is located from 1840 to 1873, see 41BL650. For the legal history from 1873 to 1875, see 41BL654.

Sarah J. Cox and her husband, M. F., retained 80 acres out of the northeast corner of the Anderson Survey until November 17, 1877, when they conveyed the land to J. R. Augustus for $322.50 (BC, DR 30:43). It remains unclear whether Augustus occupied the Anderson Survey or another heavily improved tract from 1877 until his death in about 1881 (1878a–1881a).

It appears that Augustus's heirs had quitclaimed the property to E. F. Davidson by 1882 (BC, DR 154:586). In turn, Davidson quitclaimed the land to J. A. Grimes on January 29, 1887 (BC, DR 154:583). Grimes probably resided on another more-heavily

improved property that he owned between 1887 and the early 1890s (1888a, 1894a).

Taxes on the property were in arrears during the 1890s, and the land was sold in two 40-acre parcels at auction on March 14, 1900. R. A. Grimes offered the high bid of $40, and all parties who previously held any interest quitclaimed their right to the land (BC, DR 130:310). Four months later, Grimes conveyed both parcels to George W. Cole Jr. for $60 (BC, DR 135:436).

Cole sold both 40-acre and the adjoining parcel to J. D. Weaks on November 5, 1906, for $200 (BC, DR 238:50). Weaks probably occupied his property in the Anderson Survey; however, it remains unclear which parcel may have been the location of his home (1909a).

J. D. and N. E. Weaks sold the western 40 acres that are the location of 41BL655 and the adjoining parcel to the east (now described as 34.5 acres) to L. H. Petty and W. C. Cantrell (elsewhere recorded as Cantwell) on October 7, 1912, for $300 (BC, DR 238:86). L. H. and N. J. Petty may have occupied the Anderson Survey from 1912 until about 1931 (1929a).

In 1927, Petty and Cantrell sold a 30-ft-wide swath that ran northeast to southwest through the two parcels of land to Bell County for the construction of a road that intersected with Union Hill Road. The county paid $115, and both Petty and Cantrell agreed to fence each side of the road (BC, DR 383:339).

On March 17, 1928, L. H. and N. J. (elsewhere recorded as M. J.) Petty and W. C. and Sarah Cantrell partitioned the two parcels of land, and the Pettys received the southern portion of the property, which was the location of 41BL655 and was described as 37.25 acres out of the Anderson Survey (BC, DR 418:133). Subsequently, the southern portion of the property was found to encompass 40 acres (BC, DR 493:500).

The Pettys conveyed the 40-acre parcel and the adjoining parcel to Dr. J. W. Pittman on December 26, 1931, for $100 (BC, DR 408:651). Ten days later, Pittman sold the property to A. J. Moore, for $175 (BC, DR 409:423).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL655 is located from 1932 to 1954, see 41BL639.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. From 1877 to about 1881, it remains unclear whether J. R. Augustus occupied the Anderson Survey or another heavily improved property. Between 1882 and about 1906, it is unclear whether the property was occupied by any of its owners. The relatively low sales prices of the land indicate few improvements during this period. J. D. and N. E. Weaks probably resided on the Anderson Survey between 1906 and 1912; however, it remains uncertain which of the two parcels they owned was the location of their home. L. H. and N. J. Petty may have occupied the Anderson Survey from 1912 until about 1931. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1931 and 1934, since it is likely that A. J. and Martha Moore occupied another parcel out of the Anderson Survey during that period.

Site 41BL659 (Tract 1126)

Site History: Site 41BL659 is near the southeast corner of the 160-acre Robert C. Gage Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1126, which encompassed 750 acres in six surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL352, 41BL478, 41BL483, 41BL484, 41BL659, 41BL664, and 41BL666.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL659 is located, see 41BL352.

Summary: Robert C. Gage probably occupied his survey from 1868 until 1875. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied during the late 1870s; however, it is apparent that the property had few additional improvements until at least 1882. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1889 and 1915. It appears that H. R. Hunt may have occupied the property between 1916 and 1920. Sam Tweedle probably resided on the land between 1920 and 1927. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1927 and 1933. John Weaks claimed the property as his homestead and probably resided on the land from 1933 until 1936. C. O. Watkins probably occupied the Gage Survey from 1936 until 1938, and Mat L. Bosl Jr. probably occupied the Gage Survey, on which 41BL659 and two other sites are located, between 1938 and 1946.

Site 41BL661 (Tract 1123)

Site History: Site 41BL661 is near the center of the southern boundary of the 320-acre

John Hughes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1123, which encompassed 999.2 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41BL661 and 41BL663.

J. W. Bigham located 320 acres on Bear Creek for John Hughes on December 13, 1852, with Asa Dennis and R. S. Clark serving as chain carriers. On February 9, 1856, Hughes stated that he had resided upon and cultivated 320 acres on Bear Creek for 3 years. The State of Texas patented the land to Hughes on September 20, 1856 (Texas. General Land Office 1856b; BC, DR H:32). Hughes probably resided on his survey from 1853 until 1859, and, according to an 1855 deed of trust, he also was operating a mill on the property (BC, DR F:115). He owned one slave in 1858, who presumably resided on the property also (1857a–1858a).

John and Emily A. Hughes sold the 320 acres to James Drake on February 8, 1859, for $2,000 (BC, DR H:68). It appears that Drake resided on the land between 1859 and 1860. Drake owned three slaves in 1860, who may have resided on the Hughes Survey also (1860a).

Drake conveyed the southern 160 acres of the Hughes Survey to Calvin Bland on November 14, 1860, for $1,200 (BC, DR H:605). Bland probably occupied the land from 1860 until 1877 (1862a, 1865a, 1870a, 1875a).

On January 22, 1877, Calvin and Julia C. Bland sold the 160 acres to J. R. Taylor for $300 (BC, DR 28:66). It appears that Taylor resided on the property from 1877 until 1901 (1877a, 1899a).

J. R. and S. O. Taylor sold the property to W. W. Mays (elsewhere recorded as Mayes) on September 6, 1901, for $1,000 (BC, DR 132:535). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1901 and 1903 (1902a–1903a). W. W. and C. O. Mays had conveyed the property to W. A. Connally by 1903 for $1,300 (BC, DR 140:444; 1905a). Although it remains unclear whether Connally resided on the land in 1903 or 1904, he probably occupied it from 1905 until 1911 (1903a–1905a).

W. A. and Ida M. Connally sold the 160 acres to O. P. Amick on October 26, 1911, for $2,000 (BC, DR 222:338). Three months later, on January 29, 1912, Amick, of Dallam County, conveyed the southern 160 acres out of the Hughes Survey, the 550-acre J. B. McMahon Survey, on which 41BL663 is located, and an adjoining parcel to Guy I. Moore for $6,500 (BC, DR 233:374). Six months later, Moore sold the property back to Amick for $1 (BC, DR 229:567). Amick then sold the 160-acre parcel, the 550-acre parcel, and an adjoining parcel to S. C. Robinson of Benton County, Arkansas, on May 13, 1913, for $15,000 (BC, DR 246:52); and Robinson, a single man, kept the property until December 20, 1915, when he sold it to H. L. Moody, of Bexar County, Texas, for $11,000 (BC, DR 263:358). Moody then sold the 160 acres to W. H. and Lora Harless on April 16, 1918, for $6,000 (BC, DR 294:530); and 7 months later, the Harlesses conveyed the land to Sam Sanger, L. Migel, and L. Lazarus, of McLennan County for $5,000 (BC, DR 310:299).

Sanger, Migel, and Lazarus sold the 160-acre parcel, the 550-acre parcel, and the adjoining parcel to J. L. Pierce on October 26, 1921, for $1 (BC, DR 329:467). J. L. and Lula A. Pierce, of Lampasas County, sold the property to J. B. Cockrell, also of Lampasas County, on December 13, 1921, for $16,000 (BC, DR 332:414), at which time ad valorem records indicate that the land had few, if any, improvements (1922a).

Cockrell conveyed the property to the First National Bank of Lampasas on January 27, 1925, for $10,977 (BC, DR 358:123); and the bank sold the land to Elouise Yett, of Burnet County on December 12, 1927, for $17,500 (BC, DR 380:389).

Eloise Yett, with her husband, Thomas M. Yett, by now of Austin, conveyed the property to R. R. Tate of San Antonio, on October 14, 1930, for $4,010 (BC, DR 405:332). Tate conveyed a debt obligation back to Eloise Yett October 17, 1930 (BC, DTR 414:157). The Yetts defaulted on payment, and the land was sold at public auction to the First National Bank of Lampasas on October 2, 1934, for $1,500 (BC, DR 435:198).

On May 14, 1937, the bank sold the three parcels of land to F. B. Russell for $2,250 (BC, DR 467:627). Russell's heirs retained title to the 160 acres out of the Hughes Survey, on which 41BL661 is located, the 550-acre J. B. McMahon Survey, on which 41BL663 is located, and the adjoining parcel until April 2, 1954, when the United States government acquired the acreage in a civil action (No. 1523) and it was designated Tract 1123 (BC, DR 700:622).

Summary: John Hughes probably resided on his survey from 1853 until 1859. Hughes

owned one slave in 1858, who presumably resided on the property also. James Drake resided on the land between 1859 and 1860 and owned three slaves in 1860; they, also, may have resided on the Hughes Survey. Calvin Bland probably occupied the land from 1860 until 1877. J. R. Taylor appears to have resided on the property from 1877 until 1901. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1901 and 1905. W. A. Connally probably resided on the land from 1905 until 1911. It remains unclear whether the Hughes Survey, on which 41BL661 is located, was occupied after 1911, when the land had few, if any, improvements.

Site 41BL663 (Tract 1123)

Site History: Site 41BL663 is near the northwest corner of the 1,280-acre J. B. McMahon Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1123, which encompassed 999.2 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41BL661 and 41BL663.

On October 29, 1881, the General Land Office issued J. B. McMahon (elsewhere recorded as McMahan or McMeahun) a certificate (No. 858) for 1,280 acres for his service during the Texas Revolution. J. W. Turner, Bell County Surveyor, located 550 acres on Cowhouse Creek on May 16, 1882, with F. M. Defor and G. M. White serving as chain carriers. The State of Texas issued a patent to McMahon on December 1, 1882 (Texas. General Land Office 1882c; BC, DR 45:180).

In June 1882, MacMahon deeded the 550 acres to his wife, Matilda F. McMahon (BC, DR 44:583). Four months later, she conveyed the land to S. A. Nunn for $500 (BC, DR 44:584). The following July, S. A. and S. Ann Nunn sold the land to Annie B. Blanton for $500 (BC, DR 44:585).

Annie B. Blanton, with her husband, W. S. Blanton, sold the 550 acres to John C. Dennis on January 1, 1884, for $100 (BC, DR 47:527). John C. Dennis sold the property to E. D. Groves 4 months later for $500 (BC, DR 59:326).

E. D. and Cora Groves sold the land to Audley Dennis on March 18, 1887, for $550 (BC, DR 59:223). Dennis probably resided on other more heavily improved land he owned (1888a, 1895a). He then conveyed the 550 acres to W. P. Denman and F. M. Denman on September 5, 1899, for $1,200 (BC, DR 128:259). F. M. and Mamie Denman sold their one-half interest in the property to W. P. Denman on October 27, 1900, for $1,000 (BC, DR 150:538). W. P. Denman probably occupied a more heavily improved parcel of land (1903a–1904a).

W. P. and Roxie Denman sold the 550 acres and several other parcels of land to J. C. Damron, a resident of Sparta on February 23, 1906, for $6,250 (BC, DR 172:18; 1906a–1907a). Between July 1909 and January 1910, J. C. and A. M. Damron conveyed the 550 acres and several other parcels of land to O. P. Amick of Dallam County for $6,260 (BC, DR 198:262; 209:97).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL663 is located from 1912 to 1954, see 41BL661.

Summary: It appears that none of the McMahon Survey's owners resided on the land. Improvements to the land between 1881 and 1954 appear to be minimal. Site 41BL663 may be associated with the occupants, if any, of 41BL661 after 1910.

Site 41BL664 (Tract 1126)

Site History: Site 41BL664 is in the north half of the 160-acre E. E. Clark Preemption Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1126, which encompassed 750 acres in six surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL352, 41BL478, 41BL483, 41BL484, 41BL659, 41BL664, and 41BL666.

E. E. Clark was a settler on vacant public land and claimed the property as his homestead on August 28, 1872. That same day, M. V. Wiseman, Bell County Surveyor, located the land with G. W. Wallace, J. N. Leath, and Samuel W. Bishop serving as chain carriers. In December 1874, Clark stated that he had occupied and improved the land since November 20, 1871. Clark appointed W. L. Holman as his agent to apply for and receive patent on the property. Ed T. Rucker filed corrected field notes on May 5, 1875, which described land between Owl Creek and the Leon River as Clark's property. The State of Texas patented 160 acres to Clark on June 29, 1875 (Texas. General Land Office 1875b; BC, DR 35:141); and he probably resided on his preemption survey from 1871 until 1879 (1879a).

Clark had sold the 160 acres to J. W. Embree and H. E. Keys by 1881 for an undisclosed

amount. Keys sold his interest in the property to Embree by 1882 (BC, DR 56:128; 1879a–1882a). Embree probably resided on a more heavily improved parcel of land between 1881 and 1886, and it is unclear whether the Clark Survey was occupied during this period (1881a–1882a).

Embree conveyed the 160 acres in the Clark Survey to R. E. Montgomery of Pottawattamie County, Iowa, on January 19, 1886, for $650 (BC, DR 56:128). Three months later, Montgomery sold the land to George W. Tyler of Belton for $1, for the purpose of constructing a portion of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad (BC, DR 55:217). Tyler, however, returned the property to Montgomery shortly thereafter (BC, DR 58:217). It appears that the property had few, if any, improvements between 1886 and 1895 (1890a, 1894a).

Montgomery sold the 160 acres and some lots in Belton to John L. Henry on September 20, 1895, for $780 (BC, DR 123:252). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1895 and 1899 (1896a).

Henry, of Dallas County, sold the 160 acres to F. M. Denman on January 18, 1899, for $160 (BC, DR 124:301). Four months later, F. M. and Mamie Denman sold the Clark Survey, on which 41BL664 and 41BL666 are located, and the 160-acre Robert C. Gage Survey, on which 41BL352, 41BL478, and 41BL659 located, to S. B. Bishop for $1,000 (BC, DR 124:481). It appears that the Clark Survey had few, if any, improvements by the late 1890s (1899a).

Bishop conveyed the north half of the Clark Survey to R. M. Martin on September 24, 1900, for $300 (BC, DR 205:120). Martin probably occupied the property between 1900 and 1903 (1901a–1902a).

R. M. and M. S. Martin sold the 80 acres to G. A. Wilhite on January 3, 1903, for $200 (BC, DR 199:558). Wilhite probably resided on the land and made improvements to it between 1903 and 1909 (1908a), when he and his wife, Fannie, conveyed the 80 acres to W. R. West on December 27 for $600 (BC, DR 198:633). It appears that West resided on the property between 1909 and 1911 (1910a).

W. R. and C. E. West sold the 80 acres to F. W. Becker and L. E. Geistman, both of Milam County, on September 18, 1911, for $900 (BC, DR 229:67). Two years later, Becker and Geistman sold the north half of the Clark Survey to X. H. Miller for $2,400 (BC, DR 228:551). In February 1912, X. H. and Vallie Miller conveyed the 80 acres out of the Clark Survey and a lot in Robstown to Clay Beckham for $1,625 (BC, DR 228:618). That November, Clay and Hal Beckham sold the 80 acres to P. C. Hallmark for $1,600 (BC, DR 238:291).

P. C. and Annie Hallmark sold the 80 acres to Emma Culp on September 24, 1924, for $3,500 (BC, DR 358:7). Five months later, Culp and her husband, I. W. Culp, sold the property to J. R. and Myrtie Thornton for $3,900 (BC, DR 360:284). The following month the Thorntons, of McLennan County, conveyed the property to S. E. Cunningham, also of McLennan County, for $1,000 (BC, DR 360:296). Cunningham then sold the property to N. Wood, of McLennan County, on May 6, 1926, for $1,500 (BC, DR 373:452).

A series of individuals owned the land and defaulted on payment between 1926 and 1937. W. T. Barber, of McLennan County, was the last of these individuals. He defaulted on payment, and the 80 acres were auctioned to the Dallas National Bank on November 2, 1937, for $150 (BC, DR 461:155). A year later, the bank sold the 80 acres to J. O. Renfro for $500 (BC, DR 465:390).

J. O. and Georgia Ann Renfro conveyed the 80 acres to Mat L. and Elizabeth Bosl Jr. on January 16, 1945, for $500 (BC, DR 526:119).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL664 is located from 1945 to 1953, see 41BL352.

Summary: E. E. Clark probably resided on his preemption survey from 1871 until 1879. It is unclear whether the survey was occupied between 1881 and 1900. R. M. Martin probably occupied the north half of the Clark Survey, on which 41BL664 and 41BL666 are located, between 1900 and 1903. G. A. Wilhite probably resided on the land and made improvements to it between 1903 and 1909. W. R. West resided on the property between 1909 and 1911. Based on sustained sales prices between 1911 and 1926, it appears that the property may have been occupied. However, it remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1925 and 1953.

Site 41BL666 (Tract 1126)

Site History: Site 41BL666 is in the north half of the 160-acre E. E. Clark Preemption

Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1126, which encompassed 750 acres in six surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL352, 41BL478, 41BL483, 41BL484, 41BL659, 41BL664, and 41BL666.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL666 are located from 1872 to 1945, see 41BL664. For the legal history from 1945 to 1953, see 41BL352.

Summary: E. E. Clark probably resided on his preemption survey from 1871 until 1879. It is unclear whether the survey was occupied between 1881 and 1900. R. M. Martin probably occupied the north half of the Clark Survey, on which 41BL666 and 41BL664 are located, between 1900 and 1903. G. A. Wilhite probably resided on the land and made improvements to it between 1903 and 1909. W. R. West resided on the property between 1909 and 1911. Based on sustained sales prices between 1911 and 1926, it appears that the property may have been occupied. However, it remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1925 and 1953.

Site 41BL677 (Tract F-548)

Site History: Site 41BL677 is located west of the Leon River in the west-central portion of the 1,015-acre Fredrick Niebling Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract F-548, which encompassed 123 acres out of the Niebling, John Gafford, and R. P. Forbes Surveys and contained one site.

On May 31, 1838, the Republic of Texas issued Bounty Certificate No. 3638 for 1,280 acres to Frederick Niebling by virtue of his service in the military for 21 months from July 25, 1836, to May 28, 1838. On August 15, 1842, a portion of the land to which Niebling was entitled, a 1,015-acre tract, was surveyed for him by George B. Erath with Dan McKay and Wily Jones as chain carriers. Frederick Niebling's primary residence was elsewhere, making it unlikely that he ever resided on the 1,015-acre Niebling Survey where present-day 41BL677 is located. In 1846, before the land was patented, Niebling died in Burleson County. In his will dated January 2, 1846, he bequeathed his military claim for 1,280 acres located upon the Leon River, plus a variety of other properties, to Henry C. Niebling of Baltimore, Maryland, his oldest and only son by his first wife (BC, DR 178:293; Milam County Probate Court 1846).

In May 1850, Henry Niebling relinquished to his mother and stepfather, Mary A. and James A. Graves, his rights to all properties bequeathed to him by his father (BC, DR D:272). The survey on which present-day 41BL677 is located was patented subsequently in the name of Frederick Niebling on December 23, 1850 (Texas. General Land Office 1850c).

In 1851, Henry Niebling and James A. Graves, now both residents of Burleson County, came to a new agreement, and Graves agreed to pay Niebling $800 for the 1,015-acre survey (BC, DR A:196). The next year, Graves moved to Bell County and paid taxes on the 1,015-acre survey that was valued at $507, as well as four other unimproved properties. Graves also paid taxes on 20 horses worth $600, 150 cattle worth $654, and a carriage worth $65 (1852a). Although the Niebling Survey probably was not improved at this time, Graves might have been grazing livestock on it.

By January 1853, Henry Niebling had moved to Bell County as well, and Graves sold the property back to him for $1,940 (BC, DR D:159). However, Graves continued to pay the taxes on the 1,015 acres, which were still valued at $507 in 1853 and apparently were unimproved (1853a). That year, Niebling conveyed his father's survey to L. M. Walton of Bell County for $1,600 cash (BC, DR D:166). In 1854, G. W. Walton acted as an agent for L. W. Walton in paying the taxes on the Niebling Survey, which was valued at $2,000 (1854a). Although Walton might not have been living in Bell County at this time, the value suggests that improvements had been made to the Niebling Survey.

By 1867, Walton was a resident of the town of Paris in Henry County, Tennessee. That year, he appointed Nelson Walton as his attorney to sell the Niebling Survey (BC, DR L:523). In 1868, in exchange for 288 acres located in Coryell County conveyed to him by R. H. Beloate (also spelled Belout), Walton conveyed 800 acres out of the Niebling Survey, on which present-day 41BL677 is located, to Mrs. A. P. Beloate (BC, DR K:623). The next year, Beloate paid taxes on the 800 acres in the Niebling Survey valued at $1,600. He also paid taxes on two horses worth $100, two cattle worth $10 and $105 in miscellaneous property (1869a). These values suggest

that Beloate made even more improvements to the property and might have lived there.

In 1872, R. H. and A. P. Beloate of Bell County conveyed the 800 acres to E. Boatright and C. D. McAuley of Bell County for $2,000. The deed excepted 131 acres in parcels located east of the Leon River that had been sold by the Beloates out of the 800 acres, so that the tract conveyed actually totaled 669 acres (BC, DR S:207). The next year, Boatright and McAuley paid taxes on 670 acres in the Niebling Survey that was valued at $1,500. They also paid taxes on four horses worth $100, eight cattle worth $30 and $170 in miscellaneous property (1873a). These values suggest that continued improvements were made to the property, and that Boatright and McAuley might have been engaged in agriculture.

In 1875, Boatright and McAuley conveyed their property to R. D. Schofner of Williamson County for $1,575 in notes. This conveyance excluded the previously noted 131 acres as well as an additional 124 acres sold out of the survey by Boatright and McAuley, so that the amount actually conveyed was 545 acres. The deed also noted that McAuley retained the right to use the property rent-free until the present crop growing there could be gathered (BC, DR 24:64). In 1879, Schofner conveyed the parcel, less a 6-acre tract that had already been sold, so that the amount conveyed was 539 acres. The purchaser was L. F. Grimes of Bell County, who paid $2,700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 37:254).

There is an apparent gap in the chain of title from 1879 to 1882, when the owners of 50 acres out of the Niebling Survey on which 41BL677 is located were W. B. Wilson and J. W. Wilson, each of whom had acquired half interests in two adjacent tracts of land. One of these was 8 acres out of the Gafford Survey, and the other was 50 acres out of the Niebling Survey, where present-day 41BL677 is located (BC, DR 350:355–356).

In 1885, W. B. Wilson and J. W. Wilson sold their half interests in the two tracts to E. Wilson of Bell County, with the first transaction in 1885 for $660 cash and the second in 1887 for $700 cash (BC, DR 350:354). E. Wilson retained title to the two tracts until his death. In 1924, the 35 heirs of E. Wilson (residents of Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Georgia) conveyed title to the two tracts to H. H. Arnold and his wife, H. E. Arnold, for $2,500 in cash and notes. At that time, it was noted that the house lot was the 8 acres out of the Gafford Survey (BC, DR 356:500), which suggests that 41BL677 on the Niebling Survey is related to that occupation but that it is not the housesite.

H. H. Arnold retained ownership of the two tracts until his death. In 1948, his 18 heirs consisting of his widow and his children and their spouses (almost all residents of Bell County) conveyed 148 acres in five tracts to Jessie Lee Winkler for $3,800 cash. Tract 5 was the 50 acres out of the Niebling Survey on which present-day 41BL677 is located. The 8 acres out of the Gafford Survey again was noted as being the house lot (BC, DR 580:139). On February 26, 1954, Jessie Lee Winkler and his wife conveyed a total of 123 acres out of the Niebling, Forbes and Gafford Surveys, on which present-day 41BL677 is located, plus another tract, to the United States government for $1,043.72 (BC, DR 702:179).

Summary: Prior to 1854, the Niebling Survey was unimproved but might have been used for grazing. There is evidence for moderate improvements to the Niebling Survey in 1854, when L. M. Walton owned the survey. Owners R. H. and A. P Beloate (1868–1872) could have been in occupation. E. Boatright and C. D. McAuley (1872–1875) apparently were occupying and farming the property. From 1875 to 1879, non-resident R. D. Schofner might have had tenants on the property. L. F. Grimes of Bell County acquired the property in 1879, but his residency status is unclear. There is a gap in the chain of title from 1879 until 1882, when the status of occupation on the property is unclear. Between 1882 and 1924, members of the Wilson family owned the land on which 41BL677 is located, and by the end of their ownership, the primary habitation was located on the Gafford Survey, not the Niebling Survey. The same can be said of the period 1924–1948 when the Arnold family owned up to 148 acres, including the location of present-day 41BL677. From 1948 to 1954, Jessie Lee Winkler also appears to have been living on adjacent property.

Site 41BL678 (Tract 1118)

Site History: Site 41BL678 is near the northeast corner of the 160-acre William Tuder Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1118, which encompassed 203 acres

in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL212 and 41BL678.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL678 is located, see 41BL212.

Summary: William Tuder may have resided on his 160-acre survey in 1864; however, by 1865, he probably resided on a lot he owned in Aiken. F. M. Drake may have made improvements to the property between 1866 and 1867. J. C. Wise probably occupied the land between 1867 and 1872. It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1872 and 1883; however, the Tuder Survey presumably sustained improvements during this period. Although it appears unlikely that the property was owner-occupied from the 1880s through 1895, the land sales prices during this period indicate the likelihood of improvements. Andrew K. and Mary R. Knight probably resided on the Tuder Survey from 1896 until 1909. It is likely that the Tuder Survey, on which 41BL678 is located, retained improvements until the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the sales prices, which increased gradually during that period. Possible owner-occupants of the property between 1909 and 1954 include: W. B. Wilson (1909–1911), M. A. and M. M. Rozell (1911–1919), J. W. and Nannie White (1919–1920), C. N. Knight (1920–1934), T. A. and Myrtle Adams (1934–1936), R. L. and Totsy Hallum Jr. (1936–1946), and C. W. and Lillie Estes (1946–1954).

Site 41BL680 (Tract F-519)

Site History: Site 41BL680 is located in the southwestern corner of the 160-acre M. L. Newman Survey in Bell County. In 1955, when the government acquired the property, it was 88 acres in two surveys designated Tract F-519 and contained four sites: 41BL591, 41BL680, 41BL685, and 41BL687.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL680 is located from 1872 until acquisition, see 41BL591.

Summary: Initial occupation on the Newman Survey was by Newman himself as early as 1869, although the exact location of his improvements is unknown. He apparently was in residence until at least 1879. W. F. Bleeker probably occupied the survey between 1879 and 1881. Z. W. Cobb probably occupied the land between 1881 and 1882. The Newman Survey sustained few, if any, improvements between 1882 and 1910. It is unclear whether the property was occupied after 1882. However, W. D. Brown may have used the Newman Survey between ca. 1930 and 1954; he may have resided there though he lacked legal title to the property. It is possible that 41BL680 is associated with Brown's activities.

Site 41BL685 (Tract F-519)

Site History: Site 41BL685 is located in the southwestern quadrant of the 160-acre M. L. Newman Survey in Bell County. In 1955, when the government acquired the property, it was 88 acres in two surveys designated Tract F-519, and contained four sites: 41BL591, 41BL680, 41BL685, 41BL687.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL685 is located from 1872 to acquisition, see 41BL591.

Summary: Initial occupation on the Newman Survey was by Newman himself as early as 1869, although the exact location of his improvements is unknown. He apparently was in residence until at least 1879. W. F. Bleeker probably occupied the survey between 1879 and 1881. Z. W. Cobb probably occupied the land between 1881 and 1882. The Newman Survey sustained few, if any, improvements between 1882 and 1910. It is unclear whether the property was occupied after 1882. However, W. D. Brown may have used the Newman Survey between ca. 1930 and 1954; he may have resided there though he lacked legal title to the property. It is possible that 41BL685 is associated with Brown's activities.

Site 41BL687 (Tract F-519)

Site History: Site 41BL687 is located in the southwestern quadrant of the 160-acre M. L. Newman Survey in Bell County. In 1955, when the government acquired the property, it was 88 acres in two surveys designated Tract F-519, and containing four sites: 41BL591, 41BL680, 41BL685, and 41BL687.

For a legal history of the property on which 41BL687 is located from 1872 to acquisition, see 41BL591.

Summary: Initial occupation on the Newman Survey was by Newman himself as early as 1869, although the exact location of his improvements is unknown. He apparently was

in residence until at least 1879. W. F. Bleeker probably occupied the survey between 1879 and 1881. Z. W. Cobb probably occupied the land between 1881 and 1882. The Newman Survey sustained few, if any, improvements between 1882 and 1910. It is unclear whether the property was occupied after 1882. However, W. D. Brown may have used the Newman Survey between ca. 1930 and 1954; he may have resided there though he lacked legal title to the property. It is possible that 41BL687 is associated with Brown's activities.

Site 41BL693 (Tract F-543)

Site History: Site 41BL693 is located in the southwestern corner of the 1,015-acre Fredrick Niebling Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract F-543, which encompassed 83 acres out of the Niebling, John Gafford, and R. P. Forbes Surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL693 is located between 1838 and 1853, see 41BL677.

By 1853, L. M. Walton owned the Niebling Survey. In June 1870, Nelson Walton of Bell County, acting on behalf of L. M. Walton, conveyed a 180-acre tract across the southern portion of the survey where present-day 41BL693 is located to G. W. Walton of Bell County for $250 (BC, DR M:254). By July, Walton conveyed a portion of the property, a 150-acre tract in the southwest corner of the Niebling Survey on which present-day 41BL693 is located, to Rachel Boatright of Bell County for $300 in cash and notes (BC, DR M:310). In 1871, Boatright paid taxes on 100 acres in the Niebling Survey valued at $500. She also paid taxes on four horses worth $225 and four cattle worth $20 (1871a). These values suggest that she had improved the property and might have been living there.

In 1879, Boatright conveyed a portion of the property, a 100-acre tract in the southwest corner of the Niebling Survey on which present-day 41BL693 is located, to J. H. Miller of Bell County for $400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 32:297). The next year, Miller paid taxes on the 100 acres, which were valued at $600, as well as other improved property and two lots in Moffatt (one improved and one unimproved). He also paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $40, two horses or mules worth $125, nine cattle worth $45, five hogs worth $5, $1,500 worth of goods and merchandise, and $2,755 in miscellaneous property (1880a). These values suggest that Miller might have been living and possibly doing business in Moffatt. The 100 acres appear improved, and tenants might have been in occupation. Miller retained ownership of the 100 acres until 1889, when he conveyed them to W. B. Wilson, a bachelor and resident of Bell County, for $600 in cash and notes.

In 1910, W. B. Wilson along with E. Wilson and his wife, Elizabeth, also of Bell County, conveyed the 100-acre tract on which present-day 41BL693 is located to W. C. Munroe (also spelled Monroe) of McLennan County for $900 (BC, DR 216:25). In 1913, Munroe, a bachelor and resident of Bell County, conveyed the 100 acres to W. B. Boyd of Bell County for $6,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 261:48).

By 1915, Boyd had defaulted on payment of the notes, the owner of which, Pearl Buchanan of Bell County, exercised her option to have the property sold at auction. The 100 acres were sold to Buchanan as the highest bidder in consideration of $1,225 (BC, DR 268:175). In 1918, Buchanan and her husband, A. C. Buchanan, conveyed the 100 acres to W. H. Locke and his wife, Anna, of Bell County in consideration of $3,000 in cash and notes. By 1922, Locke had moved to Lee County and conveyed the 100 acres to F. J. Marek and F. J. Matush in consideration of $1,000 cash and a cancellation of the notes that Marek and Matush held on the property (BC, DR 337:412).

In 1925, Marek and his wife, Annie, along with Matush and his wife, Jennie, of Bell County conveyed the 100 acres to H. H. Arnold for $2,300 in cash and notes. In 1933, Arnold and his wife of Bell County conveyed the 100 acres back to Matush in consideration of the $2,732 in notes that Matush still held on the property (BC, DR 419:505). In 1940, Matush conveyed the 100 acres to Paul F. Stewart and his wife for $1,700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 483:440).

In 1947, Stewart and his wife, Ethel Fay, of Lampasas County conveyed the 100 acres to Leo Stewart of Bell County for $1 and other valuable considerations (BC, DR 567:181). Stewart retained the 100 acres until 1954 when it was included in Civil Action Suit #1369. A total of 4,865.62 acres was conveyed from a number of separate owners to the United States government in consideration of $155,760. The acreage included present-day Tract F-543, 83 acres out

of the Neibling Survey (part of the 100 acres) on which present-day 41BL693 is located.

Summary: Prior to 1854, the Niebling Survey was unimproved but might have been used for grazing. There is evidence for moderate improvements to the Niebling Survey in 1854, when L. M. Walton owned the survey. It is unlikely that G. W. Walton (1870) lived on the property. Bell County resident owner Rachel Boatright (1870–1879) could have lived on the property and J. H. Miller (1879–1889) might have lived there or had tenants on the property. The residency status remains unclear for several owners including W. B. Wilson (1889–1910), W. C. Munroe (1910–1913), and W. B. Boyd (1913–1915). Pearl Buchanan owned the 100 acres from 1915 to 1918, but seemingly as an investment rather than a residence. Although W. H. and Anna Locke might have lived on the 100 acres when they bought it in 1918, they had left Bell County by 1922. From 1922 to 1925 and again from 1933 until 1940, F. J. Matush (at times in partnership with F. J. Marek) owned the 100 acres, probably as an investment. In the interim of 1925 to 1933, H. H. Arnold owned the 100 acres and may have lived there. From 1940 until acquisition in 1954, members of the Stewart family owned the 100 acres. Leo Stewart might have lived on the property, although other family members lived elsewhere.

Site 41BL696 (Tract 1113)

Site History: Site 41BL696 is in the southeast portion, near the eastern boundary, of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1113, which included 111 acres in two surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL696 is located from 1838 to 1900, see 41BL483.

In 1900, the First National Bank of Waco conveyed 87 acres out of the eastern portion of the Curvier Survey to Sam Kemp for $75 (BC, DR 129:139).

Sam D. and Dovie Kemp sold the 87 acres to J. B. Davis and D. L. Cummins on May 6, 1901, for $92 (BC, DR 146:558). Davis probably resided on another parcel of land that he owned in Bell County. Similarly, Cummins probably resided on another parcel of land (1901a, 1910a, 1916a, 1922a). By the late 1920s, Davis and Cummins had both moved to Haskell (1927a). By about 1933, Davis was deceased, and Cummins owned all interest in the property (1932a–1933a). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1901 and 1936, since its appraised value reflected few, if any, improvements. Site 41BL696, however, may have been associated with occupants of the adjacent 640-acre Patience Sapp Survey, which was more heavily improved and shared a common legal history with the 87 acres out of the Curvier Survey from 1900 to 1954.

D. L. Cummins conveyed his interest in the 87 acres and six other parcels of land to his heirs on September 10, 1936 (BC, DR 452:185). It remains unclear whether the property was occupied after 1936 (1938a). Again, site 41BL696 may have been associated with the occupants of the adjacent Sapp Survey.

The Cummins heirs retained title to their land out of the Curvier Survey until February 26, 1954, when the United States government acquired the 87 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL696 is located, and 24 adjoining acres out of the Patience Sapp Survey in a civil action (No. 1369) for $3,926.82 (BC, DR 702:179).

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. It is unclear whether the property was occupied after 1889. Site 41BL696 may have been associated with occupants of the adjacent 640-acre Patience Sapp Survey, which was more heavily improved and shared a common legal history with the 87 acres out of the Curvier Survey from 1900 to 1954.

Site 41BL697 (Tract F-520)

Site History: Site 41BL697 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract F-520, which encompassed 616 acres out of the Curvier and Patience Sapp Surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL697 is located from 1838 until 1900, see 41BL483.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL697 is located from 1900 until acquisition in 1954, see 41BL696.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. It is unclear whether the property was occupied after 1889. Sites 41BL696 and 41BL697 may have been associated with occupants of the adjacent 640-acre Patience Sapp Survey, which was more heavily improved and shared a common legal history with the property in the Curvier Survey from 1900 to 1954.

Site 41BL698 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL698 is near the east boundary of the southern portion of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL698 is located from 1838 to 1873, see 41BL483.

A. A. Cassidy, of McLennan County, sold 30 acres out of the southeastern portion of his survey to John M. Pool, also of McLennan County, on December 3, 1873, for $5 (BC, DR 27:189). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1873 and 1876 (1873a, 1876a).

Pool sold the 30 acres to Elihu G. Reynolds on December 27, 1876, for $129 (BC, DR 27:190). It is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1876 and 1878 (1877a). Reynolds then conveyed the land to John Dow on September 30, 1878, for $25 (BC, DR 29:510). It also is unclear whether the property was occupied in 1878 (1878a).

Although the chain of title is broken between 1878 and 1927, the property possibly had several owners during this period. It is possible that the following individuals each owned the property some time between 1878 and 1927: Jamie Barton, James Boyd, John Dow, Charles Dunning, T. H. Garrison, C. P. Lancaster, G. W. Richardson, and Marshall Watkins (BC, DR 387:526). It appears that taxes on the property went unrendered between at least 1878 and 1910; thus, it remains unclear whether the property was occupied during this period (1878a, 1882a, 1894a, 1899a, 1904a, 1909a–1910a).

Since the previous owners had defaulted on payment, the 30-acre parcel out of the Curvier Survey and another parcel of land were sold at auction to A. G. Vick on April 5, 1927, for $53.85 (BC, DR 387:526). A. G. Vick quitclaimed the 30 acres to J. L. Hyman on March 1, 1933, for $99 (BC, DR 419:458).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL698 is located from 1933 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. It is likely that the 30 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL698 is located, were unoccupied after 1889.

Site 41BL700 (Tract 1129)

Site History: Site 41BL700 is near the east boundary of the southern portion of the 640-acre Matias Curvier Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1129, which encompassed 251 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL476, 41BL477, 41BL479, 41BL480, 41BL481, 41BL485, 41BL492, 41BL493, 41BL698, and 41BL700.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL700 is located from 1838 to 1873, see 41BL483. For the history from 1873 to 1933, see 41BL698. For the history from 1933 to 1953, see 41BL476.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. R. L. Storey may have occupied the Curvier Survey from 1887 to 1889. It is likely that the 30 acres out of the Curvier Survey, on which 41BL700 is located, were unoccupied after 1889.

Site 41BL701 (Tract 1111)

Site History: Site 41BL701 is near the northeast corner of the 268$^4/_7$-acre Christian Anderson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1111, which encompassed about 31.25 acres and contained two sites: 41BL701 and 41BL702.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL701 is located from 1840 to 1873, see 41BL650. For the legal history from 1873 to

1875, see 41BL654. For the legal history from 1875 to 1928, see 41BL655.

On March 17, 1928, L. H. and N. J. (elsewhere recorded as M. J.) Petty and W. C. and Sarah Cantrell partitioned their two parcels of land in the Anderson Survey, and the Cantrells received the northern portion of the property, which was described as 37.25 acres (BC, DR 418:133). The Cantrells may have occupied the Anderson Survey from 1912, when they first acquired an interest in the property, until about 1934 (1930a).

On April 23, 1934, Sarah Cantrell, a widow, and her heirs conveyed the 37.25 acres and an adjoining 4 acres to Mrs. Anita Terrell for $500 (BC, DR 431:45). Terrell and her husband, J. P., sold the property and adjoining land to John H. D. Lee, a single man, and W. H. Grazier on February 5, 1942, for $450 (BC, DR 532:72). Three years later, W. H. and Mary A. Grazier conveyed their interest in the property and adjoining land to Lee for $300 (BC, DR 532:271).

Lee retained title to the 31.25 acres out of the Anderson Survey on which 41BL701 is located until January 30, 1954, when the United States government acquired it for $800 (BC, DR 702:32).

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. From 1877 to about 1881, it remains unclear whether J. R. Augustus occupied the Anderson Survey or another heavily improved tract. Between 1882 and about 1906, it is unclear whether the property was occupied by any of its owners. The relatively low sales prices of the land indicate few improvements during this period. J. D. and N. E. Weaks probably resided on the Anderson Survey between 1906 and 1912; however, it remains uncertain which of the two parcels they owned was the location of their home. W. C. and Sarah Cantrell may have occupied their land in the Anderson Survey, on which 41BL701 and 41BL702 are located, between 1912 and about 1934.

Site 41BL702 (Tract 1111)

Site History: Site 41BL702 is near the northeast corner of the 268$^4/_7$-acre Christian Anderson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1111, which encompassed about 31.25 acres and contained two sites, 41BL701 and 41BL702.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL701 is located from 1840 to 1875, see 41BL650. For the legal history from 1875 to 1877, see 41BL654. For the legal history from 1877 to 1928, see 41BL655. For the legal history from 1928 to 1954, see 41BL701.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land. From 1877 to about 1881, it remains unclear whether J. R. Augustus occupied the Anderson Survey or another heavily improved tract. Between 1882 and about 1906, it is unclear whether the property was occupied by any of its owners. The relatively low sales prices of the land indicate few improvements during this period. J. D. and N. E. Weaks probably resided on the Anderson Survey between 1906 and 1912; however, it remains uncertain which of the two parcels they owned was the location of their home. W. C. and Sarah Cantrell may have occupied their land in the Anderson Survey, on which 41BL701 and 41BL702 are located, between 1912 and about 1934.

Site 41BL704 (Tract 1103)

Site History: Site 41BL704 is in the northwest quadrant of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1103, which contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL705, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL704 is located from 1853 to 1878, see 41BL640.

A. H. Parker retained 213 acres out of his survey until August 15, 1878, when he sold the land to A. R. Morrison for $325 (BC, DR 30:385). Four months later, Morrison conveyed 193 acres to W. H. Rouser (elsewhere recorded as Rousser or Rasson) for $520. In this transaction, Morrison reserved 20 acres, on which 41BL715 is located, of the 213 acres he had owned (BC, DR 31:509). It is unclear whether either the 193 acres or the 20 acres were occupied between 1879 and 1881 (1880a).

W. H. Rouser and an individual named Clay May sold a 50-acre parcel out of the Parker Survey, on which 41BL704 is located, to John Dunn on January 31, 1881, for $200 (BC, DR 35:163). Two years later, Dunn and W. D. Black acquired the 20-acre parcel, on which 41BL715 is located, that A. R. Morrison had reserved from

Morrison's heirs for $100 (BC, DR 44:66; 123:443). It appears that Dunn may have resided on the 50-acre parcel between 1881 and 1885 (1883a).

Dunn conveyed the 50-acre parcel, on which 41BL704 is located, to R. L. Story on January 28, 1885, for $125 (BC, DR 53:123). The following day, R. L. and M. E. Story sold the 50 acres and other land to William H. Tweedle Sr. for $300 (BC, DR 53:125). In September 1889, Dunn sold the 20-acre parcel on which 41BL715 is located to Tweedle Sr. for $15 (BC, DR 74:492). Tweedle Sr. and his wife most likely occupied an adjacent parcel of land out of the Parker Survey (1886a, 1899a, 1901a, 1908a).

William H. and Ellen Tweedle conveyed both the 20-acre and 50-acre parcels to their son, William H. Tweedle Jr., on September 2, 1890, for $25 (BC, DR 74:494—495). In 1895, Tweedle Jr. acquired an additional 6 acres out of the northwest corner of the Parker Survey for $20 (BC, DR Z:183; 125:625). He probably occupied this property, which totaled 76 acres, between about 1890 and 1898, since it appears that he added improvements to the land while he owned it (1896a, 1898a).

William H. and Alice Tweedle Jr. sold their 76 acres out of the Parker Survey to J. Winbourne Pearce (elsewhere recorded as Pierce) on August 30, 1898, for $1,000 (BC, DR 128:175). In 1901, Pearce sold the property back to Tweedle Jr. for $900 (BC, DR 146:65). It appears that the Tweedles may have continued to occupy the property between 1898 and 1903, since they paid taxes on it during this period (1899a, 1900a).

William H. and Alice Tweedle Jr. sold the property to George W. Cole Jr. and H. B. Reynolds on June 22, 1903 (BC, DR 152:11). Reynolds, a bachelor, and an individual named Hetty Hall, a widow, sold their interests in the 76 acres to Cole for $10 (BC, DR 160:204).

On December 21, 1905, George W. Cole Jr. sold the 76 acres out of the Parker Survey to H. R. Hunt for $1,000 (BC, DR 167:459). Hunt probably occupied the property between 1905 and 1910 (1908a) and then, with L. M. Hunt, conveyed the 76 acres to R. C. McClelland on September 5, 1910, for $1,275 (BC, DR 207:497). McClelland probably resided on the land between 1910 and 1915 (1912a).

R. C. and Rosa McClelland sold the 76 acres that are the location of 41BL704 and 41BL715 to Newt L. Raney on January 5, 1915, for $1,275 (BC, DR 277:126). Raney already owned several other adjacent parcels of land by this time. In 1910, he had acquired 5.5 acres out of the Christian Anderson Survey on which 41BL705 is located. The following year, he purchased 100 acres out of the Parker Survey on which 41BL706, 41BL710, 41BL712, and 41BL713 are located. In 1914, Raney acquired 40 acres out of the Parker Survey on which 41BL707 is located.

Between 1911 and 1920, it is apparent that Raney and his wife occupied the Parker Survey, although it is unclear which parcel served as their home (1910a, 1911a, 1915a, 1920a). By 1925, it appears that the Raneys considered three parcels of land, totaling 216 acres, out of the Parker Survey as their homestead: the 40-acre parcel, the 100-acre parcel, and the 76-acre parcel. However, it remains uncertain which parcel included their residence (1925a, 1929a). From 1935 to 1954, the Raneys claimed both the 216 acres out of the Parker Survey and a heavily improved lot in Belton as homestead (1935a, 1940a, 1945a). Still, it remains unclear which parcel out of the Parker Survey may have included a residence.

Newt L. and Lillie Raney, Newt L. and Edna L. Raney Jr., and Ben B. and Ola M. Owens retained title to the 76 acres out of the Parker Survey, on which sites 41BL704 and 41BL715 are located, until February 18, 1954, when they sold them to the United States government for $14,335. This transaction also included land out of the Parker Survey on which 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, and 41BL713 are located; the 5.5 acres out of the Anderson Survey on which 41BL705 is located; and other land (BC, DR 701:623). The tract encompassed land in the Parker and Christian Anderson Surveys and contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715 on the Parker Survey; and 41BL705 on the Anderson Survey. When they sold this tract to the government, it included the following buildings and structures: three dwellings, three smokehouses, two barns, and a cottonseed bin and shed.

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It is also likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1878. It also is unclear

whether either the 193 acres or the 20 acres were occupied between 1879 and 1881. It appears that John Dunn may have resided on the 50-acre parcel out of the Parker Survey between 1881 and 1885. It is unclear whether the land was occupied between 1886 and 1889. William H. and Alice Tweedle Jr. probably occupied and improved the land out of the Parker Survey on which 41BL704 and 41BL715 are located between about 1890 and 1903. H. R. and L. M. Hunt probably lived on the property from 1905 to 1910. R. C. and Rosa McClelland probably resided on the property between 1910 and 1915. Newt L. and Lillie Raney may have occupied the Parker Survey between 1915 and 1954; however, it remains unclear whether this parcel or others that they owned out of the Parker and Christian Anderson Surveys was the location of their home.

Site 41BL705 (Tract 1103)

Site History: Site 41BL705 is near the center of the east edge of the 268 4/7-acre Christian Anderson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1103, which contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL705, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL705 is located from 1840 to 1875, see 41BL650. For the legal history from 1875 to 1877, see 41BL654. For the legal history from 1877 to 1910, see 41BL655.

J. D. and N. E. Weaks sold 5.5 acres out of the Anderson Survey to Newt L. Raney on January 19, 1910, for $50 (BC, DR 217:370). For the legal history of the land on which 41BL705 is located from 1910 to 1954, see 41BL704.

Summary: It appears that none of the property's earliest owners occupied the land, and it is unclear whether J. R. Augustus occupied the Anderson Survey or another heavily improved property from 1877 to about 1881. Between 1882 and about 1906, it is unclear whether the property was occupied by any of its owners. The relatively low sales prices of the land indicate few improvements during this period. J. D. and N. E. Weaks probably resided on the Anderson Survey between 1906 and 1910; however, it remains uncertain which of the two parcels they owned was the location of their home. It is unlikely that Newt L. and Lillie Raney occupied the parcel of land on which 41BL705 is located between 1910 and 1954.

Site 41BL706 (Tract 1103)

Site History: Site 41BL706 is in the north-central portion of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1103, which contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL705, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL706 is located from 1853 to 1859, see 41BL640. For the legal history from 1859 to 1880, see 41BL704.

W. H. Rouser and Clay May sold 143 acres out of the Parker Survey to A. A. Walden on December 4, 1880, for $600 (BC, DR 35:34). In July 1886, Walden conveyed 100 acres out of his land in the Parker Survey to Baylor Female College for $5 (BC, DR 57:15).

By 1908, Newt L. Raney was leasing land in the area (1908a–1909a). By 1911, he had acquired the 100 acres out of the Parker Survey, although no deed records this transaction (1910a–1911a). It appears that Raney occupied the land between 1911 and 1915, when he acquired additional land in the Parker Survey that was more heavily improved. After 1915, it is difficult to determine which of the several parcels of land Raney owned was the location of his home (1911a, 1915a, 1920a, 1925a, 1929a, 1935a, 1940a, 1945a).

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL706 is located from 1915 to 1954, see 41BL704.

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It also is likely that his slaves lived on the survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1878; it also remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1878 and 1911. It remains unclear whether this parcel, or others that Newt L. Raney owned out of the Parker Survey, was the location of his residence between 1911 and 1954.

Site 41BL707 (Tract 1103)

Site History: Site 41BL707 is in the northeast quadrant of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government

acquired Tract 1103, which contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL705, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL707 is located from 1853 to 1914, see 41BL708. For the sale of the property to the U.S. government in 1954, see 41BL704.

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It also is likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1877. Between 1877 and 1914, both the extremely low sale prices of the property and the lack of resident ownership indicate few improvements to the land. Newt L. and Lillie Raney could have occupied the Parker Survey between 1914 and 1954; however, it remains unclear whether this parcel or others that they owned out of the Parker and Christian Anderson Surveys served as their home during this period.

Site 41BL708 (Tract B-128-2)

Site History: Site 41BL708 is located in the northeastern quarter of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract B-128-2, which encompassed 41.3 acres and contained one site.

On April 25, 1854, A. H. Parker appeared before H. H. Hoover, deputy surveyor of the Milam Land District, and swore that the land, on which he began his settlement about September 20, 1853, was vacant. Parker claimed it by virtue of an Act approved January 22, 1845, that granted preemption privileges to settlers on public domain. On April 25, 1854, a survey was made for him in Bell County on the north side of Cowhouse Creek about 3 miles above its junction with the Leon River and about 8 miles north of Belton. H. H. Hoover made the survey with S. L. Parker and A. H. Parker as chain carriers. On February 4, 1857, Bell County Clerk J. C. Caddel certified that A. H. Parker was entitled to a preemption claim of 320 acres, having proved that he had resided upon and cultivated the same for 3 years. The State of Texas patented the 320 acres to Parker on June 2, 1859 (Texas. General Land Office 1859b).

Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s, by which time he had acquired other parcels of land (1868a). Parker owned two slaves between 1856 and 1861 and eight slaves in 1862. It is likely that these slaves resided on the Parker Survey, since that was the only parcel of land Parker owned during those years (1856a, 1858a, 1860a-1862a). It is unclear whether Parker resided on the property between the late 1860s and 1877, when it and another parcel of land he owned were improved equally.

On March 23, 1877, A. H. Parker sold 40 acres out of the northeastern corner of his survey, on which present-day 41BL708 is located, to J. C. Henry for $100 (BC, DR 28:151). Three years later, Henry conveyed the same property to the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad in consideration for the railroad's constructing its line to Belton (BC, DR 34:583). In 1889, the railroad sold the 40 acres in the Parker Survey, together with several other parcels, to Henry J. Runge of Galveston County for $2,756.26 (BC, DR 68:479).

Runge retained ownership of the 40 acres until 1905, when he sold them to R. Waverly Smith of Galveston County for $10 and other considerations (BC, DR 175:550). Smith then sold the 40 acres to The First National Bank of Galveston for $10 on April 2, 1914 (BC, DR 258:202). On the same day, the bank sold the 40 acres to Newt L. Raney for $300 in cash and notes, specifying in the deed that the tract measured 510 varas north-south by 443 varas east-west. Encompassing the present-day location of 41BL708, it was identified as the tract that was identical to the one that previously belonged to Henry Runge (BC, DR 257:150–151). After 1915, Raney owned several parcels of land in the Parker Survey, which were heavily improved; and it is difficult to discern the exact location of his home (1915a, 1920a, 1925a, 1929a, 1935a, 1940a, 1945a).

N. L. Raney and his wife, Lillie C., together with members of their family, retained ownership of the property on which present-day 41BL708 is located until they conveyed a portion of it and two other tracts to the United States government on February 18, 1954, for $5,925 (BC, DR 701:620–622).

Summary: A. H. Parker resided on his 320-acre survey, on which site 41BL708 is located, from about September 1853 until the mid-1860s. It also is likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. However, the exact location of his improvements on the survey is

not known. It is also unclear which of several parcels of land Parker was living on from the late 1860s until 1877. Between 1877 and 1914, owners of the 40 acres on which the site is located were J. C. Henry; the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad; Henry J. Runge; R. Waverly Smith; and The First National Bank of Galveston, none of whom appeared to be in residence. The final owner, N. L. Raney and his family, is known to have lived on land in the Parker and Christian Anderson Surveys for at least 25 years prior to its acquisition by the government in 1954. It appears that the Raney family lived on Tract 1103, which was the location of numerous improvements (see 41BL704).

Site 41BL710 (Tract 1103)

Site History: Site 41BL710 is near the center of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1103, which contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL705, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL710 is located from 1853 to 1878, see 41BL640. For the legal history from 1878 to 1880, see 41BL704. For the legal history from 1880 to 1915, see 41BL706. For the legal history from 1915 to 1954, see 41BL704.

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It is also likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1878. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1878 and 1911. Newt L. and Lillie Raney probably occupied the Parker Survey between 1911 and 1954; however, it remains unclear whether this parcel or others that the Raneys owned out of the Parker Survey served as their home during this period

Site 41BL712 (Tract 1103)

Site History: Site 41BL712 is near the center of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1103, which contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL705, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL712 is located from 1853 to 1878, see 41BL640. For the legal history from 1878 to 1880, see 41BL704. For the legal history from 1880 to 1915, see 41BL706. For the legal history from 1915 to 1954, see 41BL704.

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It also is likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1878. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1878 and 1911. Newt L. and Lillie Raney probably occupied the Parker Survey, between 1911 and 1954, however, it remains unclear whether this parcel or others that the Raneys owned out of the Parker Survey served as their home during this period.

Site 41BL713 (Tract 1103)

Site History: Site 41BL713 is near the center of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1103, which contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL705, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL713 is located from 1853 to 1878, see 41BL640. For the legal history from 1878 to 1880, see 41BL704. For the legal history from 1880 to 1915, see 41BL706. For the legal history from 1915 to 1954, see 41BL704.

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It also is likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1878. It remains unclear whether the property was occupied between 1878 and 1911. Newt L. and Lillie Raney probably occupied the Parker Survey between 1911 and 1954. However, it remains unclear whether this parcel or others that the Raneys owned out of the Parker Survey served as their home during this period.

Site 41BL714 (Tract 1104)

Site History: Site 41BL714 is in the southwest quadrant of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government

acquired Tract 1104, which encompassed 61.6 acres out of the Parker Survey and contained two sites, 41BL640 and 41BL714.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL714 is located, see 41BL640.

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It also is likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1880. It also is unclear whether the property was occupied between 1881 and 1884; however, the low sales prices during this period indicate a lack of improvements. William H. and Ellen Tweedle probably resided on the 57 acres out of the Parker Survey, on which 41BL640 and 41BL714 are located, from 1885 to 1911. It appears that R. H. Harrison occupied the property from 1911 to 1943.

Site 41BL715 (Tract 1103)

Site History: Site 41BL715 is in the southeast quadrant of the 320-acre A. H. Parker Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1103, which contained eight sites: 41BL704, 41BL705, 41BL706, 41BL707, 41BL710, 41BL712, 41BL713, and 41BL715.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL715 is located from 1853 to 1878, see 41BL640. For the legal history from 1878 to 1954, see 41BL704.

Summary: A. H. Parker probably occupied his survey from 1853 to the mid-1860s. It also is likely that his slaves lived on the Parker Survey during this period. It remains unclear which of several parcels of land Parker occupied between the late 1860s and 1878. It also is unclear whether either the 193 acres or the 20 acres were occupied between 1879 and 1881. It appears that John Dunn may have resided on the 50-acre parcel out of the Parker Survey between 1881 and 1885. It is unclear whether the land was occupied between 1886 and 1889. William H. and Alice Tweedle Jr. probably occupied and improved the land in the Parker Survey, on which 41BL704 and 41BL715 are located, between about 1890 and 1903. H. R. and L. M. Hunt probably lived on the property from 1905 to 1910, and R. C. and Rosa McClelland probably resided there between 1910 and 1915. Newt L. and Lillie Raney probably occupied the Parker Survey between 1915 and 1954; however, it remains unclear whether this parcel or others that they owned out of the Parker and Christian Anderson Surveys was the location of their home during this period.

Site 41BL724 (Tract 1100)

Site History: Site 41BL724 is in the southeast quadrant of the 88-acre Nelson Arnold Survey in Bell County. In 1954, the government acquired Tract 1100, which contained site 41BL724.

The Galveston County Board of Land Commissioners had issued a third class unconditional certificate (No. 36) for 320 acres to Nelson Arnold on June 15, 1843. He received another certificate (No. 4145/4246) from the General Land Office on September 27, 1855, which entitled him to the unallocated balance of 88 acres. Apparently, Arnold had transferred the certificate to Herman Aiken by April 19, 1870, when Bell County Surveyor M. V. Wiseman located 88 acres on the Leon River for Aiken. Chain carriers were I. Harris and William T. Rucker. The State of Texas patented the land to Aiken, assignee, on July 6, 1870 (Texas. General Land Office 1870b; BC, DR 706:501).

By October 21, 1870, Aiken was dead, and Margaret E. Aiken, his administratrix, conveyed a one-third interest in the 88-acre Arnold Survey to William T. Rucker (BC, DR M:465). A few months later, Rucker conveyed his interest to J. R. White for 50 gold bullion (BC, DR N:294).

On June 11, 1872, White conveyed his one-third interest to T. R. Denning for $130 (BC, DR R:114). However, taxes on the property went unpaid, and James Leach acquired the interest on July 1, 1873, for $46.93 (BC, DR S:377). Three weeks later, Leach sold his interest to Julius Tobler for $90 (BC, DR S:443). Tobler probably resided in Belton, and it appears that his land in the Arnold Survey was unimproved (1874a, 1880a).

Tobler sold his one-third interest in the Arnold Survey to the First Baptist Church of Belton on November 4, 1889, for $10 (BC, DR 38:23).

There is a break in the chain of title between 1889 and 1892; however, by 1892, A. A. Walden had acquired the property. Walden conveyed the one-third interest, identified as the eastern 30 acres of the Arnold Survey, and another parcel, to

W. S. Holman in December 1892 for $100 (BC, DR 87:364). One month later, Holman sold the 30 acres, along with 43 acres out of the A. H. Parker Survey, to William S. Hasby for $20, and for $85 to Mrs. A. E. Robertson (BC, DR 107:400).

It is not clear from Bell County deed records what happened to Mrs. Robertson's interest in the property, but William and S. E. Hasby sold their interest in the 30 acres to O. J. Jennings on August 6, 1898, in exchange for a wagon and team valued at $180 (BC, DR 125:176). It is likely that O. J. Jennings resided on the property between 1898 and 1901, when its assessed valued increased (1899a, 1901a). By 1902, however, O. J. Jennings no longer paid taxes on the property. Instead, E. H. Jennings, who owned the adjacent 58 acres out of the Arnold Survey, began to pay taxes on the 30 acres.

On September 30, 1905, O. J. and M. A. Jennings sold the land to E. H. Jennings for $350 (BC, DR 147:99). It remains unclear which parcel of land out of the Nelson Survey served as his home (1902a, 1904a).

E. H. and Matilda Jennings conveyed the 30-acre parcel, along with the remaining western 58 acres of the Arnold Survey, to William W. Walker on December 5, 1905, for $100. However, the Jenningses retained possession of the land until the following year, and it was understood that they had the right to use timber and wood on the property for domestic purposes (BC, DR 167:495).

Walker sold the Arnold Survey to William and Elizabeth P. N. Tyre on May 15, 1906, for $800 (BC, DR 169:538). The sales price indicates the likelihood of improvements on the property. Elizabeth P. N. Tyre died intestate in Bell County on July 1, 1909 (BC, DR 343:634).

Her husband and sole heir, William Tyre, conveyed the Arnold Survey to N. G. Moore on June 24, 1912, for $400 (BC, DR 235:207). Four months later, N. G. and Laura Moore sold the property to A. J. Lanham for $400 (BC, DR 240:7). On October 16, 1915, Lanham sold the Arnold Survey to B. S. Knight for $600 (BC, DR 268:338). B. S. and Belle Knight conveyed the property to Charles B. Gohman on February 28, 1923, for $2,000 (BC, DR 343:633). It is likely that tenants used and occupied the land, which was fenced and partially in cultivation, and was the location of a residence and outbuildings. A deed directed rents and revenues to the purchaser, and in 1925, Charles B. and Maggie T. Gohman made apparent that they resided in Milam County near Gause (BC, DR 368:156, 182).

In September 1932, Charles B. and Mattie T. Gohman sold the 88-acre survey to James A. Ferguson for $800 (BC, DR 418:86). A few weeks later, James A. and Katie May Ferguson conveyed the property to Lady Kate Budd, for $1,000 (BC, DR 417:268).

Lady Kate Budd then retained title to the Arnold Survey until March 4, 1954, when she sold a 74.2-acre parcel out of the survey to the United States government for $3,080 (BC, DR 703:94).

Summary: It appears that the property's earliest owners did not occupy the land. The consistently low sales prices indicate a lack of improvements to the property until about 1898, when O. J. Jennings purchased the 30 acres out of the Arnold Survey, on which 41BL724 is located, for a wagon and team valued at $180. O. J. and M. A. Jennings probably lived on the 30 acres between 1898 and about 1905. The 30-acre parcel and the remaining 58 acres out of the Arnold Survey were reunited and shared the same owner from 1905 until 1954. Thus, it is difficult to determine whether or not the property was occupied during much of this period. However, it is apparent that, by 1923, tenants may have occupied some portion of the land, which had a dwelling and outbuildings.

Site 41BL725 (Tract B-130)

Site History: Site 41BL725 is located in the northeastern corner of the 1,476-acre William B. Brent Survey in Bell County. In 1952, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract B-130, which encompassed 363.83 acres and contained one site.

A certificate (No. 146) was issued to the heirs of William B. Brent through the administrator of the estate, Joseph P. Chance, by the board of land commissioners of Washington County on September 6, 1838. Chance had appeared before the board and proved that William B. Brent had arrived in the Republic of Texas subsequent to the Declaration of Independence, and as early as the period between March and August 1836. Chance also proved that Brent had volunteered and served in the Texian army, was discharged, and lived in Texas until his death in October or November of 1837. By virtue of those facts, Brent's heirs were entitled to a third of a league of land. A

survey of one-third league was made for Brent by William Armstrong, deputy surveyor for the Milam Land District, on Cowhouse Creek above its junction with the Leon River on May 25, 1849, with Silas Perkins and John Taylor as chain bearers. The survey was patented to the heirs of William B. Brent on November 8, 1849 (Texas. General Land Office 1849d).

The heirs of William Brent were residents of Tennessee and acted through agents to make their claims in Texas. After they received the patent, they deeded portions of the Brent Survey to individuals in Texas. They rewarded Herman Aiken with 500 acres for locating the survey; and their attorneys, Sebron G. Sneed, James W. Smith, and E. B. Turner of Travis County, received 150 acres for their services (BC, DR H:594). The Brent heirs retained possession of the remaining 826 acres of the survey, which include the locations of present-day 41BL725, 41BL726, and 41BL727 until the mid-1870s.

In 1875, H. C. Goodrich of Bell County had entered into a title bond with J. S. Able Sr. of Austin, agreeing to sell the 826-acre portion of the Brent Survey to Able for $2,000 once he had obtained title (BC, DR 37:422). By that date, a number of different people already were cultivating and using the 826 acres. In a deed of trust, H. C. Goodrich mortgaged his interest in a variety of stock and crops present on the 826 acres in 1875. Goodrich's stock included 5 oxen, 60 hogs, 2 mares (1 fine, and 1 with colt), and 25 head of cattle. In partnership with J. D. Bond, Goodrich was cultivating corn and cotton, as were John and Robert Crow, Lewis Neil, and Joe S. Able (BC, DR 24:121).

The ad valorem tax records for Precinct No. 5 in 1875 show Goodrich paying taxes on the 826 acres in the Brent Survey, which were valued at $1,650, suggesting the presence of improvements. Goodrich also paid taxes on 3 horses or mules worth $120, 14 cattle worth $55, 40 goats or hogs worth $40, $30 worth of instruments/tools/machinery, and $50 worth of miscellaneous property. Two of Goodrich's fellow farmers, John and Robert Crow, also were present in the 1875 ad valorem tax records. Neither paid tax on land, but John (listed as J. T.) had 3 horses or mules worth $90 and $30 worth of instruments/tools/machinery, and Robert had 2 horses or mules worth $60 (1875a). The Crows may have been tenants of Goodrich's and probably were using their livestock and equipment to farm on the Brent Survey.

In 1876, J. A. Brent and A. H. Brent signed a quitclaim deed to H. C. Goodrich for the 826 acres in exchange for a quitclaim deed from Goodrich for other lands (BC, DR 27:132, 135). Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century, the portion of the Brent Survey on which 41BL725 and 41BL726 are located was the subject of much contention. In 1877, Goodrich and J. S. Able Sr. settled a land dispute with John Chemworth of Travis County in Travis County District Court. For $150, Chemworth signed a quitclaim deed releasing his interest in notes and accounts associated with the 826 acres transferred to him by J. S. Able Sr. (BC, DR 28:433). Although that matter was settled, dispute over the 826 acres and the terms of the 1875 title bond continued. H. C. Goodrich and J. S. Able Sr. found themselves in Travis County District Court again in the spring of 1878 defending their claims, this time against J. S. Able Jr. In 1877, J. S. Able Sr. had transferred his title bond to J. S. Able Jr. in consideration of value received (BC, DR 37:423). In the district court suit, J. S. Able Jr. claimed that he had fulfilled his portion of the agreement, but that J. S. Able Sr. and his partner, Goodrich, had not. The court settled in favor of J. S. Able Jr., and he was awarded title to the 826 acres in the Brent survey (BC, DR 30:307). A year later, J. S. Able Jr. sold the property that he had been awarded back to his father for $1,500 (BC, DR 37:424).

By 1882, W. S. Holman of Bell County had acquired an undivided half interest in the 826 acres of the Brent Survey. The year before, 374 acres out of the Brent Survey went unrendered, but Holman paid taxes on 276 acres out of the Brent Survey. That portion was valued at $1,000, which would indicate that it was improved and suggest that it is a portion of the same property known to have been improved (1881a). Holman was a resident of Belton at the time (United States. Bureau of the Census 1880b), which suggests that the improved portion of the Brent Survey was occupied by tenants, perhaps even the same tenants that had been in occupation previously. In 1882, Holman sold his interest to Sarah G. Crow of Bell County for $1,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 41:56). Sarah Crow and her husband, J. T. Crow, then sold that interest in the 826 acres to Taylor Hudson for $3,000 in November 1883 (BC, DR 46:203).

Although the legal title to the 826 acres seemed to be settled again, it was not. Title to the property was challenged, this time in a suit beginning in 1883 between J. S. Able Sr. and Sarah Crow. The Bell County District Court settled the dispute on July 9, 1886, by partitioning the property into four lots. Of them, Lot 2 consisted of 130 acres that were awarded to J. S. Able Sr.; Lot 3, consisting of 260 acres, was awarded to Sarah Crow and John Crow who already deeded their interest to Taylor Hudson in 1883 (DCM H:68–72). The combined 390 acres of these two lots encompassed the land on which present-day 41BL725 is located.

J. S. Able Sr. conveyed his 130-acre lot to W. S. Holman on September 22, 1886. Holman, in turn, sold the property to Taylor Hudson of Bell County for $300 and other considerations in December of the same year (BC, DR 58:138). Hudson retained ownership of the property until 1891, when he sold a portion of it (the 99 acres that include the location of present-day site 41BL725) to J. A. Patterson of Bell County for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 92:335). Two years later, Patterson and his wife, Lillian T., sold the 99 acres to J. B. Jones and J. H. Risinger for $700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 92:336).

In 1894–1895, J. B. Jones and J. H. Risinger sold their undivided half interests in the 99 acres to B. R. Jones (BC, DR 96:325–326; 100:492). Two months later, B. R. Jones and his wife, Mary J., sold the entire 99 acres for $500 in cash and notes to George T. Rea of Bell County (BC, DR 101:511). In 1899, G. T. and Wille Rea sold the same 99 acres back to B. R. Jones for $1,250 in cash and notes (BC, DR 134:24). B. R. Jones and his wife sold the 99-acre tract one last time, plus one other tract, to J. R. Boren of Bell County for $3,800 in cash and notes in December 1906 (BC, DR 174:534).

J. R. and Eloise Boren, and other members of the Boren family conveyed a total of 363.83 acres of land in five parcels, including the 99 acres, to Steve Boren on March 16, 1942. The total acreage was known as the J. R. Boren place and was located near Sparta on Cowhouse Creek (BC, DR 495:599–600). Steve and Isabell Boren retained title to the 363.83 acres out of the Brent Survey until they sold their farm to the United States government on October 27, 1952, for $49,100. At the time of the sale, the Borens reserved the right to remove the following structures from the property: a crib with shed and blacksmith shops, tenant house, smokehouse, crib, barn, and a barn with a shed (BC, DR 679:59–61).

Summary: From the time of its patent in 1849 to its subsequent partitioning, the Brent Survey appears to have been an investment for its owners, while others actually were in occupation. Interest in the 826 acres out of the Brent Survey passed from hand to hand and often was a point of contention. Improvements associated with H. C. Goodrich and possible tenants John and Robert Crow were present on the property as early as 1875. From 1876 until 1886 owners of the property on which 41BL725 and 41BL727 are located consisted of Goodrich, J. S. Able Sr., J. S. Able Jr., W. S. Holman, and Sarah G. and J. T. Crow. These individuals, in various partnerships, appear to have been raising stock and crops on the 826 acres.

In 1881, the property still showed signs of improvement and possible occupation by tenants. Ownership of the full 826 acres finally was consolidated in the hands of Taylor Hudson from 1886 until 1891. In 1891, J. A. Patterson and his wife Lillian T. purchased the 99 acres on which 41BL725 is located, and then sold them to J. B. Jones and J. H. Risinger in 1893. Interests in the 99 acres were consolidated again by 1895 under the ownership of B. R. Jones and his wife, Mary J., who sold the property and bought it back several times between 1895 and 1906, first to G. T. and Wille Rea and finally to J. R. Boren. Between 1906 and 1942, the J. R. Boren family appears to have made improvements and resided on the 363.83-acre farm, which consisted of several parcels. From 1942 until 1952, other members of the Boren family retained ownership and possibly rented the property to tenants. Site 41BL725 possibly represents the remains of the improvements that the Borens removed from the tract when it was acquired by the government.

Site 41BL726 (Tract A-70)

Site History: Site 41BL726 is located in the northeastern corner of the 1,476-acre William B. Brent Survey in Bell County. In 1952, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract A-70, which encompassed 108 acres, and contained two sites, 41BL726 and 41BL725.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL726 is located from 1838 to 1886, see 41BL725.

When the Brent Survey was partitioned by the Bell County District Court in 1886, Lot 1 (where present-day 41BL726 is located) consisted of 130 acres and was awarded to Emma Brown, Charles B. Brown, Carrie Brown, and Frank C. Brown [Jr.] (BC, DC Cause No. 1,635). The Browns were the grandchildren of William Brent, being the children of Brent's daughter, Indiana M. Brent, who had married Frank C. Brown. Indiana M. and Frank C. Brown [Sr.] had both died by 1883, leaving their children as William Brent's heirs. All of the Browns were residents of Tennessee in 1886 (BC, DR 58:258; 272:35).

In 1886, when the property out of the Brent Survey (variously described as 130 acres or 137½ acres) was awarded to the Browns, they conveyed it to R. F. Crow for $725 in cash and notes (BC, DR 58:258). In 1903, R. F. Crow and his wife, N. C. Crow, along with W. E. Crow and his wife, E. D. Crow, of Ellis County, sold part of Lot 1, a 93½-acre tract, on which presentday 41BL726 is located, to J. M. Warren for $500 (BC, DR 151:625). The same year, Warren sold the 93½ acres to S. D. Crow for $2,600 in cash and notes (BC, DR 149:407). For the years 1902 and 1903, Warren was the only individual paying taxes on parcels that appear to have been improved and farmed out of the eastern portion of the Brent Survey. However, they are properties other than the 93½ acres. An additional 386 acres out of the Brent Survey went unrendered, but specific tax information for the 93½ acres is lacking (1902a, 1903a).

S. D. Crow and his wife, Fannie, sold part of the property in 1915, a 64½-acre tract on which present-day 41BL726 is located, to D. R. Walton for $2,400 in cash and notes. Walton had previously purchased the 29-acre tract adjacent to the south, thus reuniting the 93 ¼-acre parcel (equivalent to Lot 1 north of Cowhouse Creek). At that point, S. D. Crow conveyed the vendor's lien on the property to James R. Wylie (BC, DR 262:407).

By 1923, Walton's payment on the lien was past due and the holder of the note, Wylie's widow Jeannette C. Wylie, exercised her option to have the 93½ acres sold at auction. The auction took place on May 6, 1924; the First National Bank of LaGrange (Fayette County) was the highest bidder, and the 93½ acres were conveyed from Wylie's trustee, R. E. Sutton, to the bank for $500 (BC, DR 355:188).

The bank retained ownership of the 93 ¼ acres until 1929, when that property plus one other tract (for a total of 197 acres) were conveyed to W. K. Powell et al. for $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 399:515). W. K. Powell and his wife, Sarah Ollie, along with Martha H. Sikes (a widow), and J. W. Sikes and his wife, Lois, conveyed a 108-acre tract out of the Brent Survey, where present-day 41BL726 is located, to the United States government on July 17, 1952, for $8,595. In that conveyance, the sellers retained the right to harvest crops and remove improvements by December 31, 1952. Improvements present on the 108 acres consisted of a dwelling, two smokehouses, an outdoor toilet, a garage, water tank, two barns, brooder house, chicken shed, tractor shed, hog house, two cow sheds, feed house, windmill, and water trough (BC, DR 669:219).

Summary: From the time of its patent in 1849 to its subsequent partitioning, the Brent Survey appears to have been an investment for its owners, while others were actually in occupation. Interest in the 826 acres out of the Brent Survey passed from hand to hand and was often a point of contention. Improvements associated with H. C. Goodrich and possible tenants John and Robert Crow were present on the property as early as 1875. From 1876 until 1886 owners of the property on which 41BL726 and 41BL727 are located consisted of H. C. Goodrich, J. S. Able Sr., J. S. Able Jr., W. S. Holman, Sarah G. and J. T. Crow. These individuals, in various partnerships, appear to have been raising stock and crops on the 826 acres. When the land was partitioned in 1886, the owners (the Browns) of Lot 1, the 130 acres on which present-day 41BL726 is located, were not residents of Bell County and, therefore were not in occupation themselves. Between 1886 and 1924, owners consisted of members of the Crow family, J. M. Warren, and D. R. Walton. Warren owned this and other property in the Brent Survey, but the status of his occupation is unclear. However, members of the Crow and Walton families might have lived on the property. From 1924 to 1929, the property was owned by the bank and possibly was not occupied. W. K. Powell and his family heavily used the property, on which present-day 41BL726 is located, for agriculture from 1929 to 1952.

Site 41BL727 (Tract A-70)

Site History: Site 41BL727 is located in the northeastern corner of the 1,476-acre William B. Brent Survey in Bell County. In 1952, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract A-70, which encompassed 108 acres and contained two sites, 41BL726 and 41BL727.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL727 is located from 1838 to 1886, see 41BL725.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL727 is located after the Brent Survey was partitioned in 1886 until acquisition in 1952, see 41BL726.

Summary: From the time of its patent in 1849 to its subsequent partitioning, the Brent Survey appears to have been an investment for its owners, while others were actually in occupation. Interest in the 826 acres out of the Brent Survey passed from hand to hand and was often a point of contention. Improvements associated with H. C. Goodrich and possible tenants John and Robert Crow were present on the property as early as 1875. From 1876 until 1886 owners of the property on which 41BL727 and 41BL726 are located consisted of H. C. Goodrich, J. S. Able Sr., J. S. Able Jr., W. S. Holman, Sarah G. and J. T. Crow. These individuals, in various partnerships, appear to have been raising stock and crops on the 826 acres. When the land was partitioned in 1886, the owners (the Browns) of Lot 1, the 130 acres on which present-day 41BL727 is located, were not residents of Bell County and, therefore, were not in occupation themselves. Between 1886 and 1924, owners consisted of members of the Crow family, J. M. Warren, and D. R. Walton. Warren owned this and other property in the Brent Survey, but the status of his occupation is unclear. However, members of the Crow and Walton families might have lived on the property. From 1924 to 1929, the property was owned by the bank and possibly was not occupied. W. K. Powell and his family heavily used the property, on which present-day 41BL726 is located, for agriculture from 1929 to 1952.

Site 41BL735 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL735 is located in the southeast portion of the 1,476-acre John Slaburn Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

In September 1939, the Harrisburg County Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 498) for one-third league of land (1,476 acres) to John Slaburn. Slaburn received the headright certificate because he had arrived in Texas prior to August 1, 1836, and had volunteered with the army. In March 1840, G. B. Erath surveyed Slaburn's 1,476 acres situated on Nolan Creek about 18 miles above its junction with the three forks of the Little River. John Adams and Alfred Murray assisted as chain carriers; Hiram Butcher (also spelled Butler) marked the line. On April 7, 1849, the State of Texas patented the 1,476-acre parcel to Slaburn (Texas. General Land Office 1849a).

Slaburn sold the property to G. W. Bringhurst for $500 in April 1850 (BC, DR E:20). In November of that year, Bringhurst conveyed the 1,476 acres to Robert Lockhart for $250 (BC, DR E:21). Use and occupancy during this period are uncertain, although both Slaburn and Bringhurst apparently lived in Harris County. Lockhart owned the property for 25 years but his use and occupancy during the period are uncertain (1852a, 1855a, 1862a, 1867a, 1872a, 1876a).

In April 1875, Lockhart conveyed 150 acres out of the southeast corner of the Slaburn Survey to W. H. Smith for $300 in cash and notes (BC, DR 34:49). Sites 41BL735 and 41BL736 are located on this 150-acre parcel. Smith appears to have farmed the land, and he may have lived there (1880a, 1882a). However, he also owned land in the southern-adjacent Stephen Jarboe Survey where 41BL859 is located, making it difficult to determine the location of his residence.

Smith and his wife, M. L., sold 815 acres that included the 150-acre parcel in the Slaburn Survey and 665 acres in the Jarboe Survey to Henry E. Keys for $1,250 in November 1882 (BC, DR 41:197). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Keys operated a ranch on the land, and he may have lived on the property (1883a). However, Keys ranched over 2,000 contiguous acres, and nine recorded sites are located on his property.

It is thus difficult to determine the nature of any improvements.

In September 1883, Keys conveyed approximately 2,200 acres to I. A. McFaddin for $8,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 46:106). The property included land in five surveys and contains nine sites: 41BL735 and 41BL736 in the Slaburn Survey; 41BL859 in the Jarboe Survey; 41BL836 and 41BL864 in the Hemsworth Survey; and 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL846, and 41BL855 in the Brown Survey.

McFaddin, apparently a resident of Williamson County, owned the property for 30 years. Bell County assessed McFaddin for the land, but assessments did not include any livestock, tools, or personal property of any type (1886a, 1891a, 1896a). Use and occupancy of the property during the period remain uncertain.

The I. A. McFaddin heirs sold 2,155 acres that included land in five surveys and contains nine sites to E. C. Clabaugh for $12,500 in cash and notes in September 1913 (BC, DR 247:134). Two weeks later, Clabaugh and his wife, Helen, conveyed approximately 1,200 acres in the western portion of the ranch and included the land where 41BL735, 41BL736, and 41BL859 are located to G. L. Moody for $20,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 247:217). Two months later, Moody and his wife sold the 1,200-acre parcel to W. G. Bryant for $11,250 in cash and notes (BC, DR 263:110). Bryant and his wife conveyed the property to Smith & Peyton Hardware in August 1915 for $14,400 (BC, DR 261:599). The prices paid in these transactions indicate the presence of improvements. However, because the land contains multiple sites, it is difficult to establish the nature and associations of the improvements.

In March 1916, Smith & Peyton Hardware sold 1,671 acres that included land in four surveys where 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL859, 41BL836, and 41BL864 are located to H. G. Wagner in exchange for property in Temple valued at $27,420 (BC, DR 273:314). Wagner and his wife, Bertha, conveyed the 1,671 acres to F. J. Blaschke in April 1917, for $33,420 (BC, DR 286:365). In March 1940, Blaschke conveyed the property to his wife, Lena, for $10 (BC, DR 479:54). Lena Blaschke and her children, Dora Schwertner and Felix Blaschke, sold the 1,671 acres to H. F. and J. H. Overby for $28,000 in October 1945 (BC, DR 536:433).

In December 1950, H. F. Overby's first wife, Lottie, died, and her interest in the property was inherited by her children (BC, DR 695:642). In October 1953, H. F. Overby purchased these interests (BC, DR 699:103; 700:75; 701:1). On October 31, 1953, H. F. Overby and his second wife, Estelle, and J. H. Overby and his wife, Opal, sold 2,259.67 acres to the U.S. government for $127,335 and the right to remove certain structures including an implement shed, a double crib, two chicken houses, and a feed house (BC, DR 698:445). When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 900, it encompassed land in the John Slaburn, Stephen Jarboe, Thomas Hemsworth, and William Brown Surveys. Tract 900 contained nine sites: 41BL735 and 41BL736 in the Slaburn Survey; 41BL859 in the Jarboe Survey; 41BL836 and 41BL864 in the Hemsworth Survey; and 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL846, and 41BL855 in the Brown Survey.

Summary: The land in the southeast portion of the John Slaburn Survey, where 41BL735 and 41BL736 are located, may have been occupied as early as 1875, when W. H. Smith owned the property. However, Smith also owned land in the Jarboe Survey to the south, where 41BL859 is located, making it difficult to determine the nature of his improvements.

In the early 1880s, Henry E. Keys operated a ranch on property that included the land where 41BL735 and 41BL736 are located, but his ranch also encompassed other land where 41BL859 is located.

I. A. MaFaddin owned the land where 41BL735 and 41BL736 are located for 30 years beginning in 1883. His use and occupation of the property remain unclear—he was taxed for the land, but the assessments did not include any livestock, tools, or other personal property typically associated with a ranch operation. It is possible, though not certain, that he rented the property.

The property was sold several times between 1913 and 1945, and the purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements. However, the sales covered between 1,000 and 2,200 acres and encompassed land that contains several recorded sites. It is, thus, difficult to accurately determine the nature and relative value of improvements located on the land. The use of the property as part of a large ranch continued until the government acquired the land in 1953, at which time the sellers received $127,335 and reserved the right to

remove several agricultural structures, indicating that the property was improved.

Site 41BL736 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL736 is located in the southeast portion of the 1,476-acre John Slaburn Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

For the legal history of the property on which site 41BL736 is located, see the site history for 41BL735.

Summary: Site 41BL736 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL735. Site 41BL736 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL737 (Tract 803)

Site History: Site 41BL737 is located on the westerly 157 acres of the 314-acre John P. Hall Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 803, which encompassed 256.93 acres in four surveys and contained four sites: 41BL402, 41BL737, 41BL842, and 41BL849.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL737 is located, see the site history for 41BL842.

Summary: Site 41BL737 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL402, 41BL842, and 41BL849. Site 41BL737 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a date or function to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records.

Site 41BL738 (Tract 802)

Site History: Site 41BL738 is located on approximately 150 acres in the western portion of the 320-acre Alexander Walters Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 802, which encompassed 253.66 acres out of two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL738, 41BL741, and 41BL851.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL738 is located, see the site history for 41BL158.

Summary: Site 41BL738 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL741, and 41BL851. Site 41BL738 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a date or function to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records.

Site 41BL739 (Tract 820)

Site History: Site 41BL739 is located in the south-central portion of the 1,476-acre John Slaburn Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 820, which encompassed 130.8 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL739 is located from 1839 until the early 1870s, when Robert Lockhart owned the 1,476-Slaburn Survey, see the site history for 41BL422. Lockhart owned the property for many years, selling parcels to various individuals. However, he apparently never resided in Bell County and probably purchased the land for speculative purposes.

In September 1873, Lockhart sold a 79.5-acre parcel in the south-central portion of the Slaburn Survey to M. L. Blodgett for $100 in gold and notes (BC, DR T:77). Blodgett owned the property for over 20 years and, according to ad valorem tax records, operated a small to mid-sized farm there (1874a, 1885a). As Blodgett did not own any other land in Bell County during this period, it is likely that he and his family were the initial occupants of the property. Site 41BL739 is located on this 79.5-acre parcel.

In July 1897, Blodgett and his wife, Evaline, sold the 79.5-acre parcel to S. J. Hall for $600 in cash and notes, a price that suggests the presence of improvements (BC, DR 134:631). Between 1897 and 1915, the 79.5-acre parcel was owned by Hall (1897–1900); J. L. Morris (1900–1901); J. A. Montgomery (1901–1908); W. R. Holcomb (1908–1909); Hallie V. Hubbard (1909–1911); H. B. Pettit (1911); a partnership consisting of A. B. Crain, Clarence Freeman, and D. P. Johnson (1911–1915); and J. W. Shropshire (1915) (BC, DR 129:421; 134:540; 182:497;

198:421; 216:336, 372; 217:352; 327:466). Although the purchase prices in these transactions increased from just over $600 to $2,000, suggesting the presence of improvements, the use and occupancy of the property during this period remain unclear.

Shropshire apparently experienced financial difficulty, because in 1926, E. L. Burns, administrator of the J. W. Shropshire Estate, conveyed the 79.5-acre parcel to the U.S. Bond and Mortgage Company (BC, DR 373:9). The deed states that Shropshire had defaulted on a loan obtained from the company, which submitted the high bid of $300.

In November 1934, U.S. Bond sold the property to Ray Parmer and his wife, Mary, for $600 (BC, DR 431:433). The Parmers also had financial problems, because, in December 1939, they conveyed the 79.5-acre parcel to the Dallas National Bank (BC, DR 478:440). The bank foreclosed on a loan made to the Parmers and submitted the high bid of $425. About 2 weeks later, the bank conveyed the 79.5 acres to C. L. Roberts and his wife, Cora, for $525 (BC, DR 476:584).

In 1954, the U.S. government condemned 131.14 acres for a total of $6,650, a price that suggests the presence of improvements (BC, DR 703:36). At that time, Tract 820 was identified as containing 130.8 acres and consisting of the 79.5-acre parcel on which 41BL739 is located, as well as 51.3 acres adjoining to the east. C. L. Roberts and his wife, Cora, were named as the owners of Tract 820, which encompassed 130.8 acres in the John Slaburn Survey and contained one site.

Summary: Portions of the John Slaburn Survey appear to have been occupied in the early 1870s. Initial occupation and improvement of the 79.5-acre parcel on which 41BL739 is located most likely occurred between 1873 and 1897, when M. L. Blodgett and his wife, Evaline, owned the property. Tax records suggest that Blodgett operated a mid-sized farm on the property and probably lived there.

Between 1897 and 1915, the property sold a number of times. Although the rising prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements, use and occupancy during this period remain unclear. It is possible, though not certain, that J. W. Shropshire lived on the property from 1915 until 1926.

Between 1926 and 1934, the 79.5-acre parcel was foreclosed upon on two different occasions, with the lender submitting the high bid on the land in both instances. Use and occupancy during this period remain unclear.

In 1934, C. L. Roberts and his wife, Cora, purchased the 79.5 acres from the Dallas National Bank. The Robertses owned the land until 1954, and it is possible they occupied the property. They also purchased an adjacent parcel of 51.3 acres. In 1954, when the government acquired 130.8 acres from the Robertses through condemnation, the price paid suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL741 (Tract 802)

Site History: Site 41BL741 is located on approximately 150 acres in the western portion of the 320-acre Alexander Walters Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 802, which encompassed 253.66 acres out of two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL738, 41BL741, and 41BL851.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL741 is located, see the site history for 41BL158.

Summary: Site 41BL741 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL738, and 41BL851. Site 41BL741 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a date or function to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records.

Site 41BL745 (Tract 805)

Site History: Site 41BL745 appears to be located in the southwestern portion of the 282-acre M. F. Harmon Survey in Bell County. Site location data provided by Fort Hood also suggest that 41BL745 is located on 100 acres in the northern part of the 128-acre J. M. Middleton Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 805, which encompassed 469.49 acres in six surveys and contained four sites: 41BL199, 41BL397, 41BL745, and 41BL746.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL745 is located, see the site history for 41BL746.

Summary: Site 41BL745 is proximate to and appears to be on the same tract of land as sites 41BL199, 41BL397, and 41BL746. The site appears to be located on the same survey as

41BL746, but may lie on a southern-adjacent survey. In any event, the two parcels within the two surveys share common ownership from the mid-1870s, when J. M. Middleton bought a southern parcel in the northern survey and obtained a patent for the southern survey, until 1954, when the government condemned the property. Site 41BL745 most likely is associated with the occupants of 41BL746.

Site 41BL746 (Tract 805)

Site History: Site 41BL746 is located in the southwestern portion of the 282-acre M. F. Harmon Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 805, which encompassed 469.49 acres in six surveys and contained four sites: 41BL199, 41BL397, 41BL745, and 41BL746.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL746 is located from 1853 until 1872, when J. W. Barnhart owned a 425-acre parcel that included all of the 282-acre Harmon Survey, see the site history for 41BL199.

In December 1874, Barnhart and his wife, Margaret, sold a 43.5-acre parcel to John Middleton for $87 (BC, DR 26:333), a price that suggests that the parcel was not improved. Middleton owned the parcel for over 15 years and acquired adjacent land to the south during the same period. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Middleton operated a farm on the acreage, and that he lived on the property (1875a, 1880a, 1885a, 1890a).

In December 1891, Middleton and his wife, M. A., sold 143.5 acres, including the 43.5-acre parcel in the Harmon Survey on which 41BL746 is located to H. J. Brown for $291.66 in cash and notes (BC, DR 87:231). In September 1898, Brown and his wife, W. H., conveyed 161 acres, including the 43.5-acre parcel in the Harmon Survey, to W. S. Holman for $500 (BC, DR 122:268), a price that suggests that the Browns had further improved the land.

Between 1898 and 1911, the 143.5-acre tract was owned by Holman (1898–1900, 1903–1904), J. L. Sellers (1900–1903), J. E. Wiseman (1904–1907), D. A. McAlfin (1907–1909), and S. J. Evans (1909–1911) (BC, DR 129:364; 151:323; 161:207; 182:87; 198:573). The prices in these transactions ranged between approximately $500 to $750, suggesting that the improved status of the property did not change.

In January 1911, Evans sold 143.5 acres, including the 43.5-acre parcel in the Harmon Survey, to A. L. Vandyke for $650 in cash and notes (BC, DR 235:232). In October 1925, Vandyke and his wife, Rosa Lee, conveyed approximately 200 acres, including the 43.5-acre parcel in the Harmon Survey, to C. C. Holland and E. L. Watters for $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 364:514). The dramatic increase in purchase price between 1911 and 1925 suggests that Vandyke substantially improved the property.

Just a year after they acquired the property, in May 1926, Holland and Watters sold 218.5 acres that included the 43.5-acre parcel to R. T. Howell for $5,250 in cash and notes. Because the only recorded sites on the 218.5 acres are located on the 43.5-acre parcel in the Harmon Survey (41BL745 and 41BL746), the increase in value most likely can be attributed to improvements associated with one or both of these sites.

In October 1936, R. T. Howell and his wife, Alma, sold the 218.5-acre property to D. O. Morgan (BC, DR 448:557). The consideration cited was $3,200 in cash and the assumption of a note payable to the Federal Land Bank, suggesting that the property was improved.

In 1938, Morgan and his wife, Hattie, conveyed the 218.5-acre parcel to V. C. McFarland for $2,900 in cash and notes (BC, DR 456:45). McFarland apparently defaulted on a note to the Federal Land Bank, because, in 1940, that institution conveyed the property, called 219 acres, to Tom Bowles Jr. for $1,400 in cash and a note to the bank. The fact that the price for the property decreased during this period may suggest a decline in the improvements located on the land, or may reflect a general decline in the value of land attributable to economic conditions.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL746 is located from 1950 until 1954, when the U.S. government condemned the property, see the site history for 41BL199.

Summary: Tract 805, on which 41BL746 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1853, when M. F. Harmon swore that he lived on and had improved 282 acres on Cowhouse Creek. That portion of the 282-acre parcel on which 41BL746 is located appears to have sold regularly for a price that reflected the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 805

contains two other sites located in the Harmon Survey (41BL199 and 41BL745), it is difficult to establish which site may have been improved and occupied by Harmon. Between 1874 and 1891, the 43.5 acres on which 41BL746 and 41BL745 are located were part of a small farm owned and operated by J. A. Middleton. It is most likely that the initial occupation of the recorded sites located on the 43.5-acre parcel (41BL745 and 41BL746) dates from this period.

Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century owners who may have occupied the property included H. J. Brown, W. S. Holman, J. L. Sellers, J. E. Wiseman, D. A. McAlfin, and S. J. Evans.

In the 1920s, the property sold on two occasions for $5,000 or more—a price that suggests the presence of substantial improvements and, perhaps, owner occupancy. In the 1930s and 1940s, the purchase prices of the property declined somewhat, but still could suggest the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL747 (Tract 809)

Site History: Site 41BL747 is located on approximately 200 acres in the north-central portion of the 1,280-acre Thomas Hemsworth Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 809, which encompassed 655.3 acres in three surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL426, 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL747 is located, see the site history for 41BL756.

Summary: Site 41BL747 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL753 and 41BL756. Site 41BL747 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property, but it is not possible to assign a date or function to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records.

Site 41BL752 (Tract 819)

Site History: Site 41BL752 is located in the north-central portion of the 1,476-acre John Slaburn Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 819, which encompassed 1,374.26 acres in four surveys and contained five sites: 41BL342, 41BL422, 41BL423, 41BL447, and 41BL752.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL752 is located from 1839 to the early 1870s, when Robert Lockhart owned the 1,476-acre Slaburn Survey, see the site history for 41BL422.

Lockhart owned the property for many years, selling parcels to various individuals. However, he apparently never resided in Bell County, and purchased the land for speculative purposes. In 1876, the Bell County Sheriff, W. S. Rather, conveyed all of Lockhart's remaining land in the Slaburn Survey to R. Jefferies for a high bid of $295 (BC, DR 25:351). The auction was conducted as a result of a lawsuit in Harris County between Jefferies and Lockhart, although the details of the suit are not available in Bell County.

Jefferies owned the land for many years, but was not a resident of Bell County. He may have rented the land, but his specific use remains unclear; in fact, Bell County appears to have carried the acreage on its unrendered rolls between 1877 and 1900 (1877a, 1880a, 1885a, 1890a, 1895a, 1900a).

In 1903, Harriett and James G. Jefferies, residents of Richmond County, Georgia, and apparently the heirs of R. Jefferies, conveyed two parcels of land to J. E. Willess. Willess bought a 150-acre parcel on which 41BL752 is located for $225 in cash and notes and an adjacent 42.5-acre parcel on which 41BL423 is located for $100 in cash (BC, DR 146:455–456). Both prices suggest that the parcels were unimproved at the time.

Willess and his wife, Alice, owned the property for several years. Bell County ad valorem tax records indicate that the Willesses farmed the property and perhaps occupied the land (1905a). Although the land may have been tenant-occupied prior to the Willess acquisition, they most likely are the initial owner-occupants.

J. E. and Alice Willess both died before 1920 and were survived by seven children (BC, DR 371:285; 485:621). W. J. Willess, one of the children, conveyed his 1/7 interest in 360 acres in the Slaburn and Conley Surveys to E. F. Bigham in 1921 (BC, DR 330:240). In 1941, the remaining heirs and E. F. Bigham and his wife, Bell, sold their interests in the 360 acres to W. V. Robinson for $3,000 (BC, DR 485:622). Both the 150-acre parcel where 41BL752 is located and the 42.5-acre parcel where 41BL423 is located were included in these conveyances. Robinson combined this land with his other holdings in

the area to form a ranch, although his occupation of the property remains unclear.

For the remainder of the legal history of the land on which 41BL752 is located, see the site history for 41BL422.

Summary: Portions of the John Slaburn Survey appear to have been occupied in the early 1870s. It is possible, though not certain, that tenants may have occupied and perhaps improved the 150 acres where 41BL752 is located in the nineteenth century. However, initial owner-occupation and improvement of the property most likely occurred after 1903, when J. E. Willess and his family purchased the land. The property remained in the Willess family until 1941, when W. V. Robinson purchased the acreage, which included the 150-acre parcel where 41BL752 is located and the 42.5-acre parcel where 41BL423 is located. Occupation of 41BL752 by Robinson cannot be verifed by the use of deed and/or ad valorem tax records.

Site 41BL753 (Tract 809)

Site History: Site 41BL753 is located on approximately 200 acres in the north-central portion of the 1,280-acre Thomas Hemsworth Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 809, which encompassed 655.3 acres in three surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL426, 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL753 is located, see the site history for 41BL756.

Summary: Site 41BL753 is proximate to and on the same parcel of land as 41BL747 and 41BL756. Site 41BL753 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property, but it is not possible to assign a date or function to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL756 (Tract 809)

Site History: Site 41BL756 is located on approximately 200 acres in the north-central portion of the 1,280-acre Thomas Hemsworth Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 809, which encompassed 655.3 acres in three surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL426, 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763.

On May 22, 1838, the Republic of Texas issued a certificate (No. 3523) to Thomas Hemsworth, who had been honorably discharged from the army after serving 13 months and, therefore, was entitled to a bounty of 1,280 acres. In April 1840, G. B. Erath, deputy surveyor for the Milam District, filed field notes describing Hemsworth's 1,280 acres on Nolan Creek about 7 miles from the three forks of the Little River. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted as chainmen. On July 18, 1845, the State of Texas patented the 1,280-acre parcel to Hemsworth (Texas. General Land Office 1845c).

Hemsworth owned the property for about 12 years, but he is not believed to have used or occupied it during that time. In fact, there is evidence that he was a resident of Quintana in Brazoria County (Freeman 1998:20–22, 24, 29–31, 34, 36, 41–42, 55–56, 58–59). In 1857, he sold the western 690 acres of the 1,280-acre survey to Samuel M. Frost, a resident of Fort Bend County, for $1,000 (BC, DR F:753), a price that suggests that the property was unimproved. Frost's use and occupancy also are unclear. In 1870, J. C. Williams, administrator of the S. M. Frost Estate, conveyed the 690-acre tract to John D. Newell for $580 (BC, DR 29:369), a price that indicates that the property contained few, if any, improvements. Newell lived in Fort Bend County and probably did not occupy the property.

In January 1878, the Newell heirs sold a 500-acre tract out of the western 690 acres to I. H. Scoggin for $1,000 (BC, DR 29:424), a price that possibly suggests the presence of improvements. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Scoggin may have lived on and improved the property, but he also owned more than 1,500 acres elsewhere in Bell County (1879a), making the establishment of his residence difficult.

Scoggin owned the land for 2 years and then sold it in 1880 to John Wallace (spelled Wallis in a later transaction) for $1,000 (BC, DR 33:267). In March 1883, Wallis and his wife, Mary, conveyed the 500-acre parcel to A. F. Lanier for $1,500 (BC, DR 47:248), a price that indicated further improvements had been made to the land. In addition, tax records indicate that Lanier farmed his property and probably lived there (1885a, 1888a).

In May 1889, Lanier and his wife, Matilda, conveyed a 200-acre parcel out of their 500 acres

to O. and Christopher Basham for $2,000 (BC, DR 70:269), an amount that suggests the presence of improvements on the property. Just 4 months later, the Bashams conveyed the 200 acres to J. W. Simpson for $1,100 in cash and notes (BC, DR 72:62). The price, while substantially lower than that paid by the Bashams, is still over $5 per acre and suggests the presence of improvements. Sites 41BL747, 41BL753, and 41BL756 appear to be located on this 200-acre parcel in the Thomas Hemsworth Survey.

Between 1899, when Simpson acquired the 200-acre parcel, and 1906, the property was owned by Simpson (1889–1890), W. J. Willis (1890–1893), R. E. Willis (1893–1899), John H. Hall (1899–1901), F. N. Oswalt (1901–1902), Allie Hall (1902–1903), and W. E. Spurlin (1903–1906) (BC, DR 73:391; 90:112; 133:325; 139:44; 144:284; 150:265). The purchase prices associated with these transactions ranged from $1,250 to $1,600, suggesting not only the maintenance of existing improvements, but also the possibility of additional ones.

In September 1906, Spurlin and his wife, Bettie, sold the 200-acre parcel to A. W. Jordan for $1,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 174:368). Jordan also acquired an additional 85-acre parcel in the Hemsworth Survey. In 1917, he and his wife, Olive, conveyed 445 acres that included the 285 acres in the Hemsworth Survey to T. M. Woodard for $11,200 in cash and notes (BL 292:546), perhaps reflecting a World War I-era oil boom rather than improvements to the land (Smith and McLaughlin 1980:85–86).

Oil boom speculation may partially explain the fact that between 1917, when Woodard acquired the property, and 1922, when the land was acquired by James Crum, the 285 acres in the Hemsworth Survey were owned by a relatively large number of individuals, including Woodard (1917–1920), Sidney Lansford (1920), Sid Post (1920), G. W. Barcus and Alva Bryan (1920), Sunshine Petroleum (1920), T. H. Griffith (1920–1921), A. Schraeder (1921), the Temple State Bank (1921), the Guaranty State Bank of Temple (1921), and James Crum (1922) (BC, DR 317:48; 318:27, 29; 320:281; 326:166; 327:109; 328:311; 330:111; 334:494; 337:550). The purchase prices in these transactions consisted mainly of the assumption of $6,450 in debt, but nonetheless suggest the presence of improvements and declining interest in the property for its oil potential (Smith and McLaughlin 1980:86).

When James Crum acquired the land from Guaranty State Bank, he did so in two separate transactions, both dated July 5, 1922. The bank conveyed the 85-acre parcel to Crum for $4,800 in cash and notes and conveyed the 200-acre parcel to him for $13,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 334:494; 337:550). These prices strongly suggest that both parcels were improved and perhaps reflected the presence of multiple sites on the property.

In 1927, A. J. Beville sued Crum for nonpayment of a note on which the 200-acre parcel was used as collateral (BC, DC Cause No. 17,675). The court found for Beville, and he recovered title to the property. In July 1928, Beville conveyed the land to Lillian Crofford for $7,500 (BC, DR 387:505), a sum that suggested the presence of improvements. In 1931, George Crofford and his wife, Lillian, sold the property to E. F. Hudspeth for an unspecified amount of cash and $400 in notes (BC, DR 401:635).

In July 1935, Hudspeth and his wife, Minnie, sold the 200-acre parcel to L. T. Scholars for $1 and the assumption of notes (BC, DR 439:281). In March 1938, Scholars conveyed the property to Joe A. Fowler for $10 and another unspecified consideration (BC, DR 463:478). Fowler acquired other holdings in the immediate vicinity, and by 1950 combined the parcels into a large tract of 682.9 acres situated in the Hemsworth, Willis, and Blodgett Surveys. For the remaining legal history of the land on which 41BL756 is located, from Fowler's acquisition of 92.1 acres in the Willis Survey in 1948, until the government condemned the property in 1954, see the site history for 41BL758.

Summary: Initial occupation of the 200-acre portion of Tract 809 on which 41BL756 is located may have occurred in the late 1870s, when I. H. Scoggin owned the land. However, because Scoggin owned more than 2,000 acres in Bell County, establishing the location of his residence is difficult. The most likely initial occupation occurred between 1880 and 1883, when John Wallace and his wife, May, owned 500 acres in the central portion of the Hemsworth Survey. Subsequent occupation may have occurred between 1883 and 1889 and been associated with A. F. Lanier and his wife, Matilda, who then sold a 200-acre parcel for a price that appears to indicated the presence of improvements. Over the next 15 years, the 200-acre parcel sold a number of times for prices that

suggest ongoing improvements to, and possible owner-occupation of the land.

Between 1917 and 1922, the property again went through a rapid series of ownership changes, with prices that may reflect an oil boom rather than improvements on the ground. However, subsequent sales seem to indicate the presence of improvements even though the oil potential declined.

In the 1930s, the 200-acre parcel sold for as high as $7,500, but most sales did not specify the exact consideration. In 1938, Joe A. Fowler acquired the property and combined it with his other land holdings in the vicinity. By 1948, the property consisted of 682.9 acres in the Hemsworth, Willis, and Blodgett Surveys, and included the 200-acre parcel on which 41BL747, 41BL753, and 41BL756 are located. Transactions in this era appear to reflect the presence of improvements. However, because multiple sites are located on the property, and because the property ultimately identified as Tract 809 is comprised of several smaller parcels, some of which contained sites and some of which did not, no direct associations between purchase prices and site locations can be established based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL757 (Tract 809)

Site History: Site 41BL757 is located on approximately 80 acres in the central portion of the 1,280-acre Thomas Hemsworth Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 809, which encompassed 655.3 acres in three surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL426, 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL757 is located from 1838 until 1883, when A. F. Lanier owned 500 acres in the central portion of the Hemsworth Survey, see the site history for 41BL756.

Lanier owned the property for several years, and during that period he sold various parcels. However, he retained ownership of about 285 acres on which 41BL757 is located and, according to ad valorem tax records, farmed the land (1884a, 1888a). Initial occupation of the property most likely occurred during Lanier's ownership. However, the location of associated improvements remains uncertain.

A. F. Lanier borrowed money from J. B. Watkins, using his property as collateral (BC, DTR 60:452); and M. J. Dart was named trustee in the deed of trust. When Lanier failed to make timely payments, Dart foreclosed on the property and auctioned an 80-acre parcel, on which 41BL757 is located, to Watkins for $53.50 in December 1889 (BC, DR 68:298). Watkins may have occupied the property briefly (1890a, 1894a), but appears to have maintained a permanent residence in Douglas County, Kansas, and later in Dallas. In 1901, he conveyed the 80-acre parcel to his company, the Watkins Land Company (BC, DR 140:548).

In 1906, Watkins Land Company conveyed the 80-acre parcel to A. W. Jordan for $120, an amount that suggests that the property was unimproved (BC, DR 292:546). For the legal history of 41BL757 from 1906 until 1922, when James Crum acquired the property (called an 85-acre parcel), and an additional 200 acres, see the site history for 41BL756.

In January 1924, A. W. Bonds, Bell County Sheriff, auctioned the 80-acre parcel to E. R. Easton for $1,000 (BC, DR 350:292). Easton had won a lawsuit against Crum, and the court directed the sheriff to sell the property to satisfy the judgment against Crum (BC, DC Cause No. 14,981). Even though the price was lower than Crum had paid in 1922, Easton's high bid of $1,000 suggests that the property was improved. In May 1939, Easton and his wife, Rosa, conveyed the 80-acre parcel to Joe A. Fowler for $325 (BC, DR 417:345).

Fowler acquired other land in the immediate vicinity, eventually accumulating 682.9 acres that included the 80-acre parcel on which 41BL757 is located. For the remainder of the legal history for 41BL757 from 1939 until 1954 when the government condemned the property, see 41BL758.

Summary: The 80-acre portion of Tract 809, on which 41BL757 is located, was for many years a part of larger parcels in the Thomas Hemsworth Survey. While it is evident that the larger parcels were improved and occupied (see 41BL756), the 80-acre parcel appears to have remained unimproved in the nineteenth century. As late as 1906, the property sold for $120.

In the period from 1906 until 1917, the 80-acre parcel was owned by A. W. Jordan. Initial occupation and improvement of the 80 acres most likely occurred during this period. When

Jordan, who also acquired an adjacent 200-acre parcel, sold the property in 1917, the price suggests the presence of improvements on both parcels.

Between 1917 and 1922, the property again went through a rapid series of ownership changes, with prices that may reflect an oil boom rather than improvements on the ground. However, a subsequent sale in the 1920s seems to indicate the presence of improvements even though the oil potential declined.

In 1939, Joe A. Fowler acquired the 80-acre parcel and combined it with his other land holdings in the vicinity. By 1948, the property consisted of 682.9 acres in the Hemsworth, Willis, and Blodgett Surveys, and included the 80-acre parcel on which 41BL757 is located. Transactions in this era also appear to reflect the presence of improvements. However, because multiple sites are located on the property, and because the property ultimately identified as Tract 809 is comprised of several smaller parcels, some of which contained sites and some of which did not, no direct association between purchase value and site location can be established.

Site 41BL758 (Tract 809)

Site History: Site 41BL758 is located in the central portion of the 92.1-acre J. E. Willis Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 809, which consisted of 655.3 acres in three surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL426, 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763.

In June 1872, J. E. Willis swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public domain and that he had no other homestead. M. L. Blodgett and J. H. Hall affirmed this information. In February 1873, R. F. Bigham, Bell County Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes describing a 94-acre parcel located on Cowhouse Creek and J. Hall and M. L. Blodgett assisted as chainmen. In July 1874, Willis swore that he had occupied and improved the land for 3 consecutive years beginning in July 1871, that he was the head of a family, and that he was entitled to obtain title to his homestead. On November 22, 1875, the State of Texas patented what was described as a 94-acre parcel to Willis (Texas. General Land Office 1875c).

Willis owned the property for several years. Ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a small farm on the land and may have lived there (1876a, 1880a). Initial occupancy of the Willis Survey probably occurred during this period. In 1881, Willis conveyed the 94-acre parcel to W. J. Wright for $250 (BC, DR 36:417), a sum that suggests that the land may have been improved. In a deed dated December 1882 but not filed until 1902, Wright sold the land to Mrs. Nancy J. Jones for $150 in cash and 1,500 pounds of lint cotton (BC, DR 146:225), indicating that the property was improved at that time.

There is a break in the chain of title between Nancy J. Jones and T. C. Robertson. However, tax records indicate that Robertson acquired the property in 1888 and that he may have operated a farm and lived there (1884a, 1888a). In November 1890, Robertson sold 144 acres that included the 94-acre parcel in the Willis Survey to W. H. Doss for $700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 75:584), a price that suggests that the property had been further improved. In a deed dated February 1891 but not recorded until 1902, Doss reconveyed the property back to Robertson (BC, DR 149:76).

Between 1891, when Robertson reacquired the land, and 1895, the 144-acre parcel was owned by W. F. Sellers (1891–1892), J. D. Yielding (1892–1893), T. C. Robertson, again (1893–1894), and John Atkins (1895) (BC, DR 143:637; 147:568–569; 149:75). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from about $450 to $700.

In February 1895, J. C. Atkins and his wife, C. V., sold the 144-acre parcel, which included the 94 acres in the Willis Survey, to Harrison Robertson for $650 in cash and notes (BC, DR 99:442). Robertson owned the property for several years, but its use and occupancy remain unclear.

Harrison Robertson and his wife, M. C., conveyed the 94-acre parcel to D. R. Walton in 1902 for $1,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 149:78). This substantial increase in the purchase price suggests that Robertson improved the 94-acre property. As 41BL758 is the only recorded site located on the 94 acres, it is likely that Robertson's improvements can be associated with that site.

In November 1905, Walton and his wife, Alice, sold 330 acres that included the 94-acre parcel in the Willis Survey to J. C. Watson for $2,500 (BC, DR 167:450). Even though Watson acquired more than the 94 acres, the price he

paid suggests the presence of improvements. In all likelihood, some of the value can be attributed to improvements located on the 94-acre parcel. Watson owned the land for nearly 30 years, residing and farming there (BC, DR 423:124).

In February 1934, Watson and his wife, J. F., sold their land—330 acres that included the 94-acre parcel—to W. C. Hallmark for $1,800 in cash and notes (BC, DR 430:517). Four years later, Hallmark and his wife, Maggie, conveyed the property to the Federal Mortgage Company in apparent default of notes held by the company (BC, DR 466:624). In 1939, Federal Mortgage Company sold the 330-acre property to Joe A. Fowler for $1,550 in cash and notes (BC, DR 465:622).

In 1948, Fowler and his wife, Thelma, conveyed 682.9 acres, including a 92.1-acre tract in the Willis Survey, to Claude Thompson for $9,021.11 in cash and notes (BC, DR 580:546). In 1951, Thompson and his wife, Ruby Lee, sold the 682.9-acre tract to V. J. Bleakley and E. G. Kingsbery for $14,982.12, and the following year, Bleakley and Kingsbery conveyed the land to Paul J. Bleakley for $10 and other valuable considerations (BC, DR 653:319). In April 1952, Bleakley sold the 682.9-acre tract to E. T. Fairman for $40,000 in notes (BC, DR 661:408).

On January 7, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 655.3 acres in the Willis, Hemsworth, and Blodgett Surveys, identified as Tract 809 (BC, DR 698:485). Fairman was compensated $47,619.08 for the property, a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 655.3 acres in the J. E. Willis, Thomas Hemsworth, and M. L. Blodgett Surveys, and contained seven sites: 41BL426, 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763.

Summary: That portion of Tract 809 situated in the J. E. Willis Survey may have been occupied as early as 1872, when Willis swore that he resided on the land. In 1874, Willis swore that he had occupied and improved the land since 1871. Tax records suggest that he operated a small farm and lived on the property.

Land and tax records suggest that subsequent nineteenth-century owners also may have occupied the property. These owners include Nancy J. Jones, T. C. Robertson, and Harrison Robertson.

J. C. Watson acquired the property in 1905 and appears to have lived and farmed there until the mid-1930s, when he sold the land. Subsequent owners combined the 94-acre parcel with other land and appear to have used the property for ranching purposes. These owners include W. C. Hallmark, Joe A. Fowler, Claude Thompson, V. J. Bleakley and E. G. Kingsbery, Paul Bleakley, and E. T. Fairman.

In 1954, when the government condemned the land, Tract 809 consisted of 655.3 acres in the Willis, Hemsworth, and Blodgett Surveys and contained seven sites. The compensation paid in the condemnation suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL760 (Tract 806)

Site History: Site 41BL760 is located on approximately 120 acres in the 160-acre M. L. Blodgett Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 806, which encompassed 801.83 acres in three surveys and contained one site.

On December 3, 1870, M. L. Blodgett swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public domain as it was defined in an Act approved on August 12, 1870. He also stipulated that he had no other homestead. Emery Willis and John P. Hall affirmed these facts. In February 1871, W. S. Rucker, a Bell County Special Deputy, filed field notes for a 160-acre parcel surveyed for Blodgett. The land was located on Nolan Creek about 9.5 miles northwest of Belton. Richard Parks and Samuel Hall assisted as chainmen. In November 1873, Blodgett swore that he was a bona fide settler on 160 acres of vacant public land and that he had occupied and improved the land as a homestead for 3 consecutive years beginning in October 1870. J. E. Willis and J. H. Hall corroborated these facts. On November 19, 1873, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre parcel to Blodgett (Texas. General Land Office 1873a).

Less than 2 weeks after the patent was granted, Blodgett and his wife, Evaline, sold the 160-acre survey to John M. Middleton for $100 (BC, DR T:214). The purchase price suggests that the land was unimproved, despite the assertions made in Blodgett's preemption claim. On December 20, 1873, Middleton conveyed the 160-acre parcel to James H. Forbes for $250 (BC, DR T:257), a price that indicates only slight improvements, if any.

Forbes owned the property for several years and purchased other adjacent land during this period. In August 1880, Forbes and his wife, E. J., conveyed 277 acres that included the 160-acre parcel to J. S. Brown for $600 in cash and notes (BC, DR 33:610).

In October 1884, Brown and his wife, Eliza, sold the property to J. W. Mathews for $600 (BC, DR 50:113). The price in these transactions seems to indicate the presence of improvements, but the location of the improvements cannot be determined. Mathews continued to own the property until the mid-1890s. Bell County tax records suggest that he operated a small farm on the property, but also indicate that Mathews lived on an adjacent parcel (1886a, 1891a, 1893a, 1895a). Land and tax records strongly suggest that the 160 acres in the M. L. Blodgett Survey were unimproved during this period.

In November 1893, Mathews and his wife, M. A., sold the 277-acre property that included the 160-acre Blodgett Survey, to F. M. Denman for $900 in cash and notes (BC, DR 94:540), a price that suggests the property was improved. Denman and his wife, Mamie, conveyed the land to T. C. Robertson in 1894 in exchange for other land (BC, DR 96:611). Robertson appears to have lived in Belton, but may have rented the land for farming purposes because the ad valorem tax value increased during this period (1898a).

In January 1898, Robertson and his wife, M. F., conveyed the 160-acre Blodgett Survey to R. H. Light for $400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 132:7), a price that suggests that the property may have been improved. Light owned the land for over 15 years. Ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a small farm on the property and may have lived there (1900a, 1905a).

In March 1915, Light conveyed 120 acres out of the Blodgett Survey to his wife, S. L. Light, for $25 (BC, DR 259:599). In January 1925, S. L. Light sold the 120-acre parcel to J. L. Courtney for $1,700 (BC, DR 331:623), an amount that suggests that the property was improved. In a deed dated just a few days later, but not recorded until 1942, Courtney and his wife, Ollie, conveyed the 120-acre parcel to Ida F. Dorsett for $1,500 (BC, DR 501:289).

In October 1943, Ida F. Waechter, formerly Dorsett, and her husband, P. J., sold the property to B. C. and R. A. Light for $900 in cash and notes (BC, DR 511:311). Several years later, in January 1946, the Lights conveyed the property to D. B. Willess for $1,100 in cash and notes (BC, DR 539:513), suggesting the presence of improvements. In September 1949, Willess and his wife, Lois, sold the property, along with other land, to Hardin E. Willess for $3,632 in cash and notes (BC, DR 607:175), an amount that indicates that the property was improved.

On November 7, 1953, Willess and his wife, Nettie, conveyed 801.83 acres, including the 120-acre parcel in the Blodgett Survey, to the U.S. government for $36,375 and the right to remove growing crops (BC, DR 694:542). When the government bought the property, Tract 806 consisted of 801.83 acres in the M. L. Blodgett Survey, the Thomas Hemsworth, and John Slaburn Surveys.

Summary: The M. L. Blodgett Survey, on which 41BL760 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1870, when Blodgett claimed residency to satisfy preemption claim requirements. However, he sold the land within 2 weeks of obtaining the patent, for a price that does not appear to reflect the presence of improvements.

The prices in subsequent nineteenth-century transactions do not appear to reflect any changes in the unimproved status of the property. One owner, J. W. Mathews (1884–1894), apparently farmed the land, but lived on and improved an adjacent parcel. Indeed, property appears to have been unimproved until sometime after 1894.

R. H. Light owned the land from 1898 until 1915, and land and tax records suggest that initial occupation and improvement most likely occurred during this period. Subsequent owners who may have lived on the property include S. L. Light, J. L. Courtney, Ida F. Dorsett Waechter, B. C. and R. A. Light, D. B. Willess, and Hardin E. Willess.

In 1954, Hardin Willess and his wife, Nettie, sold Tract 806 to the U.S. government for $36,375, a price that suggests that the property was improved.

Site 41BL761 (Tract B-117)

Site History: Site 41BL761 is located in the westernmost portion of the 320-acre Martha Smith Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract B-117, which encompassed 66.2 acres in three surveys (Moses Allen, Martha Smith, and M. F. Harmon) and contained one site.

On March 7, 1842, conditional Fourth Class Certificate No. 178 for 640 acres was issued to Martha Smith of Red River County by virtue of her being a head of a family and an immigrant to the Republic of Texas in December 1841. On December 2, 1851, unconditional Fourth Class Certificate No. 89 for 640 acres was issued to Martha Smith, now of Leon County, by virtue of her previous certificate. However, prior to the issuance of the unconditional certificate, Martha Smith had 320 acres surveyed on Cowhouse Creek about 4 miles above its junction with the Leon River. District surveyor for the Milam Land District, William Armstrong, surveyed the property on September 21, 1850, with Daniel Gavin and Thomas Kinsey as chain carriers. Martha Smith remained in Leon County and, in 1852 for $150, she conveyed the rights to the entire 640-acre certificate to James Le Grand. Le Grand was himself a resident of San Augustine County, and in the same year he sold his rights to the property to George W. Cartwright of Caldwell County for $55. The 320 acres previously surveyed on Cowhouse Creek, where present-day site 41BL761 is located, were patented to Cartwright on April 15, 1853 (Texas. General Land Office 1853c).

A month after patenting the Smith Survey, Cartwright sold the 320 acres to M. F. Harmon for $1,200 (BC, DR D:192). In 1853, Harmon was a resident of Bell County and only paid taxes on one horse worth $100 (1853a). In 1854, Harmon paid taxes on the entire Smith Survey, valued at $1,280. He also paid taxes on one horse worth $125, as well as a wagon and hogs collectively worth $130 (1854a). These values suggest that Harmon had made improvements somewhere on the property, was in residence, and perhaps was engaged in agricultural activities. Harmon retained ownership of the land until 1862, by which time he had moved to Coryell County. In that year he and his wife, M. J. Harmon, conveyed the 320 acres, plus another tract, to Jesse Pitts of Bell County for $2,000 (BC, DR I:106).

In 1864, Pitts paid taxes on 308 acres out of the Smith Survey, which were valued at $1,500. Pitts also owned other, less improved acreage. In addition, he paid taxes on eight slaves worth $3,700, and held $1,500 in Confederate treasury notes. These values suggest that Pitts had improved the property in the Smith Survey, was probably in residence there, and possibly was using his slaves for agricultural production of a crop such as cotton (1864a). Pitts and his wife, M. J. Pitts, owned the land for 10 years and, like the previous owner, had moved to Coryell County by the time they decided to sell the property. In 1872, for the consideration of $1,700 in gold and notes, they conveyed to John McDowell of Bell County a 425-acre tract out of the Smith and Harmon Surveys, including 143 acres out of the Smith Survey on which present-day 41BL761 and 41BL1008 are located (BC, DR W:236). McDowell owned other, heavily improved properties and probably did not occupy the Smith Survey property (1872a).

By December 1872, McDowell and his wife, Caroline, conveyed the 425 acres out of the Smith and Harmon Surveys to J. M. Barnhart for $1,000 in cash and notes. In 1873, Barnhart paid taxes on the 425 acres. The 143 acres out of the Smith Survey were valued at $900, and the 282 acres out of the Harmon Survey also were valued at $900. Barnhart paid taxes on two mules worth $200 and had $75 worth of miscellaneous property (1873a). These values suggest that the two tracts together were improved and being utilized for agriculture. The 143 acres out of the Smith Survey appear to have been more heavily improved, suggesting the presence of the Barnhart residence on that property.

In 1876, Barnhart and his wife, Maggie, conveyed 200 acres out of the Smith and Harmon Surveys to J. B. Bass of Williamson County for $2,000 (BC, DR 32:590). These 200 acres contained the location of present-day 41BL761. John Beall Bass and his wife, Margaret E., moved to Bell County and, according to details provided in a subsequent foreclosure case, had established a homestead somewhere on the property (BC, DC Cause No. 1501). However, Bass never paid taxes on this property during his period of ownership, and instead was paying taxes on an improved property in a different survey (1876a–1878a). This discrepancy makes the status of Bass's occupation on the Smith and Harmon Surveys unclear.

In 1879, Bass conveyed 184 acres out of the Smith and Harmon Surveys (16 acres of the Harmon Survey having been sold earlier) to J. L. Sellers of Bell County for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR Y:243). That year, Sellers paid taxes on 92 acres out of the Smith Survey and 80 acres out of the Harmon Survey, which were

valued together at $800. Sellers also paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $20, one horse or mule worth $25, two cattle worth $10, two hogs worth $10, and $75 worth of miscellaneous property (1879a). These values suggest that the combined properties were improved, and that Sellers probably was in residence and possibly farming.

By October 1879, Sellers conveyed the 184 acres to A. J. Clark of Bell County for $583.36 and other considerations (BC, DR 32:541). However, Sellers's transaction with Clark was problematic. In 1881, W. J. Venable of Bell County filed suit against J. L. Sellers, et al., in Bell County District Court over the 184 acres. Venable claimed that he owned the vendor's lien on the notes that Sellers used to buy the property from Bass, and that the notes were past due and had not been paid. Venable asked for foreclosure, and the court ruled in his favor, ordering that the 184 acres be sold at public auction (BC, DC Cause No. 1,501). As a result, the sheriff of Bell County, J. S. Bigham, auctioned the 184 acres on August 1, 1882. W. J. Venable was the highest bidder and became the owner for $400 (BC, DR 39:594).

On October 14 of that same year, Venable sold the 184 acres for $600 cash and other considerations to John E. Simpson of Bell County (BC, DR 40:276). About 2 weeks later, Simpson and his wife, M. J. Simpson, sold 163.5 acres, on which present-day 41BL761 is located, out of the Smith and Harmon Surveys to W. A. Couch of Bosque County in consideration for $2,645 in land located in Bosque County (BC, DR 87:432).

In 1893, William A. Couch and his wife, Martha A., conveyed the 163.5 acres to George W. Tyler for $2,750 in land located in Runnels County (BC, DR 91:604). Tyler and his wife, Sue W., now of Bell County, agreed to sell the 163.5 acres to Isaac E. Carpenter of Bell County for $2,750 in promissory notes. At that time it was noted that the Tylers reserved the rights to the rents due and the crops to be harvested from the property in 1894, indicating that there probably were tenants farming the land (BC, DR 95:343). However, it appears possible that Carpenter never made good on his promissory notes. In 1896, Tyler still had title to the 163.5 acres, which he in turn conveyed to Mrs. N. E. Sellers, wife of J. L. Sellers (a previous owner) for $1 cash and nine promissory notes of $300 each (BC, DR 113:4).

The Sellers's second attempt to buy land in this area went no better. Only a year later, in 1897, the Sellers conveyed title back to Tyler, in consideration of the cancellation of the nine promissory notes. They also agreed to lease the land from Tyler, to acknowledge tenancy under him, and to "surrender quiet and peaceable possession thereof" at the end of their lease in a year (BC, DR 123:153). Despite this agreement, the Sellers did not vacate the property peaceably, and in 1898, Tyler took them to court over claims to the 163.5 acres. Apparently, at the end of the lease, the Sellers moved from the property to their original home on land owned by Mrs. Sellers (which also was mortgaged). For reasons not explained, Tyler was slow to cancel the previous sale of the 163.5 acres to the Sellers. Lacking such documentation, the Sellers moved back to the property under contention. At this point Tyler agreed to relinquish the notes and file the papers necessary to cancel the sale. However, the Sellers refused to sign the papers and, instead, set up claim to the land as a gift from Tyler (Bell County Abstract Company [1952]:71). The Sellers's tactic failed, and Tyler regained clear title to the property.

In 1899, Tyler successfully sold the 163.5 acres to W. P. Denman of Bell County for $500 in cash and notes. Their agreement noted that Tyler retained the right to collect rent from the property for the year 1899 (BC, DR 148:67). Presumably, Tyler had tenants on his land other than the Sellers. In 1901, Denman and his wife, Roxie, conveyed the 163.5 acres to a family member, R. H. Denman of Bell County, for $1,000 and other considerations (BC, DR 149:340). A year later, R. H. Denman and his wife, Lillian, conveyed the 163.5 acres to W. G. Roberts for $2,500 in cash and other considerations (BC, DR 147:635).

Roberts and his wife, Jennie, retained ownership of the 163.5 acres until 1907, when they conveyed it to W. T. Adams and his wife, Ola, of Bell County for $2,750 (BC, DR 182:135). W. T. Adams had been married to S. F. Adams, with whom he had three children. S. F. Adams had died in 1901, at which time W. T. Adams became administrator of her estate. It included other properties in Bell County, which W. T. Adams sold in order to buy the 163.5 acres. At that time he also purchased from his children their interest in title to the land which they had by virtue of their inheritance from their mother

(BC, DC Case No. 3635; DR, 292:142). W. T. and Ola Adams retained ownership of the 163.5 acres until 1923, when they sold 60 acres of it, which included the location of present-day 41BL761, to Charles P. Hairston of Bell County for $3,750 in cash and notes (BC, DR 348:237). For reasons unspecified, Hairston conveyed the 60 acres back to the Adamses the next year for $1,500 in cash and notes, thus reuniting the 163.5 acres under the same owner (BC, DR 331:327). After regaining ownership, in March 1924, the Adamses sold the entire 163.5 acres in two conveyances to J. P. Hellums of Bell County. Hellums paid $1,500 in cash and notes for the 60 acres, and $5,692.50 for the 103½-acres (BC, DR 331:296; 351:528).

By December 1924, after only 9 months of ownership, Hellums and his wife, H. B. Hellums, sold the entire 163.5-acre tract to T. L. Holland for $9,750 in cash and other considerations (BC, DR 359:183). A year later, Holland and his wife, Margaret, conveyed the 60 acres plus the other parcel to A. L. Vandyke of Bell County for $8,875 plus other considerations (BC, DR 364:523). During this period of rapid transactions, the property was heavily mortgaged.

Vandyke and his wife, Rosa Lee, retained ownership of the 60 acres and the other property until Rosa Lee's death on December 5, 1941, at which point A. L. Vandyke became executor of her will (BC, PM 58:77). Vandyke began to distribute land to his children by Rosa Lee. In 1942, and in consideration of $10, Vandyke conveyed a parcel containing 66.2 acres, which had been resurveyed at that time, to his daughter Beulah Wessen, wife of Henry Wessen, for the benefit and use of the three Wessen sons (BC, DR 504:441). This 66.2-acre parcel is the location of present-day 41BL761. Wessen and her family conveyed the 66.2 acres to the United States government in 1953.

Summary: Martha Smith had earned the right to a 640-acre certificate in 1842, and had 320 of those acres located on the Cowhouse in 1850. In 1852, rights to the property were transferred first to James Le Grand and then to George W. Cartwright, to whom the 320-acre Smith Survey was patented in 1853. Cartwright immediately conveyed the survey to M. F. Harmon, who kept the property until 1862, during which time he improved and probably resided on the Smith Survey. From 1862 to 1872, Jesse Pitts owned the land and probably resided and farmed there before moving to Coryell County. Between 1872 and 1876, owners consisted of John McDowell and J. M. Barnhart. McDowell lived elsewhere, but Barnhart appears to have had improvements, possibly a farm, on the Smith and Harmon Surveys, which contain present-day 41BL761.

From 1876 to 1879, the occupation status of J. B. Bass and his family on the Smith Survey is unclear. From 1879 to 1882, the property was in contention. Bass sold a 184-acre tract to J. L. Sellers, who apparently resided on the improved property. Sellers, in turn, conveyed the 184 acres to A. J. Clark, but the notes went unpaid. The holder of the lien, W. J. Venable, took Sellers to court over the debt, and the 184 acres subsequently were sold at auction to Venable.

Between 1882 and 1893, owners consisted of John E. Simpson, W. A. Couch, and George W. Tyler. Tyler had acquired 163.5 acres, including the location of present-day 41BL761. Contention over the 163.5 acres began again with a failed sale to Isaac E. Carpenter in 1894. Tyler apparently had tenants farming the land throughout his period of ownership, and they possibly were living at established improvements. In 1896, Tyler attempted to sell the 163.5 acres again, this time to the Sellers family who had defaulted on a previous attempt to buy the same land. The Sellers were in residence on the property, agreed to cancel the sale and become tenants, eventually moved out, and then returned when the cancellation of sale was not verified.

After the dispute was settled by the district court, Tyler sold the 163.5 acres to W. P. Denman in 1899. Between 1899 and 1907, owners consisted of members of the Denman family and W. G. Roberts. In 1907, W. T. Adams bought the 163.5 acres and retained ownership until 1924, with the exception of a 60-acre tract out of it that was sold to and then repurchased from Charles P. Hairston over the period of a year. This 60-acre tract is the location of present-day 41BL761. In 1924, J. P. Hellums and T. L. Holland both owned the 60 acres. That year, Holland sold the 60 acres to A. L. Vandyke who retained ownership of it and other properties until 1941 when his wife died. In 1942, he distributed his land amongst his children. The land previously described as 60 acres was resurveyed, and a 66.2-acre tract on which present-day 41BL761 is located was deeded to Vandyke's daughter, Beulah Wessen. Wessen, in

turn, conveyed the 66.2 acres to the government in 1953. It is unclear if any members of the Vandyke family ever lived on the 66.2 acres.

Site 41BL763 (Tract 809)

Site History: Site 41BL763 is located on approximately 146 acres in the east-central portion of the 1,280-acre Thomas Hemsworth Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 809, which encompassed 655.3 acres in three surveys and contained seven sites: 41BL426, 41BL747, 41BL753, 41BL756, 41BL757, 41BL758, and 41BL763.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL763 is located from 1838 to 1845, when the state patented the 1,280-acre tract to Thomas Hemsworth, see the site history for 41BL756.

In 1857, Hemsworth sold the western 690 acres of the 1,280-acre survey, but retained the eastern 590-acre portion. By 1889, Hemsworth had died while a resident of Galveston County. His will, dated 1883, left most of his estate to the trustees of the James M. E. Church in Galveston (BC, DR 70:151). Immediately after a copy of Hemsworth's will was filed in Bell County, the trustees of the church and the executor of the will sold a 196-acre parcel out of the east 590 acres of the survey to A. S. Exline (BC, DR 70:152). Less than a month later, in May 1889, Exline and his wife, Louise, conveyed the 196-acre parcel to James A. Crenshaw for $294 (BC, DR 70:348). The Exlines and Crenshaw were residents of Galveston County at this time.

There is a break in the chain of title out of Crenshaw. Ad valorem tax records reflect his ownership of the property in 1891, but indicate that he lived in Brazoria County. His use and occupation of the land are uncertain. However, in 1902, W. M. Smith, a Bell County resident, conveyed 146 acres out of the southern portion of the 196-acre parcel to D. R. Walton for $600 (BC, DR 146:425), suggesting that the property may have been improved.

Walton owned the property for several years, conveying it to J. C. Watson in 1905 (BC, DR 167:450). The conveyance covered 330 acres, including the 146-acre parcel where 41BL763 and 41BL426 are located. Watson paid Walton $2,500 for the property, suggesting the presence of improvements. However, the land also included 94 acres in the Willis Survey, on which 41BL758 is located.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL763 is located, from 1905 until 1954, when the government condemned the property, see the site history for 41BL758.

Summary: The 146-acre portion of Tract 809, on which 41BL763 and 41BL426 are located, was owned by out-of-county owners for most of the nineteenth century. Thomas Hemsworth, patentee, lived in Quintana and later in Galveston where he died. Title to the property did not vest in a Bell County resident until ca. 1900. The purchase price for the property began to escalate early in the twentieth century, suggesting that the property was improved. The most likely initial owner-occupant of the 146 acres was W. M. Smith, ca. 1902.

J. C. Watson acquired the property in 1905 and appears to have lived and farmed there until the mid-1930s, when he sold the land. Subsequent owners combined the 146-acre parcel with other land and appear to have used the property for ranching. These owners included W. C. Hallmark, Joe A. Fowler, Claude Thompson, V. J. Bleakley and E. G. Kingsbery, Paul Bleakley, and E. T. Fairman.

Site 41BL771 (Tract 1015)

Site History: Site 41BL771 is located in the southwestern portion of the 640-acre Francis A. Wilson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1015, which encompassed 665 acres in three surveys and contained four sites: 41BL771, 41BL876, 41BL883, and 41BL884.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL771 is located from 1838 to 1882, when J. M. Gray owned the 640-acre Wilson Survey, see the site history for 41BL884.

There is a break in the chain of title between J. M. Gray and Hadden O'Neal. However, in December 1883, O'Neal sold the 10-acre parcel where 41BL771 is located to Joseph Harbour for $7.50 (BC, DR 257:304). Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that Harbour operated a farm in the county and may have lived on the 10-acre parcel where the site is located (1889a, 1894a). However, he also owned another parcel of 120 acres. It is possible that Harbour farmed the larger parcel and lived on the 10 acres where 41BL771 is located.

Harbour sold the 10-acre parcel to T. B. Harris in January 1903 for $12 (BC, DR 152:212), a price that suggests that the property was unimproved. Four months later, in May 1903, Harris conveyed the 10 acres to J. K. Ricketts for $10. Ricketts, who died in 1914, owned approximately 375 acres in several surveys. He left his property to his three brothers and one sister in equal shares (BC, PM Z:430). The sister, Rowena Hall, purchased her brothers' interests in the Ricketts Estate in October 1914 for $2,442 (BC, DR 257:267, 434). However, the property conveyed included land where four sites are located (41BL771, 41BL876, 41BL883, and 41BL884), precluding any firm association of improvements, proportional values, and occupants.

In December 1919, Rowena Hall sold her property, including the 10 acres where 41BL771 is located, to W. S. Hall for $4,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 316:11). On March 6, 1954, the Halls sold 665 acres that included the 10-acre parcel where 41BL771 is located to the U.S. government for $34,395 (BC, DR 700:481), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The property, identified as Tract 1015, encompassed land in the F. W. Thornton, Maples H. Bush, and Francis A. Wilson Surveys and contained four sites—41BL771 and 41BL884 in the Wilson Survey, and 41BL876 and 41BL883 in the Bush Survey.

Summary: The property in the southwestern portion of the Francis A. Wilson Survey where 41BL771 is located may have been occupied as early as 1877, when Bell County assessed E. W. Fay for the 640-acre Wilson Survey. However, Fay owned nearly 3,500 acres in Bell County, making it difficult to be specific about the likelihood of his occupation of any one piece of property.

Joseph Harbour most likely is the initial occupant of the 10-acre parcel where 41BL771 is located from 1883 to 1903. J. K. Ricketts owned the property from 1903 until 1914, when he died.

W. S. Hall owned the property from 1919 until 1954, when the government acquired the land. Hall and his wife, Lola, sold 665 acres that included the 10 acres where 41BL771 is located to the U.S. government in March 1954 for $34,395, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL779 (Tract 822)

Site History: Site 41BL779 is located in the central portion of the 111.4-acre J. W. Daniel Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 822, which encompassed 120.15 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL779 and 41BL781.

In November 1893, J. W. Daniel filed a preemption claim on a tract of vacant public land. He swore that he was head of a family, had no other homestead, and had settled on vacant and unappropriated public land in good faith. In May 1894, R. P. Bigham, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing a 111.4-acre tract for Daniel. The land was situated on Cowhouse Creek about 8.5 miles northwest of Belton. S. S. Morris and Frank Denman assisted as chainmen. In November 1896, Daniel swore that he was a bona fide settler on the 111.4-acre tract, that he had occupied and improved the land as a homestead for 3 years, and that he was head of a family. On December 14, 1896, the State of Texas patented the 111.4 acres to Daniel (Texas. General Land Office 1896a).

Daniel owned the property for 10 years, and ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a farm and lived there (1897a, 1902a). Initial occupation and improvement most likely occurred during this period. Both 41BL779 and 41BL781 appear to be located on the 111.4-acre parcel.

In March 1906, Daniel and his wife, A. L., sold the 111.4-acre Daniel Survey to S. H. Guinn for $450 in cash and notes (BC, DR 167:620), a price that may indicate that the property was improved. In November 1906, Guinn and his wife, Lillie, conveyed the property to Mattie W. Northcutt for $500 (BC, DR 174:340).

Northcutt owned the 111.4 acres, as well as a 132-acre parcel in the Spoonts Survey, for 10 years. A rising ad valorem tax evaluation during this period suggests the presence of improvements, but Northcutt's occupation of the property is unclear (1907a, 1910a). In September 1916, Northcutt sold the 111.4-acre parcel to her daughter, Mattie Wiseman, for $260 (BC, DR 269:598). In the deed, Wiseman agreed to provide care for her aging mother, and Watson agreed to use the $260 to make specific cash bequests to her other children (BC, DR 530:129).

In April 1945, Wiseman sold 251 acres of land, including the 111.4-acre parcel in the Daniel Survey, to H. W. Jordan for $5,500 (BC, DR 530:130), an amount that strongly suggests the property was improved. It is unclear whether one or both sites located on the 111.4 acres sustained the improvements associated with this substantial valuation.

In November 1946, Jordan and his wife, Carrie, conveyed the property to Rodgers and Delma Estes for $5,700 (BC, DR 554:460), an amount that suggests the presence of improvements. In November 1950, the Esteses sold the 251-acre parcel to John W. Crouch and his wife, Veda, for $6,250 (BC, DR 628:577). Crouch subdivided a portion of the property and sold some of the lots (BC, DR 630:514; BC, PR A:109C), but it appears that both 41BL779 and 41BL781 were located elsewhere on the original 111.4-acre portion of the Crouch's land.

In connection with the expansion of Fort Hood, the U.S. government condemned 1,622.35 acres and paid a compensation to the various owners of $115,060. The condemned land included 120.15 acres, identified as Tract 822, owned by Crouch and his wife. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 120.15 acres, located in the Daniel and Joseph Spoonts Surveys, and contained two sites, 41BL779 and 41BL781, both situated in the Daniel Survey.

Summary: It appears that J. W. Daniel first occupied and improved the 111.4 acres on which 41BL779 and 41BL781 are located in the early 1890s to satisfy homestead requirements. The state patented the 111.4-acre parcel to Daniel in 1896, and it appears that he continued to live and farm there until 1906. Both sites are appear to be located on the 111.4 acres. Mattie Northcutt and her daughter, Mattie Wiseman, owned the 111.4 acres, along with other land, from 1906 until 1945. It is possible, though not certain, that Northcutt and Wiseman lived on the property.

Site 41BL781 (Tract 822)

Site History: Site 41BL781 is located in the central portion of the 111.4-acre J. W. Daniel Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 822, which encompassed 120.15 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL779 and 41BL781.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL781 is located, see the site history for 41BL779.

Summary: Site 41BL781 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as site 41BL779. Site 41BL781 most likely is associated with the J. W. Daniel family (1893–1906) and the Mattie Northcutt and/or Mattie Wiseman families (1906–1945).

Site 41BL782 (Tract 703)

Site History: Site 41BL782 is located in the southwestern portion of the 1,280-acre James Halfpenny Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 703, which encompassed 169.25 acres in two surveys and contained three sites—41BL782, 41BL815, and 41BL823.

On January 15, 1838, the Republic of Texas issued a bounty warrant (No. 1870) to James Halfpenny for 1,280 acres. Halfpenny had served in the Army of the Republic of Texas from June 3, 1836, to June 3, 1837. In May 1849, William Armstrong, deputy surveyor for the Milam District, surveyed a 1,280-acre tract on Cowhouse Creek about 2 miles above its junction with the Leon River. Silas Perkins and John Taylor assisted as chainmen. In July 1837, Halfpenny transferred all his interest in the property to James B. Chance for $175. On November 8, 1849, the State of Texas patented the 1,280-acre tract to Halfpenny (Texas. General Land Office 1849f; BC, DR B:391).

By 1849, James B. Chance and his wife, Nancy, had died. Land and ad valorem tax records suggest that their heirs, William A. Chance, C. C. Chance, E. J. Chance, and M. A. Wyatt, did not live in Bell County (1852a) (See also 41BL726 and 41BL727.) Between 1849 and 1852, the heirs sold their interests in the 1,280-acre survey to Herman Aiken (BC, DR B:506; E:221; 241:3). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Aiken owned nearly 8,000 acres in Bell County, including the 880 acres on which 41BL782 is located. Because of the size of Aiken's holdings, his use and occupancy of the 880 acres remain unclear.

In March 1853, Aiken sold the eastern 880 acres of the 1,280-acre Halfpenny Survey to G. W. Walton for $1,700 (BC, DR D:148). Walton appears to have used the property for a ranch operation, and he may have lived there. Bell County assessed

Walton for 1 slave, 10 horses and 25 cows in 1860. By 1880, Walton's land holdings had increased, and he appears to have continued to operate a ranch. An ad valorem tax evaluation for the land during this period suggests that Walton improved the property (1872a).

In 1880, Walton conveyed the eastern 426 acres of his 880-acre parcel in the Halfpenny Survey to his children, M. N. Walton, Ann E. Walton, and Mary F. Potter (BC, DR 34:392–393; 41:115). There is a break in the chain of title but, apparently by 1890, M. N. Walton had acquired his sisters' land. Bell County assessed Walton for 426 acres and for livestock and tools. That fact, along with rising land evaluations, suggest that he lived on the property (1885a, 1890a, 1895a, 1900a).

By 1896, M. N. Walton was dead. His eight children from two marriages conveyed their interests in the 426-acre parcel to Maggie Walton, his second wife (BC, DR 193:583; 380:620; 386:618, 625; 394:639; 395:626–627; 402:480). Maggie Walton owned the property for many years and apparently died sometime between 1930 and 1954.

On February 19, 1954, the children of Maggie Walton—Nellie W. Watson; Foxie W. Robinson and her husband, W. V.; and Pauline W. Patterson—sold a portion of the Walton property to the U.S. government for $17,375. Tract 703 encompassed 169.25 acres in the James Halfpenny Survey and the J. R. Jones Survey (BC, DR 703:146); it was carved out of the 426-acre parcel owned by Maggie Walton and contained sites 41BL782, 41BL815, and 41BL823.

Summary: Tract 703, on which site 41BL782 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1853, when G. W. Walton acquired the eastern 880 acres of the James Halfpenny Survey. The property stayed in the Walton family for over 100 years, passing from Walton to his son, to his son's widow, and then to her children, who sold it to the government in 1954. Evidence suggests that the property was occupied and improved by the Waltons, but the presence of multiple sites—41BL782, 41BL815, and 41BL823—precludes a firm association of sites and improvements.

Site 41BL783 (Tract 704)

Site History: Site 41BL783 is located on 14 acres in the southwest corner of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 704, which encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL783 is located from 1854 until 1882, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845.

In August 1882, Violet Doss sold a 59-acre parcel out of the southwest corner of the Perryman Survey to J. C. Hand for $130 (BC, DR 40:89), an amount that may suggest the presence of some improvements. In November 1886, J. C. Hand conveyed the 59 acres along with 40 adjacent acres in the Wiley Jones Survey to L. J. Hand for $1,000, a sum that suggests the presence of improvements on one or both parcels (BC, DR 56:631).

Five years later, in July 1891, L. J. Hand sold the two parcels to James M. Hand, again for $1,000 (BC, DR 83:127). In July 1894, Hand conveyed the two parcels and another 6.5-acre parcel in the Perryman Survey to J. C. Damron for just over $750, an amount that suggests either a decline in the improvements or a general decline in land values (BC, DR 100:631).

There is a break in the chain of title between J. C. Damron and William Miller. However, by 1900, Miller owned the western 14 acres of Damron's 59-acre parcel in the southwest corner of the Perryman Survey. Site 41BL783 is located on this 14-acre parcel. Miller also owned two adjacent parcels—a 72-acre parcel in the D. D. Potter Survey where 41BL804 is located, and a 4-acre parcel in the Wiley Jones Survey.

For the remainder of the legal history of these 90 contiguous acres in three surveys, see the site history for 41BL804 beginning in 1900 when Miller owned the property.

Summary: The 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey may have been occupied as early as 1854, when Perryman filed his preemption claim. It is more probable, however, that the 14 acres on which 41BL783 is located were not occupied until a later date, perhaps in the 1880s. For the remainder of the nineteenth century, the 14 acres were part of a 59-acre parcel that was conveyed for prices suggesting the presence of improvements. However, there is no evidence that the improvements were located on the 14-acre portion of the 59-acre parcel.

By 1900, the 14-acre parcel had become a part of 90 contiguous acres situated in three

surveys and containing two sites. The price paid for the 90-acre tract suggests the presence of improvements, but multiple sites preclude establishing a firm connection between the value of the land and the location of the improvements. This pattern continued until the government acquired Tract 704.

When the government condemned Tract 704 in 1954, the compensation paid to the owner, Tom G. Boles Sr., suggests the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 704 encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL798 (Tract 1204)

Site History: Site 41BL798 is located on 45.5 acres situated in the central portion of the 320-acre Davidson Barnes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1204, which encompassed 45.5 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41BL798 and 41BL799.

In February 1852, Davidson Barnes swore that the land upon which he lived was vacant and unappropriated public land. Three months later, William Armstrong, Milam Land District Surveyor, filed field notes describing Barnes's 320-acre parcel, located about 10.5 miles northwest of Belton on Bear Creek, a branch of Owl Creek. O. Dennis and R. Barnes assisted as chainmen. In December 1854, B. S. Collins, assignee of Davidson Barnes, swore that he had resided on and cultivated the 320-acre parcel for 3 years and that he was entitled to a patent on the land. A year later, Collins transferred all his right in the land to Daniel Jones for $500. The State of Texas then patented the 320-acre parcel to Daniel Jones, assignee of Davidson Barnes and B. S. Collins, on January 15, 1856 (Texas. General Land Office 1856a).

In May 1857, Jones sold the 320-acre Davidson Barnes Survey to James Drake for $500 (BC, DR G:127). Two years later, Drake conveyed the land to Francis Drake and James Franklin, again for $500 (BC, DR H:33). Between 1860 and 1869, the eastern 160 acres of the survey on which 41BL798 is located were owned by James Drake (1860–1862), J. W. Hunton (1862–1864), D. A. Shives (1864), Get Upshaw (1864–1866), and Whit Thomas (1866–1869). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $350 to $500 for the 160 acres, amounts that may suggest the presence of improvements. However, use and occupation of the property by these owners remain unclear according to ad valorem tax records (1860a, 1865a, 1868a).

In July 1869, Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth, sold the eastern 160 acres of the 320-acre D. Barnes Survey to Eaton Campbell and his wife, A. M., for $1,000 (BC, DR K:457), an amount that indicates the presence of improvements. The Campbells apparently lived on the 160 acres for many years and farmed the land as well (1870a, 1880a, 1890a, 1900a, 1910a). Both Eaton and A. M. Campbell had died by approximately 1915, and one of their three children, Belle Place, bought the interests of the other two in 147 acres of the land formerly owned by their parents (BC, DR 361:73; 602:230).

In October 1941, Belle Place sold the 147-acre parcel to J. E. Bradley for $500 (BC, DR 490:337). Bradley owned the parcel until January 7, 1954, when the U.S. government condemned 45.5 acres of his land that were identified as Tract 1204. The land was further identified as the north remainder of Belton Reservoir Tract BRG-501 (BC, DR 698:483). It appears that the Belton Reservoir took the central portion of the 147 acres, leaving a residue on the north and south; the 45.5-acre parcel is that part of the 147 acres lying north of the reservoir. When the government acquired the property, Tract 1204 contained two sites, 41BL798 and 41BL799.

Summary: It is possible that the 320-acre Davidson Barnes Survey was occupied prior to being patented in 1856, perhaps as early as 1851. Barnes and his assignee, B. S. Collins, both claimed occupation and improvement. However, both sold their interests in the land before the patent was issued. Subsequent early owners of land in the survey do not appear to have been residents of Bell County.

Eaton Campbell and his wife, A. M. Campbell, bought the eastern 160 acres of the survey in 1869. Tax records suggest that they farmed the land and probably lived there until sometime after 1900. Initial occupation and improvements most likely occurred during this period. The property, now reduced to 147 acres, stayed in the Campbell family until 1925, when

Belle Place, a daughter who had purchased her sisters' interests, sold the land to J. E. Bradley. Bradley owned the land when the central portion was taken for the Belton Reservoir, leaving a residue of 45.5 acres on the north side of the reservoir.

Site 41BL799 (Tract 1204)

Site History: Site 41BL799 is located on 45.5 acres situated in the central portion of the 320-acre Davidson Barnes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1204, which encompassed 45.5 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41BL798 and 41BL799.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL799 is located, see the site history for 41BL798.

Summary: Site 41BL799 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL798. Site 41BL799 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL803 (Tract 707)

Site History: Site 41BL803 is located in the northwestern portion of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 707, which consisted of 240 acres in three surveys.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL803 is located from 1838 until 1859, when Albert Jones owned the northwest 854 acres of the Wiley Jones Survey, see the site history for 41BL350.

On May 25, 1859, Albert Jones sold a 220-acre tract in the northwest corner of the Wiley Jones Survey to D. M. Williamson for $660 (BC, DR I:559). Williamson owned the parcel until 1862, when he sold it to James M. Collins for $640 (BC, DR I:561). Collins appears to have owned the 220-acre parcel until the early 1870s. However, it is unclear from ad valorem tax records if either Williamson or Collins occupied the property (1862a–1864a, 1868a).

There is a break in the chain of title between Collins and the next owner, but by 1872, Bell County was assessing J. W. Hampton for the 220-acre parcel. Hampton appears to have farmed the land, and its assessed value ($800) suggests the presence of improvements (1872a). Site 41BL803 is located on this 220-acre parcel of land.

There is a break in the chain of title between J. W. Hampton and M. W. Hampton, but by 1877, Bell County was assessing the latter individual for the 220-acre parcel with an evaluation of $1,000—an amount that, again, suggests improvements.

On December 8, 1880, M. W. Hampton and his wife, Mary, sold the 220-acre tract (and 20 acres in the adjacent H. W. Jones Survey) to Gadson R. Hand for $1,200 (BC, DR 35:38). Hand owned the property until the early 1890s and appears to have lived and farmed there (1882a, 1887a, 1892a).

Although there is no conveyance from Hand to J. W. Kelley, Bell County assessed Kelley for the 220-acre parcel as early as 1907. Ad valorem tax evaluations suggest that Kelley occupied, improved, and farmed the property (1907a, 1909a).

On December 23, 1909, J. W. Kelley conveyed the property to his wife, Carrie B. Kelley, for love and affection (BC, DR 199:581). The Kelleys apparently continued to live on the property, and the ad valorem tax evaluations suggest further improvements (1910a).

In April 1944, the Kelleys sold the 220-acre parcel and 20 acres in the H. W. Jones Survey to their children and grandchildren for love and affection (BC, DR 520:358). The conveyance included livestock and equipment typically associated with a farm operation. This 240-acre parcel is essentially what became Tract 707, and is the location of 41BL803.

J. W. and Carrie Kelley, and their children and grandchildren sold the property to H. B. Hill for just over $6,000 in October 1950 (BC, DR 622:634). Less than a year later, Hill conveyed the land to E. E. Fuller and his wife, Dorothy, for $8,000 (BC, DR 650:425).

On January 7, 1954, the U.S. government condemned the land that became Tract 707, and the Fullers received a consideration of $11,885. The tract is described as consisting of 240 acres out of the Wiley Jones, Harwood W. Jones, and Elisha Davis Surveys.

Summary: Tract 707, on which site 41BL803 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1853–1859, when Albert Jones owned 875 acres; 1859–1862, when D. M. Williams owned a 220-acre parcel out of Jones's larger

holding; 1862–early 1870s, when James M. Collins owned the 220-acre parcel; or 1872, when J. W. Hampton owned the 220-acre parcel in the northwest corner of the Wiley Jones Survey. The property appears to have been occupied continuously until the government condemned it in 1954.

Although there are breaks in the chain of title, ad valorem tax and land records suggest the presence of improvements. Owners after 1877, who also may have been occupants, include M. W. Hampton (1877–1880), Gadson R. Hand (1880–ca. 1892), and the J. W. Kelley family (ca. 1907–1950).

Site 41BL804 (Tract 704)

Site History: Site 41BL804 is located on 72 acres in the southern part of the 106-acre D. D. Potter Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 704, which encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites.

In September 1881, D. D. Potter filed a preemption claim on vacant public land lying between the J. R. Jones, J. M. Perryman, and James Halfpenny Surveys in Bell County. Potter further swore that he was head of a family, had no other homestead, and had settled on the land in good faith. In November 1881, G. W. Walton, special deputy surveyor for Bell County, surveyed the land for Potter. In 1883, Walton filed corrected field notes for the parcel, describing 106 acres on N. Nolan Creek, about 6.5 miles northwest of Belton; J. H. Wood and J. W. Grayson assisted as chainmen.

In 1885, Potter and his wife, Martha, transferred all their interest in the claim to J. W. Ogletree. In August 1886, Ogletree swore that he was a bona fide settler on 106 acres of vacant public land, and that he and D. D. Potter had occupied and cultivated the land for at least 3 consecutive years. The following month, Ogletree and his wife, M. T., transferred all their interest in the preemption claim to Alexander Kennedy. On May 7, 1887, the State of Texas patented the 106-acre D. D. Potter Survey to Kennedy, assignee of Ogletree and Potter (Texas. General Land Office 1887b).

In March 1890, Kennedy and his wife, Annie, sold the 106-acre tract to M. P. Franks for $500 (BC, DR 88:82), an amount that suggests that the property was improved. Just 2 years later, in December 1892, Franks conveyed the property to William Miller for $550, a sum that indicates that the status of the improvements remained relatively constant during this period (BC, DR 88:83).

By 1900, Miller had sold part of his land, leaving him a residue of 72 acres in the southern part of the Potter Survey. He also had acquired two adjoining parcels—14 acres in the Perryman Survey and 4 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey—giving him a total of 90 contiguous acres in three surveys. Site 41BL804 is located on the 72 acres in the Potter Survey; 41BL783 is located on the 14 acres in the Perryman Survey. In September 1903, Miller sold his 90 acres to William McDonald for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 150:199), an amount that suggests the presence of improvements on the property.

Between 1903, when Miller sold the 90-acre parcel, and 1919, the property was owned by McDonald (1903–1906), Charles B. Fisher (1906), M. J. Curb (1906–1913), C. P. Shattuck (1913–1914), J. J Stubblefield (1914–1915), and J. H. White (1915–1919) (BC, DR 174:241, 363; 235:548; 243:506; 262:328). The purchase prices in these transactions rose from $1,600 to $3,000, indicating the presence of multiple improvements on the property.

In November 1919, J. H. White conveyed the 90 acres to his son, S. B. White (BC, DR 348:607). The consideration cited in the deed was "$1 and love and affection for my son," thus shedding no light on the status of improvements on the property. S. B. White owned the 90 acres for nearly 25 years, selling it in December 1942 to H. L. Kindred for $1,250 (BC, DR 516:55). The lower price could indicate that the improvements were declining or might reflect the property's proximity to war-related activity at Fort Hood.

In December 1943, Kindred and his wife, Ruby, sold the land to E. A. and Mattie Speer for $1,450 (BC, DR 515:302), an amount that suggests the presence and increasing value of improvements. In July 1947, the Speers conveyed the 90-acre parcel to Tom G. Bowles for $2,500 (BC, DR 568:169), again indicating that the property was improved.

On March 9, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 1,138 acres owned by Bowles (BC, DR 702:200). Designated Tract 704 and encompassing 1,138 acres in the Elisha Davis, Samuel Wheat, David Russell, J. R. Jones, D. D. Potter, J. M. Perryman, and Wiley Jones Surveys, the acreage also was the location of eight historic

sites: 41BL399, 41BL420, 41BL783, 41BL804, 41BL805, 41BL812, 41BL813, and 41BL841.

Summary: The 72-acre portion of Tract 704, on which 41BL804 is located, appears to have been occupied by 1877. D. D. Potter, J. W. Ogletree, and Alexander Kennedy all claimed occupation to satisfy preemption requirements between 1877 and 1890. The purchase prices paid by subsequent nineteenth-century owners of the property also indicate the presence of improvements.

By the turn of the century, the 72-acre parcel had become part of a 90-acre tract in three surveys. The purchase price paid by twentieth-century owners suggests ongoing improvement and occupation.

When the government condemned Tract 704 in 1954, the compensation paid to the owner, Tom G. Bowles Sr., suggests the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 704 encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL805 (Tract 704)

Site History: Site 41BL805 is located on 80 acres in the southeastern portion of the 320-acre David Russell Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 704, which encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL805 is located from 1852 until 1872, when D. D. Potter owned the 320-acre Russell Survey, see the site history for 41BL809.

In October 1872, Potter conveyed the eastern 80 acres out of his 320-acre parcel to Elijah H. Ward for $200, a price that could suggest the presence of improvements or could reflect the fact that the property fronted Nolan Creek (BC, DR R:303). Bell County tax records are inconclusive regarding Ward's use and occupancy (1872a, 1874a).

Between 1872, when Ward bought the 80-acre parcel, and 1877, the land was owned by James R. Coward (1874–1877), G. W. Walton (1877), and John Warren (1877) (BC, DR Y:21; Z:190; 28:99). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $195 to $300, again suggesting either the presence of improvements or creek frontage. Tax records indicate that Coward lived on the property and operated a small farm there; Walton's and Warren's use and occupancy remain unclear (1875a–1877a).

There is a break in the chain of title between John Warren (1877) and J. W. Grayson, et al. (1885). However, in October 1885, Grayson and his wife, M. J.; and J. H. Wood and his wife, S. A., sold the 80-acre parcel to T. H. Watkins for $650 in cash and notes (BC, DR 57:241). This rather substantial increase in price in just 8 years indicates that Warren or a subsequent owner had improved the property. It is possible, though not certain from available records, that the Graysons and Woods were the heirs of John Warren.

Watkins owned the property for about 10 years and appears to have farmed and lived there (1886a, 1888a). By 1894, Watkins had died, and his widow and children conveyed the 80-acre parcel to J. F. Hawkins for $700 (BC, DR 98:530), an amount that suggests the presence of improvements.

There is a break in the chain of title between J. F. Hawkins, who acquired the property in 1894, and J. G. Sims, who owned the land by 1905. In that year, Sims conveyed the 80-acre parcel, along with 75 acres in the adjacent Jones Survey, to Joseph Herring for $1,500 (BC, DR 167:432), and amount that suggests the presence of improvements.

In December 1907, Herring and his wife conveyed both parcels to W. M. Vaden for $2,400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 180:527). The $15 per acre price suggests the presence of improvements on one, and perhaps both parcels. Site 41BL805 is located on the 80-acre parcel; 41BL841 is located on the 75-acre parcel. Five years later, in March 1912, the heirs of W. M. Vaden sold the two tracts to E. D. Mitchell for $2,600 in cash and notes (BC, DR 222:531), an amount that probably reflects the improved nature of the properties. Mitchell owned the property for nearly 30 years.

In February 1942, Mitchell and his wife, Dora, sold both tracts to Tom Bowles Sr. for $1,300 (BC, DR 496:43). On the same day, Bowles and his wife, Minnie, conveyed the land to Hugo Flentge for $1,500, an amount that suggests not only that the land was improved, but also that Bowles purchased the land as an investment (BC, DR 494:633). Three years later, in February 1945, Flentge and his wife, Annie,

sold the two tracts back to Bowles for $2,211 (BC, DR 529:99), an amount that suggests that Flentge may have improved the property further.

On March 9, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 1,138 acres owned by Bowles (BC, DR 702:200). Designated Tract 704 and encompassing 1,138 acres in the Elisha Davis, Samuel Wheat, David Russell, J. R. Jones, D. D. Potter, J. M. Perryman, and Wiley Jones Surveys, the acreage also was the location of eight historic sites—41BL399, 41BL420, 41BL783, 41BL804, 41BL805, 41BL812, 41BL813, and 41BL841.

Summary: Site 41BL805, located on 80 acres in the David Russell Survey and a part of the 1,138-acre Tract 704, may have been occupied as early as 1852, when David Russell swore that he was living on 320 acres of which 41BL805 was a part. Russell's assignee, Alfred Polk, may have lived on the property in the early to mid-1850s; John T. Flint and D. T. Chamberlin may have lived there from 1855–1866; and Drury D. Potter may have occupied the Russell Survey from 1866 to 1872, when John Warren acquired the land. The property was sold 8 years later, and the price suggests the presence of improvements. T. H. Watkins owned the 80-acre parcel from 1885 until 1894, and it appears that he and his family lived and farmed there.

Early twentieth-century owners purchased the property for prices that suggest ongoing improvements and occupation. Owners during this period include M. D. Mitchell, who appears to have lived there from 1912 until 1942.

Tom G. Bowles Sr. owned the property twice between 1942 and 1954, when he sold it to the government. When the government condemned Tract 704 in 1954, the compensation paid suggests the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 704 encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL808 (Tract 716)

Site History: Site 41BL808 is located on approximately 15 acres in the southeastern portion of the 150-acre James R. Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 716, which encompassed 197.5 acres in three surveys and contained three sites, 41BL808, 41BL811, and 41BL817.

On June 14, 1854, James R. Jones swore that the land on which he had settled was vacant public land and that he was entitled to a preemption claim. On that same date, H. F. Hoover, deputy surveyor for the Milam District, surveyed 150 acres for Jones on North Nolan Creek about 6 miles northwest of Belton. Jones and W. I. Perryman assisted as chainmen. On December 21, 1858, A. K. Ramsey, chief justice of Bell County, certified that Jones was a bona fide settler on 150 acres of vacant public land and that he had resided on and cultivated the land for at least 3 years. In March 1871, Jones personally swore to the same use and occupancy facts, and B. Saunders and William Potter corroborated the information. In August 1871, James R. Jones transferred all his rights in the preemption claim to the 150-acre tract to his wife, Margaret, and 2 months later, the State of Texas patented the 150-acre James R. Jones Survey to Margaret A. Jones (Texas. General Land Office 1871a).

Shortly after Jones received the patent, a judgement was issued against her husband in Bell County. W. J. Long, Bell County Sheriff, then conveyed 120 acres out of the James R. Long Survey to James Leach for $72, "being the highest bid (BC, DR R:81)." The amount suggests that the property was unimproved at the time; it included the southernmost 40 acres of the survey that are the location of 41BL808.

In 1878, W. S. Rather, Bell County Sheriff, sold the 150-acre James R. Jones Survey to F. P. Cooper for a high bid of $171 (BC, DR 29:474), an amount that again suggests unimproved land. This sale was made to satisfy a judgment against James Leach in the Bell County District Court and included the land on which 41BL808 is located.

Less than a year later, on December 13, 1879, Cooper sold the 150-acre James R. Jones Survey to H. E. Keys for $150, a sum that also suggests that the land was unimproved at this time (BC, DR 32:539).

For the legal history from 1879 until 1954, when the government acquired Tract 716, see the site history for 41BL811.

Summary: Tract 716, on which 41BL808 is located, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when James R. Jones filed a preemption claim to 150 acres of vacant public

land. In various instruments executed in connection with that claim, Jones swore that he resided on and cultivated the land. However, sales between 1872 and 1879 cite considerations, the amounts of which suggest the land was unimproved.

By 1883, H. E. Keys owned about 200 acres of land that encompassed the three sites found on Tract 716. The value of the 200-acre parcel as indicated by the purchase prices throughout the chain of title suggests that the property was improved substantially, including a near-doubling between 1879, when Keys bought the land, and 1890, when he sold it.

Sales from that point until 1954, when the government acquired the property, continued to reflect the presence of substantial improvements. However, because the tract contains three sites—41BL808, 41BL811, and 41BL817—the locations of the more-improved site or sites cannot be determined with certainty.

Site 41BL809 (Tract 706)

Site History: Site 41BL809 is located in the south-central portion of the 320-acre David Russell Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 706, which consisted of 796 acres in two surveys and contained sites 41BL350 and 41BL809.

On October 25, 1852, David Russell swore that the land upon which he had settled was vacant public land. On the same date, J. W. Bigham, Milam District Deputy Surveyor, surveyed a 320-acre tract for Russell. The field notes describe a tract on North Nolan Creek about 6 miles from Belton. Samuel Wheat and B. B. Basken assisted as chainmen. In December 1854, D. G. Chamberlin, Bell County Clerk, certified that Alfred Polk, assignee of David Russell, had resided upon and cultivated a parcel of land for 3 years, and that Polk was entitled to a patent on the 320-acre preemption claim in the name of David Russell (Texas. General Land Office 1856c).

In July 1855, Alfred Polk and his wife, Sarah, conveyed the 320-acre tract to John T. Flint for $250. Less than a week later, Flint conveyed a one-half interest in the land to D. T. Chamberlin for $200 (BC, DR F:126–127). On May 7, 1856, the State of Texas patented the 320-acre tract to Alfred Polk, assignee of David Russell (BC, DR K:105). It is unclear from ad valorem tax records if Polk, Flint or Chamberlin occupied the property (1855a, 1857a, 1862a).

In September 1866, Chamberlin and Flint sold the 320-acre parcel to Drury D. Potter for $200 in notes (BC, DR K:141). Although Potter owned the land for several years, it is not clear whether he occupied or used it (1867a–1868a, 1870a, 1872a).

On October 12, 1872, Potter conveyed a 111-acre parcel out of the 320-acre David Russell Survey to J. D. Callaway for $200 (BC, DR R:307). Callaway appears to have lived on the land and operated a small farm there (1873a) until January 1874, when he sold the parcel to T. M. Leath for $300 (BC, DR T:356). The higher purchase price suggests the presence of improvements, as does the fact that Bell County assessed Leath for livestock and tools generally associated with a small farm (1874a–1875a, 1877a).

On October 21, 1877, Leath and his wife, Mary, conveyed the property to H. C. Denny for $400 (BC, DR Y:144). Denny apparently lived in Belton; he acquired other parcels of rural land, and his use of the Russell Survey is not clear (1878a, 1882a).

There is a break in the chain of title between Denny and X. B. Saunders, who was assessed $200 for the 111-acre tract in 1887. By 1897, Saunders had acquired nearly 1,000 acres of adjacent land and appears to have used the property to raise goats. Bell County tax records indicate that he operated a small ranch on the property, and they suggest that he improved it, especially around the turn of the century. However, Saunders apparently lived in Belton throughout the period (1887a, 1897a, 1907a).

For the remainder of the legal history for the land on which 41BL809 is located, see the site history for 41BL350.

Summary: Site 41BL809 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL350. Site 41BL809 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL811 (Tract 716)

Site History: Site 41BL811 is located on approximately 185 acres in the north-central

portion of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 716, which encompassed 197.5 acres in three surveys and contained three sites, 41BL808, 41BL811, and 41BL817.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL811 is located from 1838 until March 1853, see the site history for 41BL350. For the legal history from March 1853, when James R. Jones acquired approximately 845 acres in the Jones Survey, until 1879, see the site history for 41BL824.

In November 1879, Jones and his wife, Margaret, conveyed a 200-acre tract out of the north-central portion of the north one-half of the Wiley Jones Survey to H. E. Keys for $2,000 (BC, DR Y:315). The purchase price suggests that Jones had improved the property substantially.

On December 15, 1890, Keys and his wife, Eva, sold the 200 acres to J. F. Morgan for $3,400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 78:134), an amount that suggests that Keys had improved the property further. In August 1892, Morgan conveyed the 200-acre parcel to R. L. Gully for $4,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 113:314). The purchase price suggests that Gully continued to improve the property.

In March 1903, R. L. Gully and his wife, Maria, sold the land to X. B. Saunders for $3,000 in cash and notes, suggesting either a decline in the condition of the improvements or a decline in general land values (BC, DR 150:89).

By 1917, X. B. Saunders and his wife, Annie, had died. Six individuals and their respective spouses, identified as the children and only heirs of Annie E. Saunders, conveyed about 950 acres in the Wiley Jones and David Russell Surveys, including the 200-acre parcel on which 41BL811 is located, to J. C. Damron for $10,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 285:101). The purchase price suggests the presence of substantial improvements on the land, although their location or locations remain unknown.

On February 15, 1926, J. C. Damron, his daughter, Thetty M. Schulz, and W. H. Hartwick and his wife, Mary, conveyed about 1,100 acres, including the 200-acre parcel, to James W. Smith for $10 (BC, DR 368:536). Thetty Schulz signed the deed because Damron's wife, M. A., was deceased. The Hartwicks were named in the deed because Damron had sold part of the land conveyed to them in an earlier conveyance.

Between 1926 and 1945, the 200-acre parcel, now referred to as containing 197.5 acres and later known as Tract 716, was owned by Damron (1926–1932), W. R. McDaniel (1932–1943), C. H. and Gladys Adams (1943–1945), and E. E. Nettles (1945) (BC, DR 416:434; 504:582; 529:333). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from about $7,500 to $8,000, suggesting the presence of substantial improvements. However, because Tract 716 contains three sites (41BL808, 41BL811, and 41BL817), the associations of the improvements are unclear.

In March 1945, Nettles and his wife, Ludie, sold the 197.5-acre tract to V. M. Longmire for $10 and other valuable considerations (BC, DR 526:397). In December 1950, Longmire and his wife, Ruth, conveyed the property to C. C. Newby and wife, Ruby, for $20,000 (BC, DR 636:131), thus re-establishing the presence and substantial nature of the improvements.

On February 23, 1954, the Newbys conveyed 197.5 acres, Tract 716, to the U.S. government for $48,150 and the right to remove a number of structures, including a dwelling, garage, various outbuildings, and a tenant house (BC, DR 699:562). When the government acquired the tract, it encompassed 197.5 acres in the Wiley Jones, David Russell, and J. R. Jones Surveys, and contained 41BL808, 41BL811, and 41BL817.

Summary: Tract 716, which contains site 41BL811, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when James R. Jones owned 845 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey. When Jones sold a 200-acre parcel to H. E. Keys in 1879, the purchase price was $2,000, an amount that suggests the property was improved. From that point until the government acquired Tract 716 in 1954, the value of the property consistently reflects both the presence and substantial nature of improvements. However, because the tract contains three sites, 41BL808, 41BL811, and 41BL817, the location and associations of the more-improved site or sites cannot be determined with certainty based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL812 (Tract 704)

Site History: Site 41BL812 is located on 105 acres out of the 317.7-acre Samuel Wheat Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the

government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 704, which encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL812 is located from 1854 until 1901, when W. J. Jones owned the 317.7-acre Samuel Wheat Survey, see the site history for 41BL420.

In October 1901, Jones and his wife, M. A., sold 105 acres out of their 317.7-acre tract to Joseph Boyd for $1,200 (BC, DR 140:145), a sum that suggested the presence of improvements. Boyd owned the property for about 10 years, conveying it in 1910 to E. D. Carpenter for $1,550 in cash and notes (BC, DR 207:544), further indicating improvements.

Between 1910 and 1913, the property was owned by Carpenter (1910–1911), W. B. Wright (1911), J. F. Arnold (1911), N. L. Shanklin (1911), X. H. Miller (1911), L. B. Webster (1911), B. D. McKinzie (1911–1913), and John W. Kelly (1913) (BC, DR 216:223; 222:318, 565; 228:346; 229:572; 235:158; 247:403). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $1,550 (Boyd to Carpenter) to $3,900 (Webster to McKinzie), sums that suggested further improvements to the property.

Kelly owned the 105-acre parcel between 1913 and 1938, when he sold it to Roy Litteer for $200 cash and Litteer's assumption of a Land Bank debt (BC, DR 462:77).

For the remainder of the legal history of 41BL812, see the site history for 41BL420.

Summary: Site 41BL812, located on 105 acres in the western portion of the 1,138-acre Tract 704, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when Samuel Wheat claimed residency to satisfy preemption claim requirements. The property sold only a few times during the remainder of the nineteenth century, and each conveyance appears to have indicated the presence of improvements. Owners in this era were William Potter, Samuel Bates, and S. H. Underwood. Earliest occupation also could have occurred during this time period.

With exceptions occurring in the early 1930s, conveyances in the twentieth century continue the pattern of rising prices, suggesting further improvements and owner-occupancy. The improved nature of the property appears to have continued until the government acquired Tract 704 in 1954.

When the government condemned Tract 704 in 1954, the compensation paid to the owner, Tom G. Bowles Sr., suggested the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 704 encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL813 (Tract 704)

Site History: Site 41BL813 is located on 106 acres in the central portion of the 320-acre David Russell Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 704, which encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL813 is located from 1852 until 1872, when D. D. Potter owned the Russell Survey, see the site history for 41BL809.

In October 1872, Potter sold 106 acres out of the central portion of the Russell Survey to S. A. Ward for $200, an amount that suggests that the property was only minimally improved, if at all (BC, DR R:305). Four years later, in October 1876, Sarah A. Ward, acting through her attorney, conveyed the 106-acre parcel to C. A. Dupper and his wife, S. F., for $700 in cash and notes (BC, DR Z:119), a sum that indicates that Ward had improved the property in some manner. Just over 1 year later, Dupper and his wife sold the property to John A. Brooks for the same price (BC, DR Y:154).

Brooks owned the 106 acres for many years, but facts about his use and occupancy of the land are not known. By 1894, he was dead, and his children sued his widow, now remarried, to partition the various lands belonging to the J. A. Brooks Estate. The suit set out that Brooks and his wife lived in Temple and rented the 106-acre parcel for $450 per year. The court awarded the 106-acre parcel to Mrs. Leila Taylor, a daughter of John A. Brooks (BC, DR J:424; DC Case No. 3922). Less than a month later, in September 1894, Taylor and her husband, L., sold the 106-acre tract to S. M. Sims and his wife, N. A., for $650 and a lot of unspecified value in Troy (BC, DR 99:202).

Sims and his wife owned the property more than 25 years. By 1920, S. M. Sims was dead; his widow and children conveyed the 106 acres to P. C. Hallmark for $2,250 in cash and notes (BC, DR 328:416), an amount that suggests that Sims had improved the property, or perhaps maintained existing improvements.

Hallmark apparently experienced financial difficulties, because the Union Central Life Insurance Company foreclosed on the 106-acre property. In November 1931, Union Central was the high bidder and purchased the land for $1,000 (BC, DR 408:384).

Between 1931 and 1941, Union Central Life Insurance Company sold and reacquired the 106 acres three more times (1937, 1939, 1941) (BC, DR 456:378; 471:256; 488:186). Owners alternating with Union Central during this period of time were W. F. Russell (1933–1937), B. Elliott (1937–1939), Abner Potter (1939–1941), and Tom Bowles (1941) (BC, DR 421:349, 461:377, 472:543, 496:360).

On March 9, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 1,138 acres owned by Bowles (BC, DR 702:200). Designated Tract 704 and encompassing 1,138 acres in the Elisha Davis, Samuel Wheat, David Russell, J. R. Jones, D. D. Potter, J. M. Perryman, and Wiley Jones Surveys, the acreage also was the location of eight historic sites: 41BL399, 41BL420, 41BL783, 41BL804, 41BL805, 41BL812, 41BL813, and 41BL841.

Summary: Use and occupancy of 41BL813, located on 106 acres in the central portion of the David Russell Survey, remain uncertain from 1852 until 1872, although the survey could have been occupied by David Russell and Alfred Polk in the 1850s, D. T. Chamberlin and John T. Flint between 1855 and 1866, and Drury D. Potter between 1866 and 1872. By 1876, the 106-acre parcel had assumed its present-day size and shape, and it appears to have been occupied and/or improved by either Sarah A. Ward or C. A. Dupper. John A. Brooks owned the property from 1876 until 1894, and although evidence indicates that he lived in Temple, he apparently rented the 106-acre parcel for an amount that suggests the presence of improvements. Subsequent transactions between 1894 and 1930 also indicate that the property was improved.

The 106-acre parcel was foreclosed upon several times between 1931 and 1941, perhaps a reflection of general economic instability. Occupancy during this period remains uncertain as the property changed hands fairly rapidly.

Between 1941 and 1954, the property was owned by Tom G. Bowles Sr. When the government condemned Tract 704 in 1954, the compensation paid to the owner suggests the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 704 encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL815 (Tract 703)

Site History: Site 41BL815 is located in the southwestern portion of the 1,280-acre James Halfpenny Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 703, which encompassed 169.25 acres in two surveys and contained three sites—41BL782, 41BL815, and 41BL823.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL815 is located, see the history for 41BL782.

Summary: Site 41BL815 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL782 and 41BL823. Site 41BL815 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL817 (Tract 716)

Site History: Site 41BL817 is located on approximately 185 acres in the north-central portion of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 716, which encompassed 197.5 acres in three surveys and contained three sites, 41BL808, 41BL811, and 41BL817.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL817 is located from 1838 until March 1853, see the site history for 41BL350. For the legal history from March 1853, when James R. Jones acquired approximately 845 acres in the Jones Survey, until 1879, see the site history for 41BL824. For the legal history from 1879 until 1954, when the government acquired the land designated Tract 716, see the site history for 41BL811.

Summary: Site 41BL817 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL808 and 41BL811. It most likely is associated with the occupants of those sites.

Site 41BL818 (Tract 713)

Site History: Site 41BL818 is located on 64 acres in the south-central portion of the northern

one-half of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 64 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL818 is located until March 1853, see the site history for 41BL350. For the legal history from March 1853, when James R. Jones acquired 845 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey, until May 1871, see the site history for 41BL824.

In May 1871, James R. Jones sold a 65-acre piece of his land to John Peeler for $280 (BC, DR O:151). Bell County ad valorem assessments suggest that Peeler improved, farmed, and lived on the land (1871a). He continued to own the land until the mid-1880s, although his use and occupancy are less clear in the later years of this period (1880a).

There is a break in the chain of title between Peeler and H. E. Keys, but by 1885, Bell County assessed Keys $1,500 for 800 acres in the Jones Survey. The 65-acre Peeler tract could have been part of this acreage. Keys appears to have operated a ranch on the land, but because he owned a substantial residence in Belton, it is likely that he did not occupy the rural acreage (1885a).

On October 29, 1890, Keys conveyed several tracts of land in the Wiley Jones Survey to J. Z. Miller for $1,498 (BC, DR 92:461). One of the tracts conveyed contained 65 acres and is the location of 41BL818. Miller's use and occupancy of the land remain unclear (1890a–1891a, 1893a). However, he was a member of a prominent banking firm in Belton, where he probably made his home (Miller 1988:32–49).

There is a break in the chain of title between Miller and D. C. Bowles, but in 1894, Bell County assessed Bowles for 140 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey (1894a). The 65-acre parcel was probably a part of Bowles's acreage. Tax records also suggest that the land was improved, that Bowles maintained a small to mid-sized farm, and that he may have lived there (1902a, 1910a).

On September 11, 1917, D. C. Bowles and his wife, M. A., sold the 65-acre parcel to Ida May Bowles for $2,000 (BC, DR 290:400). The purchase price suggests the presence of improvements, which probably can be associated with 41BL818, the only recorded site on the property.

There is a break in the chain of title between Ida May Bowles and Helen Ferguson. However, in October 1946, Ferguson conveyed the 65-acre parcel and a southern-adjacent 16.38-acre parcel to W. H. Elza and his wife, Ruth, for $2,500 (BC, DR 556:236). The price suggests the presence and maintenance of improvements.

Less than a year later, on October 25, 1947, the Elzas conveyed the 65-acre parcel and the adjoining 16.38-acre parcel to James Lee Roy Gray and his wife, Marie, for $2,850 in cash and notes (BC, DR 569:400), an amount that indicates improvements constituted some portion of the purchase price.

On March 4, 1954, Marie Gray, James Lee Roy Gray's widow and the executrix of his estate, sold the property to the U.S. government for $8,225, reserving the right to remove certain structures, including a dwelling, barn, and outdoor toilet (BC, DR 699:444). When the government acquired Tract 713, it encompassed 64 acres and contained one site.

Summary: Tract 713, on which 41BL818 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1853, when James R. Jones acquired 845 acres out of the central portion of the north one-half of the Wiley Jones Survey. Jones sold a 65-acre parcel out of the southern part of his land to John Peeler in 1871, who appears to have lived on and farmed the tract. H. E. Keys and J. Z. Miller, owners between the mid-1880s and mid-1890s, probably used the tract as part of large ranching and farming operations, but their occupation of the 65-acre parcel is unlikely.

Beginning in the mid-1890s, the 65-acre parcel appears to have been farmed and probably owner-occupied until the government acquired the property in 1954. Owners during this period include D. C. Bowles, Ida May Bowles, Helen Ferguson, W. H. Elza and his wife, Ruth; and James Lee Roy Gray and his wife, Marie.

Site 41BL819 (Tract 717)

Site History: Site 41BL819 is located on approximately 100 acres in the southern part of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 235.2 acres in three surveys and contained sites 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL839, 41BL847, and 41BL848.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL819 is located from 1854 until 1881, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845.

On October 5, 1881, Violet Doss sold a 100-acre parcel on which 41BL819 is located out of the southeast corner of the Perryman Survey to Harman W. Doss for $250 (BC, DR 36:504); the price indicates that the property may have been improved. Doss owned the land for nearly 20 years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that he improved the property, maintaining a small farm operation there. It is also possible, though not certain, that he lived there (1890a, 1892a).

In March 1900, Doss sold the property to his wife, Sallie E., for $500, a price that may substantiate the existence of improvements. However, the conveyance included several small tracts in two adjacent surveys on which improvements may have been situated.

Sallie Doss sold off several small tracts in the northern portion of her land, but continued to own approximately 30 acres in the southern and central portions of the 100-acre parcel. Sites 41BL819, 41BL839, 41BL847, and 41BL848 appear to be located on this 30-acre parcel of Tract 717.

There is a break in the chain of title between Sallie Doss, who died in about 1924 (BC, DR 700:585), and A. J. Beville, who owned the land in 1932. However, it is likely that initial occupancy of the sites located on Doss's portion of Tract 717 occurred well before this break.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL819 is located from 1932, when A. J. Beville owned about 300 acres in five surveys, including the 30-acre portion on which 41BL819 is located, until 1954, when the government acquired the property, see the site history for 41BL825.

Summary: Site 41BL819, located on that portion of Tract 717 situated in the J. M. Perryman Survey, may have been occupied as early as 1854, when John M. Perryman filed a preemption claim on 318 acres in Bell County. Jesse and Violet Doss owned the land on which 41BL819 is located from 1861 until 1881 and may have lived at one of the sites found on Tract 717. Harmon and Sallie Doss owned that portion of the land encompassing 41BL819 from 1881 until 1924, and they appear to have lived and farmed there.

From 1932 until 1954, when the government acquired Tract 717, records suggest that the property was improved. The deed to the government allowed the seller to remove several structures, including two dwellings, a garage, and a barn from the premises, establishing the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL820 (Tract 714)

Site History: Site 41BL820 is located on 48 acres in the south-central portion of the northern half of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 714, which encompassed 48 acres and contained one site.

For the legal history of Tract 714 until March 1853, when the Wiley Jones heirs partitioned the Jones Survey, see the site history for 41BL350. For the legal history from March 1853 until May 1871, when James R. Jones owned 845 acres in the Jones Survey, see the site history for 41BL824.

On May 25, 1871, Jones conveyed a 110-acre parcel of land from the southern portion of his 845-acre tract to Mathew R. Wilkins for "two horses rated at $250 each" (BC, DR R:173). Wilkins owned the western 50 acres of this property for nearly 50 years, and ad valorem tax records suggest that he improved, farmed, and perhaps occupied the property for the first few years (1873a, 1876a). However, his later use and occupancy of the property are much less clear (1882a–1883a, 1890a).

By 1909, Wilkins was dead, and what appear to be his heirs began to sell their interests in the 50-acre parcel of land. In a series of five transactions between 1909 and 1913, Henry Mize purchased the interests of 18 individuals and spouses. Each of these deeds specified that the grantors acquired their interest through inheritance from Mathew R. Wilkins (BC, DR 200:58; 214:440; 219:417; 240:210; 243:364).

Mize owned the 50-acre parcel from 1914 until 1935, but his use and occupancy of the property are uncertain. In November 1935, Mize sold the property to James A. Ferguson for $400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 440:562). Between 1935 and 1943, the 50-acre parcel was owned by Ferguson (1935), K. L. Smith (1935–1940), L. M. Cathey (1940–1943), and W. H. Jackson (1941–1943) (BC, DR 440:563; 479:12; 493:186). The prices in these transactions reflected a steady increase from $400 to $525, until Jackson purchased the property in 1941. He paid only $400, perhaps suggesting that the improvements, if any, were in declining condition.

Jackson owned the property for only 2 years, selling it in December 1943 to A. A. and S. E. Welhausen, both single men (BC, DR 515:296). Jackson apparently improved the property, because the purchase price increased from the $400 he paid in 1941 to $1,500 paid by the Welhausens.

In June 1945, the Welhausens conveyed the 50-acre parcel to John Steele for $1,900 (BC, DR 530:388), a price that suggests that the Welhausens had maintained or increased the value of the improvements.

On December 8, 1953, John A. Steele and wife, Florence, sold the land to the U.S. government for $5,515 and the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling, garage, and chicken house (BC, DR 699:78). When the government acquired the property, it consisted of 48 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey and contained one recorded site, 41BL820.

Summary: Tract 714, the location of 41BL820, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when James R. Jones owned 845 acres in the central portion of the northern half of the Wiley Jones Survey. Mathew R. Wilkins owned a 50-acre parcel on which 41BL820 is located from 1871 until 1909, and he appears to have improved and occupied the property in the early part of that period. His later use and occupancy are less clear.

Between 1909 and 1943, the condition of any improvements on the property appears to have declined. However, W. H. Jackson, who owned the 50-acre parcel in 1943, apparently improved it substantially. At the end of his 2-year ownership, the sale price had increased from $400 to $1,500. From that point until 1953, when the government acquired Tract 714, it appears to have been continuously owner-occupied, and it was improved.

Site 41BL822 (Tract 735)

Site History: Site 41BL822 is located on 2 acres in the south-central portion of the northern one-half of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 735, which encompassed 2 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL822 is located from 1838 until 1947, when John Steele owned 50 acres out of the John Wiley Survey, see the site histories for 41BL350, 41BL820, and 41BL824.

In March 1947, Steele and his wife, Florence, conveyed a 1-acre parcel out of the southwest corner of their 50 acres to G. P. Pritchett for $1 (BC, DR 564:42). This 1-acre parcel comprises the southern one-half of Tract 735 and is the location of 41BL822. On December 9, 1950, Steele and his wife sold a second 1-acre parcel to Pritchett and his wife, Floy, for $1 (BC, DR 636:162). This conveyance gave Tract 735 its present-day size and shape.

On the same date, December 9, 1950, the Pritchetts sold the 2 acres to A. A. Connell Jr. for $1,200 (BC, DR 636:163). The purchase price suggests the presence of improvements that most likely were associated with 41BL822.

In December 1951, Connell and his wife, Delia, conveyed their 2 acres to James E. Brackeen and wife, Saretha, for $1,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 661:62). This increase in value in a year's time suggests that the Connells further improved the property.

On December 11, 1953, the Brackeens sold Tract 735 to the U.S. government for $2,160 and reserved the right to remove certain structures, including a dwelling and guest room, a chicken house, and an outdoor toilet (BC, DR 698:382). When the government acquired the property, it consisted of 2 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey.

Summary: Tract 735, on which 41BL822 is located, most likely was unoccupied until G. P. Pritchett and wife, Floy, purchased 2 acres from John Steele—1 acre in 1947 and the other in 1950. The Pritchetts apparently built a house and other improvements before they sold the property to A. A. Connell Jr. in 1951. In 1954, Connell and his wife, Delia, sold the 2 acres to James E. Brackeen and his wife, who then conveyed the land to the government in 1954. In addition to the cash consideration for the sale, the Brackeens reserved the right to remove improvements that probably were associated with 41BL822.

Site 41BL823 (Tract 703)

Site History: Site 41BL823 is located in the southwestern portion of the 1,280-acre James Halfpenny Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 703, which encompassed 169.25 acres in two surveys and contained three sites: 41BL782, 41BL815, and 41BL823.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL823 is located, see the history for 41BL782.

Summary: Site 41BL823 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL782 and 41BL815. Site 41BL823 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific associations of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL824 (Tract 711)

Site History: Site 41BL824 is located on 81.6 acres in the south-central portion of the northern one-half of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 711, which consisted of 81.6 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL824 is located from 1838 until March 1853, see the site history for 41BL350.

In March 1853, the Wiley Jones heirs partitioned the survey. James R. Jones received the central portion of the northern one-half of the survey, which contained approximately 845 acres (BC, DR H:564). Jones appears to have operated a ranch on the land and may have lived on the property (1858a, 1864a, 1870a, 1875a).

In April 1880, Jones and his wife, Margaret, sold approximately 200 acres of the Wiley Jones Survey to H. E. Keys for $412 (BC, DR 33:252). Keys may have maintained a ranch operation on the property, but appears to have lived in Belton (1880a, 1885a).

On October 29, 1890, Keys conveyed several tracts of land in the Wiley Jones Survey to J. Z. Miller for $1,498 (BC, DR 92:461). One of the tracts conveyed contained 81.6 acres and is the location of 41BL824. Miller owned the land for 3 years, but his use of it is unclear (1891a, 1893a). He was a prominent banker in Belton, where he probably lived (Miller 1988:32–49).

Miller sold the 81.6-acre parcel to J. M. Herring for $480 in December 1893 (BC, DR 105:465). Herring's use and occupancy of the property are uncertain in the early years of his ownership, but by 1900, he appears to have been farming the land, and he may have lived there (1894a–1895a, 1900a, 1902a).

In January 1902, Herring sold the 81.6-acre tract to C. J. Jackson for $1,000 (BC, DR 140:318). Jackson owned the land for over 15 years and even though he appears to have improved the property, he probably maintained his residence in Nolanville (1905a, 1910a). It is possible, though not certain, that Jackson rented his various farms to tenants.

By 1917, C. J. Jackson was dead, and his widow, Harriet, partitioned their estate among their children. She conveyed the 81.6-acre parcel to their son, G. A. Jackson, along with several other pieces of property, including a lot in Nolanville (BC, DR 310:469).

In May 1920, Jackson and his wife, Bird, sold the 81.6-acre parcel and the Nolanville lot to J. S. Cowan for $5,000 (BC, DR 321:110). The purchase price suggests that both of the properties were improved.

Between 1920 and 1934, the 81.6-acre parcel was owned by W. W. Thornton (1921–1931), W. W. Smith (1931–1934), and the First National Bank of La Grange (1934) (BC, DR 332:471; 406:237; 431:107). Use and occupancy during this period are not clear.

There is a break in the chain of title between the First National Bank of La Grange and James A. Ferguson. On November 16, 1934, Ferguson and his wife, Katie May, conveyed the 81.6-acre tract to Lee Renker and his wife, Mamie, for $950 and the payment of all taxes due (BC, DR 431:326). In a companion affidavit, J. S. Cowan and Ferguson swore that the land has been cultivated and occupied continuously since 1902, when C. J. Jackson owned the property (BC, DR 431:325).

On February 9, 1953, Lee Renker and his wife, Mamie, sold the land that comprised present-day Tract 711 to the U.S. government for $9,425 (BC, DR 703:6). The Renkers also reserved the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling and several outbuildings, before December 1, 1953.

Summary: Tract 711, which contains 41BL824, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s when the property was owned by James R. Jones. Jones appears to have operated a ranch on the land until he sold it in 1880. Between 1880 and 1900, subsequent owners continued to use the land as a ranch and/or farm, but their occupancy of the property is unclear.

In 1900, J. M. Herring appears to have farmed the 81.6-acre Tract 711, and he may have lived there. Beginning in 1902, with the ownership of C. J. Jackson, Tract 711 appears to have been occupied continuously until the

government acquired the property in 1953. Owners during this period included G. A. Jackson, J. S. Cowan, W. W. Thornton, W. W. Smith, The First National Bank of La Grange, and Lee Renker.

Site 41BL825 (Tract 717)

Site History: Site 41BL825 is located in the northeastern portion of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 717, which encompassed 235.2 acres of land in three surveys and contained five sites: 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL839, 41BL847, and 41BL848.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL825 is located from 1838 until 1853, see the site history for 41BL350.

In March 1853, the Wiley Jones heirs partitioned the 4,605-acre survey (BC, DR H:564). Martha Swoop, daughter of Wiley Jones, received the eastern one-third of the northern one-half of the survey, containing approximately 845 acres.

On January 5, 1856, Benjamin F. Swoop, administrator of the estate of Martha Swoop, conveyed the land to Abner Kuykendall for $1,400 (BC, DR E:614). In March 1863, Kuykendall sold the property to James W. Kuykendall for the same price (BC, DR I:409). About 3 years later, in October 1867, James Kuykendall conveyed the land to M. J. Kuykendall, again for $1,400 (BC, DR J:166). The prices associated with these transactions suggest that the property may have been improved slightly.

On the same day that M. J. Kuykendall acquired the land, he sold 300 acres in the northeast corner to J. D. Giddings for $500 (BC, DR J:564), a price that suggests the possibility of the presence of improvements. Just 2 years later, in May 1869, Giddings sold the 300-acre parcel to Lewis G. Mize for $200 (BC, DR N:54), a price that suggestsr that the land actually was unimproved or that land values had declined.

Mize sold at least one 60-acre parcel from his land, but apparently owned the balance until his death sometime between 1882 and 1887. According to Bell County ad valorem tax records, his widow, Mrs. M. E. Mize, was assessed for acreage in the Jones Survey until 1892. During that time, the appraised value of their land in the Wiley Jones Survey rose from $100 to over $1,800, suggesting that the Mizes substantially improved their property. The assessment also listed livestock and tools typically associated with a small farm and ranch operation (1872a, 1877a, 1882a, 1887a, 1892a).

There is a break in the chain of title between the Mizes and S. H. Boyd, but in October 1895, Boyd sold 128.2 acres, including a 71-acre parcel on which 41BL825 is located, to J. C. Damron for nearly $1,100 (BC, DR 139:539), a price that indicates the presence of improvements. Less than 2 years later, in June 1897, Damron and his wife, A. M., conveyed a 75-acre parcel out of the Jones Survey to R. R. Coleman for $1,550 in cash and notes, a sum that confirms the improved nature of the property (BC, DR 126:30). Site 41BL825 appears to be located on this 75-acre part of Tract 717.

Between 1897, when Coleman bought the property, and 1916, the 75-acre parcel was owned by Coleman (1897–1902), J. M. Russ (1902–1910), R. L. Garner (1910), W. L. Whitley (1910–1913), E. W. Ferguson (1913–1914), A. B. Pickett (1914–1915), M. W. Coles (1915–1916), Susie Christoph (1916), Sallie Johnson (1916), and Charles B. Smith (1916) (BC, DR 147:574; 207:170, 512; 238:382; 263:107; 265:52; 273:537; 275:282, 284; 291:11). The purchase prices associated with these transactions appear to reflect the presence and maintenance of improvements.

There is a break in the chain of title between Smith, who owned the property in 1916, and J. Z. Miller Jr., who owned it in 1919. However, in August 1919, Miller sold 137 acres, including the 75-acre parcel, to S. H. Allen for $2,800 in cash and notes (BC, DR 316:255), a sum that suggests that the property was improved.

Between 1919 and 1932, the 75-acre parcel was owned by Allen (1919–1922), E. B. Anderson (1922–1923), G. M. Pollard (1923–1924), J. P. Hellums (1924), W. T. Adams (1924–1926), L. P. Heard (1926–1928), Tom DuBose (1928), and A. J. Beville (1928–1932) (BC, DR 313:32; 333:231; 348:535; 350:474; 351:425; 377:211; 383:486; 385:500). The purchase prices associated with these transactions appear to reflect the presence and increasing value of improvements.

In May 1932, A. J. Beville sold 13 tracts of land to his daughter, Jane K. Beville, for an unspecified consideration (BC, DR 416:208). The land conveyed included the 75-acre parcel on which 41Bl825 is located, as well as the balance

of Tract 717.

On March 12, 1954, Alexander J. Beville, as agent and attorney-in-fact for Jane K. Beville, sold the land presently designated as Tract 717 to the U.S. government for $14,375 and the right to remove several structures, including two dwellings, a garage, barn, and other outbuildings. When the government acquired the land, it encompassed 235.2 acres in the Wiley Jones, J. M. Perryman, and D. D. Potter Surveys, and contained five sites: 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL839, 41BL847, and 41BL848.

Summary: Site 41BL825, located on that part of Tract 717 situated in the Wiley Jones Survey, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when members of the Kuykendall family owned about 850 acres in the northeast portion of the Wiley Jones Survey.

Lewis G. Mize and his wife, M. A., owned all or part of a 300-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the survey from 1869 until the early-1890s. During this period, the ad valorem tax value of their land rose from $200 to over $1,800, an increase that suggests that the Mizes improved and probably occupied the property. The Mizes most likely were the initial occupants of that part of Tract 717 located in the Wiley Jones Survey; 41BL825 may be associated with their occupation.

The price paid in subsequent transactions probably indicated that owners maintained and further improved the land on which 41BL825 is located. In 1954, when the government acquired Tract 717, the owner reserved the right to remove a number of structures, confirming that the property was improved.

Site 41BL826 (Tract 715)

Site History: Site 41BL826 is located on 60 acres in the south-central portion of the northern one-half of the 4,605 Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 715, which encompassed 187.8 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL826 is located from 1838 until March 1853, when the Wiley Jones heirs partitioned the survey, see the site history for 41BL350. For the legal history from March 1853 until May 1871, when James R. Jones owned about 845 acres in the central portion of the northern one-half of the Jones Survey, see the site history for 41BL824.

On May 25, 1871, Jones conveyed a 110-acre parcel of land from the southern portion of his 845-acre parcel to Mathew R. Wilkins for "two horses rated at $250 each" (BC, DR R:173). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Wilkins lived on and improved his land, but because he owned a number of properties, the location of the improvements remains uncertain (1874a).

There is a break in the chain of title between Wilkins and W. H. Edwards, but in 1882, Bell County assessed Edwards $100 for 110 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey, a value that suggests that the property was unimproved. In June 1882, Edwards sold the eastern 60 acres of the 110-acre tract to Mrs. M. A. Evans (BC, DR 40:582); 41BL826 is located on this 60-acre parcel.

On March 3, 1883, Evans conveyed the 60-acre parcel and an additional 50 acres to Mrs. M. A. Bowles for $450 in cash and notes (BC, DR 46:530). Just over a year later, in July 1884, Bowles and her husband, D. C., sold 160 acres that included the 60-acre parcel to H. E. Keys for $800 (BC, DR 48:311). These transactions reflect a sharp rise in value, suggesting that the property conveyed was improved during this period. However, because each transaction covers not only the 60 acres on which 41BL826 is located but other property as well, it is difficult to associate the apparent improvements with 41BL826 with any degree of certainty. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Keys operated a ranch on several rural tracts, but suggest that he lived in Belton (1884a, 1890a).

In October 1890, H. E. Keys sold about 500 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey, including the 60-acre parcel, to J. Z. Miller Sr. for $1,498 (BC, DR 92:461). There is a break in the chain of title between J. Z. Miller Sr. and A. J. Wilder. However, by 1925, Wilder had acquired the 60-acre parcel along with other land in the Wiley Jones Survey. In December 1925, he conveyed 187.8 acres, including the 60-acre parcel, to W. O. Wren for $9,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 363:503), a sum that suggests that the property was heavily improved. The 187.8-acre parcel is the present-day configuration of Tract 715.

Between 1934 and 1950, the 187.8-acre tract was owned by the Kansas City Life Insurance Company (1934–1943), Walter A. White (1943–1946), and J. W. Smith (1946–1950) (BC, DR 434:188; 509:462; 555:482). The purchase prices

in these transactions rose steadily from $2,500 to $4,250, suggesting the presence and maintenance of improvements. Since 41BL826 is the only recorded site on Tract 715, these improvements most likely are associated with this site.

On March 6, 1950, Smith and his wife, Willie, conveyed Tract 715 to the Veterans' Land Board (VLB) for $6,300 (BC, DR 615:170). In November 1953, the VLB sold Tract 715 to W. B. Smith for the same price (BC, DR 698:226).

On November 2, 1953, Smith and his wife, Beatrice, conveyed their land to the U.S. government for $12,265 and the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling, smokehouse, barn, and outdoor toilet (BC, DR 698:224). At the time of the government's acquisition, Tract 715 consisted of 187.8 acres in three parcels, all located in the Wiley Jones Survey.

Summary: Tract 715, on which 41BL826 is located, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when James R. Jones owned 845 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey. Mathew R. Wilkins may have lived on a 110-acre parcel that he purchased from Jones and that was the location of 41BL826. The value of the property increased sharply in 1883–1884, which could reflect the construction of improvements by either Mrs. M. A. Evans or Mrs. M. A. Bowles. However, because these transactions covered other land, as well, it is difficult to establish a firm connection between the apparent improvements and 41BL826. H. E. Keys and J. Z. Miller Sr. each operated a ranch that included the 60-acre parcel where 41BL826 is located, but their occupation of the property is unlikely.

By 1925, Tract 715 had assumed its present-day size and configuration. It appears that from 1925 until the government acquired the property in 1953, Tract 715 was occupied and improved by the owners of the land who included A. J. Wilder, W. O. Wren, Walter A. White, J. W. Smith, and W. B. Smith.

W. B. Smith and his wife sold Tract 715 to the U.S. government in 1953, and in addition to the cash consideration, reserved the right to remove certain improvements. Site 41BL826 probably is the former location of the improvements.

Site 41BL828 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL828 is located in the north-central portion of the 640-acre William Brown Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

On March 16, 1838, the Harrisburg Board of Land Commissioners issued a second class certificate (No. 144) to William Brown. The certificate entitled Brown to 640 acres by virtue of the fact that he had arrived in the Republic of Texas in September 1836 and was single. In October 1838, Brown sold his headright certificate to J. M. McGee for $100 (BC, DR G:707). McGee conveyed all rights to Brown's headright certificate to Mary Shea for $200 in April 1839 (BC, DR G:709). Later that same month, Shea and her husband, John, sold all their interest in Brown's headright certificate to W. R. Baker for $60 (BC, DR E:687). William Armstrong, Milam District Surveyor, surveyed Brown's 640 acres in April 1851. The field notes describe a parcel of land on Nolan Creek about 9 miles northwest of Belton. On February 3, 1855, the State of Texas patented the 640-acre parcel to Brown. (Texas. General Land Office 1855a).

In July 1855, Baker sold Brown's headright certificate to Daniel Ayres for $640 (BC, DR F:55). Ayres took title to the land to facilitate the collection of a debt owed by Baker to the firm of Bunce, Esler, & Cobb of New Jersey (BC, DR G:294). In December 1860, Bunce, Esler, and Cobb, and their respective spouses, conveyed the 640-acre parcel to W. G. Anderson, also of New Jersey, for $750 (BC, DR H:635). Anderson sold the property to Thomas Stryker of New Jersey, for $730 in March 1861 (BC, DR J:558). Stryker died in Trenton, New Jersey in 1872, survived only by his son, William S. Stryker (BC, DR 42:69). Stryker, as the only heir of Thomas Stryker, sold the 640-acre parcel to P. G. Rucker for $800 in November 1882 (BC, DR 42:70). Three weeks later, Rucker conveyed the property to Henry E. Keys for $920 in cash and notes (BC, DR 42:73). Use and occupancy during this period remain uncertain (1852a, 1854a, 1855a, 1860a, 1863a, 1867a, 1872a, 1877a).

Keys operated a large ranch on this property as well as on other contiguous land. For the legal history of the land where 41BL828 and 41BL831 are located from 1882 until 1913, when the I. A.

McFaddin heirs owned the property, see 41BL735.

The I. A. McFaddin heirs sold 2,155 acres that included land in five surveys and contains nine sites to E. C. Clabaugh for $12,500 in cash and notes in September 1913 (BC, DR 247:134). In April 1914, Clabaugh sold 560 acres that included the land where 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL846, and 41BL855 are located, to G. W. Robbins for $14,000 (BC, DR 257:393). The purchase price seems to indicate the presence of improvements, but the number of acres and sites involved in the transaction precludes a firm association of land, sites, and proportional value.

Robbins and his wife, Nannie, conveyed 210 acres, where 41BL828 and 41BL831 are located, to R. L. Dockum for $1,725 in cash and notes in February 1915 (BC, DR 273:492), an amount that suggests that the property was improved. About 2 weeks later, Dockum sold an undivided one-half interest to E. M. Smith and the other one-half interest to Myrtle Dockum (BC, DR 253:208, 209). Each party paid $1,312.50 in cash and notes, suggesting the presence of improvements. In January 1918, Myrtle Dockum sold her half interest to Smith for $2,312.50 (BC, DR 294:74), indicating further improvements to the 210-acre property.

E. M. Smith's only heirs, his widow and son, conveyed the 210 acres to Blanche McFarland for $1,470 in June 1938 (BC, DR 464:510). In April 1945, McFarland and her husband sold the property to J. W. Mayes and his wife, Dorothy, for $3,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 529:555). One year later, Mayes and his wife conveyed the 210-acre parcel to H. F. and J. H. Overby for $4,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 545:276.

The Overbys added the 210 acres to their substantial ranch property holdings in the area. For the remainder of the legal history of the land where 41BL828 and 41BL831 are located until 1953, when the government acquired the property, see the site history for 41BL735.

Summary: The earliest owners of the north-central portion of the William Brown Survey, where 41BL828 and 41BL831 are located, apparently did not live in Bell County, and their use and occupation of the property are uncertain. Henry E. Keys owned the land where the sites are located in the early 1880s and operated a ranch on his property. However, his holdings included approximately 2,000 acres so that establishing his occupation of any portion of the property is difficult. I. A. McFaddin owned the ranch property that included the land where 41BL828 and 41BL831 are located from 1883 until 1913. However, land and tax records indicate that McFaddin lived in Williamson County during this period.

Between 1918 and 1946, the 210-acre parcel where 41BL828 and 41BL831 are located sold for escalating prices that suggest the presence of improvements. Owners of significant duration during this period include E. M. Smith (1918–1938) and Blanche McFarland (1938–1945). H. F. and J. H. Overby owned the property from 1945 until the government acquired the land in 1953. They added the land to their holdings in the area and apparently used the property for ranching purposes.

When the government bought Tract 900, the Overbys received $127,335 and reserved the right to remove several agricultural structures, indicating that the property was improved.

Site 41BL829 (Tract 719)

Site History: Site 41BL829 is located on 104.6 acres in the northeastern portion of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 719, which encompassed 104.6 acres in the Jones Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL829 is located from 1838 until 1853, see the site history for 41BL350. For the legal history from March 1853, when the Wiley Jones heirs partitioned the survey, until 1885, when Lewis G. Mize owned 300 acres in the northeast corner of the survey, see the site history for 41BL825.

In January 1885, Mize sold a 104.6-acre parcel out of his 300 acres to John T. Hallmark and his wife, M. J., for about $480 in cash and notes (BC, DR 71:279). The purchase price may suggest that the property was improved. This 104.6-acre parcel is later identified as Tract 719 and is the location of 41BL829.

In October 1892, the Hallmarks sold the 104.6 acres to J. B. Saunders for $550 in cash and notes (BC, DR 86:570), thus indicating that the property was improved. About 2 years later, in November 1894, Saunders and his wife, Willie A., conveyed the 104.6-acre parcel to T. B. Roberts and his wife, E. A., for $750 (BC, DR

100:351), a price that further substantiates the presence of improvements.

The Robertses owned the 104.6 acres for many years. Esther Roberts died in 1914, and later that year two of her four children conveyed their interests in the property to a third child, Lula Ruth Roberts, for $1,000 improvements (BC, DR 305:246; 698:480), an amount that corroborates the presence of. Their father, T. B. Roberts, died in 1949 (BC, DR 701:36).

On October 1, 1953, Lula Ruth Roberts Barnes and Dollie E. Pedigo and her husband George, sold the 104.6-acre parcel to the U.S. government for $3,775 (BC, DR 701:34), a price that indicates the presence of improvements. When the government acquired the property it was identified as Tract 719 and consisted of 104.6 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey.

Summary: Site 41BL829, located on Tract 719, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when members of the Kuykendall family owned about 850 acres in the northeast portion of the Wiley Jones Survey.

Lewis G. Mize and his wife, M. A., owned a 300-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the survey from 1869 until the early-1890s. During this period, ad valorem tax records suggest that the Mizes improved and probably occupied the property. However, it is unclear if the improvements can be associated with 41BL829 or another site situated on the 300 acres, 41BL825.

T. B. Roberts and his wife acquired a 104.6-acre parcel, later identified as Tract 719, in 1894, and it stayed in the family for nearly 60 years. Initial occupation of Tract 719 most likely occurred early in this period and continued until the government acquired the property in 1953.

Site 41BL830 (Tract 722)

Site History: Site 41BL830 is located on 224 acres in the southeastern portion of the 4,605-acre Wiley Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 722, which encompassed 224 acres in the Jones Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL830 is located from 1838 until 1853, when the Wiley Jones heirs partitioned the survey, see the site history for 41BL350. For the legal history from 1853 until 1866, when M. J. Kuykendall owned 738 acres in the northeastern portion of the Jones Survey, see the site history for 41BL825.

In December 1866, Kuykendall sold the southerly 267.66 acres of his land to H. Keys for $267.66 (BC, DR V:366), a price that suggests that the property was not improved. About 5 years later, in July 1871, Mathew Keys, administrator of the estate of Henry Keys, sold the 267.66-acre parcel to Henry E. Keys for $500 (BC, DR R:397), an amount that suggests that the property was improved slightly. Keys owned the property for over 10 years, maintaining a ranch there but apparently living in Belton (see also 41BL818 and 41BL824).

In May 1884, Keys sold 200 acres consisting of 50 acres in the Jones Survey and 150 acres in the adjacent J. M. Porter Survey to J. M. Carpenter for $3,000 (BC, DR 48:144), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Site 41BL830 appears to be located on this 50-acre parcel in the Jones Survey. Carpenter owned the property for many years, and ad valorem tax records suggest that he farmed and lived on the land (1888a).

By 1936, J. M. Carpenter had died, and title to the 50 acres passed to his children living at the time—Bettie Fulwiler, Ghent Carpenter, and Nannie Carpenter (BC, DR 631:414). One or more of these individuals may have lived on the property until 1951, when they sold 224 acres that included the 50-acre parcel to Tom Bowles Sr. for $14,240 (BC, DR 637:277).

On November 21, 1953, Tom G. Bowles Sr. and his wife, Minnie, sold the 224-acre parcel, identified as Tract 722, to the U.S. government for $6,100 (BC, DR 695:440), perhaps indicating the presence of slight improvements. When the government acquired the property, it encompassed 224 acres in the Wiley Jones Survey and was designated Tract 722.

Summary: Site 41BL830, located on Tract 722, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when members of the Kuykendall family owned about 850 acres in the northeast portion of the Wiley Jones Survey. Henry E. Keys appears to have maintained a ranch that included 267.66 acres in the Jones Survey from 1871 to 1884, but he probably lived in Belton during that period.

J. M. Carpenter acquired the 50-acre parcel where 41BL830 is located in 1884. Land and tax records suggest that he farmed and lived on the property until his death in 1936. Initial

occupancy of the 50 acres where 41BL830 is located most likely occurred during this period. Carpenter's heirs continued to own and perhaps occupy the land until 1951, when they sold it to Tom Bowles Sr., who also may have lived there.

Site 41BL831 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL831 is located in the north-central portion of the 640-acre William Brown Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL831 is located, see the site history for 41BL828.

Summary: Site 41BL831 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL828. Site 41BL831 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL832 (Tract 743)

Site History: Site 41BL832 is located on 5 acres in the southeastern portion of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 743, which encompassed 5 acres in the Perryman Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL832 is located from 1854 until 1881, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845. For the legal history from 1881 until 1917, when Sallie E. Doss owned 100 acres in the southeast corner of the Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL819.

In May 1917, Sallie Doss and her husband, H. W., sold 5 acres out of their 100-acre parcel to A. V. Riley for $75 (BC, DR 286:449); 41BL832 is located on this 5-acre tract. About 3 years later, in December 1920, Riley conveyed the 5-acre parcel to Cordelia A. Jones for $230 (BC, DR 298:541), an amount that suggests that Riley had improved the land. The improvements probably are associated with 41BL832.

In August 1921, Jones sold the 5-acre tract to Lillian Denman for $255 in cash and notes (BC, DR 339:226). Five years later, in January 1926, a group identified as being the heirs of Lillian Denman conveyed the 5-acre parcel back to Jones for $200 (BC, DR 368:420).

In March 1931, Jones sold the 5-acre parcel to Eugenia Nash for $262 (BC, DR 407:123), a sum that suggests that the presence of improvements. About 4 years later, in December 1935, Nash and her husband, J. H., sold the 5-acre tract to W. D. Elliott for $200 (BC, DR 442:339).

On February 27, 1954, Elliott and his wife, Pearl, conveyed their 5-acre parcel to the U.S. government for $5,585 and the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling, garage, barn, chicken houses, and various other outbuildings (BC, DR 703:141). The reservation confirms the presence of improvements.

Summary: Site 41BL832, located on Tract 743, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when J. M. Perryman claimed residency to satisfy preemption requirements. Jesse and Violet Doss also lived on and improved the 318-acre Perryman Survey between 1861 to 1881, but their improvements most likely were elsewhere in the survey.

In 1917, A. V. Riley acquired a 5-acre parcel from Sallie Doss; land records suggest that initial occupancy at 41BL832 could have occurred during this period.

Between 1935 and 1954, W. D. Elliott and his wife owned the 5-acre tract. The purchase price paid by the government, and the fact that the Elliotts reserved the right to remove several structures, indicates that they substantially improved Tract 743 during this period. Site 41BL832 may be associated with the occupancy of both A. V. Riley and the Elliotts.

Site 41BL833 (Tract 742)

Site History: Site 41BL833 is located on 15 acres in the southeastern portion of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of tract 742, which encompassed 15 acres in the Perryman Survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL833 is located from 1854 until 1881, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845. For the

legal history from 1881 until 1921, when Sallie E. Doss owned a 100-acre parcel in the southeast corner of the Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL819.

In March 1921, Sallie Doss sold 15 acres out of her 100-acre parcel to Viola Evans for $300 (BC, DR 326:630), a price that suggests the possibility that the property was improved slightly. Evans continued to own the property until her death in 1933. She was survived by her husband, John W. Evans, who died in 1938; two living children; and several grandchildren (BC, DR 713:347). The heirs owned the property for over 15 years, but the use and occupation of the land during this period are unclear.

On July 13, 1954, the heirs of Viola and John Evans sold the 15-acre parcel to the U.S. government for $875 and the right to remove a one-room dwelling (BC, DR 713:343). This reservation corroborates the presence of improvements.

Summary: Site 41BL833, which is located on Tract 742, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when J. M. Perryman claimed residency to satisfy preemption requirements. Jesse and Violet Doss owned the 318-acre Perryman Survey from 1861 until 1881, and though they improved the property, it is unclear if those improvements were located on Tract 742 or some other part of their land.

Sallie Doss owned a 100-acre parcel in the southeast corner of the Perryman Survey from 1900 until 1921, when she conveyed a 15-acre parcel to Viola Evans. Evans and her heirs owned the property from 1921 until 1954, when the government acquired the land. It is most likely that initial occupation of Tract 742 occurred sometime during the ownership of Sallie Doss or Viola Evans. When the government acquired the property, the sellers reserved the right to remove a dwelling, confirming the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL835 (Tract 737)

Site History: Site 41BL835 is located in the southeastern portion of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the land, the site was part of Tract 737, which encompassed 1 acre in 1 survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL835 is located from 1854 until 1881, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845. For the legal history from 1881 until 1921, when Sallie Doss owned 100 acres in the southeast corner of the Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL819. For the legal history from 1921 until 1951, when N. W. Doss owned 25 acres in the southeastern portion of the Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL872.

In April 1951, N. W. Doss conveyed a 1-acre parcel out of his 25 acres to R. W. Baker for $125 (BC, DR 650:254), an amount that suggests that the property may have been improved slightly. Site 41BL835 is located on this 1-acre parcel.

On June 22, 1953, R. W. Baker and his wife, Lougene, sold the 1-acre parcel to the U.S. government for $125 (BC, DR 706:519).

Summary: Site 41BL835, located on Tract 737, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when J. M. Perryman claimed residency to satisfy preemption requirements. Jesse and Violet Doss also lived on and improved the 318-acre Perryman Survey between 1861 to 1881, but their improvements most likely were elsewhere on the survey.

Sallie Doss and N. W. Doss, mother and son, owned land between 1900 and 1951 from which the 1-acre Tract 737 was carved. It is possible that the initial occupation of Tract 737 occurred during this period.

Site 41BL836 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL836 is located in the southeastern portion of the 640-acre Thomas Hemsworth Survey (A-395) in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

In June 1838, the Harrisburg Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 416) to Thomas Hemsworth for 640 acres of land. Hemsworth was entitled to the headright because he arrived in the Republic of Texas prior to October 1837 and was honorably discharged from the army. G. B. Erath surveyed Hemsworth's land in March 1840 and located the 640-acre parcel on Nolan Creek about 16 miles above the 3 forks of the Little River. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted as chainmen;

Hiram Butcher served as marker. On December 4, 1850, the State of Texas patented the 640-acre parcel to Hemsworth (Texas. General Land Office 1850a).

Hemsworth owned the land for more than 30 years, during which time he was a resident of Brazoria County (Freeman 1998:20–22, 24, 29–31, 34, 36, 41–42, 55–56, 58–59). In the late 1870s, Bell County assessed Hemsworth for the land, but the assessment did not include any livestock, tools, or other personal property (1877a, 1880a).

In December 1882, Hemsworth sold the 640-acre parcel to Henry E. Keys for $640 in cash and notes (BC, DR 39:438). Keys owned approximately 2,000 acres in the area and apparently operated a ranch there (1883a). For the remainder of the legal history of the land where 41BL836 and 41BL864 are located, see the site history for 41BL735.

Summary: That portion of the Thomas Hemsworth Survey where 41BL836 is located may have been occupied as early as 1882, when Henry E. Keys acquired the property from Hemsworth, and operated a large ranch. However, because his ranch encompassed more than 2,000 acres that contained a total of nine sites, it is difficult to establish the nature of any improvements.

I. A. McFaddin owned the land where 41BL836 is located from 1883 until 1913. The parcel was part of a large ranch, and land records suggest that the property may have sustained improvements associated with that use. However, ad valorem tax records indicate that McFaddin did not occupy the property.

The property was sold several times between 1913 and 1945. The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements. However, the sales covered between 1,000 and 2,200 acres and encompassed land that contained several recorded sites. Thus, it is difficult to determine accurately the nature and relative value of improvements located on the land. The use of the property as part of a large ranch continued until the government acquired the land in 1953. At that time, the sellers received $127,335 and reserved the right to remove several agricultural structures, indicating that the property was improved.

Site 41BL838 (Tract 800)

Site History: Site 41BL838 is located in the northeastern portion of the 1,476-acre Harwood W. Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 800, which encompassed 616 acres in two surveys and contained one site.

On May 26, 1846, the Board of land commissioners of Harris County issued an unconditional headright certificate (No. 1077) to the heirs of Harwood W. Jones. Jones was entitled to one-third league of land because he immigrated to Texas in January 1836. G. B. Erath surveyed the property for the heirs in March 1840 and located it on the waters of Nolan Creek about 15 miles above the three forks of the Little River. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted as chainmen; Stephen Bell assisted as marker. On April 17, 1849, the State of Texas patented the 1,476-acre parcel to the heirs of Harwood P. Jones (Texas. General Land Office 1849c).

The Jones heirs owned the property until 1870, but it appears that none of them lived in Bell County, and their use and occupancy are unlikely (1852a, 1858a, 1864a, 1870a). In 1870, the Fort Bend County District Court appointed three commissioners to sell the 1,476-acre Jones Survey, along with other land in Milam and McLennan Counties, to satisfy a judgment against the heirs of Harwood W. Jones (BC, DR 24:97). In accordance with that order, the commissioners auctioned the property to N. Mayblum, also of Fort Bend County, for $1,661 in May 1870 (BC, DR 24:95). Mayblum's use and occupation of the property remain uncertain (1870a–1871a, 1875a).

In January 1876, Mayblum sold 100 acres out of the northeast corner of the 1,476-acre Jones Survey to J. H. Potter for $100 (BC, DR 25:182). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Potter maintained a mid-sized farm on the property, and he probably lived there (1877a).

Potter and his wife, M. C., conveyed the 100-acre parcel to T. J. Potter in November 1883 for $200 (BC, DR 47:45), an increase in price that probably reflects J. H. Potter's improvements. Tax records indicate that T. J. Potter farmed the property and probably live there (1883a, 1893a).

In January 1897, Potter and his wife, Hulda, sold the property to H. M. Cox for $1,500 (BC, DR 182:53), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Between 1897, when Cox acquired the property, and 1913, it was owned

by A. J. Cox (1898–1908), B. F. Cox (1908–1910), and W. C. Polk (1910–1913) (BC, DR 182:52; 198:426; 207:545). The purchase prices ranged from $1,000 to $1,800, suggesting that the property sustained further improvements.

In 1913, Polk conveyed an undivided one-half interest in approximately 644 acres in the Jones and Potter Surveys to A. G. Vick for $2,200 (BC, DR 305:541). Land records suggest that Polk and Vick were partners in a cattle ranch operation, but their occupation of the property remains uncertain (BC, DR 457:121). In 1933, Polk and his wife, Mary, conveyed one-half of their interest to his mother, Zilphia Polk, for an unspecified consideration (BC, DR 419:463). Polk apparently had borrowed money from his mother to purchase the land upon which he and Vick ranched. In 1937, Zilphia Polk's heirs, including W. C. Polk, conveyed all their interests in the jointly held properties to A. G. Vick for $2,250 (BC, DR 457:121). This conveyance, which included other land purchased by Polk and Vick, vested title to the property where 41BL186, 41BL404, and 41BL838 are located in A. G. Vick.

In 1944, Vick sold the ranch in two parcels. Jacob Heiner bought the northern 616 acres, including the 93-acre parcel where 41BL838 is located, for $9,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 527:531). In December 1953, the U.S. government condemned 616 acres owned by Jacob Heiner, along with an additional 600 acres from other parties, for a total compensation of $60,255 (BC, DR 699:379). The property, identified as Tract 800, encompassed 616 acres in the D. D. Potter and Harwood W. Jones Surveys and contained one site.

Summary: Land and tax records suggest that the initial occupation of the 93-acre portion of the Harwood W. Jones Survey where 41BL838 is located appears to have occurred between 1876 and 1883, when J. H. Potter owned the land. T. J. Potter also may have lived on the land from 1883 until 1897. Land records suggest that the property was improved further and perhaps occupied by H. M. Cox, A. J. Cox, and B. F. Cox between 1897 and 1910.

W. C. Polk and A. G. Vick owned the land from 1913 until 1944. They appear to have operated a ranch that included the 93-acre parcel where 41BL838 is located, but their occupation is less certain. Purchase prices suggest that Jacob Heiner, who purchased the northern part of the ranch where 41BL838 is located, may have lived on the property.

Site 41BL839 (Tract 717)

Site History: Site 41BL839 is located on approximately 100 acres in the southeastern part of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the land, the site was part of Tract 717, which encompassed 235.2 acres in three surveys and contained sites 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL839, 41BL847, and 41BL848.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL839 is located from 1854 until 1881, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845. For the legal history from 1881 until 1954, when the government acquired Tract 717, see the site history for 41BL819.

Summary: Site 41BL839 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL847, and 41BL848. It most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined based on legal and tax records alone.

Site 41BL841 (Tract 704)

Site History: Site 41BL841 is located on 75 acres in the 150-acre James R. Jones Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the land, the site was part of Tract 704, which encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL841 is located from 1854 until 1890, when H. E. Keys owned the 150-acre James R. Jones Survey, see the site history for 41BL808.

In December 1890, Keys conveyed the 150-acre parcel to W. E. Freeze for $357 in cash and notes (BC, DR 77:297), an amount that suggests that the land was only slightly improved, if at all. Less than a month later, on January 3, 1891, Freeze sold the 150 acres to F. M. Osborne for $450 in cash and notes (BC, DR 80:38), a sum that provides no clear indication as to the presence of improvements on the property.

Between 1891 and 1901, 75 acres out of the southern portion of the 150-acre Jones Survey were owned by Osborne, J. C. Damron, W. B. Boyd, Audley Dennis and his heirs, J. I. Dennis,

and J. G. Sims (BC, DR 98:37; 123:613; 140:244–246). The original deeds from Osborne to Damron and Damron to Boyd were lost and never recorded, thus the duration of their ownership is unclear. However, replacements were executed and placed of record in 1901. When the consideration in these transactions was cited for the 75-acre parcel alone, the price was $600, an amount that suggests the presence of improvements. The improvements may have been associated with 41BL841 as this is the only site recorded on the 75-acre parcel.

In 1905, Sims sold the 75-acre parcel in the Jones Survey and an adjacent 80-acre parcel in the David Russell Survey to Joseph Herring for $1,500 (BC, DR 167:432), an amount that suggests the presence of improvements on both parcels.

For the remainder of the legal history of the land on which 41BL841 is located, see the site history for 41BL805 beginning in 1907 when Joseph Herring owned both the 75-acre parcel where 41BL841 is located, and an adjacent 80-acre parcel where 41BL805 is located.

Summary: Site 41BL841, located on 75 acres in the James R. Jones Survey portion of the 1,138-acre Tract 704, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s. Jones filed a preemption claim to 150 acres of vacant public land, and in various instruments executed in connection with that claim, he swore that he resided on and cultivated the land. However, sales between 1872 and 1890 cite considerations suggesting that the land was unimproved or only minimally improved.

In the last decade of the nineteenth century, a 75-acre parcel out of the southern portion of the 150-acre Jones Survey sold several times for a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Site 41BL841 is located on this 75-acre parcel, and the improvements during this time period probably are associated with the site. Twentieth-century owners purchased the property for prices that suggest ongoing improvements and occupation.

When the government condemned the property in 1954, the compensation paid to the owner, Tom G. Bowles Sr., suggests the presence of improvements. However, because Tract 704 encompassed 1,138 acres in seven surveys and contained eight sites, no specific association of sites and occupants can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL842 (Tract 803)

Site History: Site 41BL842 is located on the westerly 157 acres of the 314-acre John P. Hall Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 803, which encompassed 256.93 acres in four surveys and contained four sites: 41BL402, 41BL737, 41BL842, and 41BL849.

On January 17, 1854, John P. Hall swore that the land upon which he lived was vacant public land that had neither been filed upon nor surveyed. In August 1854, H. F. Hoover, Milam District Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes describing Hall's 314-acre tract as being on North Nolan Creek about 9.5 miles northwest from Belton. F. Lewis and H. Cox assisted as chainmen. In November 1856, J. C. Caddel, Bell County Clerk, certified that Hall had resided on and cultivated 314 acres on North Nolan Creek for 3 years. These facts were corroborated by John M. Perryman and Alexander Walters. On June 20, 1860, the State of Texas patented the 314-acre tract to Hall (Texas. General Land Office 1860c). Hall continued to own the property for more than 10 years, and he appears to have lived on the property and operated a small farm there (1874a).

By 1874, Hall's wife, Elizabeth, had died. Hall and the children from his marriage to Elizabeth partitioned the 317-acre parcel, with the children getting the western 157 acres (BC, DR T:490). Sites 41BL402, 41BL737, and 41BL842 are located in this 157-acre portion of the Hall Survey. Over the next few years, one of the children, S. C. Hall, acquired the interests of his siblings in the western 157 acres (BC, DR T:143; 25:448; 30:406). S. C. Hall owned the property for nearly 20 years and appears to have lived on and farmed the property during that period (1876a, 1880a, 1885a, 1890a, 1894a).

In January 1895, S. C. Hall and his wife, Mary, sold the 157-acre parcel, along with the 34.9-acre S. C. Hall Survey that adjoined the 157 acres on the south, to I. M. Scoggin in exchange for land that Scoggin owned (BC, DR 99:141). The land acquired by Scoggin constituted the core of what would later be identified as Tract 803. In December 1899, Scoggin sold the property to J. R. Boren for $1,700 (BC, DR 135:182), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The land conveyed included the

157-acre parcel in the John Hall Survey and all of the 34.9-acre S. C. Hall Survey. Sites 41BL402, 41BL737, and 41BL842 are located on the 157-acre parcel, and 41BL849 is located on the 34.9-acre parcel. In November 1904, J. R. Boren and his wife, M. A., conveyed the property to J. L. King for $1,900 (BC, DR 154:479) a price that suggests further improvements.

King owned the land for many years and apparently still owned the property when he died in 1943. On December 2, 1953, his widow and heirs, Mattie King, C. C. King and wife, Allie Mae Wilhite and husband, Ada Hathcock and husband, and John H. King (a single man) conveyed the property to the U.S. government for $13,350 (BC, DR 694:620), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The Kings also reserved the right to remove crops growing on the land. When the government acquired the property, it was identified as Tract 803 and consisted of 256.93 acres in the John P. Hall Survey, the Tilman Walters Survey, the Thomas Hemsworth Survey, and all of the S. C. Hall Survey. Sites 41BL402, 41BL737, and 41BL842 are located in the John P. Hall portion of Tract 803, and 41BL849 is located in the S. C. Hall portion.

Summary: The John P. Hall Survey, on which 41BL842 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1854, when Hall swore that he resided there. In 1856, the Bell County Clerk certified that Hall had resided on and cultivated a 314-acre tract for 3 years. After Hall obtained a patent in 1860, ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a small farm and lived on the property.

After Hall's wife died in the early 1870s, Hall and his children partitioned the survey, and the children received the west 157 acres; site 41BL842 is located on this 157-acre parcel. The property stayed in the Hall family until 1895, and tax records suggest that S. C. Hall lived on and farmed the land.

Subsequent nineteenth- and early twentieth-century owners included I. M. Scoggin and J. R. Boren. The purchase prices paid by these individuals suggest the presence of improvements. In 1904, Boren sold the land to J. L. King, who owned the property until his death in the early 1940s. King's heirs sold the land to the U.S. government in 1953 for a sum that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL845 (Tract 702)

Site History: Site 41BL845 is located in the northwestern portion of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 702, which consisted of 160 acres in three surveys.

On March 24, 1854, John M. Perryman swore that he was settled on vacant public land, and that he was residing upon and had improved the land. On the same date, H. F. Hoover, deputy surveyor for the Milam District, surveyed 318 acres for Perryman. The field notes described a tract of land on Cowhouse and Nolan Creeks about 6 miles northwest from Belton. W. L. Perryman and J. R. Jones assisted as chainmen. In November 1856, J. C. Caddel, Bell County Clerk, certified that John Perryman had resided on and cultivated his preemption claim of 318 acres for 3 years, and that he was entitled to a patent from the state. On December 14, 1861, the State of Texas patented 318 acres on the divide between Cowhouse Creek and Nolan Creek to Perryman (Texas. General Land Office 1861b). Perryman appears to have lived on the property and to have operated a small ranch there (1855a).

On December 21, 1861, Perryman sold the 318-acre tract to Jesse Doss for $200 (BC, DR 74:634). Doss owned the property for several years, although it is unclear if he lived there (1865a). By 1871, Doss had died, and his widow, Violet, apparently lived on the property and maintained a small farm (1871a, 1876a). What appear to be the children of Jesse and Violet Doss conveyed their interest in the 318-acre Perryman Survey to their mother (BC, DR 41:596; 93:344; 95:33; 99:176).

In May 1890, Violet Doss conveyed a 100-acre parcel out of the J. M. Perryman Survey to G. Lanier for $200 (BC, DR 72:473). Lanier owned the property for about 4 years, but his usage and occupancy of it is uncertain (1890a, 1892a). Site 41BL845 is located on this 100-acre parcel.

Lanier sold the property to H. W. Doss in November 1894, for $300 in cash and notes (BC, DR 100:384). Between 1894 and 1898, the 100-acre parcel was owned by Doss (1894), J. R. Walker and R. H. Denman (1894–1895), and T. C. Stinson (1895–1898) (BC, DR 100:385; 101:398). The purchase prices in the conveyances ranged from $300 to $400. Of these owners, only

Stinson appears to have lived on and used the property (1894a–1896a).

On October 27, 1898, Stinson conveyed the 100-acre parcel to J. W. Evans Jr. for $800 in cash and notes (BC, DR 126:108). The doubling of the purchase price in just 3 years suggests the presence of improvements. However, it is uncertain if Evans occupied the property (1900a).

In March 1903, Evans and his wife, V. M., sold the 100-acre parcel to D. L. Cummins for $2,000 (BC, DR 150:101), an amount that suggests additional improvements to the property. Cummins operated a farm on the 100-acre parcel, along with adjacent land, and he apparently lived there until 1915 (1904a, 1908a), when he and his wife, Lena, conveyed the 100 acres to J. B. Davis for $3,000 (BC, DR 253:283). It is unclear if Davis occupied or used the property.

There is a break in the chain of title between Davis and Cummins, who reacquired the 100-acre parcel before 1936. In September of that year, Cummins conveyed several tracts of land to his children for $10 and love and affection (BC, DR 452:185). The conveyance included the 100-acre parcel in the Perryman Survey.

On February 26, 1954, the U.S. government condemned the 160 acres in the J. M. Perryman, William B. Brent, and James Halfpenny Surveys that became Tract 702, paying Cummins's children $13,325 (BC, DR 702:184).

Summary: Site 41BL845, which is located on Tract 702, may have been occupied as early as 1854, when J. M. Perryman filed a pre-emption claim to 318 acres in Bell County. Between 1861, when Perryman sold the property, and 1890, the land was owned by Jesse and Violet Doss, who appear to have lived and farmed there. Use and occupancy between 1890, when Violet Doss sold the 100-acre parcel on which 41BL845 is located, and 1903 are uncertain, although some of the owners may have lived on the property.

In 1903, the 100-acre parcel was purchased by D. L. Cummins. Cummins appears to have lived on and farmed the property. He and his children owned the land until 1954, when the U.S. government condemned 160 acres of their property in three surveys.

Site 41BL846 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL846 is located in the east-central portion of the 640-acre William Brown Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL846 and 41BL855 are located from 1838 until 1913, when E. C. Clabaugh owned 560 acres in the William Brown Survey, see the site history for 41BL828.

Clabaugh and his wife, Helen, sold the 560-acre parcel in the Brown Survey, where 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL846, and 41BL855 are located, to G. W. Robbins in September 1914 for $14,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 257:393), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Two months later, Robbins and his wife conveyed the southerly 350-acre portion of the 560 acres to R. L. Dockum for $7,150 in cash and notes (BC, DR 260:537), suggesting that the 350 acres had sustained improvements.

Dockum and his wife, Nettie, sold the 350-acre parcel to D. M. West in 1920, for $6,000; but less than 10 days later, West reconveyed the land to Dockum, canceling the transaction (BC, DR 333:276; 337:391). In 1922, Dockum again sold the property, this time to Sam Allen for $7,515 in cash and the assumption of debt (BC, DR 339:242). Allen apparently defaulted on payment of the notes, because in March 1931, Dallas Bank and Trust purchased the 350 acres at auction for $1,000 (BC, DR 406:126). In November 1939, the bank sold the property to Hardy Warrick and his wife, Mary Moore Warrick, for $2,100 in cash and notes (BC, DR 476:216). The purchase prices in this period perhaps reflect the general economic swing from a high point in the 1920s to a low in the 1930s.

The Warricks sold the 350-acre parcel to R. L. Safley for $3,400 in 1942 (BC, DR 502:541). Nine months later, Safley and his wife conveyed the land to P. R. Cox for $4,200 (BC, DR 510:499). Cox and his wife, Mildred, sold the eastern 123 acres, where 41BL846 and 41BL855 are located, to H. F. and J. H. Overby for $2,500 in May 1946 (BC, DR 545:530). The prices in these transactions suggest ongoing improvements to the property.

The Overbys added the 123 acres to their substantial ranch property holdings in the area. For the remainder of the legal history of the land where 41BL846 and 41BL855 are located until

1953, when the government acquired the property, see the site history for 41BL735.

Summary: The earliest owners of the east-central portion of the William Brown Survey, where 41BL846 and 41BL855 are located, apparently did not live in Bell County, and their use and occupation of the sites are uncertain. Henry E. Keys owned the land where the sites are located in the early 1880s and operated a ranch on his property. However, his holdings included approximately 2,000 acres, so that establishing his occupation of any portion of the property is difficult. I. A. McFaddin owned the ranch property that included the land where 41BL846 and 41BL855 are located from 1883 until 1913. However, land and tax records indicate that McFaddin lived in Williamson County during this period.

Between 1914 and 1946, the 350-acre parcel where 41BL846 and 41BL855 are located sold for prices that suggest the presence of improvements. Owners of significant duration during this period include R. L. Dockum (1914–1922), Sam Allen (1922–1931), and P. R. Cox (1943–1946). H. F. and J. H. Overby owned the property from 1946 until the government acquired the land in 1953. They added the land to their holdings in the area, and apparently used the property for ranching purposes. When the government bought Tract 900, the Overbys received $127,335 and reserved the right to remove several agricultural structures, indicating that the property was improved.

Site 41BL847 (Tract 717)

Site History: Site 41BL847 is located on approximately 100 acres in the southeastern part of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the land, the site was part of Tract 717, which encompassed 235.2 acres in three surveys and contained sites 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL839, 41BL847, and 41BL848.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL847 is located from 1854 until 1881, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845. For the legal history from 1881 until 1954, when the government acquired Tract 717, see the site history for 41BL819.

Summary: Site 41BL847 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL839, and 41BL848. Site 41BL847 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL848 (Tract 717)

Site History: Site 41BL848 is located on approximately 100 acres in the southeastern part of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the land, the site was part of Tract 717, which encompassed 235.2 acres in three surveys and contained sites 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL839, 41BL847, and 41BL848.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL848 is located from 1854 until 1881, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845. For the legal history from 1881 until 1954, when the government acquired Tract 717, see the site history for 41BL819.

Summary: Site 41BL848 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL819, 41BL825, 41BL839, and 41BL847. Site 41BL848 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific associations of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL849 (Tract 803)

Site History: Site 41BL849 is located in the 34.92-acre S. C. Hall Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 803, which encompassed 256.93 acres in four surveys and contained four sites: 41BL402, 41BL737, 41BL842, and 41BL849.

On July 19, 1882, S. C. Hall applied to the state to purchase unappropriated public domain located in Bell County. In September of that year, G. W. Walton, Bell County Special Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes describing Hall's 29.84 acres located on Nolan Creek about 10 miles northwest of Belton. In September 1884, J. W. Turner, Bell County Surveyor, filed corrected field notes describing Hall's tract as containing 34.92 acres. On September 9, 1887, the State of Texas patented the 34.92-acre tract to Hall (Texas. General Land Office 1887a).

Hall continued to own the 34.92-acre parcel until the mid-1890s. Ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a small farm on land that included the 34.92 acres, and that he improved his holdings (1890a, 1894a). However, because Hall also owned adjacent land that contains multiple sites (41BL402, 41BL737, and 41BL842), it is difficult to associate the increase in values reflected in the tax evaluations with specific sites. It is probable that initial occupation and improvements can be associated with S. C. Hall between 1887 and 1895.

For the legal history of 41BL849 from 1895, when Hall sold the land to I. M. Scoggin, until 1953, when the government acquired Tract 803 on which 41BL849 is located, see the site history for 41BL842.

Summary: The S. C. Hall portion of Tract 803, on which site 41BL849 is located, appears to have been occupied initially and improved by S. C. Hall between 1887 and 1895. However, because Hall also owned adjacent land that contained multiple sites (41BL402, 41BL737, and 41BL842), it is difficult to associate increases in value as revealed in tax records with specific sites. Subsequent owners of the 34.92 acres in the S. C. Hall Survey also owned adjacent land that contained multiple sites.

Site 41BL849 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL402, 41BL737, and 41BL842. Site 41BL849 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property.

Site 41BL851 (Tract 802)

Site History: Site 41BL851 is located on approximately 150 acres in the western portion of the 320-acre Alexander Walters Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 802, which encompassed 253.66 acres out of two surveys and contained five sites: 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL738, 41BL741, and 41BL851.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL851 is located, see the site history for 41BL158.

Summary: Site 41BL851 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41BL158, 41BL400, 41BL738, and 41BL741, and most likely is associated with the occupants of the tract. However, it is not possible to assign a date or function to the site based on legal or ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL852 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL852 is located in the western portion of the 640-acre William P. Dykeman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001, which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

In March 1838, the Bastrop County Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 78) to William P. Dykeman. The board stipulated that because Dykeman had arrived after the Declaration and was a single man, he was entitled to a headright of 640 acres. In March 1840, G. B. Erath surveyed Dykeman's property, described as being located on the waters of Nolan Creek about 18 miles above the three forks of the Little River. John Adams and Alfred Murray assisted as chainmen; Hiram Butcher served as marker. Dykeman, a resident of Travis County, transferred all his interest in the headright certificate to C. S. Parrish for $200 in June 1841 (BC, DR D:495). On February 17, 1842, the Republic of Texas patented the 640 acres to Dykeman (Texas. General Land Office 1842).

Parrish, also a resident of Travis County, conveyed the 640-acre parcel to John A. Greer for $100 in March 1846 (BC, DR D:497). Greer sold the property to Joseph Cox for $640 in July 1854 (BC, DR E:95). Use and occupancy during this period remain uncertain (1852a–1854a).

In January 1855, Joseph Cox conveyed the western one-third of the 640-acre survey to John Cox for $213.33 (BC, DR H:318). Sites 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL862 and 41BL863 are located on this 213.33-acre parcel. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Cox maintained a farm or ranch operation on the property, and that he probably lived there (1855a–1856a, 1861a, 1872a).

Between 1879 and 1883, the heirs of John Cox conveyed the 213.33-acre property to Matilda Fade (BC, DR 32:442; 49:7). The deeds recite only nominal consideration ($50), but state that the property was Fade's part of the John Cox estate, and that Cox occupied the property at the time of his death. Fade apparently farmed the 213.33-acre parcel and probably lived there (1880a, 1890a, 1900a).

Matilda Fade's heirs sold the 213.33-acre property to T. J. Cox in 1902 for $1,500 (BC, DR

170:35), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. However, because four sites (41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL862 and 41BL863) are located on the 213.33-acre parcel, the proportional value of any given site remains unclear.

T. J. Cox owned the property for more than 50 years, during which time ad valorem tax records suggest that Cox operated a farm on his land and may have lived there (1905a, 1910a). However, Cox also acquired other improved land in the vicinity, thus making a firm determination of his use and occupation difficult to establish.

On January 20, 1954, Cox and his wife, Olive, sold 1,016.12 acres to the U.S. government for $55,290 and the right to remove 34 structures, including a residence, tenant house, barns, sheds, and a variety of other agricultural outbuildings (BC, DR 700:243). The purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property, identified as Tract 1001, had sustained improvements. However, multiple sites on such a large tract preclude associating specific sites with proportional value and occupants.

When the government acquired Tract 1001, it encompassed 1,016.12 acres in the William Dykeman, William Brown, G. W. Cartwright, and Stephen Jarboe Surveys, and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL862, and 41BL863 in the Dykeman Survey; and 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952 in the G. W. Cartwright Survey.

Summary: Apparently the earliest owners of the 213.33-acre parcel, where 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL862, and 41BL863 are located, did not live in Bell County. Use and occupancy from 1838 until 1855 are uncertain. Initial occupation may have occurred as early as 1855, when John Cox purchased the property. Subsequent owners who may have lived on the 213.33 acres include Matilda Fade (1879–1902) and T. J. Cox (1902–1954).

Site 41BL854 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL854 is located in the western portion of the 640-acre William P. Dykeman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001 which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL854 is located, see the site history for 41BL852.

Summary: Site 41BL854 is proximate and on the same tract of land as 41BL852, 41BL862, and 41BL863, and most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL855 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL855 is located in the southeast portion of the 640-acre William Brown Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41BL855 is located, see the site history for 41BL846.

Summary: Site 41BL855 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL846. Site 41BL855 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL856 (Tract 1006)

Site History: Site 41BL856 is located in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre Stephen Jarboe Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1006, which encompassed 567 acres in two surveys and contained two sites in the Stephen Jarboe Survey, 41BL856 and 41BL867.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL856 is located from 1838 until 1875, when U. P. Smith owned the 1,476-acre survey, see the site history for 41BL859.

Smith sold a 210-acre parcel out of the northwestern portion of the Jarboe Survey to A. Polk for $210 in July 1875 (BC, DR Z:81). There is a break in the chain of title from A. Polk to John T. Edwards, but in May 1877, Edwards and his wife sold about 170 acres that included 60 acres in the Jarboe Survey to J. G. Miller for

$600 (BC, DR 33:420). Site 41BL856 is located on this 60-acre parcel. Use and occupancy of the property during this period are uncertain (1875a–1878a).

Two years later, Miller sold 160 acres that included the 60 acres where 41BL856 is located to A. J. Harbour for $800 (BC, DR Y:262). Harbour owned the land for more than 10 years, and Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that he farmed the property and probably lived there (1880a, 1885a).

Harbour and his wife, R. M., conveyed their property, including the 60-acre parcel where 41BL856 is located, to John Scharbauer in May 1892, for $3,000 (BC, DR 86:58), a substantial increase that appears to reflect further improvements to the property.

Between 1892 and 1905, the 60-acre parcel was owned by Scharbauer (1892–1901), John A. Richards (1901–1902), and M. B. Ray (1905) (BC, DR 147:378, 487; 161:500). The purchase prices in these transactions, which conveyed only the 60-acre parcel, ranged from $100 to $210. Ray added the 60 acres to his holdings in the area, and in 1910 sold 200 acres that included the 60-acre parcel, where 41BL856 is located, and the 140-acre parcel, where 41BL867 is located, to Perry Hicks for $2,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 217:246). For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL856 is located, see the site history for 41BL867.

Summary: The 60-acre parcel in the Stephen Jarboe Survey where 41BL856 is located may have been occupied as early as 1879, when A. J. Harbour owned the land. Tax records suggest that Harbour farmed the property and may have lived there until 1892. Use and occupancy between 1892 and 1919 remain uncertain, although the purchase prices in the later transactions suggest the presence of improvements.

Perry Ellis and his wife, Emma, owned the 60 acres where 41BL856 is located, and the 140-acre parcel where 41BL867 is located, from 1919 until 1954, when they sold the land to the government. When the government acquired the property, it was the location of three feed houses and a shed.

Site 41BL857 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL857 is located in the eastern portion of the 1,476-acre G. W. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001, which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

In February 1838, the San Augustine County Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 57) to G. W. Cartwright. He was entitled to a one-third league (1,476 acres) headright because he had arrived in the Republic of Texas in 1833 and was a single man. G. B. Erath surveyed Cartwright's property in March 1840 and located the 1,476 acres on Nolan Creek about 15 miles above its junction with the Leon River. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted as chainmen; Hiram Butcher served as marker. On January 15, 1847, the State of Texas patented the 1,476-acre parcel to Cartwright (Texas. General Land Office 1847b).

Three months after the patent, Cartwright, who lived in San Augustine County, sold the property to M. H. Shyrock for $300 (BC, DR F:315). Two months later, in May 1847, Shyrock conveyed the 1,476 acres to P. M. Curry for $200 (BC, DR F:316). In July of that year, Curry, a resident of Austin County, sold the property to W. S. Raynor for $1,200. However, the conveyance also included approximately 1,000 acres on the Bosque River (BC, DR F:280) that account, at least in some degree, for the higher price. Raynor, probably a resident of Mississippi, owned the property for 25 years. Use and occupancy during this period remain uncertain (1852a, 1855a, 1862a, 1868a, 1871a).

The W. S. Raynor heirs, Thomas A. Raynor and K. Raynor, both of Desoto County, Mississippi, sold the north 492 acres of the 1,476-acre Cartwright Survey to John M. Cox for $340 in gold in January 1872 (BC, DR P:493). Cox's use and occupation of the property are uncertain (1874a).

John M. Cox apparently died in the mid-1870s. In 1875, R. L. Chalk, as administrator of the Cox Estate, auctioned lands belonging to the estate. The property included a 50-acre parcel in the northeast portion of the Cartwright Survey that was purchased by J. A. Cox for a high bid of $65 (BC, DR 36:255). Site 41BL857 is located on this 50-acre parcel.

Between 1877 and 1880, the 50-acre parcel was owned by J. A. Cox (1877–1880), Matilda

Fade (1880), and Isaac Cox (1880) (BC, DR 36:257–258). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $75 to $100. Use and occupation during this period are uncertain (1877a, 1878a, 1880a).

In October 1880, Isaac Cox conveyed the 50 acres to J. M. Simms for $75 (BC, DR 26:259). Simms's use and occupation are uncertain (1883a).

Simms and his wife sold the 50-acre parcel to Q. V. Ray for $600 in November 1886 (BC, DR 58:484), a sharp increase in price suggesting that the parcel may have sustained improvements. Ray and his family appear to have farmed the property and probably lived there (1883a, 1888a).

Ray conveyed the 50 acres to T. J. Cox for $800 in cash and notes in October 1898 (BC, DR 222:350), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Cox also acquired other property in the vicinity and owned the land until he sold it to the U.S. government in 1954. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL857 is located, see the site history for 41BL852.

Summary: The 50-acre parcel in the G. W. Cartwright Survey where 41BL857 is located does not appear to have been occupied until the late 1880s, when J. M. Simms and Q. V. Ray owned the land.

T. J. Cox added the 50 acres to his holdings in 1898 and continued to own it until he sold it to the government in 1954. At that point, the 50 acres were part of a tract that ecompassed 1,016.12 acres and was the location of 34 structures whose exact locations have not been identified.

Site 41BL858 (Tract 1010)

Site History: Site 41BL858 is located in the southeastern portion of the 640-acre William J. Shackelford Survey in Bell County. In 1956, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1010, which encompassed 1,519.8 acres in five surveys and contained five sites: 41BL858, 41BL870, 41BL953, 41BL955, and 41BL956.

William J. Shackelford was killed at Goliad in March 1836 while serving in the Republic of Texas Army under the command of James Fannin. In January 1839, the Department of War of the Republic issued a donation certificate (No. 795) to Shackelford's heirs, entitling them to 640 acres of land. George B. Erath surveyed Shackelford's land in March 1840 and described it as containing 640 acres on the waters of Nolan Creek, about 28 miles above the three forks of the Little River. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted as chainmen; Hiram Butcher served as marker. On February 8, 1846, the Republic of Texas patented the 640-acre parcel to the heirs of William J. Shackelford (Texas. General Land Office 1846b).

There is no deed recorded in Bell County from the heirs of William J. Shackelford. However, in October 1860, J. B. Vanness of Jefferson County conveyed an undivided one-half interest in approximately 3,500 acres, including the 640-acre Shackelford Survey, to T. E. Vanness for $900 (BC, DR P:250). Language in the deed suggests that J. B. and T. E. Vanness each previously had purchased an undivided one-half interest in the land from James M. Shackelford of Virginia, the brother and heir of William Shackelford. In 1872, T. E. Vanness conveyed an undivided one-fourth interest in the property to J. A. Vanness for $500 in gold (BC, DR T:538). Use and occupancy during this period are uncertain (1852a, 1860a, 1865a, 1870a, 1875a, 1880a).

The Vannesses sold a 150-acre parcel in the southeast portion of the William J. Shackelford Survey to W. T. Haire for $300 in April 1883 (BC, DR 42:501). Sites 41BL858 and 41BL870 are located on this 150-acre parcel. Haire and his wife, Elizabeth, owned the property for many years, eventually expanding the property to 200 acres. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that Haire farmed the property and probably lived there (1884a, 1888a, 1892a).

In April 1907, the Haires sold the 200-acre parcel to their sons, C. L. and J. S. Haire, for $1 per acre (BC, DR 182:5). The sons conveyed the property back to their parents for $2,500 on the same day, April 8, 1907, although the deed was not recorded until 1921 (BC, DR 329:135). W. T. Haire and his wife continued to own the 200 acres until their deaths in 1921 and 1935, respectively (BC, DR 536:340).

W. T. and Elizabeth were survived by a large number of children and grandchildren, approximately 27 people. Some of the heirs sold their interests in the 200-acre parcel to M. B. Oldham, G. W. Haire, or C. E. Manning (BC, DR 446:208; 448:372; 484:498). In 1945, a lawsuit was

brought to consolidate ownership, sell the property, and divide the proceeds among the heirs (BC, DC Cause No. 25,233). R. E. Sutton, a court-appointed receiver, sold the 200 acres on which 41BL858 and 41BL870 are located to Ed Heuss for $1,700 in April 1945 (BC, DR 537:164).

The U.S. government condemned 1,433.5 acres that included the 200-acre parcel where 41BL858 and 41BL870 are located in 1954 (BC, DR 699:384). However, a dispute arose regarding the interest of Heuss's minor son, Keith, who had apparently inherited his mother's interest in the property. On June 11, 1956, the government condemned the property a second time, for $93,300, and allocated a portion of the proceeds to Heuss and a portion to the guardian for his minor son, Keith (BC, DR 751:606). When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1010, it encompassed 1,519.8 acres in the William J. Shackelford, Jack Shackelford, J. S. Wilder, A. Dickson, and Maples H. Bush Surveys and contained five sites: 41BL858 and 41BL870 in the William Shackelford Survey, 41BL953 and 41BL956 in the Jack Shackelford Survey, and 41BL955 in the J. S. Wilder Survey.

Summary: The 150-acre parcel in the southeast portion of the William J. Shackelford Survey, where 41BL858 and 41BL870 are located, may have been occupied as early as 1883, when W. T. Haire purchased the property. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Haire farmed the property and probably lived there. The property remained in the Haire family until 1945 and may have been occupied by the family during that period.

Ed Heuss owned the 150-acre parcel, along with other land, until 1956, when the government condemned his 1519.8 acres, for $93,300.

Site 41BL859 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL859 is located in the northeast portion of the 1,476-acre Stephen Jarboe Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

On April 1838, the Harrisburg Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 294) to Stephen Jarboe for one-third league of land (1,476 acres). Jarboe was entitled to the headright because he had arrived in the Republic of Texas prior to August 1, 1836, and was honorably discharged from the army. G. B. Erath surveyed Jarboe's land in March 1840 and located it on Nolan Creek about 28 miles above the three forks of the Little River. John Adams and Alfred Murray assisted as chainmen; Hiram Butcher served as marker. On July 28, 1862, the State of Texas patented the 1,476-acre parcel to Jarboe (Texas. General Land Office 1862).

Jarboe owned the land for nearly 10 years, although his use and occupation of the property remain uncertain (1865a, 1870a). In February 1873, his heirs conveyed the 1,476 acres to Uriah P. Smith for $100, citing the fact that the original deed had been lost but that the sale price in the earlier instrument had been paid fully (BC, DR S:83). Smith owned the land for several years, but it remains uncertain if he lived there or used the property in any way (1875a).

Uriah Smith conveyed 1,000 acres of the survey to W. H. Smith in July 1876 for $1,000 (BC, DR 26:429). Ad valorem tax records suggest that W. H. Smith farmed the property and may have lived there (1880a, 1882a). However, Smith also owned a 150-acre parcel in the adjacent John Slaburn Survey where 41BL735 and 41BL736 are located, clouding the nature and associations of any improvements constructed during this period.

For the remainder of the legal history from 1876 until 1953, when the government acquired Tract 900, see the site history for 41BL735.

Summary: That portion of the Stephen Jarboe Survey where 41BL859 is located may have been occupied as early as 1876, when W. H. Smith acquired 1,000 acres in the survey. However, Smith also owned adjacent land where 41BL735 and 41BL736 are located. In the early 1880s, Henry E. Keys operated a ranch on property that included the land where 41BL859 is located, but his ranch also encompassed the land where 41BL735 and 41BL736 are located.

I. A. McFaddin owned the land where 41BL859 is located from 1883 until 1913. The parcel was part of a large ranch, and land records suggest that the property may have sustained improvements associated with that use. However, ad valorem tax records indicate that McFaddin did not occupy the property.

The property was sold several times between 1913 and 1945. The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements. However, the sales covered between 1,000 and 2,200 acres and encompassed land that contained several recorded sites. Thus, it is difficult to determine accurately the nature, and associations, and relative value of improvements located on the land. The use of the property as part of a large ranch continued until the government acquired the land from H. F. and Estelle Overby and J. H. and Opal Overby in 1953. At that time, the sellers received $127,335 and reserved the right to remove several agricultural structures, indicating that the property was improved.

Site 41BL860 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL860 is located in the central portion of the 1,476-acre G. W. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001, which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL860 is located from 1838 to 1872, when W. S. Raynor owned the Cartwright Survey, see the site history for site 41BL857.

In April 1872, the heirs of W. S. Raynor conveyed a 250-acre parcel out of the central portion of the Cartwright Survey to W. T. Joy for $250 in gold (BC, DR R:15). Joy owned the property for 15 years and not only improved the land, but also lived on the property (1874a, 1880a, 1883a).

Joy and his wife, L. U., sold the 250 acres to L. Turnbo for $3,000 in May 1887 (BC, DR 68:257). The substantial increase in purchase price suggests the presence of improvements. Bell County ad valorem tax records indicate that Turnbo lived on the property (1888a, 1893a).

In August 1907, the L. Turnbo heirs conveyed the 250-acre parcel to T. J. Potter for $4,000 (BC, DR 187:71), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Potter and his wife, Hulda, appear to have lived on the property until their respective deaths, in 1925 and 1939. When Hulda Potter died, title to the property passed to Gertrude Adams and her husband, T. H. (BC, Probate File Nos. 2106, 3447).

The Adamses sold the 250 acres to T. J. Cox for $2,000 in February 1940 (BC, DR 483:408). Cox also acquired other property in the vicinity and owned the land until he sold it to the U.S. government in 1954. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL860 is located, see the site history for 41BL852.

Summary: The 250-acre parcel in the G. W. Cartwright Survey where 41BL860 is located may have been occupied as early as 1872, when W. T. Joy acquired the property. Land and tax records suggest that Joy improved the parcel and probably lived there. L. Turnbo appears to have lived on the land from 1887 until her death, ca. 1907. T. J. Potter and his wife, Hulda, probably occupied the property from 1908 until 1939. Since 41BL860 is the only recorded site on the 250 acres, the improvements most likely can be associated with that site.

T. J. Cox added the 250 acres to his holdings in 1940, and continued to own it until he sold it to the government in 1954. At that point, the 250 acres were part of a tract that encompassed 1,016.12 acres and was the location of 34 structures whose exact locations have not been identified.

Site 41BL861 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL861 is located in the eastern portion of the 1,476-acre G. W. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001, which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL861 is located from 1838 until 1872, when W. S. Raynor owned the 1,476-acre Cartwright Survey, see the site history for 41BL857.

In August 1872, W. S. Raynor of De Soto County, Mississippi, conveyed 140 acres, consisting of a 100-acre parcel in the western portion of the Cartwright Survey and a 40-acre parcel in the eastern portion, to W. J. Beasley for $140 (BC, DR T:148). Site 41BL861 is located on the 40-acre parcel. Bell County assessed Beasley for the land, but the assessment did not include any personal property that would indicate occupancy (1872a, 1873a).

Beasley sold the 140-acre parcel to C. F. Morrison for $600 (BC, DR T:150), a substantial price increase that could suggest that the property had sustained improvements. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Morrison farmed the property and that he probably lived there (1874a, 1875a).

In 1876, G. W. Wolf, Bell County Constable, conveyed the 140 acres to R. T. Estes for a high bid of $166 to satisfy a judgment against Morrison in favor of Beasley (BC, DR 27:162). By the early 1880s, the ad valorem tax value of the property had risen to $1,000 and included livestock and tools that suggest farm use and occupation by Estes (1878a, 1883a, 1888a). In 1884, Estes sold the 146-acre parcel to E. S. Harris for $1,700 in cash and notes, but reacquired the property in February 1888 for the same consideration (BC, DR 58:239; 64:37).

Estes and his wife, W. E., conveyed the 140 acres to T. C. Stinson for $2,000 in cash and notes in November 1888 (BC, DR 64:373). The purchase price suggests the presence of improvements, and because no recorded sites are located on the 100-acre parcel in the western portion of the Cartwright survey, the improvements are probably associated with 41BL861.

Stinson and his wife sold the 40-acre parcel in the eastern portion of the Cartwright Survey to T. J. Cox in April 1890, for $125 (BC, DR 228:386). Cox also acquired other property in the vicinity and owned the land until he sold it to the U.S. government in 1954. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL857 is located, see the site history for 41BL852.

Summary: The 40-acre parcel in the G. W. Cartwright Survey where 41BL861 is located may have been occupied as early as the 1870s, when W. J. Beasley and C. F. Morrison owned 140 acres in the survey. Land and tax records suggest continuing occupation of and improvement to the property through the last decade of the nineteenth century. Since no recorded sites are located on the 100-acre, western portion of the 140 acres, the improvements probably can be associated with 41BL861, located on the eastern, 40-acre parcel.

T. J. Cox added the 40 acres to his holdings in 1890 and continued to own it until he sold it to the government in 1954. At that point, the 40 acres were part of a tract that encompassed 1,016.12 acres and was the location of 34 structures whose exact locations have not been identified.

Site 41BL862 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL862 is located in the western portion of the 640-acre William P. Dykeman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001, which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL862 is located, see the site history for 41BL852.

Summary: Site 41BL862 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL852, 41BL854, and 41BL863. Site 41BL862 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL863 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL863 is located in the western portion of the 640-acre William P. Dykeman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001, which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL863 is located, see the site history for 41BL852.

Summary: Site 41BL863 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL852, 41BL854, and 41BL862. Site 41BL863 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL864 (Tract 900)

Site History: Site 41BL864 is located in the southwestern portion of the 640-acre Thomas Hemsworth Survey (A-395) in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the

property, it was part of Tract 900, which encompassed 2,259.3 acres in five surveys and contained nine sites: 41BL735, 41BL736, 41BL828, 41BL831, 41BL836, 41BL846, 41BL855, 41BL859, and 41BL864.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL864 is located, see the site history for 41BL836.

Summary: Site 41BL864 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL836, and it most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL865 (Tract 1002)

Site History: Site 41BL865 is located in the southeastern portion of the 1,476-acre Stephen Jarboe Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1002, which encompassed 497.63 acres in two surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which where 41BL865 is located from 1838 until 1875, when U. P. Smith owned the 1,476-acre survey, see the site history for 41BL859.

Smith conveyed a 50-acre parcel in the southeast portion of the Jarboe Survey where 41BL865 is located to J. A. Cox for $50 in October 1875 (BC, DR 32:368). Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that Cox farmed the property and probably lived there (1875a, 1877a)

In August 1879, the 50-acre parcel sold three times: J. A. Cox to Matilda Fade, Fade to J. M. Cox, and J. M. Cox to Isaac Shiver (BC, DR Y:293–295). The price purchases in these transactions ranged from $50 (Fade to J. M. Cox) to $200 (J. A. Cox to Fade). Since the prices appear to be related to the distribution of proceeds from the sale of property owned by the heirs of John M. Cox, they are not necessarily a reflection of the actual value of the property.

Shiver owned the 50-acre parcel for several years. Tax records indicate that Shiver operated a ranch that included the 50-acre parcel where 41BL865 is located, but the nature of any improvements on the 50 acres is uncertain (1880a).

Shiver sold the 50 acres to J. H. Rensimer for $400 in cash and notes in December 1884 (BC, DR 48:541), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Rensimer apparently farmed the 50-acre parcel, and he probably lived there. Since this is the only land that Rensimer owned, the improvements located there most likely can be associated with 41BL865.

Rensimer conveyed the 50-acre parcel to W. G. Murphey for $250 in December 1890 (BC, DR 77:109), indicating the presence of improvements. Murphey and his wife, M. A., owned the property for over 40 years. By 1931, both the Murpheys had died. Between 1931 and 1939, Mary V. Bishop, a daughter, purchased the interests of the other heirs in 757 acres that included the 50-acre parcel where 41BL865 is located (BC, DR 401:628; 407:430; 467:159; 471:33, 542, 548; 476:594). The purchase prices in these transactions, ranging from $300 to $2,800, suggest the presence of improvements.

Bishop, a widow, conveyed two-thirds interest in the 757 acres to her two sons, William J. and Thomas L. Bishop, for love and affection in June 1952 (BC, DR 662:591). Mary Bishop reserved the remaining one-third interest with the stipulation that, at her death, the reserved interest would pass to her two sons.

On December 11, 1953, William J. and T. L. Bishop, and their spouses, conveyed 497.63 acres, identified as Tract 1002, to the U.S. government for $21,400 (BC, DR 700:247). When the government acquired the tract, it encompassed land in the G. W. Cartwright and Stephen Jarboe Surveys and contained one site, 41BL865, located on 50 acres in the southeastern portion of the Jarboe Survey.

Summary: The 50-acre parcel in the southeastern portion of the Stephen Jarboe Survey where 41BL865 is located may have been occupied as early as 1875, when J. A. Cox acquired the property. J. H. Rensimer also appears to have lived on the property between 1885 and 1890. W. G. Murphey and his wife, M. A., owned the property from 1890 to the late 1920s, when they both died. Mary V. Bishop purchased the interests of the Murphey heirs between 1931 and 1938.

Mary V. Bishop and her sons, William J. and Thomas L. Bishop, owned the property where 41BL865 is located from 1939 until they sold 497.63 acres to the government in 1953 for $21,400.

Site 41BL867 (Tract 1006)

Site History: Site 41BL867 is located in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre Stephen

Jarboe Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1006, which encompassed 567 acres in two surveys and contained two sites in the Jarboe Survey, 41BL867 and 41BL856.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL867 is located from 1838 until 1875, when U. P. Smith owned the 1,476-acre survey, see the site history for 41BL859.

U. P. Smith sold 160 acres out of the northwestern portion of the Jarboe Survey to G. M. Eakin for $200 in July 1876 (BC, DR 26:428). Eakin owned the property for nearly 20 years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a small farm on the property and probably lived there (1876a, 1880a, 1885a).

Eakin and his wife, S. L., conveyed the 160-acre parcel, less 20 acres in the southwest corner, to S. W. Eakin in October 1895 for $1,300 in cash and notes (BC, DR 103:141), a price that indicates the presence of improvements. Two years later, in October 1897, S. W. Eakin sold the property back to G. M. Eakin for $1,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 118:210), suggesting further improvements.

Between 1897 and 1919, the 140-acre parcel was owned by Eakin (1897–1899), S. T. Polk (1899–1902, 1902–1904), R. E. Cole (1902), M. B. Ray (1904–1908, 1910), T. G. and L. L. Treadwell (1908–1910), Perry Hicks (1910–1915), and B. L. Hicks (1915–1919) (BC, DR 134:432; 140:523; 146:178; 161:52; 188:273; 217:246; 219:187; 252:112). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $1,000 (Polk to Cole) to $2,500 (Perry Hicks to B. L. Hicks), suggesting the presence of improvements. M. B. Ray also owned 60 acres south of the 140-acre parcel; 41BL856 is located on this adjacent 60-acre parcel. Transactions after M. B. Ray (1910–1919) include this 60-acre parcel where 41BL856 is located.

B. L. Hicks and his wife Mattie sold 350 acres that included the 140-acre parcel where 41BL867 is located and the 60-acre parcel where 41BL856 is located to Perry Hicks for $2,500 in December 1919 (BC, DR 316:415). Perry Hicks and his wife, Emma, owned the property for nearly 40 years.

On February 5, 1954, the Hickses sold 567 acres that included both the 140-acre parcel, where 41BL867 is located, and the 60-acre parcel, where 41BL856 is located, to the U.S. government for $27,345 and the right to remove several structures, including three feed houses and a shed. The property, identified as Tract 1006, encompassed land in the Stephen Jarboe and Jack Shackelford Surveys and contained two sites in the Jarboe Survey, 41BL867 and 41BL856.

Summary: The property in the Stephen Jarboe Survey where 41BL867 is located may have been occupied as early as 1876, when G. M. Eakin acquired the property. Bell County tax records suggest that Eakin, who owned the property until 1895, farmed and resided on the 140-acre parcel where 41BL867 is located. Several sales of the 140-acre parcel between 1897 and 1919 indicate the presence of improvements.

Perry Ellis and his wife, Emma, owned the 140 acres where 41BL867 is located, and the 60-acre parcel where 41BL856 is located, from 1919 until 1954, when they sold the land to the government. When the government acquired the property, it was the location of three feed houses and a shed.

Site 41BL870 (Tract 1010)

Site History: Site 41BL870 is located in the southeastern portion of the 640-acre William J. Shackelford Survey in Bell County. In 1956, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1010, which encompassed 1,519.8 acres in five surveys and contained five sites: 41BL858, 41BL870, 41BL953, 41BL955, and 41BL956.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL870 is located, see the site history for 41BL858.

Summary: Site 41BL870 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL858. Site 41BL870 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL871 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL871 is located in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre G. W. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001 which encompassed 1,016.12

acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL871 is located from 1838 until 1872, when John Cox owned the northern 492 acres of the Cartwright Survey, see the site history for 41BL857.

In January 1873, Cox sold a parcel of approximately 160 acres out of the northwestern portion of the Cartwright Survey to G. E. Hulsey for $1 per acre (BC, DR R:571). Sites 41BL871, 41BL951 and 41BL952 appear to be located on this land. Hulsey added to his holdings, and by 1888 owned 270 acres in the Cartwright and Jarboe Surveys. The Bell County ad valorem tax value of the land rose from $300 to $2,000 over this period, suggesting that Hulsey improved the property (1874a, 1877a, 1883a, 1888a).

In 1906, G. E. Hulsey's heirs sold the 270 acres to J. C. Cox for $2,375 in cash and notes (BC, DR 186:448), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Cox sold the property to H. L. Huggins for $7,500 in cash and notes in September 1913 (BC, DR 243:376), indicating further improvements. In March 1921, Huggins conveyed the property back to Cox for the same consideration (BC, DR 327:126).

Cox continued to own the property until 1945, when his heirs conveyed the 270-acre parcel to Robert Lee Mitchell for $4,100 in cash and notes (BC, DR 546:399), a price that suggests the presence of improvements even though the price had declined from the previous purchase. In September 1947, Mitchell sold the 270-acre parcel to T. J. Cox for $3,900 in cash and notes. Cox also had acquired other property in the vicinity and owned the land until he sold it to the U.S. government in 1954. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952 are located, see the site history for 41BL852.

Summary: The approximate 160 acres of the Cartwright Survey where 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952 are located may have been occupied as early as 1873, when G. E. Hulsey purchased the property. Hulsey added to his holdings, but he appears to have improved and occupied the 160-acre parcel where the sites are located until 1906, when his heirs sold the land. Land records suggest that the value of the property rose between 1906 and 1945. Owners during this period include J. C. Cox and H. L. Huggins.

T. J. Cox added the 270 acres to his holdings in 1947 and continued to own it until he sold it to the government in 1954. At that point, the 270 acres were part of a tract that encompassed 1,016.12 acres and was the location of 34 structures whose exact locations have not been identified.

Site 41BL872 (Tract 710)

Site History: Site 41BL872 is located on 14 acres in the southeastern portion of the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the land the site was part of Tract 710, which encompassed 14 acres in one survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL872 is located from 1854 until 1881, when Violet Doss owned the 318-acre J. M. Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL845. For the legal history from 1881 until 1921, when Sallie E. Doss owned 100 acres in the southeast corner of the Perryman Survey, see the site history for 41BL819.

In March 1921, Sallie E. Doss sold a 25-acre parcel of her land to N. W. Doss for $400 (BC, DR 339:202). According to affidavits signed by Clem Countess, Roy Harris, Morgan B. McGehee, and Joe Pedigo, N. W. Doss—a son of Sallie Doss—never was married. N. W. Doss and Sallie Doss lived on the 25-acre parcel. After Sallie's death, N. W. Doss continued to live there, selling part of the land, but retaining a 14-acre parcel. He died in 1953 and was survived by the children of his brothers and sisters who became his heirs (BC, DR 695:508; 700:585).

In August 1953, the N. W. Doss heirs conveyed the 14-acre parcel to S. P. Doss for $10 (BC, DR 695:501). On September 17, 1954, S. P. Doss and his wife, Mary Lou, conveyed 14 acres, now identified as Tract 710, to the U.S. government for $1,030 (BC, DR 708:624), an amount that suggests that the property may have been improved slightly. When the government acquired the land, it encompassed 14 acres in the J. M. Perryman Survey and contained one site.

Summary: Site 41BL872, located on Tract 710, may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s, when J. M. Perryman claimed residency to satisfy preemption requirements. Jesse and Violet Doss owned the 318-acre Perryman

Survey from 1861 until 1881, and though they improved the property, it is unclear if those improvements were located on Tract 710 or some other part of their land.

Sallie Doss owned a 100-acre parcel in the southeast corner of the Perryman Survey from 1900 until 1921, when she conveyed a 25-acre parcel to her son, N. W. Doss. N. W. Doss owned that part of the 25 acres that became Tract 710 from 1921 until his death in 1953. It is most likely that initial occupation of Tract 710 occurred sometime during the ownerships of Sallie and/or N. W. Doss, probably before her death in about 1924. The property remained in the Doss family until the government acquired it in 1954.

Site 41BL873 (Tract 801)

Site History: Site 41BL873 is located on approximately 180 acres in the 320-acre Alexander Walters Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 801, which encompassed 329.75 acres in two surveys and contained one site.

On September 20, 1853, Alexander Walters swore that he had settled on vacant public land that had never been filed upon or surveyed. Two days later, F. M. Bigham, deputy surveyor for the Milam District, filed field notes describing a 320-acre tract located about 8.5 miles northwest of Belton. Thomas Kinzey and Tilman Waters assisted as chainmen. On November 1, 1856, J. C. Caddel, Bell County Clerk, certified that Alexander Walters had resided upon and cultivated his preemption claim on 320 acres for 3 years. J. M Perryman and J. P. Hall corroborated these facts. On August 15, 1860, the State of Texas patented 320 acres on Nolan Creek, about 8.5 miles northwest of Belton, to Alexander Walters (Texas. General Land Office 1860a).

In November 1868, Walters and his wife, Sarah, conveyed a 160-acre parcel out of the eastern portion of the 320-acre survey to Joel W. Walker for $600 (BC, DR K:579), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Site 41BL873 appears to be located on this 160-acre parcel. Walker later acquired adjacent land, increasing his holdings in the Alexander Walters Survey to 180 acres and to approximately 130 acres in the Mathew Walters Survey.

Walker owned the property for many years, improving it and perhaps living there. In March 1892, he and his wife, M. G., sold their holdings in both surveys to J. T. Thornton for $3,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 84:158), a price that reflected the improved nature of the land. In 1905, Thornton and his wife, M. E., conveyed the 310 acres to James M. and Robert S. Whiteley for $3,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 159:582), suggesting that, while the property may have declined slightly in value, it was improved nonetheless.

Between 1905 and 1909, the 310-acre property sold three times for prices ranging from $3,080 to $3,700 (BC, DR 172:247; 188:264; 198:362), implying the maintenance of improvements. Owners during this period include J. T. Bristow and Mrs. Roberta Lusk, C. W. Tanner, and J. B. Homesley.

Homesley owned and may have occupied the property for many years. He apparently died before he sold the land, although records furnished by Fort Hood are inconclusive on this point. However, in 1943, Ted Whitlow, a court-appointed receiver in a lawsuit between the Homesley heirs, conveyed the 310 acres to Karin H. Herring and Byron Seamans for $3,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 504:271; DC Cause No. 23,636). About a year later, in March 1844, Seamans, Herring, their respective spouses, and other Homesley heirs sold the land to Cecil McComas for $4,451 (BC, DR 520:276). The prices in both these transactions suggest the presence of improvements on the property. A survey done in connection with the latter sale revealed that the property contained 329.75 acres rather than 310.

On January 28, 1954, Cecil McComas and his wife, Anna, sold the 329.75-acre parcel, identified as Tract 801 in the deed, to the U.S. government for $23,150 (BC, DR 699:177), a sum that indicated the improved nature of the property. Tract 801 encompassed land in the Alexander Walters and the Mathew Walters Surveys.

Summary: Tract 801, on which 41BL873 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1853, when Alexander Walters swore that he resided on 320 acres of vacant public land. In 1856, the Bell County Clerk certified that Walters had occupied and cultivated the land for 3 years. However, because the western-adjacent Tract 802 contains four sites in the

Walters Survey (41BL158, 41BL738, 41BL741, and 41BL851), no firm connection can be made between the Alexander Walters occupation and 41BL873.

Subsequent nineteenth-century sales of the property on which 41BL843 is located appear to reflect the presence of improvements. Initial occupation of 41BL873 most probably occurred between 1876 and 1892 during the ownership of Joel W. Walker. The amounts paid in four transactions between 1892 and 1910 appear to substantiate the improved nature of the property.

J. B. Homesley and his heirs owned the property from 1909 until 1943. When the heirs partitioned the land in 1943, and when they sold it in 1944, the purchase price appears to reflect an increasingly improved property. When the government acquired Tract 801 in 1954, the price rose even more dramatically, suggesting a heavily-improved, owner-occupied parcel.

Site 41BL874 (Tract G-616)

Site History: Site 41BL874 is located in the northwestern quarter of the 1,476-acre R. P. Forbes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract G-616, which encompassed 116 acres in the Forbes and J. Wilkinson Surveys and contained one site.

On February 3, 1838, W. Mill, administrator of the estate of R. P. Forbes, appeared before the board of land commissioners for Milam County and proved that Forbes had arrived in the Republic before the Declaration of Independence, was a single man, and therefore was entitled to a one-third league of land. Before the 1,476 acres were either surveyed or patented, W. Mill as the administrator of the estate of R. P. Forbes transferred rights to the certificate to Anson Darneal on June 9, 1838 (Milam County DR C-1). In the same month, Darneal, in turn, conveyed rights to half the Forbes Survey (738 acres) to Nancy Roberts (Milam County DR C-1:136). On August 11, 1838, L. P. Rucker, a deputy surveyor, surveyed 8 and one-third labors of land situated on both sides of the Leon River for R. P. Forbes with A. Darneal, A. W. Moore, and A. D. Orr as chain carriers. The survey was patented to the heirs of R. P. Forbes on February 10, 1846 (Texas. General Land Office 1846d, Milam 1st Class, File #259, Abstract 313).

Apparently, certain questions arose about who had rights to land in the Forbes Survey. In 1848, a case came before the district court of Milam County in which S. P. Ross and J. J. Turnham filed suit against the heirs of R. P. Forbes et al. (including Anson Darneal). As a result of this case, the Forbes Survey was partitioned into two equal halves of 738 acres each. While the southern half was awarded to Ross and Turnham, the northern half, Lot 1 on which present-day 41BL874 is located, was allowed to remain as claimed by the heirs of R. P. Forbes, et al. (BC, DR E:36). Therefore, it appears that Nancy Roberts was able to retain title to the northern half of the Forbes Survey.

In 1851, William P. Roberts (presumably a relative of Nancy Roberts) of Milam County conveyed the 738 acres, being the upper half of the Forbes Survey, to Sylvester P. Kirk of Milam County for $750 (BC, DR B:47). In February 1859, Kirk conveyed a 31.5-acre tract in the northwest corner of the Forbes Survey where present-day 41BL874 is located to James Drake of Bell County for $189 (BC, DR H:38). By December of that year, Drake conveyed the 31.5 acres to David Smith of Bell County for $315 (BC, DR H:606). In 1860, Smith paid taxes on the 31.5 acres, which were valued at $310. Smith also paid taxes on three horses worth $300 and $65 in miscellaneous property (1860a). These values suggest that the property was improved and occupied.

In 1871, family member A. A. Smith and his wife, N. E. Smith, of Bell County paid taxes on 100 acres in the Forbes Survey valued at $3,000, as well as 2 lots in Moffatt. They also paid taxes on 4 horses worth $300 and 25 cattle worth $115 (1871a). These values suggest that, although the Smiths might have been living in Moffatt, the Forbes Survey was heavily improved and tenants might have been in occupation. That year, the Smiths conveyed the 31.5 acres to G. W. H. Nowlin of Bell County for $2,000 cash and notes.

In 1872, Nowlin paid taxes on a total of 100 acres in the Forbes Survey valued at $1,500. He also paid taxes on three horses worth $100, eight cattle worth $30, two mules worth $100 and $15 in miscellaneous property (1872a). These values suggest that the property might have suffered some neglect, but it was still improved. Nowlin might have been living and farming there. Nowlin retained the property until 1882, when

he and his wife, L. J. Nowlin, conveyed a 75-acre tract out of the northwest corner of the Forbes Survey, on which present-day 41BL874 is located, to James Easley of Bell County for $500 cash and notes (BC, DR 71:196). The same year, Easley and his wife, M. C. Easley, conveyed the property to N. R. Altum of Bell County for $1,085 in notes (BC, DR 71:197). In 1884, in consideration of $2,500, Altum and his wife, E. A. Altum, conveyed three tracts out of the Wilkinson, Steel, and Forbes Surveys to W. A. Grimes of Bell County. The conveyance included the tract in the northwest corner of the Forbes Survey, now described as containing 38.375 acres, where present-day 41BL874 is located (BC, DR 50:637).

In 1889, Grimes and his wife, L. E. Grimes, conveyed the same three tracts, including the 38.375 acres, to J. W. Wilson for $2,500 (BC, DR 71:152). In 1902, Wilson and his wife, Minnie E., of Bell County conveyed a total of five tracts of land, including the 38.375 acres, to W. W. Mayes of Bell County for $3,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 170:296). In 1954, Mrs. M. M. Mayes et al. conveyed the land that comprises present-day Tract G-616 to the United States government as part of Civil Action No. 1544 in consideration of $14,505. The tract encompassed 116 acres out of the Gates, Summmerville, and Forbes Surveys where present-day 41BL874 is located (BC, DR 706:249).

Summary: The early history of the Forbes Survey from issuance of the certificate in 1838 through the 1850s is characterized by confused and conflicting land claims by non-resident landowners including the heirs of R. P. Forbes, Anson Darneal, Nancy and William P. Roberts, and Sylvester Kirk. James Drake owned the property on which present-day 41BL874 is located for less than a year, and probably did not live there. Members of the Smith family owned the 31.5 acres from 1859 until 1871, and members of that family might have been in occupation, had tenants, or both. G. W. H. Nowlin (1871–1882) might have been a resident as well. However, James Easly owned the property less than a year making his residence there unlikely. Subsequent owners consisted of N. R. Altum (1882–1884), W. A. Grimes (1884–1889), J. W. Wilson (1889–1902), and the Mayes family (1902–1954), who could have lived on the property where present-day 41BL874 is located.

Site 41BL876 (Tract 1015)

Site History: Site 41BL876 is located in the northwestern portion of the 640-acre Maples H. Bush Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1015, which encompassed 665 acres in three surveys and contained four sites: 41BL771, 41BL876, 41BL883, and 41BL884.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL876 is located from 1838 until 1870, when A. B. Jeffries owned the 640-acre Bush Survey, see the site history for 41BL883.

Jeffries sold 210 acres out of the western portion of the Bush Survey to David Gray for $1,000 in September 1871 (BC, DR R:162). The purchase price in the sale suggests the presence of improvements, and because only one recorded site is located on the 210 acres, the improvements probably can be associated with 41BL876. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that Gray operated a ranch on the land and may have lived there (1873a, 1877a, 1882a, 1887a).

Gray sold most of the 210 acres, but apparently retained a 35-acre parcel in the northwestern portion of the survey until his death, sometime in the late 1890s (BC, DR 29:559; 46:53). Site 41BL876 is located on this 35-acre residual parcel. Between 1902 and 1903, Gray's heirs sold their interests in the 35 acres to George W. Cole and H. B. Reynolds for prices that ranged from $200 for an undivided one-twentieth interest to $1,640 for a one-half interest (BC, 140:522; 144:590; 146:453; 151:346; 152:6, 57, 222, 272), prices that suggest the presence of improvements.

In November 1904, Cole sold his one-half interest in the jointly acquired property to H. B. Reynolds in a dissolution of their partnership (BC, DR 160:207). Less than 1 year later, in September 1905, Reynolds sold the 35-acre parcel to J. K. Ricketts (BC, DR 169:409). Ricketts added the property to his holdings and continued to own the land until his death in 1914. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL876 is located, see the site history for 41BL771.

Summary: It is possible that the property where 41BL876 is located was occupied as early as 1854, when A. B. Jeffries acquired the 640-acre Maples Bush Survey. Tax records indicate that Jeffries operated a sheep ranch on the property and may have lived there.

The most likely initial occupant of the 35 acres where 41BL876 is located is David Gray, who owned the land from 1871 until his death in the late 1890s. Tax records suggest that Gray operated a ranch on the property and may have lived on the 35-acre parcel where 41BL876 is located, even after he sold most of the land. Between 1904 and 1914, J. K. Ricketts owned the 35 acres where 41BL876 is located.

W. S. Hall owned the property from 1919 until 1954, when the government acquired the land. Hall and his wife, Lola, sold 665 acres that included the 35 acres where 41BL876 is located to the U.S. government in March 1954 for $34,395, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL883 (Tract 1015)

Site History: Site 41BL883 is located in the northwestern portion of the 640-acre Maples H. Bush Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1015, which encompassed 665 acres in three surveys and contained four sites: 41BL771, 41BL876, 41BL883, and 41BL884.

The Washington County Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 128) to M. H. Bush on September 6, 1838. Bush, a single man who had arrived in Texas before October 7, 1837, was entitled to 640 acres of land. George B. Erath surveyed Bush's land on March 24, 1840, describing it as containing 640 acres about 20 miles above the three forks of the Little River. John Adams and Alfred Murray assisted as chainmen. On August 21, 1850, the State of Texas patented the 640-acre parcel to Bush (Texas. General Land Office 1850b).

Bush sold an undivided one-half interest in the 640 acres to A. B. Jeffries and the remaining one-half interest to A. G. Gholson for $320 each (BC, DR E:481; 75:18). In 1854, Gholson sold his one-half interest in the 640-acre Bush Survey to Jeffries for $240 (BC, DR E:271). Jeffries owned the property for many years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that Jeffries operated a sheep ranch on the property in the late 1860s, but his use and occupation after that period are uncertain (1867a, 1872a, 1877a, 1882a, 1887a).

Between 1870 and the early 1890s, a dispute arose involving the title to the land where 41BL883 is located. In May 1870, one chain of title arose from several people who claimed that A. B. Jeffries had sold a 67-acre parcel in the northwest portion of the survey to J. P. Blackburn, although there is no such conveyance of record in the county. Owners in this chain included M. W. Blackburn (1870–1876), J. G. Blackburn (1876–1889), A. J. Harris (1889–1890), Ed F. Lee (1890), and K. L. Fry (1890–1901). Bell County actually assessed and collected taxes on the land from J. G. Blackburn, giving credence to his claim, and it appears that Blackburn operated a ranch on land that included the 67 acres and that he may have lived there (1877a, 1882a, 1887a).

The ownership emanating from J. P. Blackburn was extinguished in a lawsuit filed by A. B. Jeffries against Ed F. Lee and K. L. Fry, the then-current owners under the Blackburn claim (BC, DC Cause No. 3,401). Lee and Fry jointly quitclaimed any interest in the southern 33.5 acres of the 67-acre parcel to Jeffries in exchange for Jeffries's abandonment of the lawsuit (BC, DR 78:204). Site 41BL883 is located on this 33.5-acre parcel.

Predating the outcome of the lawsuit, Jeffries sold the 33.5-acre parcel to A. M. Reed for $100 in June 1896 (BC, DR 117:262). Between 1896 and 1904, the property was owned by Reed (1896), T. I. Douglas (1896), A. B. Worley (1896), F. M. Denman (1896–1897), and L. A. Morgan Sr. (1897–1904) (BC, DR 117:263, 265, 266, 271). The purchase prices in these transactions rose from $100 to $750, but two other parcels totaling approximately 42 acres were added to the 33.5 acres. However, since the only recorded site on the property is 41BL883, it is possible that the rise in value can be associated with the site.

Morgan and his wife, Bettie, sold 77 acres, including the 33.5-acres where 41BL883 is located, to J. K. Ricketts for $350 in January 1904 (BC, DR 154:40). Ricketts added the property to his holdings and continued to own the land until his death in 1914. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL883 is located, see the site history for 41BL771.

Summary: It is possible that the property where 41BL883 is located was occupied as early as 1854, when A. B. Jeffries acquired the 640-acre Maples Bush Survey. Jeffries appears to have operated a sheep ranch on the property, and he may have lived there.

Title to the property was in dispute between 1870 and the late 1890s. J. G. Blackburn

apparently ranched on property that included the land where 41BL883 is located and may have lived there, even though the source of his claim was questionable. A lawsuit in 1901 ended the dispute and vested title in Jeffries. Between 1904 and 1914, J. K. Ricketts owned the 33.5 acres where 41BL883 is located.

W. S. Hall owned the property from 1919 until 1954, when the government acquired the land. Hall and his wife, Lola, sold 665 acres that included the 33.5 acres where 41BL883 is located to the U.S. government in March 1954 for $34,395, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL884 (Tract 1015)

Site History: Site 41BL884 is located in the southeastern portion of the 640-acre Francis A. Wilson Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1015, which encompassed 665 acres in three surveys and contained four sites: 41BL771, 41BL876, 41BL883, and 41BL884.

On July 19, 1838, the Harrisburg Board of Land Commissioners issued a certificate (No. 903) to Francis A. Wilson for 640 acres. The certificate stated that Wilson was a resident of the Republic of Texas before October 1, 1837, and was a single man. George B. Erath surveyed Wilson's land on March 24, 1840, and described it as containing 640 acres on the western waters of Cowhouse Creek about 20 miles above the three forks of the Little River. John Adams and Alfred Murray assisted as chain carriers; Hiram Butcher marked the line. On October 15, 1849, the State of Texas patented the 640-acre parcel to Wilson (Texas. General Land Office 1849b).

Wilson sold the 640-acre parcel to John B. Haley of Missouri for $100 in November 1846, although the deed was not filed until 1875 (BC, DR 24:615). Haley's use and occupation of the property are uncertain (1852a, 1857a, 1864a, 1870a, 1875a). There is a break in the chain title between Haley and E. W. Fay, who was taxed for the Wilson Survey after 1875. Bell County ad valorem tax records indicate that Fay operated a small farm, but the county assessed him for nearly 3,500 acres. His use and occupation of the 640-acre Wilson Survey are, thus, uncertain (1877a).

In May 1878, W. S. Rather, Bell County Tax Collector, auctioned the 640 acres to J. M. McGinnis, G. W. Osborne, and C. W. Osborne for $32.40 (BC, DR 29:290). McGinnis, Osborne, and Osborne were assessed for the property in 1879, but the assessment did not include any personal property that would indicate occupation or use of the survey. In 1882, J. M. Gray purchased the interests of McGinnis, Osborne, and Osborne in the 640-acre parcel for $60 (BC, DR 37:478).

In December 1882, Gray conveyed approximately 160 acres out of the Wilson Survey to J. Curry for $50 (BC, DR 64:321), a price that suggests unimproved property. Curry owned the property for many years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a small farm on the land and probably lived there (1882a, 1885a).

In March 1946, Curry conveyed approximately 60 acres in the southeast corner of the Wilson Survey to Kenneth Curry and his wife, Ophelia, for the love and affection he felt for Curry, who was his grandson (BC, DR 544:304). Kenneth Curry and his wife sold the approximately 60-acre parcel to W. S. Hall and his wife, Lola, in June 1947 for $325 (BC, DR 575:73).

On March 6, 1954, the Halls sold 665 acres that included the property where 41BL884 is located to the U.S. government for $34,395 (BC, DR 700:481), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The property, identified as Tract 1015, encompassed land in the F. W. Thornton, Maples H. Bush, and Francis A. Wilson Surveys, and contained four sites—41BL771 and 41BL884 in the Wilson Survey and 41BL876 in the Bush Survey.

Summary: The property in the southeast portion of the Francis A. Wilson Survey where 41BL884 is located may have been occupied as early as 1877, when Bell County assessed E. W. Fay for the 640-acre Wilson Survey. However, Fay owned nearly 3,500 acres in Bell County, raising questions about the specifics of occupation of the survey.

J. Curry most likely is the initial occupant of the property where 41BL884 is located. Curry purchased 160 acres that included the 60-acre parcel where the site is located in 1882 and did not sell the parcel until 1946. Ad valorem tax records suggest that he farmed the property and probably lived there.

W. S. Hall and his wife, Lola, sold 665 acres that included the land where 41BL884 is located to the U.S. government in March 1954 for

$34,395, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41BL896 (Tract 1336)

Site History: Site 41BL896 is located in the southeastern portion of the S. G. Evitts Survey, which is partially located in Bell and Coryell Counties. Site 41BL896 is located in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1336, which consisted of 133 acres in part of the Evitts Survey located south of Owl Creek.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL896 is located from 1838 until 1853, see the site history for 41CV764.

In 1853, S. G. Evitts sold the eastern 213 acres of the survey to James Clark (BC, DR D:483). There is a break in the chain of title between Clark and M. M. Dunn. Neither individual was assessed by Bell County for property in the Evitts Survey for many years, although Dunn paid taxes on other land and slaves before the Civil War (1854a, 1860a, 1870a). Beginning in the 1880s, Bell County assessed Mary L. Dunn, apparently the widow of M. M., for 213 acres in the Evitts Survey. She appears to have operated a small farm or ranch on the land and may have lived there (1880a, 1885a, 1890a).

By 1892, both M. M. and Mary Dunn were deceased. Their heirs sold the 213-acre parcel to S. O. Ludwick in April of that year (BC, DR 86:574). Ludwick used the land for farming, but the Bell County tax records combined the assessment for the 213-acre parcel with another parcel, making the location of Ludwick's residence difficult to determine (1892a, 1897a, 1902a, 1907a). It is clear that the county's assessment of the land rose significantly during this period, suggesting improvements. Ludwick also acquired an adjacent 150-acre tract from which the western portion of Tract 1339 was carved.

In 1907, Ludwick sold both parcels to F. L Sims for $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 186:129). Sims farmed the property, and since this was the only land he owned in Bell County, he probably occupied it (1908a, 1910a). About 3 years later, Sims conveyed the land to W. W. Walker for $6,769 in cash and notes (BC, DR 216:178), an amount that suggests further improvements.

In October, 1913, Walker sold 139 acres of his property to E. H. Jennings for $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 252:12), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The deed described 135 acres south of Owl Creek and 4 acres north of the creek. Tract 1336 consists of the land south of Owl Creek and is the location of 41BL896.

Between 1922, when Jennings sold the land, and 1934, the parcel was owned by Dekalb Page (1922–1924 and 1931–1934), J. A. McLaurin (1924–1925), and R. O. Culp (1925–1931) (BC, DR 331:24; 339:624; 361:287; 409:530). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $3,000 to $3,800 in notes, suggesting that existing improvements were maintained.

In 1934, Dekalb Page sold the 138.3-acre parcel on which 41BL896 is located to the San Antonio Joint Stock Land Bank for cancellation of the unpaid portion of a $3,000 note (BC, DR 423:530). In 1939, the land bank conveyed the land to W. H. Wall for $1,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 477:330). In February, 1954, the U.S. government condemned the property described by metes and bounds as 133 acres south of Owl Creek in the S. G. Evitts Survey and designated it Tract 1336.

Summary: Parts of the S. G. Evitts Survey may have been occupied as early as the mid-1850s when Evitts owned the land. However it is unclear if his occupation affected the southeast portion of the survey where site 41BL896 is located. Mary L. Dunn, widow of M. M. Dunn, appears to have been occupied and farmed the eastern 213 acres of the survey where 41BL896 is located from 1880 to the early 1890s. Between 1892 and 1907, the land was owned by S. O. Ludwick who appears to have farmed the land and may have lived there.

Between 1907, when Ludwick sold the 213-acre parcel, and 1934, when W. H. Wall acquired a 135-acre parcel south of Owl Creek, the property was briefly owned by several individuals. Land records suggest the presence of improvements, but occupancy and use are unclear. In 1934, W. H. Wall bought the 138.3-acre parcel that forms the bulk of the 133-acre Tract 1336. Wall continued to own the land until 1954 when it was condemned.

Site 41BL901 (Tract 1214)

Site History: Site 41BL901 is located in the western portion of the 320-acre Davidson Barnes

Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1214, which encompassed 175 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41BL334 and 41BL901.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL901 is located, see the site history for 41BL334.

Summary: Site 41BL901 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL334, and most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from the legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL910 (Tract G-602)

Site History: Site 41BL910 is located in the eastern-central portion of the 85.6-acre S. C. Hunt Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract G-602, which encompassed 67.3 acres out of the Hunt and J. Hughes Surveys and contained one site.

S. C. Hunt of Bell County filed a certificate of occupancy in which he swore that he was a bona fide settler upon 85.6 acres of vacant public land. Hunt occupied and cultivated the land for 3 consecutive years beginning in 1870. Despite his affidavit, Hunt did not appear in the ad valorem tax records for Bell County until 1872. In both 1872 and 1873, Hunt did not pay taxes on land, but did pay taxes on a few livestock and some miscellaneous property (1870a–1873a). In fact, Hunt paid taxes on his pre-emption for the first time in 1874, when his 80 acres were valued at $400; other property consisted of two horses worth $60 and $75 in miscellaneous property (1874a). These values suggest that Hunt had been improving and farming his preemption, and that he was a resident there.

On January 9, 1877, 85.6 acres situated on Bear Creek (a tributary of the Leon River) about 10.5 miles northwest of Belton were surveyed for Hunt by John T. Pope, with John P. Hutchinson and Etson Campbell as chain carriers. By May 15, 1877, the S. C. Hunt Survey was patented to him (Texas. General Land Office 1877c).

By 1881, Hunt paid taxes on 85 acres valued at $425. He also paid taxes on 1 carriage or wagon worth $60, $20 in manufacturer's tools, 4 horses or mules worth $200, 10 cattle worth $50, 15 hogs worth $15, and $10 in miscellaneous property (1881a). These values suggest that Hunt maintained his farm and continued to expand his livestock holdings. That year, Hunt and his wife, S. P. Hunt, conveyed the 85.6 acres to E. Campbell for $200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 98:224).

On January 6, 1885, Campbell and his wife, H. M. Campbell, conveyed the 85.6 acres to J. D. Miller (BC, DR 98:224). In 1890, Miller and his wife, L. E. Miller, residents of Temple, conveyed the Hunt Survey to J. T. Bacon of Bell County for $700 in cash and notes (BC, DR 99:71).

In 1900, Bacon and his wife, S. M. Bacon, conveyed the 85.6 acres where present-day 41BL910 is located to J. E. Tanner of Bell County in consideration of $600 cash and notes (BC, DR 134:633). In 1902, Tanner conveyed the 85.6 acres to John Olenburgher of Bell County for $600 cash and notes (BC, DR 150:22). In March 1909, Ohlenburger and his wife, Mary, now residents of McLennan County, conveyed the 85.6 acres to John E. Trimmier of Bell County for $700 (BC, DR 191:574). By December of that year, Trimmier and his wife, Minnie M., conveyed the Hunt Survey to C. M. Liverman for $750 in cash and notes (BC, DR 198:606). In 1911, Liverman and his wife, Lucy, residents of Bell County, conveyed the 85.6 acres to T. J. Rampy of Bell County for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 229:49).

Rampy and his wife, Bethsaida, retained ownership of the Hunt Survey until 1913, when they conveyed it to W. I. Ludwick of Bell County for $1,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 238:338). In 1914, Ludwick and his wife, Gertis (also spelled Gertrude), conveyed the 85.6 acres on which present-day 41BL910 is located to G. H. Wayland of Bell County in consideration of $1,450 cash and notes (BC, DR 243:426). On January 24, 1917, Wayland and his wife, Lillie D., conveyed the 85.6 acres back to previous owner W. I. Ludwick for $1,300 in cash and notes (BC, DR 284:40). A week later, Ludwick sold the Hunt Survey to G. W. Cox of Bell County for $1,390 in cash and notes (BC, DR 283:404).

In November 1919, Cox and his wife, Ellen J., conveyed the 85.6 acres to W. O. Vaden of Bell County for $1,400 cash and notes (BC, DR 309:241). The next month, Vaden and his wife, Minnie P., conveyed the 85.6 acres to John

Haynes of Bell County for $1,600 cash and notes (BC, DR 321:359). In 1920, Haynes, a bachelor, conveyed the 85.6 acres where present-day 41BL910 is located to J. W. White of Bell County for $1,400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 321:360). White retained ownership of the property until January 6, 1926, when he and his wife, Nannie, conveyed the Hunt Survey to A. L. Hayden of Bell County for $2,000 (BC, DR 368:349).

Six days later, Hayden and his wife, Callie, conveyed two tracts back to J. W. White for $3,500 in cash and notes. The tracts consisted of 42 acres out of the Hughes Survey adjacent to the west, and the 85.6-acre Hunt Survey where present-day 41BL910 is located (BC, DR 368:350). White retained ownership of the property until January 1932, when he conveyed it once again back to A. L. Hayden for $250 cash plus additional notes (BC, DR 408:666). The next month, Hayden conveyed the two tracts to C. A. Grisham for $100 cash plus additional notes (BC, DR 415:129). In 1954, Grisham and his wife, Inez, conveyed present-day Tract G-602 to the United States government for $7,675. The tract contained 67.3 acres out of the Hughes and Hunt Surveys, where present-day 41BL910 is located. The deed mentioned the presence of a public road immediately north of the tract (BC, DR 702:43).

Summary: Initial occupation of the Hunt Survey was in 1870 by S. C. Hunt himself, who was in residence and farming until 1881. Hunt's homestead possibly is associated with 41BL910. The residency status of E. Campbell from 1881 to 1885 is unclear. J. D. Miller was a resident of Temple, so, from 1885 to 1890, tenants might have been in occupation. Owners J. T. Bacon (1890–1900) and J. E. Tanner (1900–1902) might have been in occupation. Although John Ohlenburger might have lived on the Hunt Survey when he purchased it in 1902, he and his family had moved out of Bell County by 1909 when he sold the property. John Trimmier owned the property for less than a year and probably did not live there. Owners C. M. Liverman (1909–1911) and T. J. Rampy (1911–1913) might have lived on the Hunt Survey. W. I. Ludwick owned the Hunt Survey two different times, from 1913 to 1914 and for a week in 1917, which suggests that the property was an investment, not a residence. In the interim (1914–1917), the Wayland family might have been in residence. G. W. Cox (1917–1919) might have lived on the Hunt Survey. From 1919 to 1932, the Hunt Survey was conveyed back and forth among the same set of owners; they were W. O. Vaden, John Haynes, J. W. White, and A. L. Hayden. The status of their residency is unclear. The final owner, C. A. Grisham (1932–1954) could have lived on the Hunt Survey. As the only site on the Hunt Survey, and situated along a public road, present-day 41BL910 could represent the former location of a residence that was occupied by many different parties between 1870 and 1954.

Site 41BL921 (Tract 1206)

Site History: Site 41BL921 is located on 47.7 acres in the northwest corner of the 320-acre John Hughes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1206, which encompassed 47.7 acres in one survey and contained three sites, 41BL921, 41BL922, and 41BL923.

In February 1852, John Hughes swore that the land on which he was living and improved was vacant, and that it had never been filed on or claimed. In February 1853, L. W. Bigham, Milam Land District Deputy Surveyor, filed field notes describing Hughes's 320 acres on Bear Creek about 11 miles northwest of Belton. Asa Dennis and L. S. Clark assisted as chainmen. In 1856, the Bell County Clerk issued a preemption certificate (No. 16) stating that Hughes was entitled to a preemption of 320 acres in the Milam District because he had resided on and cultivated the 320-acre parcel. Proof of the preemption certificate was issued by J. G. Caddel, Bell County Clerk. On September 20, 1856, the State of Texas patented the 320 acres to Hughes (Texas. General Land Office 1856b).

Although Hughes claimed to have resided on and improved the property, his use and occupation remain uncertain. In February 1859, Hughes and his wife, Emily, sold the 320-acre parcel to James Drake for $2,000 (BC, DR H:68), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Drake owned the land for several years but apparently did not live in Bell County. Bell County carried the 320-acre Hughes Survey on its unrendered role throughout the 1860s and 1870s (1863a, 1866a, 1871a, 1874a, 1877a, 1880a).

There is a break in the chain of title between Drake and Nicholas Ludwick, who apparently

acquired the property in the early 1880s. In November 1885, E. C. Ludwick conveyed the north half of the 320-acre Hughes Survey to N. J. Wilson and her husband, G. E., as Wilson's share of the estate of her deceased father, Nicholas Ludwick (BC, DR 68:122). The cash consideration for the conveyance was $700, an amount that suggests that the property was improved. Ad valorem tax records suggest that the Wilsons operated a small farm on the land and probably lived there (1885a, 1890a–1891a). Initial occupation and improvement most likely occurred during this period. However, because three sites (41BL921, 41BL922, and 41BL923) are located on the remnants of the 154-acre parcel, it is difficult to determine which of them may have been associated with an 1880s and 1890s occupation.

In January 1893, the Wilsons sold the 160-acre parcel to T. G. Durham for $850 (BC, DR 87:563), a price that indicates the presence of improvements. In September of that same year, Durham conveyed the land, less 6 acres in the northeast corner, back to the Wilsons for $1,200 (BC, DR 126:83), suggesting that Durham had made substantial improvements.

There is a break in the chain of title between the Wilsons and J. T. Guthrie. However, in September 1913, Guthrie and his wife, N. L., sold the 154-acre parcel to A. L. Hyden for $2,070 (BC, DR 250:252), suggesting the presence of improvements. In March 1924, the Hydens conveyed the 154 acres to B. E. and Bettie Camp for $4,000 (BC, DR 355:3), indicating further improvements.

In January 1926, the Camps sold the northern 112 acres of their land to T. E. Lancaster for $3,000 (BC, DR 368:340). The price suggests the presence of improvements, but multiple sites on the property preclude establishing which site sustained improvements. Lancaster and his wife, Laura, sold the 112 acres to T. A. Adams in 1930, for $1,650 (BC, DR 405:547).

Between 1930 and 1954, the 112-acre parcel was owned by Adams (1930–1935), Robert B. James (1935–1945, 1949–1950), A. D. and Leola Estes (1945–1949), and J. B. Fellers (1950–1954) (BC, DR 440:516; 539:67; 596:107; 623:183). The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements.

On February 26, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 47.7 acres belonging to J. B. Fellers, paying $1,873.15 as compensation (BC, DR 702:179). The property, identified as Tract 1206, appears to be the north residue of the 112-acre parcel, minus land that was part of the Belton Reservoir acquisition. When the government acquired the property, it encompassed 47.7 acres and contained three sites, 41BL921, 41BL922, and 41BL923.

Summary: The John Hughes Survey may have been occupied as early as 1852, when Hughes claimed residency to meet preemption requirements. However, the most likely initial occupation of the land where 41BL921, 41BL922, and 41BL923 are located occurred between 1885 and 1893, when N. J. Wilson and her husband, G. E., owned the north half of the 320-acre survey. Land and tax records suggest farm use and owner occupation.

Most twentieth-century owners appear to have continued the pattern of farm use. Owners who may have lived on the property include J. T. Guthrie, A. L. Hyden, B. E. and Bettie Camp, T. E. Lancaster, T. A. Adams, Robert B. James, A. D. Estes, and J. B. Fellers.

Site 41BL922 (Tract 1206)

Site History: Site 41BL922 is located on 47.7 acres in the northwest corner of the 320-acre John Hughes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1206, which encompassed 47.7 acres in one survey and contained three sites, 41BL921, 41BL922, and 41BL923.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL922 is located, see the site history for 41BL921.

Summary: Site 41BL922 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL921 and 41BL923. Site 41BL922 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL923 (Tract 1206)

Site History: Site 41BL923 is located on 47.7 acres in the northwest corner of the 320-acre John Hughes Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1206, which encompassed 47.7 acres in one survey and

contained three sites, 41BL921, 41BL922, and 41BL923.

For the legal history of the land on which 41BL923 is located, see the site history for 41BL921.

Summary: Site 41BL923 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL921 and 41BL922. Site 41BL923 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, it is not possible to assign a specific date of occupation based on legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL924 (Tract G-605)

Site History: Site 41BL924 is located in the northeastern quarter of the 320-acre John Hughes Survey. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract G-605, which encompassed 152 acres out of the Hughes and R. P. Forbes Surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which site 41BL924 is located from 1852 until 1860, see 41BL661.

There is an apparent gap in the chain of title from James Drake, who owned the entire Hughes Survey as late as 1860, and the next known owner. In 1874, J. C. Hutchinson and M. M. Hutchinson of Bell County owned the northern 160 acres of the Hughes Survey where present-day 41BL924 is located. In January of that year, the Hutchinsons conveyed the 160 acres to J. L. Walker of Bell County for $1,000 (BC, DR V:485). In both 1875 and 1876, Walker paid taxes on the 160 acres, which were valued at $500. He also paid taxes on a modest number of livestock (1875a, 1876a). These values suggest that Walker lived on the property, had improved it, and was farming there. However, by 1877, the property apparently was abandoned. It was listed as unrendered property in the ad valorem tax records (1877a–1878a), and in 1878, the land was sold at a tax auction as a property with an unknown owner. Silas Baggett of Bell County was the highest bidder and bought the property for $6.07 (BC, DR 35:12). By 1879, Walker had redeemed and reclaimed the property and once again paid taxes on the 160 acres, which were valued at $400. Walker also paid taxes on 1 carriage or wagon worth $60, 3 horses or mules worth $110, 5 cattle worth $30, 20 hogs worth $15, and $50 in miscellaneous property (1879a). These values suggest that, although the property might have suffered some neglect, it still was improved and occupied.

However, the next year, the 160 acres were once again listed in the ad valorem tax records as unrendered property owned by an unknown individual, and it apparently was abandoned once again. There is a gap in the chain of title at this point, but in 1881, Mrs. Ellen Ludwick paid taxes on 120 acres in the Hughes Survey valued at $700 as well as another, more improved, property. She also paid taxes on 1 carriage or wagon worth $75, 5 horses or mules worth $120, 10 cattle worth $50, and 15 hogs worth $15 (1881a). Apparently this is the property where present-day 41BL924 is located, and it was improved. Ludwick might have been living on other property and had tenants in occupation on the Hughes Survey.

In 1885, E. C. Ludwick of Bell County, widow of Nicholas Ludwick, owned the northern half of the Hughes Survey where present-day 41BL924 is located. In that year, she conveyed the 160 acres to G. E. and N. J. Wilson, her son-in-law and daughter, for $700 (BC, DR 68:122). In January 1893, the Wilsons, residents of Bell County, conveyed the 160 acres to T. G. Durham of Bell County for $850 in cash and notes (BC, DR 87:563). By September of that year, Durham and his wife, M. E. Durham, conveyed the northern half of the Hughes Survey, where present-day 41BL924 is located, back to G. E. Wilson for $1,200 cash and notes. The conveyance excepted a 6-acre tract out of the northeastern corner of the survey that had been sold off previously (BC, DR 126:83).

In July 1911, Wilson and his wife, N. J. Wilson, of Bell County conveyed the 154-acre tract (consistently described as 160 acres with a 6-acre exception) to F. C. Wharton of Bell County for $1,540 in cash and notes (BC, DR 222:205). By September of that year, Wharton and his wife, S. E. Wharton, conveyed the 154 acres to J. T. Guthrie of Bell County for $2,000 cash and notes (BC, DR 229:62). In 1913, Guthrie and his wife, M. L. Guthrie, now residents of McLennan County, conveyed the 154 acres to A. L. Hayden of Bell County for $2,070 in cash and notes (BC, DR 250:252). In 1924, Hayden and his wife, Callie, conveyed the 154 acres to B. D. Camp and his wife, Bettie, of Bell County for $4,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 355:3).

In 1926, Camp conveyed a 112-acre tract, on which present-day 41BL924 is located, to

T. E. Lancaster of Bell County for $3,000 cash and notes (BC, DR 368:340). In 1928, Lancaster and his wife, Laura, conveyed the 112 acres to R. L. Nichols of Bell County for $1,800 cash and notes. The deed mentioned the presence of a rock dam on a branch of Bear Creek on the property (BC, DR 386:126). By November 1930, Nichols was dead. His widow, Mrs. Anna Nichols, became guardian of their minor children Minnie Lou, Elizabeth, Winona, Maurine, and Wilburn. That year, on their behalf, Mrs. Nichols conveyed the 112 acres back to previous owner T. E. Lancaster in consideration of discharging the $1,500 debt on the land (BC, DR 405:558). By December, Lancaster sold the 112 acres again, this time to T. A. Adams of Bell County for $1,650 in cash and notes (BC, DR 405:547).

In 1935, Adams and his wife, Myrtle, conveyed the 112 acres to Robert B. James of Bell County for $1,500 cash and notes (BC, DR 440:516). In 1945, James conveyed the property to A. D. Estes of Bell County for $3,000 in cash and notes. In that deed, James declared that none of the 112 acres in the Hughes Survey was part of his homestead. He claimed never to have resided on the property and stated that his homestead was located in Belton (BC, DR 539:67). By 1949, Estes was dead and his widow, Leola, conveyed the 112 acres back to James in consideration of $1 and a cancellation of a $2,500 debt on the property.

In 1950, James and his wife, Laura, conveyed the 112 acres to J. B. Fellers of Bell County for $500 cash and $2,500 in notes (BC, DR 623:183). In 1954, present-day Tract G-605, which consisted of 158 acres out of the Forbes and Hughes Surveys, was conveyed from Fellers to the United States government as part of Civil Action Suit #1369. A total of 4,865.62 acres was conveyed from various owners for a consideration of $155,760 (BC, DR 702:179).

Summary: John Hughes resided on his survey from 1853 until 1859. By 1855, he was operating a mill somewhere on the property. Hughes owned one slave in 1858, who presumably resided on the property also. James Drake resided on the Hughes Survey between 1859 and 1860. He owned three slaves in 1860, when they also may have resided on the land. The chain of title for the northern half of the Hughes Survey is problematic from 1860 until 1885, and the status of both ownership and occupation is unknown from 1860 to 1874. By 1874, J. C. and M. M. Hutchinson owned the land, but their residency status is unclear. The next owner, J. L. Walker apparently improved, farmed, and lived on the land ca. 1874–1876, abandoned it in 1877, redeemed it in 1879, and abandoned it one last time in 1880.

By 1881, E. C. Ludwick owned the improved property, but might have had tenants in occupation. The land stayed with her extended family until 1893. T. G. Durham owned the property less than a year (1893) and probably did not live there. G. E. Wilson (1893–1911) might have lived on the property. F. C. Wharton owned the land for less than a year (1911) and probably did not live there. Although J. T. Guthrie might have lived on the property when he purchased it in 1911, he and his family had moved out of Bell County by 1913. A. L Hayden (1913–1924) and B. D. Camp (1924–1926) might have been in occupation. T. E. Lancaster (1926–1928 and 1930) appears to have owned the land as an investment, not a residence. In the interim, R. L. Nichols and his family might have been living on the land (1928–1930). T. A. Adams (1930–1935) might have been a resident. Robert B. James (1935–1945, 1949–1950) did not live on the property, but might have had tenants in occupation. In the interim (1945–1949), the A. D. Estes family might have lived on the property. The same can be said of J. B. Fellers who owned the property from 1950 until acquisition by the government in 1954.

Site 41BL937 (Tract G-617)

Site History: Site 41BL937 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 640-acre Marcus Summerville Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract G-617, which encompassed 119 acres out of the Summerville and J. Wilkinson Surveys and contained two sites, 41BL937 and 41BL938.

On October 7, 1844, the board of land commissioners for Robertson County issued Fourth Class Certificate No. 73 to Marcus Summerville. He had proved that he had been an actual citizen of the Republic for 3 years, he had performed the duties required of him as a citizen, was a married man, and was, therefore, entitled to the certificate. In the same year that the certificate was issued, a survey was made for Summerville of 640 acres situated west of

the Leon River. District surveyor for Milam County, J. Snively, made the survey with Thomas Waring and George Risley as chain bearers. On June 28, 1845, in Robertson County, Summerville appointed Cavitt Armstrong as his attorney for the purpose of obtaining the patent to the 640 acres. That patent was awarded to Summerville on November 24, 1848 (Texas. General Land Office 1848).

In July 1853, Summerville, a resident of Robertson County, conveyed his 640-acre survey to William B. Taylor of Bell County for $600 (BC, DR D:321). By September of that year, in consideration of the love and affection Taylor had for his wife, Lavina (also spelled Lavinia), he conveyed the Summerville Survey to her (BC, DR D:402). A month later, Lavina conveyed a 60-acre tract out of the southeastern corner of the Summerville Survey, where present-day 41BL937 and 41BL938 are located, to Squire Mayes (also spelled May) of Bell County for $60 (BC, DR D:403). Although Mayes paid taxes on the 60 acres in 1854, its assessed value of $60 does not indicate improvement. Mayes also paid taxes on 20 cattle worth $150 (1854a), and he might have been using the property to graze his livestock. The next year, Mayes paid taxes on the 60 acres, then valued at $120. He also paid taxes on a slave worth $600, 2 horses worth $120, 27 cattle worth $135, and oxen and a wagon worth $85 (1855a). These values suggest that in 1855 Mayes had improved his property. Both he and his slave might have been living on the 60 acres and engaging in agriculture.

Mayes retained ownership of the property until 1865, when in consideration of the love and affection he had for his daughter, Elizabeth Jackson, wife of R. T. Jackson of Bell County, he conveyed the 60 acres to her (BC, DR I:713). Later, Mayes also conveyed all his personal property to his daughter as well, including horses, cattle, hogs, goats, and household and kitchen furniture (BC, DR J:498). In 1865, Robert T. Jackson paid taxes on the 60 acres in the Summerville Survey that were valued at $100. He also paid taxes on 12 horses worth $310 (1865a). These values suggest modest improvements on the property, and the Jacksons might have been living there.

In 1866, Jackson conveyed the 60 acres out of the Summerville Survey to Narcissa V. Houston, wife of T. J. Houston of Bastrop County, for $422. The deed stipulated that the 60 acres would be held by Houston during her lifetime and, afterward, it would pass to her heirs (BC, DR J:8). The next year, T. J. Houston and his wife, Narcissa V., had moved to Bell County. T. J. Houston paid taxes on the 240-acre Wilkerson Survey valued at $720 and the 60 acres in the Summerville Survey valued at $180. Houston also paid taxes on 4 horses worth $100, 27 cattle worth $175, and $75 in miscellaneous property (1867a). These values suggest that the 60 acres had been improved as part of a farm property, and the Houstons could have been living on either survey.

In 1867, Houston conveyed 300 acres to Nicholas Ludwick of Bell County for $2,000. The 300 acres consisted of the Wilkerson Survey plus the 60-acre tract in the adjacent Summerville Survey where present-day 41BL937 and 41BL938 are located (BC, DR L:114). The next year, Ludwick paid taxes on the 240-acre Wilkinson Survey valued at $1,500 and the 60 acres in the Summerville Survey valued at $500. Ludwick also paid taxes on three horses worth $100, four cattle worth $60, and $60 in miscellaneous property (1868a). These values suggest that the primary residence was probably on the Summerville Survey.

By 1881, Nicholas Ludwick was dead, and his estate was partitioned. His widow, Mrs. Ellen Ludwick, acted as guardian for minor heirs Marcy J., Eliza E., Thomas J., and Oscar C., and was fully vested with their homestead tract; 190 acres in the Wilkinson Survey and the 60 acres in the Summerville Survey (BC, DR 95:205). In 1894, Mrs. E. C. Ludwick of Bell County conveyed a 70.1-acre tract out of the Wilkinson and Summerville Surveys where present-day 41BL937 and 41BL938 are located to her son, Thomas J. Ludwick of Bell County for $800 (BC, DR 95:206).

In 1954, Ludwick along with the other Ludwick heirs; Lennie Ludwick Patton; T. J. Ludwick Jr. and wife, Oleane; Elinor Ludwick Cross and husband, A. J. Cross; Dennis Ludwick and wife, Carrie Mae; and Etta Thompson and husband, Albert, conveyed present-day Tract G-617 to the United States government for $11,600. The tract was 119 acres out of the Wilkinson, Kellogg, and Summerville Surveys where present-day 41BL937 and 41BL938 are located (BC, DR 710:85). That year, an affidavit was filed that stated that the property had been fenced, cultivated, and grazed for the preceeding 25 years (BC, DR 710:90).

Summary: Marcus Summerville was a resident of Robertson County and probably never occupied his survey. Initial occupation of the property where present-day 41BL937 and 41BL938 are located could have been by members of the Mayes family as well as their slave from 1855 to 1866. Although Narcissa V. and T. J. Houston were not living on the property when they purchased it in 1866, they had moved to Bell County by 1867 and improved the property. The Luwick family apparently had their homestead somewhere on the Summerville Survey, and apparently improved the 60 acres as part of their farm property from 1867 until 1954.

Site 41BL938 (Tract G-617)

Site History: Site 41BL938 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 640-acre Marcus Summerville Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract G-617, which encompasses 119 acres out of the Summerville and J. Wilkinson Surveys and contains two sites, 41BL937 and 41BL9398.

For a legal history of the property on which 41BL938 is located from 1844 to acquisition by the United States government in 1954, see 41BL937.

Summary: Marcus Summerville was a resident of Robertson County and probably never occupied his survey. Initial occupation of the property where present-day 41BL937 and 41BL938 are located could have been by members of the Mayes family as well as their slave from 1855 to 1866. Although Narcissa V. and T. J. Houston were not living on the property when they purchased it in 1866, they had moved to Bell County by 1867 and improved the property. The Luwick family apparently had their homestead somewhere on the Summerville Survey, and apparently improved the 60 acres as part of their farm property from 1867 until 1954.

Site 41BL951 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL951 is located in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre G. W. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001, which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

For the legal history of property where 41BL951 is located, see the site history for 41BL871.

Summary: Site 41BL951 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL871 and 41BL952. Site 41BL951 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL952 (Tract 1001)

Site History: Site 41BL952 is located in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre G. W. Cartwright Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1001, which encompassed 1,016.12 acres in four surveys and contained 10 sites: 41BL852, 41BL854, 41BL857, 41BL860, 41BL861, 41BL862, 41BL863, 41BL871, 41BL951, and 41BL952.

For the legal history of property where 41BL952 is located, see the site history for 41BL871.

Summary: Site 41BL952 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41BL871 and 41BL951. Site 41BL952 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41BL953 (Tract 1010)

Site History: Site 41BL953 is located in the southwestern portion of the 640-acre Jack Shackelford Survey in Bell County. In 1956, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1010, which encompassed 1,519.8 acres in five surveys and contained five sites: 41BL858, 41BL870, 41BL953, 41BL955, and 41BL956.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL953 is located from 1839 to 1871, when N. M. Johnson owned the 640-acre Jack Shackelford Survey, see the site history for 41BL956. Johnson owned the property for 6 years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a ranch on the property and indicate that he may have lived there (1871a–1872a, 1877a).

In December 1877, Johnson and his wife, Elizabeth, conveyed approximately 150 acres in the southwestern portion of the Shackelford Survey to S. J. Burditt in exchange for property in Coryell County (BC, DR 30:38). Tax records suggest that Burditt continued to operate a ranch on the land, although his operation was smaller in scope than Johnson's (1878a, 1880a).

Burditt sold approximately 75 acres out of the southwestern portion of the Shackelford Survey to his daughter and son-in-law, Nannie and T. J. Harbour, for $600 in January 1880 (BC, DR 32:610). However, the conveyance also included 125 acres in another survey, thus clouding any determination of the values of the parcels and improvements located on them. In 1882, the Harbours conveyed the property, including the 75-acre parcel in the southwestern portion of the Shackelford Survey where 41BL953 is located, back to M. C. Burditt and his wife, S. J., for a nominal consideration. Use and occupancy during this period are uncertain (1880a–1881a).

Burditt and his wife sold 300 acres that included the 75-acre parcel in the southwestern portion of the survey to M. W. Blackburn for $2,500 in cash and notes in October 1883 (BC, DR 46:220), and became part of a larger farm and ranch operation. The substantial increase in purchase price suggests the presence of improvements, but they may have been associated with the other land conveyed by the Burditts.

The property stayed in the Blackburn family for many years. For the legal history of the land where 41BL953 is located from 1883 to 1942, when it was acquired by Edward and Florence Heuss, see the site history for 41BL956. For the legal history from 1942 to 1956, when the U.S. government acquired the property, see 41BL858.

Summary: The land in the southwestern portion of the Jack Shackelford Survey where 41BL953 is located may have been occupied as early as 1877, when S. J. Burditt and her husband acquired the property. The Burditt family may have lived there until 1883, when M. W. Blackburn bought the property. The Blackburn family owned the land for more than 40 years and may have lived on the property.

The land where 41BL953 is located became a part of a larger parcel that was sold several times between 1930 and 1942. The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements. However, multiple sites located on the larger parcel preclude establishing firm associations among sites, proportional values, and property owners.

Site 41BL954 (Tract 1009)

Site History: Site 41BL954 is located in the central portion of the 640-acre J. S. Wilder Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1009, which encompassed 249 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL954 is located from 1836 to 1870, when J. C. Henry and M. W. Blackburn owned the 640-acre survey, see the site history for 41BL955.

Henry and Blackburn sold the 640-acre survey, less 40 acres in the northwest corner, to W. G. Berry in October 1870 (BC, DR N:2). Berry owned the land for 3 years, but his use and occupation are uncertain (1873a). In July 1873, Berry and his wife, Caroline, sold 100 acres out of the north-central portion of the survey to J. M. Jones and D. P. Morris for $400 (BC, DR 35:243). Jones and Morris apparently divided the 100 acres into two 50-acre parcels, and Bell County assessed each of them for the land separately. Morris was assessed for the southern 50-acre parcel where 41BL954 is located. Tax records suggest that Morris farmed the property and probably lived there (1878a, 1883a, 1888a).

Morris apparently lived on the property until his death sometime before 1913. In November 1913, his widow and children, identified as the heirs of D. P. Morris, conveyed 113 acres that included the 50-acre parcel where 41BL954 is located to G. E. Hilliard for $3,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 258:28), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Hilliard and his wife, J. L., owned the property for 7 years, selling it in 1920 to W. I. Bay for $4,800 (BC, DR 322:619), indicating further improvements.

Between 1920 and 1938, the property was owned by Bay (1920–1925), E. B. Ranne (1925–1929, 1932–1938), J. N. Carroll (1929–1932) (BC, DR 364:357; 398:456; 418:142). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged between $3,000 and $5,000 and suggest the presence of improvements. Ranne and his wife, Sallie, sold the 113-acre parcel that included the

50 acres where 41BL954 is located to Jack M. Cloud in November 1938 for $2,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 465:252).

Cloud and his wife, Mildred, conveyed 241 acres that included the 50-acre parcel where 41BL954 is located to T. C. Cloud for $3,500 in February 1950 (BC, DR 611:237). In September 1951, Cloud conveyed an undivided one-half interest in the property to his wife, Gladys, for $10 and love and affection (BC, DR 645:420).

On October 18, 1953, the Clouds sold 249 acres that included the 50-acre parcel where 41BL954 is located to the U.S. government for $18,680 and the right to remove several structures including a tenant house, a barn, two chicken houses, and a windmill. The property, identified as Tract 1009, encompassed land in the J. S. Wilder Survey and contained one site.

Summary: The 50-acre parcel in the J. S. Wilder Survey where 41BL954 is located may have been occupied as early as 1873, when J. M. Jones and D. P. Morris purchased 100 acres in the north-central portion of the survey. Morris appears to have farmed and occupied the southerly 50 acres where 41BL954 is located. The 50-acre parcel, along with an adjacent 63-acre parcel stayed in the Morris family until 1913. Twentieth-century sales of the property between 1913 and 1953 suggest the presence of improvements and possible owner-occupation.

In 1953, when the government acquired Tract 1009, it encompassed 249 acres that included the 50-acre parcel where 41BL954 is located. The seller, T. C. Cloud and his wife, were paid $18,680 and reserved the right to remove several structures that presumably were associated with 41BL954.

Site 41BL955 (Tract 1010)

Site History: Site 41BL955 is located in the northwestern portion of the 640-acre J. S. Wilder Survey in Bell County. In 1956, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1010, which encompassed 1,519.8 acres in five surveys and contained five sites: 41BL858, 41BL870, 41BL953, 41BL955, and 41BL956.

J. S. Wilder was honorably discharged after 3 months of service between January and April 1836 in the army of the Republic of Texas. The secretary of war issued a certificate (No. 1857), entitling Wilder to 640 acres of bounty land in January 1838. In March 1840, G. B. Erath surveyed Wilder's property and described it as 640 acres on Nolan Creek about 25 miles above the three forks of the Little River. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted as chainmen; Hiram Butcher marked the line. On February 19,1845, the Republic of Texas patented the 640-acre parcel to Wilder (Texas. General Land Office 1845b).

J. S. Wilder apparently owned the property for several years, but his use and occupancy are uncertain (1852a, 1857a, 1862a, 1867a, 1870a). Wilder, originally from Alabama, died shortly after the Civil War, having never married. He had inherited property in Alabama, which he left to his half sister, Sarah Hubble, also of Alabama (BC, DR 29:386; 54:457). There is no connection in the chain of title between Wilder or Hubble and S. M. Frost, a later owner. However, in 1870, the administrator of Frost's estate conveyed the 640-acre Wilder Survey to J. C. Henry and M. W. Blackburn (BC, DR N:2). Henry apparently sold his one-half interest in the 40-acre parcel in the northwest portion of the survey where 41BL955 is located to Blackburn, but the instrument was not recorded in Bell County.

M. W. Blackburn owned the property for more than 35 years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that Blackburn operated a ranch on his holdings which included the 40 acres where 41BL955 is located. However, he was assessed for other property as well, and the location of his residence is uncertain. The tax evaluations for his various parcels rose during his ownership, indicating that they all sustained improvements (1873a, 1878a, 1882a, 1888a, 1892a).

Blackburn sold 200 acres that included the 40-acre parcel where 41BL955 is located to his wife, Julia, for $1,000 in May 1906 (BC, DR 169:627). The Blackburns conveyed the 200-acre parcel to R. T. Blackburn for $1 and love and affection for the grantee in October 1914 (BC, DR 308:251). In 1929, he sold his accumulate holdings to James Hubbard for $1,000 (BC, DR 394:580).

For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL953, 41BL955, and 41BL956 are located from 1929 to 1956, when the government acquired Tract 1010, see the site history for 41BL956.

Summary: The 40-acre parcel in the northwest portion of the J. S. Wilder Survey

where 41BL955 is located may have been occupied as early as 1870, when M. W. Blackburn acquired an interest in the property. Land and tax records suggest that Blackburn, and later his wife, Julia, operated a farm and ranch on the land and probably lived there until 1906, when they sold the land to R. T. Blackburn. R. T. Blackburn owned the land until 1929.

The land where 41BL955 is located became a part of a larger parcel that was sold several times between 1930 and 1942. The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements. However, multiple sites located on the larger parcel preclude establishing firm associations among sites, proportional values, and property owners.

Site 41BL956 (Tract 1010)

Site History: Site 41BL956 is located in the northwestern portion of the 640-acre Jack Shackelford Survey in Bell County. In 1956, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1010, which encompassed 1,519.8 acres in five surveys and contained five sites: 41BL858, 41BL870, 41BL953, 41BL955, and 41BL956.

Jack Shackelford served under the command of James Fannin at Goliad in March 1836 and was, therefore, entitled to 640 acres of donation land. In January 1839, the Republic of Texas issued a certificate for the donation (No. 787) to Shackelford. In March 1840, G. B. Erath surveyed Shackelford's land, describing it as 640 acres on Nolan Creek about 25 miles above the three forks of the Little River. Alfred Murray and John Adams assisted as chainmen; Hiram Butler (also called Butcher) marked the line. On December 5 1844, the Republic of Texas patented the 640-acre parcel to Jack Shackelford (Texas. General Land Office 1844).

Shackelford sold the property to J. E. Sanders (may also appear as James E. Saunders), a resident of Alabama, for $320 in October 1849 (BC, DR A:83). Sanders owned the property for more than 15 years, but his use and occupation of the property are uncertain (1853a, 1858a, 1864a). Sanders sold the 640-acre parcel, along with numerous tracts of land in several states, to W. H. Sanders in 1867 to satisfy a debt (BC, DR N:314). In 1871, M. Humes, receiver of the bankruptcy court in Lawrence County, Alabama, sold the 640-acre Shackelford Survey to N. W. Johnson for a high bid of $195 (BC, DR P:349). Language in the deed indicates that both J. E. Sanders and W. H. Sanders had declared bankruptcy. Use and occupancy during this period is uncertain (1871a).

Johnson sold a 171-acre parcel in the northwestern portion of the survey where 41BL956 is located to M. W. Blackburn for $43 in December 1872 (BC, DR R:442). Blackburn owned the property for nearly 15 years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a mid-sized farm and ranch on the property, and that he lived on the land (1873a 1878a 1882a). In 1886, Blackburn conveyed the 171-acre parcel to his wife, Julia K. Blackburn for $600 indicating the presence of improvements (BC, DR 56:46). Tax records suggest that Julia K. Blackburn continued the farm and ranch operation and probably lived on the property (1888a, 1892a).

In 1914, Blackburn and her husband, M. W., sold 475 acres that included the 171-acre parcel in the northwest portion of the Shackelford Survey where 41BL956 is located, and a 75-acre parcel in the southwest portion of the survey where 41BL953 is located, to R. T. Blackburn for a nominal cash consideration and the love and affection they felt for the grantee (BC, DR 308:251).

By 1919, Julia K. Blackburn had died, and an apparent dispute arose among her heirs. Even though she had conveyed the land where 41BL956 and 41BL953 are located prior to her death, the property became a part of the dispute, with some of the heirs conveying their interests to other heirs and to parties outside the family (BC, DR 311:615; 320:338, 341; 321:201; 347:159; 348:352). The dispute eventually resulted in a lawsuit between the heirs and other owners, and in June 1925, J. L. Preston, a court-appointed receiver, conveyed a 459-acre parcel that included the land where 41BL956 and 41BL953 are located to R. T. Blackburn for $3,228 (BC, DC Cause No. 15,088; DR 345:664).

Blackburn sold 739 acres that included the land where 41BL956 and 41BL953 are located to James Hubbard in January 1929 for $1,000 (BC, DR 394:580). Just over a year later, in April 1930, Hubbard and his wife, Belle, conveyed the property, described as the "old Blackburn Place," to I. C. Williams for $1,000 (BC, DR 403:65). Williams then sold the property to his wife, Faye, in September 1931 for $10 (BC, DR 406:594).

I. C. Williams and his wife, Faye, conveyed the 739-acre parcel to R. C. Hargrove and his wife, Ethel, for $12,000 in cash and notes in October 1940 (BC, DR 484:238). The purchase price suggests the presence of improvements. However, because the property included the land where three sites are located (41BL953, 41BL955, and 41BL956), it is difficult to draw strong associations among sites, proportional values, and property owners.

In May 1942, Hargrove and his wife sold the property to Edward Heuss and his wife, Florene, for $9,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 499:252). For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41BL953, 41BL955, and 41BL956 are located, see the site history for 41BL858.

Summary: The land in the northwest portion of the Jack Shackelford Survey, where 41BL956 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1873, when M. W. Blackburn owned the land. Land and tax records suggest that Blackburn, and later his wife, Julia, operated a farm and ranch on the land and probably lived there until 1914, when Julia Blackburn died.

Although ownership of the land was in dispute following Julia Blackburn's death, the property stayed in the Blackburn family until 1929. The land where 41BL956 is located became a part of a larger parcel that was sold several times between 1930 and 1942. The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements. However, multiple sites located on the larger parcel, preclude establishing firm associations among sites, proportional values, and property owners.

Site 41BL958 (Tract 1019)

Site History: Site 41BL958 is located in the northern portion of the 160-acre Eli W. Lawler Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1019, which encompassed 160.73 acres in three surveys and contained one site.

The General Land Office of the State of Texas issued a certificate (No. 3611/3712) to Eli W. Lawler in August 1834 that entitled Lawler to 1,280 acres. Lawler apparently filled most of the claim with land elsewhere than Bell County, but had a residue of 160 acres. H. E. Bradford, Milam District Surveyor, surveyed land for the heirs of Eli W. Lawler in August 1857, describing it as containing 160 acres on the waters of Nolan Creek. N. Blackburn and B. J. Bradford assisted as chainmen. On August 30, 1861, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre parcel to the heirs of Eli W. Lawler (Texas. General Land Office 1861a).

Prior to the patent date, Lawler's heirs sold the 160 acres to George Rumsey in a transaction that was recorded in Williamson County (BC, DR H:129). Rumsey's use and occupation of the land are uncertain (1855a, 1859a), in March 1859, he sold the 160 acres to W. A. Ricketts for $80 (BC, DR H:129), a price that suggests that the land was unimproved.

Ricketts owned the property for a number of years, although he sold the southern 80 acres in 1860 (BC, DR I:179). He retained the northern 80-acre parcel, where 41BL958 is located, until his death sometime before 1873, and his heirs continued to own the property for several years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that both Ricketts and his heirs farmed the property, improved the 80-acre parcel, and probably lived there (1873a, 1875a, 1878a).

The Ricketts heirs sold the 80 acres where 41BL958 is located, along with an adjacent 75-acre parcel in the Bush Survey, to J. K. Ricketts between 1877 and 1879 for purchase prices that ranged from $100 to $200 (BC, DR 31:634–635; 34:501), suggesting the property was improved. Tax records indicate that R. K. Ricketts further improved the 80 acres, operated a small to mid-sized ranch on the land, and probably lived there (1880a, 1883a, 1888a).

Ricketts owned the property until his death in 1914 (BC, PM Z:430). In the 1914-partition of Ricketts's estate, W. P. Polk and Rowena Hall conveyed their interests in 153.6 acres that included the 80 acres where 41BL958 is located to R. T. Polk for a collective $4,040 (BC, DR 262:124, 201).

Polk owned the property until 1943, when he and his wife, Tillie, sold 160.73 acres that included the 80-acre parcel where 41BL958 is located to R. M. Hilliard for $7,500 (BC, DR 514:181). Because 41BL958 is the only recorded site located on the property, it is most likely that the purchase price reflects improvements that can be associated with the site.

Hilliard died in May 1945, leaving his entire estate to his widow, Clara (BC, PM 63:110). Clara Hilliard, joined by her children, sold the 160.73-acre parcel that included the 80 acres where 41BL958 is located to A. M. Delano in

August 1948 for $9,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 588:171–172), indicating the presence of improvements.

On November 19, 1953, A. M. Delano and his wife, Winnie, conveyed the 160.73-acre parcel, identified as Tract 1019, to the U.S. government for $18,745 and the right to remove several structures including a residence, three barns, two chicken houses, and other improvements (BC, DR 694:638). The purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was heavily improved, and because 41BL958 is the only recorded site located on Tract 1019, the improvements most likely can be associated with the site. When the government acquired Tract 1019, it encompassed 160.73 acres in the E. W. Lawler, A. Dickson, and F. W. Thornton Surveys and contained one site.

Summary: The northern 80 acres of the Eli W. Lawler Survey, where 41BL958 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1859, when W. A. Ricketts acquired the property. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Ricketts farmed the land and probably lived there until his death, sometime before 1873.

Between 1877 and 1879, the Ricketts heirs sold the property where 41BL958 is located, along with other land, to J. K. Ricketts. Ricketts appears to have further improved the land and operated a small ranch on the property; he probably lived there until his death in 1914. Between 1914 and 1953, the property was owned by R. T. Polk, R. M. Hilliard, and A. M. Delano, and their respective spouses. The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements.

In 1953, Delano and his wife conveyed 160.73 acres that included the 80-acre parcel where 41BL958 is located to the U.S. government for $18,745 and the right to remove several structures, indicating that the property was heavily improved.

Site 41BL959 (Tract 1005)

Site History: Site 41BL959 is located in the southeastern portion of the 640-acre Jack Shackelford Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1005, which encompassed 136 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41BL959 and 41BL960.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL959 is located from 1836 to 1871, when N. W. Johnson owned the 640-acre Shackelford Survey, see the site history for 41BL956.

Johnson conveyed a 171.5-acre parcel out of the southeast corner of the Shackelford Survey to J. G. Blackburn for $43 in gold in May 1873 (BC, DR S:352). Blackburn owned the property for a number of years. Bell County ad valorem tax records suggest that he operated a ranch on the land, and probably lived there (1874a, 1877a, 1882a, 1887a).

Blackburn borrowed money from Ed F. Lee, using the 171.5-acre parcel as collateral in November 1882 (BC, DR 40:541). Lee apparently foreclosed on the note sometime between 1887 and 1890 and assumed ownership of the property, although there is no deed reflecting that conveyance recorded in Bell County. In December 1891, Lee conveyed the 171.5 acres to J. G. Fry for $500 (BC, DR 82:328), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Tax records indicated that Fry farmed the property and may have lived there (1892a, 1894a).

Two disputes arose regarding the land where 41BL959 and 41BL960 are located, both centered on an apparent vacancy located between the Stephen Jarboe, G. W. Cartwright, and Vincent Evans Surveys on the east, and the Jack Shackelford and the two J. S. Wilder Surveys on the west. One dispute evolved from a patent issued by the state to Moses Griffin, assignee of Andrew McMillin, for 640 acres of land located in a strip of land between these surveys, and ended in a lawsuit that extinguished the assertions of those claiming under Griffin (BC, DC Cause No. 1,633).

The other dispute involved claims of those with land adjacent to the vacancy. The Bell County District Court awarded 238.5 acres in the southeast portion of the Jack Shackelford Survey to Sarah J. Burditt in the final judgment of her lawsuit against other claimants (BC, DC Cause No. 4,036). Site 41BL959 is located on a 50-acre parcel just north of the southerly 10 acres of the 238.5 acres, the southerly 10 acres are the location of 41BL960.

Burditt sold the 238.5-acre parcel in the Jack Shackelford Survey to A. M. Montieth for $120 in October 1897 (BC, DR 118:359). The purchase price might reflect the fact that the recent litigation tainted the title to the property rather than being an indication of the condition or presence of any improvements.

Between 1897 and 1907, the 238.5-acre parcel was owned by Montieth (1897–1902), G.W. Cox (1902–1904), J. W. Sanderford (1904–1905), D. W. Fry (1905), M. B. Ray (1905–1907), and Mrs. S. E. Newsome (1907–1908) (BC, DR 146:205; 154:362; 167:322, 488; 180:329). The purchase prices in these transactions rose from $300 (Montieth to Cox) to $1,000 (Ray to Newsome), suggesting that the property was improved over this period of time.

In March 1908, Mrs. S. E. Newsome sold the 50-acre parcel where 41BL959 is located to T. R. Farmer for $500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 191:35), a price consistent with improved property. Farmer and his wife, Mattie, owned the land, along with additional property in the Cartwright Survey, for over 35 years until their respective deaths in 1948 and 1944.

The Farmers were survived by one child, Vina McCormack, who owned the property until 1954, when she sold it to the U.S. government for $9,895 and the right to remove several structures, including a residence, garage, barn, and related outbuildings (BC, DR 703:337). When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1005, it encompassed 136 acres in the Stephen Jarboe, Jack Shackelford and G. W. Cartwright Surveys, and contained two sites: 41BL959 and 41BL960, both in the Jack Shackelford Survey, 41BL959 and 41BL960.

Summary: The 50-acre parcel in the southeastern portion of the Jack Shackelford Survey where 41BL959 is located and the 10-acre parcel where 41BL960 is located may have been occupied as early as 1873, when J. G. Blackburn purchased the land. Tax records suggest that Blackburn operated a ranch on the property and probably lived there. Land and tax records indicate that J. G. Fry may have occupied the property between 1891 until 1897.

Title to the property was in dispute between 1897 and 1908, however, the purchase prices in transactions during the period suggest that the property was improved. T. R. Farmer and his wife, Mattie, owned 136 acres that included the 50 acres where 41BL959 is located from 1908 until 1948; their daughter, Vina McCormack, owned the property from 1948 until 1954, when she sold it to the government. The price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved at that time.

When the government acquired the land, identified as Tract 1005, it encompassed 136 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41BL959 and 41BL960, both in the Jack Shackelford Survey.

Site 41BL960 (Tract 1005)

Site History: Site 41BL960 is located in the southeastern portion of the 640-acre Jack Shackelford Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1005, which encompassed 136 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41BL959 and 41BL960.

For the legal history of the property where 41BL960 is located from 1836 until 1905, when D. W. Fry owned the property, see the site history for 41BL959.

Fry and his wife, Mattie, sold 86 acres consisting of 10 acres in the Jack Shackelford Survey and a 76-acre southern-adjacent parcel in the G. W. Cartwright Survey to J. R. Kattes for $1,900 in cash and notes in November 1905 (BC, DR 174:160). The price suggests the presence of improvements, and since the only recorded site on the 86-acre parcel is 41BL960, the improvements most likely are associated with that site.

In July 1906, Kattes and his wife, R. L., conveyed the 86-acre parcel that included the 10 acres where 41BL960 is located to T. R. Farmer for $2,050 in cash and notes (BC, DR 174:392). Farmer added a parcel to the north that included the location of 41BL959, and owned the combined properties for over 35 years. For the remainder of the legal history to 1954, when Farmer's daughter, Vina McCormack, sold the property to the government, see the site history for 41BL959.

Summary: The 50-acre parcel in the southeastern portion of the Jack Shackelford Survey where 41BL959 and 41BL960 are located may have been occupied as early as 1873, when J. G. Blackburn purchased the land. Tax records suggest that Blackburn operated a ranch on the property and probably lived there. Land and tax records indicate that J. G. Fry may have occupied the property between 1891 until 1897.

Title to the property was in dispute between 1897 and 1908. However, the purchase prices in transactions during the period suggest that the

property was improved. T. R. Farmer and his wife, Mattie, owned 136 acres that included the 10 acres where 41BL960 is located from 1906 until 1948; their daughter, Vina McCormack, owned the property from 1948 until 1954, when she sold it to the government. The price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved at that time.

Site 41BL963 (Tract 1351)

Site History: Site 41BL963 is located in the eastern portion of the B. C. Hall Survey, which is partially located in Bell and Coryell Counties. Site 41BL963 is in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1351, which consisted of the entire 80-acre B. C. Hall Survey.

On September 1, 1923, E. L. Winstead applied to purchase 320 acres of vacant school land from the State of Texas for $5.50 per acre. In August of the following year, Winstead conveyed his claim to M. D. Mahaney. On August 17, 1926, Mahaney quitclaimed his interest in the northern 80 acres of the 320-acre claim to Mrs. B. C. Hall (Texas. General Land Office 1926).

Mrs. Hall apparently lived on the 80-acre tract for some period of time after 1926. However, by the late 1930s, she had moved to Dallas and lived there when the government acquired the property. She paid interest to the state for many years but was not always current in her payments. On several occasions, she requested additional time to pay the interest due, but also regularly expressed her intention to fully redeem the property and to seek a patent from the state (Texas. General Land Office 1926).

On February 17, 1954, the U.S. government condemned the 80-acre B. C. Hall Survey owned by the State of Texas and designated it Tract 1351 (CC DR 190:248). The state deducted the amount it claimed, $613.45, and remitted the balance of the $2,000 allocated for Tract 1351 to Mrs. Hall (Texas. General Land Office 1926).

Summary: Site 41BL963 is located in the eastern portion of Tract 1351, the 80-acre B. C. Hall Survey. The land never was patented, but an application to purchase was filed in 1923. By 1926, a claim for 80 acres was held by Mrs. B. C. Hall. It is possible, though not certain, that the property was improved and occupied by Mrs. Hall.

Site 41BL1000 (Tract A-72)

Site History: Site 41BL1000 is located in the northwestern corner of the 1,476-acre Stephen P. Terry Survey in Bell County. In 1952, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract A-72, which encompassed 130 acres in the Terry and Charles Furnash Jr. Surveys and contained one site.

On May 3, 1838, the board of land commissioners for Harrisburg County issued Second Class Certificate No. 358 to Stephen P. Terry for one-third league of land. Terry had appeared before the board and proved that he had arrived in the Republic subsequent to the Declaration of Independence and previous to the first of August 1836 and was a single man. Because he had secured an honorable discharge from the Army of the Republic, he was entitled to the land certificate. In Harrisburg County, 2 days after the certificate was issued, Terry appointed Fredrick Niebling as his lawful agent and attorney for the purpose of locating the land that Terry was entitled to by virtue of his certificate. Niebling was required to provide Terry with title to the one-third league, and in exchange for his services, Niebling would receive title to a quarter of the land once it was divided. On May 13, 1841, a survey was made for Terry of 8⅓ labors of land located on the Leon River, 12 miles above the three forks of Little River. George B. Erath made the survey with Joseph Long and Jon Mathis as chain carriers. The 1,476 acres were patented to Stephen P. Terry on July 17, 1845 (Texas. General Land Office 1845a).

The southernmost quarter of the Terry Survey was conveyed to the heirs of Fredrick Niebling in 1846. Terry was a resident of Galveston County, and he retained ownership of the remaining three quarters of his survey (1,007 acres), where present-day 41BL1000 is located, for an unknown period of time (BC, DR F: 437). A gap in the chain of title appears to exist from the patent in 1845 until 1852. However, a later deed makes reference to conveyances in this period, although the actual deeds could not be located. Apparently Terry conveyed his 1,007 acres to Daniel L. Atchison, who, in turn, conveyed the property to an individual named B. T. Cais or Caro, who then sold it to Francis W. Carlile of New Orleans, Louisiana (BC, DR B:315). During this period, no resident of Bell Country rendered the 1,007 acres for taxation (1851a, 1852a).

By 1852, Carlile owned the 1,007 acres out of the Terry Survey. In January of that year, Carlile appointed Levi Jones of La Salle, Texas, as his attorney in order to deal with that property (BC, DR B:315). By April, Jones, on behalf of Carlile, conveyed the 1,007 acres to Henry B. Martin of Galveston County for $10,000 (BC, DR B:317). As a non-resident owner, Martin did not render the 1,007 acres for taxation in Bell County during his ownership (1853a, 1854a, 1855a, 1856a, 1857a, 1858a).

Martin retained ownership of the property until 1859 when he, along with Levi Jones of Calhoun County, conveyed the 1,007 acres out of the Terry Survey, on which present-day 41BL1000 is located, and the entire Manchaca League to William R. Smith [elsewhere Dr. Smith] of Galveston County for $12,800 (BC, DR J:2). Again, as a non-resident landowner, Smith did not render the 1,007 acres for taxation in Bell County, thus providing no information about possible improvements on the property (1860a).

In 1871, Smith conveyed a parcel out of the Terry Survey to S. H. Williams of Bell County for $125 in gold. Although the exact acreage was not specified, the parcel was described as "being all of that portion of the Terry quarter league lying on the west side of said river [the Leon]" (BC, DR P:82). The Terry Survey contains a parcel of land that is bounded by the survey's west line and is surrounded on all other sides by a pronounced meander loop in the Leon River, where present-day 41BL1000 is located. In 1872, S. H. Williams paid taxes on 185 acres out of the Terry Survey that was valued at $925, which suggests that the property was improved at this point. Williams also paid taxes on one horse worth $60, two mules worth $200, and $10 worth of miscellaneous property (1872a).

In late 1872 and early 1873, Williams began to sell parts of the land west of the Leon River. On December 20, 1872, S. H. Williams conveyed a portion of this property to L. C. Williams for $650 in gold. The acreage was not specified, but the survey calls describe the southern parcel, on which present-day 41BL1000 is located (BC, DR R:555). In March 1874, L. C. Williams conveyed a 40-acre parcel, on which present-day 41BL1000 is located, to Henry J. McDonald of Bell County for $500 gold (BC, DR V:120). Ad valorem tax records indicate that McDonald most probably was residing on a different, more improved property (1874a).

The next month, McDonald and his wife, Melissa A., conveyed the 40 acres to W. F. Miller for $131 in cash and notes. At this time, McDonald reserved rights to 10 acres of timber in the northwest corner of the property (BC, DR V:121). Apparently Miller did not pay McDonald for the notes on the property, so in July 1875, by order of the Bell County District Court, Bell County sheriff R. B. Halley seized Miller's estate and sold it at auction. N. C. Edwards of Bell County was the highest bidder, and the 40 acres was conveyed to Edwards in consideration of $160 (BC, DR 24:173). At this time, Edwards was a Belton resident (1875a). By September of the same year, Edwards conveyed the 40 acres to J. H. Brooks of Bell County for $300 in cash and notes (BC, DR 24:366). In 1876, Brooks paid taxes on the 40 acres out of the Terry Survey, where present-day 41BL1000 is located. The land was valued at $250, and Brooks also paid taxes on five horses or mules worth $125, six cattle worth $30, seven goats or hogs worth $5, and $30 worth of instruments or tools (1876a). These values suggest that the property was improved, and that Brooks was in occupation and operating a farm on the 40 acres.

Brooks and his wife, L. A. Brooks, retained the property until 1884 when they conveyed four tracts to J. E. Wofford of Bell County for $100 cash and notes. The tracts included 14 acres out of the Furnash Survey, along with a 3-acre, a 30-acre, and the 40-acre parcel out of the Terry Survey, all located west of the Leon (BC, DR 49:435). In 1886, Wofford and his wife, E. Wofford, conveyed three tracts of land to Mrs. L. A. Cathey for $10 in cash and five notes of $260 each. The tracts were 14 acres out of the Furnash Survey, 3 acres out of the Terry Survey, and the 40 acres on which present-day 41BL1000 is located. Cathey was formerly Mrs. L. A. Brooks, wife of J. A. Brooks, deceased, the immediate former owner of the property (BC, DR 59:483).

In 1901, Cathey, now a feme sole, conveyed six tracts of land to E. S. Flint of Bell County. The tracts consisted of 14 acres out of the Furnash Survey and five tracts out of the Terry Survey west of the Leon, including the 40 acres on which present-day 41BL1000 is located (BC, DR 140:75). Flint retained the property until 1906, when, in consideration of $10 and love and affection, he conveyed three tracts of land to Maggie Berry, Alline Messer, and Oscar Flint, trustee for the benefit of minors Lilly Messer

and Neal Messer of Bell County. The tracts consisted of two town lots in Belton and a total of 80 acres (a combination of the previous, smaller tracts) out of the Terry Survey west of the Leon River (BC, DR 174:144).

In 1915, Margaret E. Berry (née Messer) and her husband, O. T. Berry; Annie Allien Caldwell (née Messer) and her husband, C. W. Caldwell Jr.; and Oscar L. Flint, conveyed property out of the Furnash Survey and the 80 acres out of the Terry Survey to John B. Messer of Bell County in consideration of $400 cash (BC, DR 217:67).

On September 6, 1915, Messer and his wife, Isabella, conveyed a 130-acre tract to S. D. Crow of Bell County for $750 in cash and notes. The 130 acres consisted of 116 acres out of the Terry Survey plus 14 acres out of the Charles Furnash Survey adjacent to the west (BC, DR 269:10–11). In October of the same year, the Messers had designated a homestead on property out of the Connell and Chance Leagues, thus suggesting that they did not reside on the Terry Survey (BC, DR 268:305).

Upon Crow's death in 1923, interest in the 130 acres passed to his two daughters, Willie (by his first wife), and Buelah (by his second wife). In 1939, Mrs. Willie Arnold (widow of George Arnold), along with Beulah Cornelison and her husband, Cass E., conveyed the 130 acres to R. Q. Crow (S. D. Crow's son by his second wife) for $400 in cash and notes (BC, DR 470:564; 676:128).

R. Q. Crow died on February 26, 1943, and the 130 acres passed to his heirs who included his wife, Susie; and his children, Ben, Norman, and Herman (all single men), Tommie (married to Mary Kate), Johnnie (wife of Dwight James), and Edna (wife of Newton Painter) (BC, DR 676:128). On April 23, 1952, the Crow heirs conveyed the 130 acres on which present-day 41BL1000 is located to the United States government for $9,500 (BC, DR 668:363).

Summary: Stephen P. Terry, patentee of the survey on which present-day 41BL1000 is located, was a resident of Harrisburg County and later Galveston County, and probably never occupied his property. Indeed, all owners previous to 1871 appear to have been non-residents. The first possible resident owner of the property was S. H. Williams. By 1872, the land west of the Leon was improved. Henry J. McDonald only owned the property for a month in 1874, but apparently was utilizing timber on the property. In 1874 and 1875, it is possible that the property was unoccupied due to foreclosure and subsequent purchase by Belton resident, N. C. Edwards. From 1875 to 1884, the Brooks family owned the property and apparently lived and farmed there as well. After 2 years of ownership by Wofford, Brooks's remarried widow, L. A. Cathey, repurchased the land; she retained it until 1901, suggesting re-occupation of improvements there. From 1901 to 1915, members of the extended Flint, Berry, and Messer families owned the property, and it is possible that some of the members occupied it. However, in 1915, when the property was under the sole ownership of John B. Messer, his residence was elsewhere, making owner occupation unlikely. Tenants could have been in residence. From 1915 until 1952, members of the Crow family owned the 130 acres on which present-day 41BL1000 is located, and possibly occupied it.

Site 41BL1003 (Tract F-535)

Site History: Site 41BL1003 is located southwest of the Leon River in the south-central portion of the 1,476-acre James Earl Survey in Bell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract F-535, which encompassed 467 acres out of the Earl, Fredrick Niebling, and James Smith Surveys and contained one site.

On February 5, 1838, the board of land commissioners for Harrisburg County issued First Class Certificate No. 242 to James Earl for one-third league of land by virtue of the fact that Earl arrived in Texas in 1824 and was a single man. On February 6, 1850, 1,476 acres of land were surveyed for Herman Aiken by virtue of Earl's certificate. The land was situated about 14 miles above the three forks of the Little River, on Cedar Creek, a branch of the Leon. William Armstrong, deputy surveyor of the Milam Land District, surveyed the 1,476 acres, with John Taylor and Cylas Perkins as chain bearers. The survey was patented to James Earl on May 6, 1851 (Texas. General Land Office 1851c).

Herman Aiken had interest in the Earl Survey before he gained legal title to it. He was already a resident of Bell County in 1851 (Kemp 1996:73), and in 1852, he paid taxes on 1,150 acres in the Earl Survey that were valued at $2,300. Aiken also paid taxes on land in 26 other

surveys along with 11 horses worth $600, 36 cattle worth $180, and $250 in land certificates (1852a). These values suggest that the Earl Survey might have been moderately improved.

By 1853, James Earl was dead and Robert A. Hanks of Harris County had been appointed as the administrator of the Earl Estate, which included the headright survey. Hanks sold the Earl Survey at auction in February 1853 to Herman Aiken, who submitted the high bid of $330 (BC, DR D:175). In 1853, Aiken was still paying taxes on most of the same large landholdings as the previous year, including the 1,150 acres in the Earl Survey that still were valued at $2,300. In addition, Aiken paid taxes on 3 slaves worth $1,000, 29 horses worth $500, and 53 cattle worth $250 (1853a).

Aiken began selling tracts out of the Earl Survey and apparently encouraged development. On March 5, 1859, he made two related conveyances. First, Aiken conveyed two adjacent tracts out of the Earl Survey to Abner Kuykendall of Bell County for $905.50 in cash and notes. One tract had no specified acreage; the adjacent tract was 95.95 acres, from which Aiken excepted 12 acres to be conveyed separately (BC, DR H:5). The second conveyance included four adjacent tracts totaling 138.22 acres. Among them were the 12 acres, which were identified as the "Smith Mill tract," also known as the town of Aiken. This property was conveyed in consideration of $1,416 in cash and notes to Abner Kuykendall, Joseph Giles, and A. G. Stevens, who together formed Kuykendall & Co. and operated the mill (BC, DR H:6). This combined parcel of property is the location of present-day 41BL1003. The situation of the site on a drainage suggests a strong association with a mill location or other possible services provided by Kuykendall & Co.

In 1860, Abner Kuykendall paid taxes on 251 acres out of the Earl Survey that were valued at $10,000. He also paid taxes on three other improved properties, one unimproved property, and half a town block in Belton. In addition, Kuykendall paid taxes on 11 slaves worth $5,000, 10 horses worth $500, 50 cattle worth $300, and $700 in miscellaneous property (1860a). These values correlate with the presence of Aiken and the mill on the tract of land in the Earl Survey. Although Kuykendall might have lived in Belton, he obviously had a valuable business on the Earl Survey, and some of his slaves might have lived on the Earl Survey and worked in the mill. According to Odintz (1996:73), Kuykendall operated a steam saw and flour mill, and by 1860, the population of Aiken was 200. Aiken grew to a population of 600 during the Civil War and supplied goods that had been imported previously. The town had a cabinet shop, a tanyard, a shoe and saddle ship, a hat factory, a Confederate distillery, a wood shop, and a blacksmith shop.

In 1866, Kuykendall and his wife, Mariah, conveyed their property in the Earl Survey to G. W. Carroll of Bell County for $4,000 (BC, DR 25:240). That year, Kuykendall paid taxes on 136 acres in the Earl Survey, which were valued at $4,000 (1866a). This value still probably reflects the presence of the mill on the property. At the same time, Carroll was paying taxes on 1 lot in Aiken worth $4,000, 10 horses worth $300, 5 cattle worth $50, and $285 in miscellaneous property (1866a). This suggests that Carroll was living in Aiken, probably fairly close to the mill. From 1868 to 1872, Aiken had a post office in addition to the other services available (Odintz 1996:73).

Carroll retained the property until 1877, when he conveyed a 450-acre parcel, on which present-day 41BL1003 is located, to Silas Baggett of Bell County for $2,212 in gold dollars (BC, DR 28:625). Baggett bought and sold Bell County properties on a large scale, especially those with delinquent taxes or unknown owners. In 1877, Baggett paid taxes on 120 acres in the Earl Survey valued at $1,600 along with seven other improved properties and one unimproved property. Baggett also paid taxes on 2 carriages or wagons worth $200, $180 worth of manufacturer's tools, 8 horses or mules worth $600, 50 cattle worth $250, 10 hogs worth $20, $3,500 cash on hand, and $11,730 miscellaneous property (1877a). The property in the Earl Survey was not the most valuable of Baggett's holdings, but it was an improved property. The decrease in value from previous years might correspond to the general decline of Aiken (Odnitz 1996:73), as well as the generally difficult economic times at the end of Reconstruction.

By 1880, Baggett paid taxes on 610 acres in the Earl Survey, now valued only at $3,500 (1880a). This decrease in value would seem to correspond to the continuing decline of Aiken as a community. That year, Baggett conveyed a tract out of the Earl Survey to Daniel Taylor (a

four-fifths interest) and David A. Blasengame (a one-fifths interest) of Bell County for $2,000 in cash and notes. Although an acreage was not specified, the legal description corresponds to the tract on which present-day 41BL1003 is located. The deed also mentions the presence of fences on the property (BC, DR 34:220). In 1881, Taylor paid no taxes on land, but did pay taxes on $2,500 in miscellaneous property. As partners, Taylor and Blasengame paid taxes on 170 acres in the Earl Survey valued at $1,500, $195 worth of carriages or wagons, $75 worth of manufacturer's tools, $150 worth of horses or mules, two cattle worth $10, and six hogs worth $10 (1881a). As owners, the combination of Taylor and Blasengame suggests a business partnership, perhaps to operate the mill. The values in the ad valorem tax records suggest that the mill was still present on the property in the Earl Survey. However, in an undated deed (ca. 1881 or 1882), Taylor joined by his wife, Mary E., and Blasengame conveyed the property back to Baggett for $2,000 (BC, DR 37:280).

By 1884, Baggett owned two tracts out of the Earl Survey, including 600 acres southwest of the Leon River where present-day 41BL1003 is located. That year, Baggett conveyed the two tracts to C. A. Pettigrew, a bachelor and resident of Bell County, in consideration of $4,360 in cash and notes (BC, DR 47:388). In 1907, Pettigrew conveyed a 627-acre tract out of the Earl Survey, along with 10 acres out of the Smith Survey adjacent to the north, to M. W. Tarrant of Bell County for $5,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 158:350).

In 1915, Tarrant (now a widower) conveyed a 467-acre tract out of the Smith and Earl Surveys, on which present-day 41BL1003 is located, to J. M. Lee of Bell County for $2,145 in cash and notes. By 1925, Lee was bankrupt. By order of the McLennan County District Court in the case of the Waco State Bank (McLennan County) vs. J. M. Lee, the estate was seized and sold at auction. The 467 acres were conveyed to the bank as highest bidders for a consideration of $8,000 (BC, DR 359:618).

The bank retained ownership until 1942, when it conveyed the 467 acres to E. L. Hill of Bell County for $2,500 (BC, DR 494:229). E. L. Hill was a resident of Temple and a partner in the A. C. Radio and Electric Company, which went bankrupt in 1932. By 1953, Hill was dead, and his heirs conveyed the 467 acres as Tract F-535 to the United States government for $20,675 (BC, DR 677:632).

Summary: James Earl apparently died before much development took place on his survey, and he was probably never a resident. Herman Aiken (ca. 1852–1859) took an active role in developing the Earl Survey. A mill and a hamlet called Aiken already were present by 1859 on the property where present-day 41BL1003 is located. From 1859 to 1866, Abner Kuykendall and his business partners owned the property and operated a mill there. Kuykendall also owned slaves, who may have worked at the mill and lived on the property. From 1866 to 1877, the residency status of owner G. W. Carroll remains unclear, but he appears to have been living in Aiken. Taylor and Blasengame (1880–ca. 1882) might have been in partnership to operate the mill. Silas Baggett (1877–1880, ca. 1882–1884) apparently owned portions of the Earl Survey for investment purposes rather than residency. From 1884 until 1907, C. A. Pettigrew owned the property on which present-day 41BL1003 is located, and might have lived there. The same can be said of owners M. W. Tarrant (1907–1915) and J. M. Lee (1915–1925). From 1925 until 1942, the Waco State Bank owned the property, and tenants might have been in occupation. From 1942 until acquisition by the government in 1953, members of the non-resident Hill family owned the property, and tenancy might have continued.

Site 41BL1007 (Tract B-111)

Site History: Site 41BL1007 is located in the northeastern portion of the 320-acre Joseph Spoonts Survey in Bell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract B-111, which encompassed 114 acres and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL1007 is located between 1854 and 1867, see 41BL397.

In 1882, in consideration of love and $1 cash, Northcut conveyed 160 acres to his wife, Martha W. Northcut. Although the name of the survey is not specified, the legal description corresponds to the eastern half of the Spoonts Survey where present-day site 41BL1007 is located. W. D. Northcut described the property as "being our present homestead located south of Cowhouse Creek about 9 miles northwest of

Belton" (BC, DR 41:560). In 1916, Martha W. Northcut partitioned her property and her daughter, Mattie Wiseman of Bell County, agreed to care for Martha until her death and make compensation payments to her siblings in exchange for title to two tracts of land. One tract was the 160 acres out of the Spoonts Survey, while the other tract was in the Daniels Survey adjacent to the south. The deed specified that it was the same property out of the Spoonts Survey that had been conveyed to Martha Northcut by W. D. Northcut. Martha W. Northcut died in 1917 or 1918 (BC, DR 269:598; 530:129).

Mattie Wiseman retained ownership of the 251 acres out of the Spoonts and Daniels Surveys until 1945, at which point she was a widow. In consideration of $5,500, Wiseman conveyed the property to H. W. Jordan (BC, DR 530:130). The next year, Jordan and his wife, Carrie V., of Bell County conveyed the 251 acres to Rodgers F. Estes and his wife, Delma, for $5,750 in cash and notes (BC, DR 554:460).

In 1950, Estes conveyed the 251 acres to John W. Crouch and his wife for $6,250 in cash (BC, DR 628:577). On February 8, 1954, John W. Crouch and his wife, Vida C., conveyed 114 acres, on which present-day 41BL1007 is located, to the United States for $13,985. The deed specified that the vendor had the right to remove improvements by February 1, 1954. Improvements consisted of a dwelling with porches, a smokehouse, chicken house, an old tenant house, a barn, pump house, two water troughs, and 350 ft of galvanized ¼-inch pipe from the well to the house (BC, DR 702:31).

Summary: It is not known if William and Y. E. Hensley occupied the Joseph Spoonts Survey prior to 1867. The survey appears to have been occupied as early as 1867, when W. D. Northcut owned it and was known to have a homestead there. The Northcuts's daughter, Mattie Wiseman, owned the portion of the Spoonts Survey on which present-day 41BL1007 is located from 1916 to 1945. It is unclear if she was in occupation or rented the property to tenants, or did both. Between 1945 and 1950, owners included H. W. Jordan, and Rodgers F. Estes. John W. Crouch owned the 114 acres, on which present-day 41BL1007 is located, between 1950 and 1954. The presence of both a dwelling and an old tenant house on the property in 1954 suggests that the Crouches were in occupation, as were renters; and perhaps such was the case with previous owners as well.

Site 41BL1008 (Tract B-114)

Site History: Site 41BL1008 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 320-acre Martha Smith Survey in Bell County. In 1952, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract B-114, which encompassed 65 acres in two surveys (Smith and M. F. Harmon) and contained two sites, 41BL1008 and 41BL1009.

For the legal history of the property on which 41BL1008 is located from 1842 to 1872, see 41BL761.

J. M. Barnhart and his wife, Margaret, of Bell County had purchased property out of the Smith and Harmon Surveys from John and Caroline McDowell in 1872. In February of 1878, they sold a portion of it—200-acres out of the Smith and Harmon Surveys on which present-day 41BL1008 is located—to Francis D. Smith and his wife, Mary A., of Bell County for $1,284 in gold (BC, DR 31:76). This conveyance contains a legal description of the 200 acres that is complete and accurate. However, in several subsequent transactions, an apparent typographical error occurred and the acreage was given as 100 acres, although the legal description still described the same 200-acre tract. A month after the purchase, the Smiths conveyed the 200 acres to William C. Maples of Coryell County for $1,211 in gold (BC, DR 91:536). In 1879, R. A. Maples (presumably a relative) rendered 100 acres out of the Smith Survey for taxation (presumably the same property), which was valued at $300, a value that suggests the presence of improvements. Taxes also were paid on one carriage or wagon worth $10, $10 worth of manufacturers tools, four horses or mules worth $70, nine cattle worth $45, seven hogs worth $15, and $55 worth of miscellaneous property (1879a). Allowing for the discrepancy over the acreage, this information suggests that, as a resident of Coryell County, William C. Maples possibly rented the property in the Smith Survey to a Bell Country relative who was living on and farming the land.

William C. Maples and his wife, Sallie A., retained ownership of the property until 1881. At that time, they conveyed a tract of land with no specified acreage out of the Smith and

Harmon Surveys, which has the same legal description as the 200 acres, to R. M. Cole of Coryell County for $1,100 cash (BC, DR 47:521). Two years later, Cole and his wife, S. A. Cole, now of Bell County, conveyed a tract with the same legal description as the 200 acres to J. P. Craton of Bell County for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 47:523). However, the tract is specified as being 100 acres, an apparent typographical error that continues to appear in the instruments along with the legal description for the 200 acres. It appears that this property is, in fact, the 200 acres on which 41BL1008 is located.

In 1886, Craton and his wife, A. D. Craton, conveyed the 200 acres to W. H. Stovall of Bell County for $1,200 cash (BC, DR 71:395). During their ownership, this property became known as the "Stovall place" (BC, DR 87:162). Three years later, Stovall and his wife, M. C. Stovall, conveyed the 200 acres to W. P. Denman of Bell County for $1,200 in cash and notes (BC, DR 71:396). W. P. Denman retained ownership of the 200 acres only until 1890, when he conveyed it to F. M. Denman in consideration of an assumption of payment of $1,000 balance due on notes and for a conveyance of all interest in the estate of Moses H. Denman (BC, DR 74:209). Later that same year, Frank M. Denman and his wife, Marcie, conveyed the 200 acres to F. M. Sanders for $280 and other considerations (BC, DR 82:160).

In 1891, Sanders and his wife, Emma D., of Bell County sold the 200 acres to J. F. Simpson of Bell County for $1,300 in cash and notes (BC, DR 82:162). A year later, for unspecified reasons, Simpson and his wife, L. A. Simpson, conveyed the 200 acres back to F. M. Sanders for $1,000 in notes plus other considerations. At this point, the deed specified that the property on which present-day site 41BL1008 is located was known as the W. H. Stovall place (BC, DR 87:162). In 1893, Sanders sold the 200 acres again, this time to J. R. Elliott of Bell County for $1,362.50 cash (BC, DR 93:46). The next year, Elliott and his wife, L. L. Elliott, conveyed the 200 acres back to a previous owner, F. M. Denman, for $1,200 cash and other considerations (BC, DR 94:542). In 1895, Denman and his wife, then listed as Mamie, conveyed the 200 acres to J. H. Risinger of Bell County for $619.05 in cash and notes (BC, DR 100:484).

Risinger and his wife, Emma, of Bell County retained ownership of the property until 1897, when they conveyed the 200 acres plus another tract to George W. Cole Jr. of Bell County for $1,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 116:448). Cole did not sell the 200 acres until 1901, when he and his wife, M. J. Cole, conveyed it to W. H. Hurd of Bell County for $1,500 in cash and notes (BC, DR 140:92). In 1906, Hurd and his wife, Kate, sold the 200 acres to W. G. Roberts of Bell County for $600 cash plus other considerations (BC, DR 174:623).

In 1909, J. W. Turner, the Bell County Surveyor, resurveyed the property, apparently correcting the previous discrepancies, and a smaller tract was sold out of the larger property. W. G. Roberts and his wife, Jennie, now of Texas County, Oklahoma, conveyed a 65-acre tract to J. Z. Herbert of Bell County for $72 cash plus other considerations. The 65 acres consisted of 50 acres out of the Smith Survey on which present-day site 41BL1008 is located, and 15 acres out of the Harmon Survey (BC, DR 191:518). Herbert and his wife, Eliza, retained ownership of the 65 acres until 1922, when they conveyed the property to E. L. Burns of Bell County for $3,000 cash (BC, DR 337:620). That same year, Burns and his wife, Anna, in turn, conveyed the 65 acres to M. M. Sparks of Bell County in consideration of $4,000 in cash and notes (BC, DR 342:98).

By 1927, Sparks and his wife, Adeline M., were residents of Jefferson County. In that year, they conveyed the 65 acres to Frank Sims of Bell County for $2,500 cash. It was stipulated that Sims would receive the rents and revenues from crops on the property for the year 1927 (BC, DR 378:405). Sims and his wife, Lucile, retained ownership of the 65 acres until they conveyed the tract to the United States government on June 19, 1952 for $8,980 in cash. Sims retained the right to harvest all of the growing crops located on the 65 acres on or before December 31, 1952 (BC, DR 667:304).

Summary: Martha Smith had earned the right to a 640-acre certificate in 1842 and had 320 of those acres located on the Cowhouse in 1850. In 1852, rights to the certificate were transferred first to James Le Grand and then to George W. Cartwright, to whom the 320-acre Smith Survey was patented in 1853. Cartwright immediately conveyed the entire survey to M. F. Harmon, who kept the property until 1862, during which time he improved and probably resided on the Smith Survey. From 1862 to 1872, Jesse Pitts owned the land, probably resided and

farmed on the Smith Survey, but eventually moved to Coryell County. Between 1872 and 1878, owners consisted of John McDowell and J. M. Barnhart. McDowell lived elsewhere, but Barnhart appears to have had improvements, possibly associated with a farm on either the Smith or Harmon Surveys. From 1878 until 1901, the property on which 41BL1008 is located was a 200-acre tract that changed ownership frequently. During this period, William C. Maples might have had a relative as a tenant on the property. The property became known as the W. H. Stovall place, suggesting that the Stovall family possibly had a home there. Owners Cole and W. H. Hurd each had possession of the 200 acres for several years each, suggesting the possibility that they could have been in occupation. Although W. G. Roberts could have been a resident when he purchased the 200 acres in 1906, by 1909 when he sold 65 acres out of it, he and his family were living in Oklahoma. The Herbert family owned the 65 acres for 13 years, and may have lived there. From 1922 until 1927, M. M. Sparks appears to have leased the 65 acres to tenants. The final owners, the Sims family, were apparently in occupation and farming the 65 acres when they conveyed the property to the government.

Site 41BL1009 (Tract B-114)

Site History: Site 41BL1009 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 320-acre Martha Smith Survey in Bell County. In 1952, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract B-114, which encompassed 65 acres in two surveys (Smith and M. F. Harmon) and contained two sites, 41BL1008 and 41BL1009.

Site 41BL1009 is located approximately 300 ft northwest of 41BL1008. For the legal history of the property on which 41BL1009 is located, see 41BL1008.

Summary: Due to the close proximity between 41BL1008 and 41BL1009, there is most probably a direct relationship between the two, although the exact nature of that relationship is not clear from archival research alone.

Martha Smith had earned the right to a 640-acre certificate in 1842 and had 320 of those acres located on the Cowhouse in 1850. In 1852, rights to the certificate were transferred first to James Le Grand and then to George W. Cartwright, to whom the 320-acre Smith Survey was patented in 1853. Cartwright immediately conveyed the entire survey to M. F. Harmon, who kept the property until 1862, during which time he improved and probably resided on the Smith Survey. From 1862 to 1872, Jesse Pitts owned the land, probably resided and farmed on the Smith Survey, but eventually moved to Coryell County. Between 1872 and 1878, owners consisted of John McDowell and J. M. Barnhart. McDowell lived elsewhere, but Barnhart appears to have had improvements, possibly associated with a farm on either the Smith or Harmon Surveys. From 1878 until 1901, the property on which 41BL1008 is located was a 200-acre tract that changed ownership frequently. During this period, William C. Maples might have had a relative as a tenant on the property. The property became known as the W. H. Stovall place, suggesting that the Stovall family possibly had a home there. Owners Cole and W. H. Hurd each had possession of the 200 acres for several years each, suggesting the possibility that they could have been in occupation. Although W. G. Roberts could have been resident when he purchased the 200 acres in 1906, by 1909 when he sold 65 acres out of it, he and his family were living in Oklahoma. The Herbert family owned the 65 acres for 13 years, and may have lived there. From 1922 until 1927, M. M. Sparks appears to have leased the 65 acres to tenants. The final owners, the Sims family, were apparently in occupation and farming the 65 acres when they conveyed the property to the government.

CORYELL COUNTY SITES

Site 41CV58 (Tract 1319)

Site History: Site 41CV58 is located on 100 acres out of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1319, which encompassed 100 acres in one survey. The site is in Coryell County and is situated in the northeastern portion of the tract.

For the history of the site through 1908, when D. M. Densman acquired a 136-acre tract of land in the Williams Survey, see 41CV784. See also sites 41CV384, Component O, Tract

1321; 41CV781, Tract 1315; 41CV784, Tract 1320; and 41CV785, Tract 1320.

In 1908, D. M. Densman acquired 136 acres from P. H. Staggs. Census records reflected that Densman lived in Precinct Five of Coryell County and farmed his own land, although it was mortgaged. The county taxed Densman for the property, and the evaluations indicated both occupancy and improvement. However, because there are two sites on the 136-acre tract, the association of property owners and improvements cannot be determined.

In 1928, Densman sold 100 acres in the Williams Survey to the First National Bank of Valley Mills. The description notes that the tract conveyed to the bank at one time contained 146 acres, but that 10 acres off the north end and 36 acres off the south end had been sold previously (CC, DR 107:447). Between 1928 and 1934, Tract 1319 was owned by the bank (1928–1930) and Mrs. R. L. Anderson (1930–1934). Deed and tax records do not substantiate occupancy or improvements (CC, DR 115:217; 1928b, 1930b, 1932b).

In 1934, five individuals, apparently the heirs of Mrs. R. L. Anderson, sold 100 acres to A. A. Holcomb for a consideration of $250 (CC, DR 121:44). The Coryell County tax evaluations do not reflect improvement of this tract, and the assessed value of the 100-acre tract remained a constant $100 from 1934 until the Holcomb heirs sold the property almost 20 years later. However, the county also assessed Holcomb $1,000 for a 72-acre parcel in the Williams Survey during this period (see 41CV384, Component P, Tract 1324). It appears Holcomb may have lived on the 72 acres of present-day Tract 1324 and farmed the 100 acres (1934b, 1938b, 1943b, 1947b), which his heirs sold to the U.S. government in 1953 (CC, DR 189:105).

Summary: Site 41CV58 is located on a survey that was patented in 1853. Various tracts within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1953. J. M. Pruit owned the westernmost 246 acres of the Williams Survey from 1869 to 1883. During that period, tax and land records indicate occupancy and improvement. However, multiple sites have been found on tracts subdivided from Pruitt's 246 acres. (See 41CV384, Component O, Tract 1321; 41CV781, Tract 1315; 41CV784, Tract 1320; and 41CV785, Tract 1320.)

From 1883 until 1908, present-day Tract 1319 was owned by Green Franks (1883–1887, 1889–1890), W. J. McIlhaney (1887–1889). A. M. Fikes (1890–1893), W. L. Ayres (1893–1897), T. F. Evetts (1897–1902), W. R. Cavett and R. M. Washington (1902–1904), J. D. Barclay (1904–1906), and P. H. Staggs (1906–1908). Tax, land, and census records indicate that Franks and Evetts occupied and improved the land, and that it was used primarily as farmland. However, because the land still consisted of a 136-acre tract that contained two sites, the associations of the improvements are unclear. The remaining owners either did not occupy the property or did not substantially improve it.

D. M. Densman owned Tract 1319 from 1908 until 1928. During this period, Densman sold a 36-acre parcel, giving Tract 1319 its present-day 100-acre size and shape. Tax and census records substantiate Densman's occupancy and use of the property. Between 1928 and 1934, the land was owned by The First National Bank of Valley Mills (1928–1934) and Mrs. R. L. Anderson (1930–1934); available records do not confirm occupancy or improvement by either of these owners. A. A. Holcomb owned the land from 1934 until 1953, when his heirs sold it to the U.S. government.

Site 41CV134 (Tract 1508)

Site History: Site 41CV134 is located in the eastern-central portion of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1508, which encompassed 444 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained two sites, 41CV134 and 41CV1074.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV134 is located between 1839 and 1869, when it was acquired by the Bayland Orphans' Home, see 41CV151.

On February 9, 1881, the Bayland Orphans' Home deeded 200 acres off the eastern side of the Bueno Survey, on which present-day 41CV134 is located, to John H. Wiggington (also spelled John H. C. Wigginton) for $400 (CC, DR O:104). Ad valorem tax records (1878b) indicate that Wiggington improved the property by 1878 and that he and his family probably lived there from 1878 until 1922, when Wiggington died (1878b–1922b). He was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery, joining his wife Isabelle, who had died on October 22, 1914 (Fort Hood Cemetery Records).

Rueben L. Wiggington, a son of Isabelle and John H. Wiggington, probated the will of John H. Wiggington. Wiggington had stipulated that the 211 acres in the Bueno Survey, on which present-day 41CV134 is located, were to be owned equally by all of his heirs. The value of the 211 acres in the inventory was $8,000 (CC, PM M:315). The heirs sold the property to John G. Morse on November 1, 1923, for the stated value (CC, DR 101:196–200).

Ad valorem tax records suggest that John G. Morse and his family apparently resided on the property beginning in 1923. The property was designated as their homestead in 1935, and they remained on the property until 1954 (1923b–1954b). In 1954, 444 acres in the Bueno Survey were condemned by the United States government in Civil Action Suit No. 1513 for $41,123 (CC, DR 190:368).

Summary: Improvements appear to have been made to the property on which 41CV134 is located by 1878, and John H. Wiggington apparently occupied the property from 1878 until 1923. John G. Morse and his family probably occupied the property from about 1923 to 1954.

Site 41CV150 (Tract 1507)

Site History: Site 41CV150 is located in the northeastern quadrant of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1507, which encompassed 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained eight sites: 41CV150, 41CV404, 41CV1072, 41CV1164, 41CV1171, 41CV1175, 41CV1177, and 41CV1181.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV150 is located between 1839 and 1869, when it was acquired by the Bayland Orphans' Home, see 41CV151.

On February 14, 1917, the Bayland Orphans' Home deeded 1,710 acres out of the Bueno Survey to Sam C. McCreary for $3,500 (CC, DR 79:125). A year later, Sam C. and L. C. McCreary sold the land to C. D. Shriber and J. D. Brown Jr. for $4,000 (CC, DR 82:392). Shriber conveyed his one-half interest in the 1,710 acres to Brown on July 15, 1918, for $3,750 (CC, DR 82:393). The assessed tax value of the property (1918b–1945b) suggests that there were only minor improvements on the tract that Brown owned in the Bueno Survey.

On October 1, 1945, J. D. and Myrtle Brown sold 2,115.2 acres out of the Bueno Survey on which present-day 41CV150 is located, along with several other surrounding parcels, to J. H. Bulman for $41,153.50 (CC, DR 153:179). J. H. and Grace Bulman then sold the 2,115.2 acres in the Bueno Survey and other lands to the Lander Trust Company of Ellis County on February 1, 1950, for $30,010 and other valuable considerations not listed (CC, DR 174:298). The Lander Trust Company retained title to the 2,115.2 acres in the Bueno Survey on which present-day 41CV150 is located until March 1954, when Oscar H. Lander, on behalf of The Lander Trust Company, conveyed a total of 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey to the United States government in Civil Action Suit No. 1513 for $96,111 (CC, DR 190:368).

Summary: J. D. Brown Jr. and subsequent owners made minimal improvements to the property on which 41CV150 is located. Occupation status remains unclear. Owners might have leased the property as pasture lands between 1917 and 1954.

Site 41CV151 (Tract 1506)

Site History: Site 41CV151 is located in the northeast corner of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1506, which encompassed 259.83 acres out of the Bueno and Jacob Jobe Surveys and contained three sites: 41CV151, 41CV1059, 41CV1174.

Andrew J. Yates brought a suit in the District Court of Bexar County against the Board of land commissioners at its April 1839 term to secure copies of several land certificates that he lost along with his saddlebags in the Guadalupe River. On April 19, 1839, the court ruled in favor of Yates and ordered that copies of the certificates that were lost be issued to him. A duplicate certificate (No. 641) was issued to Andrew J. Yates, assignee of Juan Francisco Bueno, by the board of land commissioners of Bexar County on June 6, 1839, for 1 league and 1 labor of land.

An "Act for the Relief of Andrew J. Yates" passed by the Texas legislature on May 19, 1846, stated that the commissioner of the General Land Office was required to respect as valid land certificate No. 641 as a duplicate of the

original Juan Francisco Bueno land certificate. A survey of 1 league and 1 labor of land (4,605 acres) was made by virtue of the certificate on October 16, 1844, by Jacob Snively west of the Leon River on Cowhouse Creek about 70 miles above Nashville. Thomas Waring and George Resley acted as chain carriers and T. C. Thomson as marker. Yates, then a resident of Galveston, transferred the Bueno Survey to P. G. Merritt on May 29, 1846, for a valuable consideration not listed. The State of Texas patented the 4,605-acre survey to P. G. Merritt, assignee, on October 21, 1846 (Texas. General Land Office 1846e).

One year later, Merritt sold the 4,605-acre Bueno Survey to E. Augustus Curtiss for $4,602 (CC, DR A:318). On July 1, 1851, Curtiss sold the 4,605 acres to Thomas M. League for $3,000 (CC, DR A:320). League then conveyed the Bueno Survey to William Hendley and James J. Hendley on August 1, 1861, for $4,454 (CC, DR D:351). The Hendleys deeded the survey to Bayland Orphans' Home on April 6, 1869, in a conveyance that excluded two parcels of 160 acres and 440 acres that previously had been sold out of the survey (CC, DR F:556).

The Texas Confederate Veterans organized the Bayland Orphans' Home in Houston on January 15, 1867. Its purpose was to care for and educate the children of deceased Confederate veterans. The home was supported by private funds coming mainly from Houston and Galveston (Kleiner 1996:442). The Hendleys apparently deeded the Bueno Survey to the home to provide a means of support for the institution.

On September 12, 1899, the Bayland Orphans' Home sold a 200-acre parcel out of the Juan Francisco Bueno Survey, on which 41CV151 is located, to Abraham G. Tipton for $250 (CC, DR 22:245). A week later, Tipton and his wife, Tabitha C., sold the 200 acres to John M. Berry for $1,000 (CC, DR 22:272). Legal records indicate the title to the Bueno Survey was disputed during the 1890s. A suit came to trial in February 1900, when the titles held by the Bayland Orphans' Home and individuals who had purchased small tracts within the survey were affirmed (CC, DC Cause No. 2,345). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Berry began paying taxes on his 200 acres in 1901. The property was valued at $500, which suggests that he made improvements by that year (1901b).

On April 18, 1902, John M. and Minnie Berry sold the 200 acres to David B. Pennington and James M. Pennington for $1,150 (CC, DR 29:77). James M. Pennington then conveyed his one-half interest to David B. Pennington on March 31, 1906, for $925 (CC, DR 35:485). Eight years later, David B. and Jewell Pennington sold the 200 acres back to James M. Pennington for $3,000 (CC, DR 55:190). Ad valorem tax records indicate that David B. Pennington and/or James M. Pennington continued to improve the land and probably lived there from 1902 to 1914, when James sold the tract to G. (Bud) Cummings on August 3 for $3,800 (1902b–1914b; CC, DR 72:129).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that Cummings paid taxes on the improved 200 acres and might have lived there or on more-improved property in the J. Jobe Survey where present-day 41CV1059 and 41CV1174 are located from 1915 to 1946 (1915b–1946b). The United States government acquired a 46.47-acre parcel from the eastern end of the property from G. and Laura Cummings in 1943 for the Gatesville Replacement Center for Camp Hood (CC, DR 145:171). Three years later, the Cummingses sold 259.83 acres in the Jacob Jobe and Juan Francisco Bueno Surveys to Ross and Elizabeth Beeman and Rayburn F. Beeman for $7,500 (CC, DR 154:407). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Ross Beeman probably resided on the more-improved property in the Jobe Survey in 1946 (1946b).

Ross and Elizabeth Beeman, along with Rayburn F. Beeman, sold the 259.83 acres out of the Jobe and Bueno Surveys, on which present-day 41CV151, 41CV1059, and 41CV1174 are located, to O. C. Marshall on September 30, 1946, for $8,250 (CC, DR 157:134). Ad valorem tax records show that O. C. Marshall considered the property to be his homestead between 1947 and 1954 and probably lived there during that time (1947b–1954b). On March 9, 1954, the United States government condemned the Marshalls' 259.83 acres out of the Jobe and Bueno Surveys for $24,820 (CC, DR 190:368).

Summary: Prior to 1899, none of the owners of the Bueno Survey improved or occupied it. John M. Berry began improving the property in the Bueno Survey in about 1899 and resided there until 1902, when he sold the property to David B. Pennington and James M. Pennington, probable occupants between 1902 and 1914. G. Cummings Jr. and his family possibly resided

on either the Bueno or Jobe Surveys from 1914 to 1946. Ross Beeman and his family probably occupied the adjacent Jobe Survey in 1946, after which O. C. Marshall and his family had their homestead on the property from 1946 to 1954.

Site 41CV153 (Tract 1410)

Site History: Site 41CV153 is located in the eastern portion of the 136.27-acre J. A. Collins Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 271.64 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41CV153 and 41CV154.

J. A. Collins swore that he had settled on vacant public land in Coryell County and that he was head of a family in December 1891. In January 1892, F. M. Lang, Coryell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Collins's 136.27 acres on the waters of Owl Creek about 15 miles southeast of Gatesville. R. E. Cochran and A. H. Lockhart assisted as chainmen. In October 1895, Collins swore that he had occupied and improved the property for 3 years beginning in December 1891, and that he was the head of a family. On December 24, 1895, the State of Texas patented 136.27 acres to Collins (Texas. General Land Office 1895b). Collins owned the property for several years; and ad valorem tax records suggest that he farmed the land and may have lived there (1895b–1896b). Since 41CV153 is the only recorded site located on the 136.27-acre parcel, improvements located there probably can be associated with the site.

Collins and his wife, M. J., sold the 136.27-acre parcel to R. A. Sanderlin for $800 in December 1898 (CC, DR 21:36), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. One month later, in January 1899, Sanderlin and his wife, Ida, sold the 136.27 acres to W. H. Bickle for $680 in cash and notes (CC, DR 24:79). Tax records suggest that Bickle farmed the property and may have lived there (1899b–1900b, 1905b).

Bickle and his wife, Mary, conveyed the 136.27 acres to G. N. Deck for $850 in cash and notes in October 1905 (CC, DR 40:63), a price that indicates the presence of improvements. Between 1905 and 1917, the 136.27-acre parcel was owned by Deck (1905–1906), M. A. Webb (1906), W. E. Blanchard (1906–1911), G. W. Royalty (1911), M. M. Brown (1911–1916), J. R. Hill (1916), and J. J. Spires (1916–1917) (CC, DR 39:614; 45:184; 54:297; 64:196; 74:438; 76:286). The purchase prices in these transactions rose from $700 to $3,600, suggesting that the property sustained additional improvements during the period.

In October 1917, Spires and his wife, Olga, conveyed the 136.27-acre parcel to W. N. Farris for $3,200 in cash and notes (CC, DR 82:148), indicating that the property was improved. Farris owned and occupied the property for many years; and he added adjacent acreage to his holdings, including 20 acres in the B. F. Dodson Survey where 41CV154 is located. Farris died in 1932, and his widow and children continued to occupy the property until 1948 when they sold approximately 272 acres, that included the 136.27-acre parcel where 41CV153 is located and the 20-acre parcel where 41CV154 is located, to S. P. Altum for $4,000 (CC, DR 162:87, 97).

On December 15, 1953, Altum and his wife, Jessie, sold 271.64 acres that included the 136.27-acre parcel where 41CV153 is located and the 20-acre parcel where 41CV154 is located to the U.S. government for $18,390 (CC, DR 189:237). The Altums also reserved the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling, garage, barn, chicken houses, and sheds. When the government acquired the property, it encompassed 271.64 acres in the J. A. Collins, B. F. Dodson, and W. B. Bruton Surveys; and it contained two sites, 41CV153 in the Collins Survey and 41CV154 in the Dodson Survey.

Summary: The 136.27-acre J. A. Collins Survey, where 41CV153 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1891, when Collins swore that he lived on the property. Ad valorem tax records support that contention. W. H. Bickle and his family owned, farmed, and may have occupied the 136.27 acres between 1899 and 1905. As 41CV153 is the only recorded site located on the 136.27-acre parcel, the improvements may be associated with it. Between 1905 and 1917, the property sold several times for prices that suggest further improvements.

W. N. Farris and his family owned the property from 1917 until 1948 and other land, including the 20-acre parcel in the B. F. Dodson Survey where 41CV154 is located. Affidavits executed to establish the heirship of Farris indicate that he farmed and resided on the property. S. P. Altum purchased approximately 272 acres from the Farris estate in 1948.

Altum and his wife sold the 271.64-acre parcel to the government in 1953 for $18,390

and the right to remove several structures. These improvements may have been associated with either 41CV153 or 41CV154.

Site 41CV154 (Tract 1410)

Site History: Site 41CV154 is located in the northeastern portion of the 160-acre B. F. Dodson Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 271.64 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41CV153 and 41CV154.

In March 1872, B. F. Dodson swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land in Coryell County. In May 1872, George Motz, Coryell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Dodson's property as 160 acres located on the waters of Owl Creek about 14 miles southeast of Gatesville. Dodson sold his claim to the 160-acre parcel to M. A. Black for $220 in February 1874. In November 1875, Black swore that he had settled on the 160-acre parcel and that he and his assignor, B. F. Dodson, had occupied and improved the property as a homestead for 3 consecutive years beginning in March 1872. A. M. and S. W. Fikes corroborated Black's statements. On December 2, 1875, the State of Texas patented the 160 acres to Black (Texas. General Land Office 1875a). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Black farmed the property and may have lived there between 1874 and 1882 (1875b, 1880b, 1882b).

Black and his wife, Ellen, sold the 160-acre parcel to James La Prelle for $200 in January 1883 (CC, DR R:259). It appears that La Prelle lived in Falls County, but tax records suggest that he may have improved the property (1884b, 1889b). It is possible that he rented the land to an agricultural tenant. La Prelle sold the 160-acre parcel to W. B. Bruton for $500 in February 1899 (CC, DR 49:241), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. However, the location of the improvements is uncertain.

In December 1900, Bruton conveyed the eastern half of the 160-acre Dodson Survey to J. B. Barr for $350 (CC, DR 30:67), a price that suggests that the 80 acres had sustained improvements. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Barr operated a farm on his land, which included the property where 41CV154 is located, and that he may have lived there (1901b, 1905b).

Barr sold the northerly 20 acres of his 80-acre parcel to William Farris for $300 in August 1906 (CC, DR 44:457), suggesting that the 20-acre parcel had sustained improvements. Tax records indicate that Farris farmed the land and may have lived there (1907b, 1910b). Even though Farris also acquired the west-adjacent 80 acres, the only recorded site on his land in the Dodson Survey is 41CV154. Thus, the improvements most likely can be associated with that site.

Farris accumulated approximately 272 acres in the vicinity by the time of his death in 1932. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41CV154 is located, see the site history for 41CV153.

Summary: The B. F. Dodson Survey, where 41CV154 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1872, when Dodson swore that he was a bona fide settler on the survey. M. A. Black swore that he and his assignor, B. F. Dodson, had occupied and improved the 160-acre survey for 3 years, beginning in March 1872. James La Prelle, who owned the 160 acres from 1883 until 1899, appears to have improved the property and may have rented the land to a tenant.

Land and tax records suggest that J. B. Barr farmed and resided on the eastern 80 acres of the survey between 1900 and 1906. Because 41CV154 is the only recorded site on the property, Barr's improvements most likely can be associated with that site. William Farris acquired the 20-acre parcel where 41CV154 is located in 1906, and he and his family apparently continued to own and occupy the land until 1948, when they sold it to S. P. Altum.

Altum and his wife sold the 271.64-acre parcel to the government in 1953 for $18, 390 and the right to remove several structures. The improvements may have been associated with either 41CV153 or 41CV154.

Site 41CV155 (Tract 1412)

Site History: Site 41CV155 is located in the east-central portion of the S. R. Tippit Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1412, which encompassed 152.33 acres in two surveys and contained one site.

In October 1874, S. R. Tippit swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land in Coryell County and that he was head of a family. James H. White and David Perkins corroborated Tippit's statement. In January 1875,

L. J. Kimbell, Coryell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Tippit's property as 160 acres situated on the waters of Owl Creek about 14 miles southeast of Gatesville. Samuel Cash and J. E. Johnson assisted as chainmen (Texas. General Land Office 1886a). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Tippit farmed the property and probably lived there (1875b, 1880b).

Tippit and his wife, M. J. sold their claim to the 160-acre parcel to Samuel J. Cash in October 1883, for $100 (GLO Milam Preemption File No. 1964). On the same date, Cash and his wife, S. E. quitclaimed their interest in the 160-acre parcel to Frank M. Childress for $160 (GLO Milam Preemption File No. 1964). One month later, Childress swore that he was a bona fide settler on the 160 acres surveyed for Tippit, that he and his assignors had occupied and improved the property as a homestead for 3 consecutive years, and that he was head of a family. R. E. Peeler and John T. Morgan corroborated the statement. In August 1885, C. L. Graves, Coryell County Surveyor, filed corrected field notes describing the property as encompassing 136.6 acres (most of which were included in the earlier description) rather than 160 acres (GLO Milam Preemption File 1964). Tax records indicate that Childress farmed the property (1884b). However, because he owned adjacent land, the location of any improvements remains uncertain. On April 27, 1886, the State of Texas patented the 136-acre parcel to Childress, assignee of S. R. Tippit (Texas. General Land Office 1886a).

Childress sold the 136-acre parcel to A. H. Lockhart for $90.50 in 1886 (CC, DR 9:309), a price that suggests that the property was either unimproved or only marginally improved. Lockhart owned all or part of the survey for over 15 years, and ad valorem tax records indicate that he operated a farm on the property and may have lived there (1887b, 1892b). However, because Lockhart also owned the east-adjacent, 160-acre Samuel Cash Survey, the location of his improvements remains uncertain.

In May 1900, Lockhart and his wife, Cornelia, conveyed the eastern 96 acres of the Tippit Survey to R. I. and Virginia McGowen for $370 in cash and notes (CC, DR 24:609), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Six months later, the McGowens sold the 96-acre parcel to T. E. Allen for $540 in cash and notes (CC, DR 29:371), indicating that the property had been improved further. Allen owned the property for more than 10 years, and ad valorem tax records suggest that he farmed and resided there (1902b, 1906b).

In 1912, Allen sold the 96-acre parcel to Samuel R. Lockhart for $1,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 50:383), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Seven months later, Lockhart conveyed the 96 acres, along with an eastern-adjacent 61.5-acre parcel, to J. B. Barr for $2,100 (CC, DR 40:404). Even though this conveyance covers additional land, the only recorded site on the property conveyed is 41CV155, thus indicating that the value most likely reflects improvements that can be associated with that site. Barr had previously (1899) acquired the western 40 acres of the Tippit Survey, where 41CV688 is located.

In 1920, Barr and his wife, Susan, sold 100 acres that included the location of 41CV155 to their son, John Barr, for $3,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 55:584). In 1927, John Barr and his wife, Gussie, conveyed the 100-acre parcel back to his parents, J. B. and Susan Barr, for $6,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 107:258). The purchase prices in these transactions indicate that the property was improved further during this period. Since 41CV155 is the only recorded site on the land conveyed, the improvements probably can be associated with that site.

By 1939, J. B. Barr had died, and his widow, Susan, and their four children partitioned the property. The widow and three children conveyed 157.5 acres that included the 96-acre parcel in the Tippit Survey where 41CV155 is located, to the fourth child, Hattie Faucett, for $10 (CC, DR 132:11). On November 14, 1953, Faucett and her husband, George, sold 152.33 acres that included the land where 41CV155 is located to the U.S. government for $11,765 and the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling, two barns, a chicken house, smokehouse, and toilet. When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1412, it encompassed land in the S. R. Tippit and Samuel Cash Surveys and contained one site.

Summary: The S. R. Tippit Survey, where 41CV155 is located, may have been occupied between 1874 and 1883 by S. R. Tippit. F. M. Childress, assignee of Tippit, may have occupied the property between 1883 and 1886. A. H. Lockhart owned the 136-acre Tippit Survey from 1886 until 1888, when he sold the eastern 40

acres. The evidence suggests that he farmed the remaining 96 acres, and that he may have lived there.

Escalating prices for the property in transactions between 1900 and 1927 suggest ongoing improvements. Since 41CV155 is the only recorded site located on the property, the increasing value most likely can be associated with that site. Owners during this period include R. I. and Virginia McGowen, T. E. Allen, Sam Lockhart, and J. B. Barr.

Barr's heirs partitioned the property in 1939; Hattie Faucett, a daughter, got the 96-acre parcel in the Tippit Survey where 41CV155 is located. She and her husband conveyed 152.33 acres, identified as Tract 1412, to the government in 1953, when the purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved.

Site 41CV178 (Tract 1419)

Site History: Site 41CV178 is located in the northwestern portion of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1419, which encompassed 261.77 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained four sites: 41CV178, 41CV180, 41CV549, and 41CV961.

A first class certificate (No. 1008) was issued to the heirs of Samuel Bruff, deceased, through the estate's administrator, William K. Wilson, for one-third league of land (1,476 acres) by the board of land commissioners, Harrisburg County, on August 3, 1838. The heirs, through their administrator, proved that Bruff had arrived in Texas as a single man in 1833. A survey of 8 1/3 labors of land situated on Owl Creek about 30 miles above the forks of the Little River was made on May 16, 1841, apparently for the heirs by G. B. Erath of Milam County. Chain carriers included Guy Hotches [?] and Roy [last name illegible]. James Howlet, Milam County Surveyor, certified the survey and field notes for the entire one-third league of land on February 12, 1842. The land was patented to the Bruff heirs on June 30, 1845 (Texas. General Land Office 1845d).

In 1842, Wilson was authorized by the probate court of Harris County to sell the certificate for one-third league of land (CC, DR K:330), and on February 7, 1843, he sold the 1,476 acres of land located in Milam County to Daniel D. Culp for $80 (CC, DR K:329). On February 6, 1852, Culp, then living in Galveston County, transferred the one-third league to John Shackelford, also of Galveston County, for the sum of $4,000 (CC, DR K:332). On February 1, 1854, Shackelford conveyed the land to Dennis Perkins of New York, New York, for $500, a considerable decrease in the original purchase price and sales price (CC, DR K:333).

In 1910, Perkins's heirs in New York and New Jersey, sold 685.1 remaining acres out of the original Samuel Bruff Survey to J. D. Brown Jr. for $1,750 (CC, DR 59:260). In 1912, Brown paid taxes on 785 acres in the Bruff Survey that were valued at $1,750, along with four other improved properties and three lots in Gatesville (1912b).

Brown, who appears to be the first non-absentee owner, held the land until 1913, when he sold 235 acres, including the location of present-day 41CV178, to R. H. Hopson for $5,200 in cash and notes (CC, DR 67:70). Hobson and his wife, Lydia, ceded the land back to Brown in 1916 for the cancellation of $2,600 due in notes payable (CC, DR 76:417). In 1916, J. D. Brown Jr. and his wife, Myrtle Perryman Brown, sold the land to Dennis Carroll for a total of $3,500 to be paid in cash and notes, and the payment of all taxes owed on the property (CC, DR 75:410). Carroll and his wife, Ollie, conveyed 155 acres of the Bruff Survey to N. E. Puckett on October 28, 1918, for a total of $3,875 to be paid in cash and the assumption of seven notes (CC, DR 487:82). Puckett and his wife, Sidney, in turn sold 100 acres of this land to L. A. Shelton in 1920 for a total of $3,780, also to be paid in cash and note assumption (CC, DR 83:612).

In 1953, the U.S. government purchased 261.77 acres out of the Samuel Bruff Survey from L. A. Shelton, including the portion where present-day 41CV178 is located. The purchase price was $17,030 (CC, DR 189:10). Shelton reserved the right to harvest all the crops growing on the land and to remove the following structures: two tenant houses with single porches, a windmill and tank, barn and shed, tenant house with two porches, smokehouse, three garages, rock tank, windmill, barn, concrete trough, dwelling with porch, chicken house, shed, store house, and toilet (CC, DR 189:10).

Summary: The earliest date of possible occupancy most probably dates to 1910, when

J. D. Brown Jr. purchased portions of the property. While 41CV178 lies on Brown's land, it is not known at this time if the site can be associated with him or, perhaps, with tenants. Subsequent occupation of Tract 1419 within the Samuel Bruff Survey and/or 41CV178 may be associated with R. H. Hopson (1913–1916), Dennis Carroll (1916–1918), N. E Puckett (1918–1920), and L. A. Shelton (1920–1953). Sales transactions between J. D. Brown and R. H. Hopson, as well as ad valorem tax records, appear to indicate that improvements may have been made to the property in 1910 to 1913 when the value per acre increased from less than $3 to more than $22.

Site 41CV179 (Tract 1420)

Site History: Site 41CV179 is located in the upper northwest portion of the one-third league (1,476 acres) Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was a part of Tract 1420, which encompassed 58.33 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained two sites, 41CV179 and 41CV541.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV179 is located between 1838 and 1918, see 41CV178.

Two years later, in 1920, N. E. Puckett and his wife, Sidney, sold 100 acres out of the Bruff Survey to L. A. Shelton for a total of $3,780 to be paid in cash and note assumption (CC, DR 83:612). That year, Shelton paid taxes on 196 acres in the Bruff Survey valued at $1,000, as well as $420 in personal property (1920b). These values suggest that Shelton had improved the property and was living there.

In 1947, Shelton and his wife, LaVerne, of Coryell County, conveyed 33 1/3 acres where present-day 41CV179 is located to Life Shelton of Coryell County for $1,000 (CC, DR 158:432). In 1953, Life Shelton and his wife, Ardis, conveyed 58.33 acres out of the Samuel Bruff Survey to the U.S. government for a consideration of $4,475 (CC, DR 187:608). Shelton reserved the right to harvest all crops growing on the land. He also had the right to remove buildings that included a residence with porch, garage, cow shed and feed house, and pump shed (CC, DR 187:608).

Summary: The earliest date of possible owner-occupancy probably dates to 1910, when J. D. Brown purchased portions of the property. Site 41CV179 lies within this survey, but it is not known at this time if it can be identified with Brown. Subsequent occupation of Tract 1420 within the Samuel Bruff Survey and/or site 41CV179 may be associated with R. H. Hopson (1913–1916), Dennis Carroll (1916–1918), N. E. Puckett (1918–1920), L. A. Shelton (1920–1947), and Life Shelton (1947–1953). Deed records appear to indicate that improvements may have been made to the property between 1910–1913, when the sales price rose from $2.55 per acre to $22.13 per acre. Ad valorem tax records also suggest that the property was improved under the ownership of L. A. Shelton.

Site 41CV180 (Tract 1419)

Site History: Site 41CV180 is located in the north-central portion of the one-third league (1,476 acres) Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was a part of Tract 1419, which encompassed 261.77 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained four sites: 41CV178, 41CV180, 41CV549, and 41CV961.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV180 is located through 1910, see 41CV178.

In 1912, J. D. Brown Jr. sold 132 acres out of the Bruff Survey to L. J. Turner for $1,056 ($8 per acre) to be paid in six promissory notes (CC, DR 58:282). In 1913, Turner paid taxes on three tracts of land in the Bruff Survey: 37 acres valued at $350, 66 acres valued at $200, and 40 acres valued at $400. He also paid taxes on two horses or mules worth $40, one cow worth $15, four hogs worth $10, one carriage or wagon worth $15, and $20 in miscellaneous property (1913b). These values indicate that each of the three tracts was improved and probably was being farmed. Turner might have been living on one of the tracts, and he might have had tenants as well.

In 1913, L. J. Turner and his wife, L. P. Turner, sold 66 acres of the property to L. A. Shelton for the sum of $660 to be paid in cash and notes (CC, DR 60:504). The increase of the value per acre from $8 to $10 may indicate that some improvements were made to the property between 1912–1913.

In 1953, L. A. Shelton sold 261.77 acres out of the Samuel Bruff Survey to the U.S. government (CC, DR 189:10), including the portion where 41CV180 is located. For additional information about this purchase, see 41CV178.

Summary: Site 41CV180 shares a common history with 41CV178 through 1910. Site 41CV180 lies within tract 1419, but it is not known at this time if it can be associated with J. D. Brown (1910–1912). Subsequent occupation of Tract 1419 within the Samuel Bruff Survey and/or 41CV180 may be associated with L. J. Turner (1912–1913) and L. A. Shelton (1913–1953). The earliest improvements may have occurred on the property between 1910–1912 or 1912–1913.

Site 41CV241 (Tract 1309)

Site History: Site 41CV241 is located in the western portion of the 160-acre Robert McGowen (also spelled McGowan) Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1309, which encompassed 160 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41CV241 and 41CV534.

In January 1871, Robert G. McGowen swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land and that he had no homestead. The Coryell County Surveyor filed field notes describing McGowen's 160-acre parcel on the waters of Owl Creek about 16.5 miles southeast of Gatesville. Ben and George Dobson assisted as chainmen.

In November 1884, McGowen and his wife, M. D., quitclaimed all their interest in the 160-acre parcel to J. W. Palmer for $100. Palmer, in November 1884, swore that he was a bona fide settler on the 160-acre property and that he had occupied and improved it as his homestead for 3 consecutive years beginning June 3, 1871. J. O. Burford and John T. Morgan corroborated Palmer's statements. On February 20, 1885, the State of Texas patented the 160 acres to J. W. Palmer, assignee of Robert G. McGowen (Texas. General Land Office 1885a).

Palmer owned the property for more than 20 years. According to Coryell County ad valorem tax records, he farmed the property and probably lived there (1885b, 1890b, 1892b).

Palmer and, after his death, the apparent heirs of his widow sold the 160-acre parcel to Andy Sadler in August 1907 for $1,300 in cash and notes (CC, DR 61:50), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. In 1910, Lee Sadler, widow of Andy Sadler, sold the 160 acres to J. B. Barr for $1,250 in cash and notes (CC, DR 50:420).

Between 1910 and 1917, the 160-acre parcel was owned by Barr (1910–1912), J. M. Palmer (1912–1913), and R. Riley (1913–1917) (CC, DR 40:411; 68:121). The purchase prices in these transactions increased from $1,200 to $2,000 in cash and notes, suggesting further improvements to the parcel that could be associated with 41CV241 or 41CV534.

Riley and his wife, Nancy, sold the 160-acre parcel to Emma Culp for $10 and the assumption of outstanding debt in June 1917 (CC, DR 99:299). In December 1937, Culp conveyed the property to her daughter, Oveta Culp Hobby, for $10 cash and the love and affection she felt for her daughter (CC, DR 128:432).

In March 1954, the U.S. government condemned Hobby's 160-acre parcel for $4,600, a price that suggests the presence of improvements (CC, DR 189:546). The fact that two sites (41CV241 and 41CV534) are located on the property precludes establishing which site was more heavily improved.

When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1309, it consisted of the 160-acre Robert McGowen Survey.

Summary: The Robert McGowen Survey, where 41CV241 and 41CV534 are located, may have been occupied as early as 1871, when Robert McGowen swore that he had settled there.

J. W. Palmer, also a likely early occupant, swore that he had lived on the McGowen Survey as early as January 3, 1871. He actually owned the property between 1884 and 1907, and he appears to have farmed it and lived there during that time. Between 1907, when the Palmer family sold the land, and 1917, the purchase prices in transactions suggest the presence of improvements on the property.

Emma Culp and her daughter, Oveta Culp Hobby, owned the 160-acre parcel from 1917 until 1954, when the U.S. government condemned the property. Although their use and occupancy is uncertain, the compensation paid by the government in 1954 suggests that the property was improved.

Site 41CV325 (Tract 1503)

Site History: Site 41CV325 is located in the southwest corner of the 160-acre Alfred Short Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1503, which encompassed 111

acres in the Short and J. M. Hays Surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV325 is located between 1857 and 1892, when William L. Carlyle bought the Short Survey, see 41CV1015.

In 1909, William L. Carlyle and his wife, Nancy C., deeded the western 80 acres of the Short Survey, on which 41CV325 is located, along with several other parcels of land, to Ed M. Berry for $5,425 (CC, DR 53:236). Berry may have lived either on the 80 acres or on a nearby parcel from 1909 to 1914 (1909b–1914b).

Ed M. and Rebecca Berry deeded 37 acres out of the southwest corner of the Short Survey, on which present-day 41CV325 is located, to Lawrence White on May 14, 1914, for $1,800 (CC, DR 72:97). White appears to have lived on the improved property from 1914 to 1915 (1914b–1915b). In 1915, White sold the land to J. E. Box for $1,400 (CC, DR 75:77). The property in the Short Survey was the most valuable of several parcels of land, which suggests that Box and his family might have resided there from 1915 to 1935, although no further improvements seem to have been made (1915b–1935b).

J. E. and Katie Box sold the 37 acres in the Short Survey, along with an adjoining parcel, to John D. Huffman on March 12, 1936, for $1 and other valuable considerations (CC, DR 117:646). As the most valuable property of several parcels designated as a homestead, the property in the Short Survey may have been occupied by John D. Huffman and his family beginning in 1936 (1936b). Huffman died on August 3, 1938. He was buried in the Walker Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records). Ad valorem tax records indicate that his widow, Lula Huffman, continued to reside on the property until 1945 (1939b–1945b). She then sold the 37 acres in the Short Survey and the adjoining parcel of land to Sybler Phillip Honeycutt on September 12, 1945, for $900 (CC, DR 153:120).

Honeycutt conveyed a one-half interest in the 37 acres, along with an adjoining parcel of land, to J. B. and Oma Lee Honeycutt on September 17, 1946 (CC, DR 161:437). Sybler P. Honeycutt, along with J. B. and Oma Lee Honeycutt retained title to the 37 acres in the Short Survey, on which present-day 41CV325 is located, until they sold 111 acres out of the Short and Hays Surveys to the United States government on February 25, 1954, for $6,569. The Honeycutts were given the right to remove a dwelling, chicken house, and barn that were on the property (CC, DR 189:479).

Summary: William L. Carlyle may have resided on the property from 1892 until 1909, and Ed M. Berry may have lived there from 1909 to 1914. Lawrence White appears to have occupied the property from 1914 to 1915, as did J. E. Box from 1915 to 1936 and John D. and Lula Huffman from 1936 to 1945. Sybler Phillip Honeycutt and/or J. B. Honeycutt and his family appear to have been the final occupants of the property from 1945 to 1954.

Site 41CV331 (Tract 1504)

Site History: Site 41CV331 is located in the west-central portion of the 160-acre J. M. Hays Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1504, which encompassed 100 acres out of the Hays and E. D. Gaines Surveys and contained two sites, 41CV331 and 41CV1159.

Present-day 41CV331 is situated ca. 150 m south of present-day 41CV1159 and may have been related to that site. For the legal history of the property on which 41CV331 is located from 1875 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV1159.

Summary: J. M. Hays appears to have occupied the property from 1875 to 1879. Subsequent occupants probably included James Ross and his family (1884–1886), J. W. Coleman (1886–1892), and Richard Pennington and his family (1892–1916). R. L. Cummings and his family (1919–1920), Virgil Deavers (1920–1927), Edwin M. Elms (1927–1930), K. L. Potter (1930), Connie Moore Elms (1931–ca. 1939), and Leverett D. Honeycutt and his family (ca. 1942–1954) apparently improved the property in the Hays Survey as part of a farm, but the primary residence appears to have been on adjacent property.

Site 41CV345 (Tract 1438)

Site History: Site 41CV345 is located in the east-central portion of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1438, which encompassed 100 acres in the survey and contained two sites, 41CV345 and 41CV370.

The Republic of Texas issued a certificate (No. 1346) to the heirs of Joseph Cooper in December 1837. Cooper, who had served 6 months in the Army of the Republic, was honorably discharged because he had died while in service and thus was entitled to 1,280 acres of bounty land. G. B. Erath, Milam County Deputy Surveyor, surveyed Cooper's land in 1841 and filed field notes describing 1,280 acres on the ridge between Cowhouse Creek and Owl Creek about 28 miles above the forks of the Little River. Dan McKay and Tom Leal assisted as chain carriers; Henry Hattinhorn marked the line (Texas. General Land Office 1846c). On February 6, 1846, the State of Texas patented the 1,280-acre parcel to Joseph Cooper or his heirs (CC, DR J:204).

The heirs of Joseph Cooper conveyed the 1,280-acre survey to M. C. Hamilton in 1854, for $1,000 (CC, DR A:314–315). From the mid-1850s until 1883, Coryell County assessed R. A. Smith, Hamilton's agent, for ad valorem taxes on the property (1855b, 1860b, 1865b, 1870b, 1875b, 1880b, 1883b). However, the assessment did not include any personal property, suggesting that neither Hamilton nor Smith occupied the land.

There were some extraneous claims to the property during this period (CC, DR G:105; M:52; J:660), but a lawsuit in 1880 cleared up these conflicts and vested title in Hamilton (CC, DCM B:163, 672).

In 1883, Hamilton, then residing in Kings County, New York, conveyed 1,120 acres out of the Cooper Survey to his nephew, Robert A. Smith, for the love and affection he felt for Smith (CC, DR V:246). Eighteen months later, in December 1884, Smith sold 800 acres out of the Cooper Survey to John A. Wylie for $500 and 150 acres in another survey (CC, DR V:247). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Wylie operated a small ranch on the 800 acres and he may have lived there (1885b). However, the location of his residence and any improvements he may have built remain uncertain because eight sites are located on the 800-acre parcel: 41CV345, 41CV348, 41CV364, 41CV370, 41CV531, 41CV670, 41CV672, and 41CV673.

Wylie conveyed the 800 acres to R. C. Storrie for $3,200 in November 1889 (CC, DR 4:357). Two months later, in January 1890, Storrie sold the 800-acre parcel to Nick Buck for $6,100 in cash and notes (CC, DR 18:183). The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements, but the location of the improvements and their use and occupancy remain uncertain (1890b, 1895b, 1900b, 1905b).

Buck conveyed the 800-acre parcel to T. S. Tippit for $3,500 in cash and notes in November 1905 (CC, DR 35:387). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Tippet farmed the property and that he may have lived there (1906b, 1901b). T. S. Tippit died in 1918 (CC, DR 144:95), and his heirs continued to own the property until 1936, when they partitioned the 800-acre parcel along with other land (CC, DR 129:151). In the partition, the heirs conveyed 100 acres in the east-central portion of the survey to Willie Galloway (elsewhere recorded as Gallaway), a daughter of Tippit and his wife, E. J., for $10 (CC, DR 126: 275). Sites 41CV345 and 41CV370 are located on this 100-acre parcel.

Galloway and her husband, A. R., owned the 100 acres until her death in 1937 (CC, DR 143:107). Ad valorem tax records suggest that A. R. Galloway may have farmed and lived on the property (1937b, 1942b). On December 15, 1953, A. R. Galloway and his children, the heirs of Willie Galloway, sold the property to the U.S. government for $5,870 and the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling, barn, and shed (CC, DR 189:223). The property, identified as Tract 1438, encompassed 100 acres out of the Joseph Cooper Survey and contained two sites, 41CV345 and 41CV370.

Summary: Early owners of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey apparently did not live in Coryell County. J. A. Wylie purchased 1,120 acres in the survey in 1884, and ad valorem tax records suggest occupation. However, the location of his residence and other improvements is not clear. Use and occupancy from 1890 until 1905, when Nick Buck owned the property, also are uncertain.

In 1905, T. S. Tippit purchased 800 acres in the survey, and he may have lived there until his death in the mid-1930s. His heirs partitioned the property in 1936, and Willie Galloway got the 100-acre parcel where 41CV345 and 41CV370 are located. Galloway died in 1937, but her husband appears to have farmed and lived on the property until he and his children sold the land to the government in 1953, at which time it was the location of improvements.

Site 41CV348 (Tract 1439)

Site History: Site 41CV348 is located in the northeast portion of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1439, which encompassed 86 acres in the survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV348 is located from 1837 until 1936, when the heirs of T. S. Tippit partitioned the land in the Tippit Estate, see the site history for 41CV345.

In the partition of the T. S. Tippit property, W. A. Tippit received a 28-acre parcel and other land (CC, DR 125:445, 596). In 1947, Vida Dixon purchased the 28-acre parcel from Tippit for $1,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 170:299), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Site 41CV348 is located on this 28-acre parcel. Dixon also acquired other land in the area, giving Tract 1439 its present-day size and shape.

On January 7, 1954, the U.S. government condemned 86 acres owned by Vida Dixon and her husband, Alvis, for $9,120 (CC, DR 188:623). The property, identified as Tract 1439, encompassed 86 acres in the Joseph Cooper Survey and contained one site.

Summary: Early owners of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey apparently did not live in Coryell County. J. A. Wylie purchased 1,120 acres in the survey in 1884, and ad valorem tax records suggest occupation. However, the location of his residence and other improvements is not clear. Use and occupancy from 1890 until 1905, when Nick Buck owned the property, also are uncertain.

In 1905, T. S. Tippit purchased 800 acres in the survey, and he may have lived there until his death in the mid-1930s. His heirs partitioned the property in 1936, and W. A. Tippit got the 28-acre parcel where 41CV348 is located. In 1947, Tippit sold the land to Vida Dixon, who may have lived there with her husband until the property was condemned by the government in 1954. The compensation paid to Dixon and her husband suggests that the property was improved.

Site 41CV351 (Tract 1440)

Site History: Site 41CV351 is located in the northwest corner of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1440, which encompassed 45 acres out of the Carper Survey and contained one site.

Second Class Certificate No. 396 for one-third league of land was issued by the board of land commissioners of Harrisburg County to William M. Carper on June 6, 1838. It was issued by virtue of the fact that Carper arrived after the Declaration of Independence and before August 1836, that he was a single man, and had received an honorable discharge from military service. On April 12, 1851, William Armstrong, a Milam Land District surveyor, made a survey of 6 labors of land on Owl Creek for William M. Carper with Josiah Blackman and Obediah Trimmier as chain carriers. The land was located about 16 miles northwest of Nolansville and was part of the one-third league grant that Carper was entitled to by virtue of his certificate. The Carper Survey was patented on September 18, 1851, to Carper's assignee, John Hemphill (Texas. General Land Office 1851a).

Neither Hemphill nor any of his heirs ever was a resident of Bell County, and the Carper Survey was not rendered for taxation in Bell County during the period of their ownership (1855b–1870b). In 1871, Hemphill was dead, and his heirs, through their attorney Charles S. West of Travis County, conveyed the Carper Survey to N. H. Conger for $2,177.10 in cash and notes (CC, DR F:538). Two years later, Conger, a resident of McLennan County, conveyed a 456-acre tract out of the Carper Survey on which present-day 41CV351 is located to Joseph P. Dunn and Aaron W. Dunn for $1,824 in cash and notes (CC, DR H:425). For the first time in 1874, A. W. Dunn paid taxes on the 456 acres in what was listed as the Hemphill Survey, really the Carper Survey, and the land was valued at $1,596 (1874b). These values suggest that the property was improved, and that Dunn might have been the initial occupant.

Joseph P. Dunn died in December 1883, leaving his parents and six siblings as his heirs. By 1886, Dunn's parents, Moses M. and Mary L. Dunn, had died as well (CC, DR 137:121). So in 1891, A. W. Dunn, acting for the Dunn heirs, conveyed two parcels out of the Carper Survey to his brother-in-law, E. A. Kincaid, for $3,325. The parcels consisted of 209 acres where present-day 41CV666, 41CV691, and 41CV898 are located and the 456 acres on which present-day 41CV351 is located.

In March 1893, Kincaid and his wife, M. E. Kincaid, of Coryell County conveyed a 246-acre parcel out of the northwest corner of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV351 is located back to A. W. Dunn of Bell County for $2,400 (CC, DR 12:203). In September, Dunn conveyed a 24.17-acre parcel and the 246-acre parcel out of the Carper Survey to his wife, Mrs. Calidonia Dunn, for $4,050 (CC, DR 11:556). Mrs. Dunn had been widowed previously, and she died in December 1898. She was survived by a son from her first marriage, J. A. Walker; her second husband, A. W. Dunn; and their only daughter, Mrs. Rosa Lee Burton (CC, DR 137:121). On November 15, 1899, Dunn and Walker each separately conveyed their interest in a 180-acre parcel in the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV351 is located to Burton and her husband, C. H. Burton. The consideration for each conveyance was $10 cash plus a $500 note (CC, DR 28:495, 497).

Rosa Lee and C. H. Burton retained the 180 acres until March 1905. At that time, they had not fulfilled the terms of a vendor's lien on the property. By order of the Coryell County District Court, the 180 acres were conveyed to the holders of the $3,250 in notes—James R. Wylie acting on behalf of the Kent County Savings Bank in Michigan, and A. M. Montieth of Bell County (CC, DR 38:58). By November, Wylie and Montieth had conveyed the 180 acres to W. H. Stovall of Coryell County for $3,500 in cash and notes (CC, DR 47:248).

Stovall retained the property, along with land in the Bruff Survey, until his death. In 1937, the estate of W. H. and Mary C. Stovall was partitioned among their heirs. Their daughter, Lizzie (also spelled Lissie) Hardin was awarded Tract No. 8, which consisted of 45 acres in the northwest corner of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV351 is located. The next year, Hardin and her husband, J. A. Hardin of Coryell County, conveyed the 45 acres to W. E. Holcomb (also spelled Halcomb) of Coryell County for $1,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 131:153).

In 1943, Holcomb and his wife, Eula, of Coryell County, conveyed the 45 acres to Curtis Wayne and Louise Holcomb for $1,750 in cash and notes (CC, DR 144:548). In 1946, Curtis and Louise Holcomb, also residents of Coryell County, conveyed the 45 acres to W. O. Wolff of Coryell County for $2,000 cash and notes (CC, DR 157:611). The next year, Wolff and his wife, Oma, conveyed the 45 acres to Jack Quick and his wife, Willie D. (also spelled Willie Jean), who were the Stovalls's son-in-law and daughter. The Quicks paid $2,250 in cash and notes for the property (CC, DR 161:346).

Jack Quick died on August 17, 1949, and his widow remarried at some point after 1950 (CC, DR 176:581). On March 9, 1954, Willie Jean Cox conveyed two pieces of property to the U.S. government as part of Civil Action Suit #1512, in which various owners conveyed a total of 1,622.35 acres in consideration of $115,060. Cox conveyed present-day Tract 1440, which consisted of 45 acres out of the Carper Survey and was the same as Tract 8 of the Stovall Estate partition, where present-day 41CV351 is located. She also conveyed present-day Tract 1442, which was the same as Tract 6 of the Stovall Estate partition where present-day 41CV362 and 41CV365 are located (CC, DR 189:569).

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere, and the property apparently remained unimproved. A. W. and/or J. P. Dunn appear to have improved the property by 1874 and could have been the initial residents. The property remained in the ownership of Dunn heirs until 1905, during which time members of the family might have been residents. A Michigan bank owned the property briefly in 1905, during which time it probably was not occupied. From 1905 until 1938, the property was owned by W. H. Stovall or was part of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, and members of the family might have been in occupation. Members of the Halcomb family (1938–1946) and W. O. Wolff (1946–1947) owned the property and could have been living there. From 1947 until acquisition in 1954, the Stovall heirs once again owned the property and may have lived there.

Site 41CV362 (Tract 1442)

Site History: Site 41CV362 is located in the northwest quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1442, which encompassed 45 acres in the Carper Survey and contained two sites, 41CV362 and 41CV365.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV362 is located from 1838 until 1937, see 41CV351.

In the 1937 partitioning of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, their son R. R. Stovall was awarded Tract No. 6, which consisted of 45 acres out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV362 and 41CV365 are located. R. R. Stovall apparently was not a resident of Bell County because, during the time he owned the 45 acres, he never was listed in the ad valorem tax records (1937b–1940b). It is possible that the property was unoccupied. In October 1940, in consideration of $1 plus cancellation of a $377.90 debt, Stovall and his wife, Edna, conveyed the 45 acres to The Cooper Co. of McLennan County (CC, DR 135:363). The next month, The Cooper Co. conveyed the 45 acres to Stovall heirs Jack Quick and his wife, Willie Jean, for $450 (CC, DR 135:476).

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV362 is located from 1940 to 1949, see 41CV664.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV362 is located from 1949 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV351.

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere and the property apparently remained unimproved. A. W. and/or J. P. Dunn appear to have improved the property by 1874 and could have been the initial residents. The property remained in the ownership of Dunn heirs until 1905, during which time members of the family might have been residents. A Michigan bank owned the property briefly in 1905, during which time it probably was not occupied. From 1905 until 1937, the property was owned by W. H. Stovall or was part of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, and members of the family might have been in occupation. During the ownership of R. R. Stovall (1937–1940) and The Cooper Co. (1940), the property might have been unoccupied. From 1940 until 1954, Stovall heir Willie Jean Quick Cox owned the property where present-day 41CV362 and 41CV365 are located. It appears to have been improved as part of a farm and been the location of the primary residence.

Site 41CV364 (Tract 1436)

Site History: Site 41CV364 is located in the northeast portion of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1436, which encompassed 257.5 acres in two surveys and contained five sites, 41CV364, 41CV670, 41CV671, 41CV672, and 41CV673.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV364 is located from 1837 until 1936, when the heirs of T. S. Tippit partitioned land in the Tippit estate, see the site history for 41CV345. As a result of the partition, M. L. Tippit, a son of T. S. Tippit, acquired a 30.5-acre parcel and other land in the southern portion of the Cooper Survey (CC, DR 125:592). Sites 41CV364 and 41CV673 are located on these 30.5 acres.

On October 24, 1953, Tippit and his wife, Alta, conveyed 257.5 acres that included the 30.5-acre parcel, on which 41CV364 is located, to the U.S. government for $19,555 and the right to remove 19 structures, including 2 houses, barns, smokehouses, and related agricultural outbuildings (CC, DR 189:49). The property, identified as Tract 1436, encompassed land in the Joseph Cooper and G. S. Dodson Surveys and contained five sites: 41CV364, 41CV670, 41CV671, 41CV672, and 41CV673.

Summary: Early owners of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey apparently did not live in Coryell County. J. A. Wylie purchased 1,120 acres in the survey in 1884, and ad valorem tax records suggest occupation. However, the location of his residence and other improvements is not clear. Use and occupancy from 1890 until 1905, when Nick Buck owned the property, also are uncertain.

In 1905, T. S. Tippit purchased 800 acres in the survey and may have lived there until his death in the mid-1930s. His heirs partitioned the property in 1936, and M. L. Tippit, a son, got the 30.5-acre parcel where 41CV364 and 41CV673 are located. Tippit and his wife owned the property, along with other land, until 1953 when they sold 257.5 acres, identified as Tract 1436, to the government, at which time it was the location of improvements.

Site 41CV365 (Tract 1442)

Site History: Site 41CV365 is located in the northwest quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1442, which encompassed 45 acres in the Carper Survey and contained two sites, 41CV362 and 41CV365.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV365 is located from 1838 until 1937, see 41CV351. For the legal history from 1937 to 1940, see 41CV362. For the history from 1940 to 1949, see 41CV664. For the legal history from 1949 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV351.

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere, and the property apparently remained unimproved. A. W. and/or J. P. Dunn appear to have improved the property by 1874 and could have been the initial residents. The property remained in the ownership of Dunn heirs until 1905, during which time members of the family might have been residents. A Michigan bank owned the property briefly in 1905, during which time it probably was not occupied. From 1905 until 1937, the property was owned by W. H. Stovall or was part of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, and members of the family might have been in occupation. During the ownership of R. R. Stovall (1937–1940) and The Cooper Co. (1940), the property might have been unoccupied. From 1940 until 1954, Stovall heir Willie Jean Quick Cox owned the property where present-day 41CV362 and 41CV365 are located. It appears to have been improved as part of a farm and been the location of the primary residence.

Site 41CV370 (Tract 1438)

Site History: Site 41CV370 is located in the east-central portion of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1438, which encompassed 100 acres in the survey and contained two sites, 41CV345 and 41CV370.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV370 is located, see the site history for 41CV345.

Summary: Site 41CV370 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41CV345 and most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV384, Components A Through V

Site History: The various components of site 41CV384 are situated along a 1.5-mile-long corridor between Owl Creek and Farm-to-Market Road 184 (FM 184) in Coryell County. This section of the creek and road traverses the southern portions of the William M. Carper Survey, A-166; the James W. Smith Survey, A-917; the Henry Williams Survey, A-1067; and the northern portion of the Charles D. Cotton Survey, A-253. The components are located on 13 tracts in the four surveys, and are situated on either the southern end of larger tracts with Owl Creek frontage or on small tracts carved from larger tracts. The exception is the Charles D. Cotton Survey where Components S and U of 41CV384 are located on 3 acres in the extreme northern portion of the survey. The small tracts usually are located north of Owl Creek and south of FM 184. The components, tracts, tract sizes, and surveys are summarized in Table 1.

The Smith Survey, Williams Survey, and Carper Survey were patented in the early 1850s. The subdivision and sale of tracts within the surveys began almost immediately, and there is evidence that some of the earliest improvements in the area possibly were associated with some of the components of 41CV384. (See 41CV728, Tract 1310; 41CV729, Tract 1311; 41CV781, Tract 1315; 41CV784, Tract 1320; 41CV783, Tract 1323; and 41CV762, Tract 1329.) The Cotton Survey was patented in 1873, but because of its proximity to Owl Creek, the northern portion of the survey began to follow the title of tracts in the southern portion of the Williams Survey.

The components of the 41CV384 appear to be grouped together because of their proximity first to Owl Creek, and later to FM 184. The earliest subdivisions of the surveys used Owl Creek as a boundary so that small parcels were carved out of the larger tracts using the creek as the southern boundary. This natural boundary line was delineated further when the road was built. The creek functioned as a boundary line until the road was built, and then the road began to serve as a second and related boundary. As a result, several small tracts were carved from larger tracts that lay between the creek and the road, and some of the improvements on the larger tracts were situated near the creek and road. Land for FM 184 was deeded to the State of Texas in the mid-1940s, but some sort of public road connecting Gatesville and Belton apparently had existed along the route of FM 184 for many years.

Table 1. Components of site 41CV384

Component	Tract	Tract Size*	Survey
41CV384-A	1316	2-acre parcel of a 106.84-acre tract	Smith
41CV384-B	1311	136.5	Smith
41CV384-C	1350	136.5	Smith
41CV384-D	1452	235.84	Carper
41CV384-E	1451	235.84	Carper
41CV384-F	1451	235.84	Carper
41CV384-G	1451	235.84	Carper
41CV384-H	1451	235.84	Carper
41CV384-I	1311	3-acre parcel of a 106.84-acre tract	Smith
41CV384-J	1312	132.74	Smith
41CV384-K	1314	204.16	Smith
41CV384-L	1314	204.16	Smith
41CV384-M	1314	204.16	Smith
41CV384-N	1314	204.16	Smith
41CV384-O	1321	50	Williams
41CV384-P	1324	70.97	Williams
41CV384-Q	1325	0.91	Williams
41CV384-R	1330	88.89	Williams
41CV384-S	1332/1333	11 and 3	Williams/Cotton
41CV384-T	1331	3.64	Williams
41CV384-U	1332/1333	11 and 3	Williams/Cotton
41CV384-V	1330	88.89	Williams

NOTE: All measurements are in acres.

Improvements to these tracts began in the 1870s. By the turn of the century, a small community apparently developed, consisting primarily of dwellings and other structures associated with farming and residential use. Buildings, livestock, and implements consistent with farming operations appear on ad valorem tax rolls for the county during this period (1865b, 1870b, 1875b, 1880b, 1885b, 1890b, 1895b, 1900b). Families associated with these improvements included the Thomas J. and Elizabeth White family, the N. J. Thompson family, the W. F. Glass family, the J. M. Pruit family, the Isaac Lucky family, and the Claiborn and Margaret Osman family.

The community that developed appears to have been limited to an informal collection of residential tracts. There is no substantive body of evidence that would indicate the formation of a community as defined by Kolb and Snead (1997:611). According to that study, the three key elements of community formation are social reproduction, subsistence production, and community self-identification. While some of the residents along the creek and road no doubt provided subsistence agricultural products for themselves, there is no evidence that they consistently passed the land from one generation to the next, nor is there evidence of churches or schools that would indicate community identification, although a mercantile establishment may have been present by 1910.

The deeds conveying these tracts did not appear to involve members of the same or closely related families. In addition, changes in ownership of the land usually were accomplished by deed rather than the probate of the estate of a deceased parent or spouse. As a rule, the

transfer of these properties did not specify any type of business use, nor were businesses generally named as the acquiring party. Lastly, the transactions covered both large and small tracts and described a specific number of acres enclosed within an area delineated by metes and bounds, rather than lot and block descriptions that typically would reflect the presence of a formal townsite.

Most of the owners and heads-of-household found in the 1910 census records identified themselves as farmers. Family names included Holcomb, Van Winkle, Ridling, Glass, Reese, Miller, Umberhagen, Dixon, and Palmer. There was, however, an indication of the possible presence of a store of some kind in the early part of the twentieth century. The 1910 census identifies W. A. Holcomb, the owner of Tract 1314, as a merchant, although no indication was provided as to the location of the store (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1910b). Components K, L, M and N of 41CV384 are located on Tract 1314, and it is possible that one of these sites could have been the merchant's store.

Ad valorem tax records indicate that the tracts followed typical patterns of use and occupancy. Some of the tracts apparently were more improved more than others, but there were no unusual evaluation changes that would indicate the formation of a business district or residential neighborhood. Further, there is no apparent evidence that any of the tracts was used for church or cemetery purposes.

Summary: Site 41CV384, Components A through V, is situated in portions of the William Carper Survey, A-166; the James W. Smith Survey, A-917; the Henry Williams Survey, A-1067; and the Charles D. Cotton Survey, A-253, all located in Coryell County. The tracts range in size from .91 acres to 235.84 acres. The components are located on the small tracts, or on a portion of the larger tracts situated along Owl Creek and FM 184. Some of the components appear to have been improved beginning in the mid-1870s, and they were occupied until 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the land.

Early development seems to have occurred along Owl Creek, apparently to allow greater access to water from the creek. Further development occurred when a road connecting Gatesville and Belton was built. In the approximate 1.5 miles covered by 41CV384, the road roughly paralled the creek, and the area between the creek and the road contains most of the site's components.

Land, census, and tax records reflect the development of the area, but do not provide evidence of the formation of a formal community. Instead, 41CV384 appears to have encompassed a group of tracts, both large and small, that were used for residential and farming purposes. The improvements to these tracts seem to have been motivated by their proximity first to Owl Creek, and later to FM 184. The various components of 41CV384 were acquired by the U.S. government as part of the 1950s expansion of Fort Hood.

Site 41CV400 (Tract 1435)

Site History: Site 41CV400 is located in the southeast portion of the 160-acre John Y. Allen Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1435, which encompassed 151 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41CV400 and 41CV531.

In May 1872, John Y. Allen swore that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public domain in Coryell County. In June of that year, George Motz, Coryell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Allen's property as 160 acres on the waters of Owl Creek about 14 miles southeast of Gatesville. A. Rogers and Allen assisted as chainmen.

Allen and his wife, E. C., sold their claim to the 160 acres to L. K. Henderson for $75 in March 1881. That same month, Henderson swore that he was a bona fide settler on the 160 acres surveyed for Allen. Henderson also swore that he was head of a family and that he or his assignor had occupied the property for 3 consecutive years beginning in February 1874. Samuel Dodson and J. C. Cole corroborated Henderson's statements. Henderson and his wife, V. E., conveyed the 160-acre parcel to Jesse M. Dodson for $150 in September 1882. On December 5, 1882, the State of Texas patented the 160-acre parcel to Jesse M. Dodson (Texas. General Land Office 1882a).

Dodson owned the 160 acres for a number of years. Tax records suggest that he farmed the land and that he may have lived there (1882b, 1887b, 1892b). However, because he also owned other land that had a higher assessed value, it is difficult to ascertain the nature of his use and occupation of the Allen Survey.

Dodson and his wife, Ophelia, sold a 5-acre parcel out of the southeast corner of the Allen Survey to Samuel J. Dodson for $25 in August 1894 (CC, DR 16:21); the parcel is the location of 41CV400. On the same date, Dodson sold the 5 acres, along with 160 acres out of the Cooper Survey, to W. W. Lloyd for $1,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 16:22), a price that suggests that one or perhaps both parcels had sustained improvements. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Lloyd farmed his property and he appears to have improved and perhaps occupied the 5-acre parcel where 41CV400 is located (1895b–1896b, 1901b).

Lloyd and his wife, Hattie, conveyed the 165 acres to W. H. Stovall for $1,000 in October 1901 (CC, DR 29:242). Tax records suggest that Stovall operated a mid-sized farm on his property, which included the 5 acres where 41CV400 is located. Stovall then sold the 165-acre parcel to T. I. Tippit for $3,500 in cash and notes in November 1917 (CC, DR 82:174), a price that suggests further improvements to the property.

Between 1917, when Tippit acquired the property, and 1950, the 165-acre parcel that included the 5 acres in the Allen Survey where 41CV400 is located, was owned by Tippit (1917–1922), L. A. Stovall (1922–1938), G. W. Stovall (1938–1942), Luther Whaley (1942), and T. H. Altum (1942–1950) (CC, DR 98:122; 139:22; 141:190; 144:43). The purchase prices in these transactions, ranging from $3,000 to $4,500, indicate the presence of improvements.

Altum and his wife, Zela, sold the 165-acre parcel to Johnnie McFarlin for $5,000 in October 1950 (CC, DR 176:174). McFarlin added property to his holdings in the area, including the 28-acre parcel where 41CV531 is located. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where 41CV400 and 41CV531 are located from 1951 until 1953, see the site history for 41CV531.

Summary: The 160-acre John Y. Allen Survey, where 41CV400 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1872, when Allen swore that he had settled on the land. L. K. Henderson, to whom Allen had assigned his claim, also swore occupancy in the early 1880s. Jesse Dodson owned the Allen Survey from 1882 until 1894; it appears that he farmed the land and lived either there or on other, more valuable property, he owned. It is unclear if any of the other pre-1894 owners and/or occupants can be associated with 41CV400.

Beginning in 1894, the 5-acre parcel where 41CV400 is located was severed from the remaining portion of the Allen Survey. The most likely initial occupant of the 5-acre parcel was W. W. Lloyd, who purchased 165 acres that included the 5-acre parcel in that year. Tax records indicate that Lloyd farmed his land, and may have resided on the 5 acres where 41CV400 is located. Subsequent twentieth-century owners that may have occupied the property include W. H. Stovall, T. I. Tippit, L. A. Stovall, G. W. Stovall, Luther Whaley, T. H. Altum, Johnnie McFarlin, Tom V. Freeman, and Billie Joe Price.

On October 17, 1953, Price and his wife, Martha Jean, conveyed 151 acres that included the land where 41CV400 and 41CV531 are located, to the U.S. government for $13,675 and the right to remove several structures including a dwelling, garage, barn, chicken house, tool shed, and other agricultural outbuildings (CC, DR 189:71). The purchase price and structure reservation indicates that the property was improved at the time. When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1435, it encompassed land in the Joseph Cooper and John Y. Allen Surveys, and contained two sites: 41CV400 (Allen Survey) and 41CV531 (Cooper Survey).

Site 41CV404 (Tract 1507)

Site History: Site 41CV404 is located in the north-central portion of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1507, which encompassed 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained eight sites: 41CV150, 41CV404, 41CV1072, 41CV1164, 41CV1171, 41CV1175, 41CV1177, and 41CV1181.

For a history of the land on which 41CV404 is located between 1839 and 1869, when it was acquired by the Bayland Orphans' Home, see 41CV151.

On September 1, 1880, Owen Lafayette Bates purchased 200 acres out of the Bueno Survey, on which site 41CV404 is located, from the Bayland Orphans' Home for $130 (CC, DR L:765). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Bates began improving the property in 1890 and possibly lived there with his wife until 1924

(1880b–1924b). Bates died on June 13, 1924, and was buried in the Walker Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records). His widow, Mary T. Bates, had declared the property her homestead by 1935 (1935b). Mrs. Bates died on August 19, 1935, and also was buried in the Walker Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that some of the Bates heirs continued to reside on the property as a designated homestead from 1935 to 1947 (1935b–1947b). In 1947, Jeff Bates, Alice Bates Moore, and Susie Mae Bates sold a total of 652.2 acres in the Bueno Survey, including the present-day site of 41CV404, to Thomas J. Poole Jr. and Thomas A. Poole for $8,516 (CC, DR 159:46). Two years later, the Pooles sold the 652.2 acres to J. O. Haby of Lampasas County for $16,000 (CC, DR 165:359). J. O. and Florine Haby then deeded the 652.2 acres to Tom V. Freeman on March 18, 1950, for $11,900 (CC, DR 173:318). Ad valorem tax records show that Freeman lived in Gatesville (1950b).

Thomas V. Freeman sold the 652.2 acres in the Bueno Survey, on which present-day 41CV404 is located, to Oscar Lander, Frank B. Lander, and Clarence H. Lander, Trustees of the Lander Trust Company of Ellis County on June 11, 1951, for $17,184.14 (CC, DR 178:310). The Lander Trust Company retained title to the 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey until the property was condemned by the United States government in Civil Action Suit No. 1513 in March 1954, for $96,111 (CC, DR 190:368).

Summary: Owen L. Bates probably improved the property on which 41CV404 is located beginning in 1890 and may have lived there. Owen L. and/or Mary T. Bates apparently continued to reside on the property until Mary's death in 1935. The property may have continued to be occupied by members of the Bates family from 1935 to 1947. Under the ownership of Thomas J. and Thomas A. Poole from 1947 to 1949, J. O. Haby from 1949 to 1950, Tom V. Freeman from 1950 to 1951, and the Lander Trust Company from 1951 to 1954, occupation status remains unclear.

Site 41CV483 (Tract 1444)

Site History: Site 41CV483 is located in southwestern quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the property was acquired by the U.S. government, the site was located on Tract 1444, which encompassed 144 acres out of the Carper Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV483 is located from 1838 until 1895, see 41CV351.

In 1895, E. A. Kincaid and his wife, M. E. Kincaid, conveyed a 242-acre tract on which present-day 41CV483 and 41CV898 are located, to A. W. Dunn of Coryell County for $2,000 in notes (CC, DR 18:61). In 1897, Dunn's wife, Mrs. Margaret Dunn, a resident of Killeen, paid taxes on 272 acres in the Carper Survey that were valued at $1,900. She also paid taxes on four horses or mules worth $200 and $30 in miscellaneous property (1897b). These values suggest that the property was improved. It may have been used either by the Dunns, whose home was in Killeen, or by tenants.

In 1903, Dunn and his wife conveyed a 150-acre tract out of the Carper Survey on which present-day 41CV483 is located to J. A. Ridling of Coryell County for $1,060 cash and notes (CC, DR 44:123). In 1909, Ridling and his wife, M. A. Ridling, now residents of Bell County, conveyed the 150 acres to J. T. Kincaid, also of Bell County, in consideration of $2,000 cash and notes (CC, DR 51:408). Kincaid retained ownership of the property until 1917, at which time he and his wife, F. E. Kincaid, conveyed the 150 acres to T. S. Tippitt (also spelled Tippit) for $2,500 (CC, DR 82:152).

By 1936, Tippitt was dead, and his heirs consisted of his widow and 12 children. That year, 2 of his sons, T. I. Tippitt and his wife, Lizzie; and J. F. Tippitt and his wife, Fanny May, both couples being residents of Lynn County, filed quitclaim deeds conveying their interests in all their father's lands to their mother, Mrs. E. J. Tippitt of Coryell County. Included in the conveyance were the 150 acres where present-day 41CV483 is located (CC, DR 125:591, 595). In 1938, Mrs. Tippitt, along with 9 of the Tippitt heirs, conveyed to her daughter, Mrs. Clara Taylor, an 84-acre tract out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV438 is located for $760 cash and notes. However, Mrs. Tippitt reserved the right to wood, water, and pasture on the property during her lifetime (CC, DR 129:155).

In 1945, Taylor and her husband, J. T. Taylor, conveyed two tracts of land out of the Carper Survey to Hubert Simons for $1,000 cash and notes. The tracts consisted of a 60-acre

parcel and the 84 acres where present-day 41CV483 is located for a total of 144 acres (CC, DR 152:295). On November 4, 1953, Simons and his wife, Jewel, conveyed the 144 acres to the U.S. government for $7,145. Simons reserved the right to harvest all crops growing on the land and to remove an 8 x 10-ft-feed shed from the property (CC, DR 188:265).

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere, and the property apparently remained unimproved. A. W. and/or J. P. Dunn appear to have improved the property by 1874 and could have been the initial residents. The property remained in the ownership of the Dunn heirs until 1891, during which time members of the family might have been residents. E. A. Kincaid (1891–1895) owned the property and might have lived there. A. W. and Margaret Dunn (1895–1903) lived in Killeen, but improved the property and might have used the rural property themselves or had tenants in residence. Tenant occupation might have continued under the ownership of J. A. Ridling (1903–1909), who might have lived on the property initially but had moved out of Coryell County by 1909. J. T. Kincaid (1909–1917) lived elsewhere. From 1917 to 1945, members of the Tippitt family owned the property that apparently was improved as part of a farm, and members of the family might have lived there. From 1945 until acquisition by the government in 1953, Hubert Simons owned the land, which apparently was improved and being farmed. However, his residency status remains unclear.

Site 41CV496 (Tract 1425)

Site History: Site 41CV496 is located in the southwestern portion of the Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 125.5 acres in the Bruff Survey and contained two sites, 41CV496 and 41CV497.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV496 is located from 1838 until 1871, when Dennis Perkins owned the Bruff Survey, see the site history for 41CV178.

Dennis Perkins sold 160 acres out of the southwest corner of the Bruff Survey to T. F. Evetts for $400 in July 1871 (CC, DR G:263), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Evetts conveyed a 22-acre parcel off the east end of the 160 acres to J. E. Everett for $112 in December 1873 (CC, DR H:359). Site 41CV496 is located on this 22-acre parcel. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Everett farmed the property and probably lived there until 1881 (1875b, 1880b).

Everett and his wife, A. D., sold the 22-acre parcel along with 11 eastern-adjacent acres to George Swain for $300 in February 1881 (CC, DR O:710), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Swain appears to have farmed and occupied the property between 1881 and 1890 (1884b, 1886b), when he sold the 33 acres to D. M. Carroll for $400 (CC, DR 5:612). Tax records indicate that Carroll occupied the property and farmed the acreage (1890b, 1895b).

In December 1898, Carroll and his wife, Ollie, sold the 33-acre parcel to J. P. Livingston for $700 (CC, DR 19:575), suggesting that the property sustained further improvements. Livingston apparently farmed the property and probably lived there (1900b).

Between 1898 and 1931, the property where 41CV496 is located was owned by Livingston (1898–1903), J. A. Beard (1903–1904), L. S. Shelton (1904–1907), W. M. Carroll (1907–1909), L. J. Turner (1909–1911), W. V. McBride (1911–1916), W. D. Turner (1916–1919), Frank Gallaway (1919–1929), and M. B. Lofton (1929–1931) (CC, DR 29:594; 44:427; 49:217; 51:380; 58:197; 75:412; 85:162; 110:341). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $700 to $850 for the 33-acre parcel, to between $1,350 and $2,000 when the property expanded to 45 acres after W. V. McBride's purchase of an additional 12 acres.

In April 1931, Lofton and his wife sold the 45-acre parcel that included the land where 41CV496 is located to Frank Gallaway for $2,000 (CC, DR 114:149), a price that indicated the presence of improvements. Since 41CV496 is the only site located on the 45-acre parcel, the improvements probably can be associated with that site.

Gallaway and his wife, Esther, conveyed the 45 acres to Opal Jones Walker for $1,150 in October 1946 (CC, DR 157:273). Walker and her husband, Rufus, sold the property to T. H. Altum for $1,500 in April 1947 (CC, DR 159:111). Altum and his wife, Zela, sold the land to Roy Evetts for $1,750 in January 1948 (CC, DR 161:125). Evetts already owned adjacent property, and in November 1948, sold 125.5 acres out of the southwestern portion of the Bruff Survey to

G. H. Shed for $3,500 (CC, DR 163:314). Sites 41CV496 and 41CV497 are located on this 125.5-acre parcel.

On October 2, 1953, Shed and his wife, Manda, sold 125.5 acres to the U.S. government for $7,414 (CC, DR 188:220). The property, identified as Tract 1425, encompassed land in the Samuel Bruff Survey and contained 41CV496 and 41CV497. The Sheds also reserved the right to remove certain structures from the property, including a dwelling with two porches, windmill and tank, chicken house, granary, barn, turkey house, two feed houses, and a corral. The purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved at this time.

Summary: From 1854 until 1871, the part of the Bruff Survey where 41CV496 is located was owned by Dennis Perkins, a resident of New York. J. E. Everett, who owned 22 acres in the Bruff Survey from 1873 until 1881, probably was the initial occupant of the land where 41CV496 is located. George Swain (1881–1890), D. M. Carroll (1890–1898), and J. P. Livingston (1898–1903) also appear to have occupied and farmed the property during their respective periods of ownership.

The property continued to escalate in value after the turn of the century. Purchase prices in transactions suggest the presence of improvements, and since 41CV496 is the only recorded site located on the 22-acre parcel, the rising value probably can be associated with that site. Even when the property was expanded to include 45 acres, 41CV496 remained the only recorded site on the property.

Roy Evetts acquired the 45-acre parcel in 1948. Evetts also owned west-adjacent property where 41CV497 is located. Evetts sold 125.5 acres that included both sites to G. H. Shed in 1948, and 5 years later, Shed and his wife conveyed the property to the government. The purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved at that time.

Site 41CV497 (Tract 1425)

Site History: Site 41CV497 is located in both the Samuel Bruff and Jacob Heiler Surveys in Coryell County. The southern portion of 41CV497, located in the Heiler Survey, was part of the original Fort Hood land acquisition. For the site history of that portion of the site, see Stabler (1999:234). In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 125.5 acres in the Bruff Survey and contained two sites, 41CV497 and 41CV496.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV497 is located from 1838 until 1871, when Dennis Perkins owned the Bruff Survey, see the site history for 41CV178.

Dennis Perkins sold 160 acres out of the southwest corner of the Bruff Survey to T. F. Evetts for $400 in July 1871 (CC, DR G:263), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Evetts farmed all or part of the property and may have lived there until 1881 (1873b, 1875b, 1880b), when he sold 110 acres to John Grimes for $700 (CC, DR 6:82). Grimes apparently farmed and occupied the property for about 2 years (1882b). Site 41CV497 is located on this 110-acre parcel.

In November 1882, Grimes sold the 110-acre parcel to R. A. Grimes for $1,200 (CC, DR 6:83). The price and subsequent ad valorem tax records suggest the presence of improvements (1884b). Two years later, in September 1884, R. A. Grimes conveyed the property to J. F. Lusk for $1,250 (CC, DR 6:85). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Lusk operated a farm on the property and probably lived there (1885b). Lusk and his wife, M. E., sold the 110-acre parcel to Hugh Evetts for $1,250 in August 1889 (CC, DR 16:278), a price that suggests that the property was improved. Evetts owned the property until 1907, and tax records indicate that he farmed and perhaps occupied the land (1890b, 1895b, 1900b).

Evetts and his second wife, Elsie, sold the 110-acre parcel to his three children for $600 in February 1907 (CC, DR 46:104). The conveyance was to settle the estate of Lucy Ann Evetts, Hugh Evetts's first wife, who died in 1905. Two of the three children, T. F. Evetts and R. N. Evetts, sold their interests in the 110-acre parcel to the third child, Pearl Mounce and her husband, J. E., for $650 in February 1907 (CC, DR 49:45). In 1915, Mounce and her husband sold the property to R. E. Schrimsher and his wife, Malta Lee, for $3,500 (CC, DR 55:427), a price that suggests that the property has sustained additional improvements.

Schrimsher and his wife acquired other land in the vicinity, and in 1925, conveyed 119.62 acres out of the southwestern portion of the Bruff Survey to R. A. Dixon for $3,500 (CC, DR 99:525). The property included the land where 41CV497

is located. Dixon and his wife, Fannie, sold the 119.62-acre parcel to C. T. Humphries and his wife, Estelle, for $2,500 in December 1937 (CC, DR 128:294). In September 1944, Humhpries and his wife conveyed the property to Roy Evetts for $2,500 (CC, DR 150:8).

Evetts acquired adjacent land so that, by 1948, he owned the property where 41CV496 and 41CV497 are located. For the remainder of the legal history of the property where both sites are located, see the site history for 41CV496.

Summary: From 1854 until 1871, the part of the Bruff Survey where 41CV496 is located was owned by Dennis Perkins, a resident of New York.

T. F. Evetts owned 110 acres in the southwestern portion of the Bruff Survey, including the location of 41CV496, from 1871 until 1881. Land and tax records suggest that he farmed the property and probably lived there. John Grimes (1881–1882), R. A. Grimes (1882–1884) and J. F. Lusk (1884–1889) also appear to have farmed and occupied the property during their respective periods of ownership.

Hugh Evetts owned the 110 acres from 1889 until 1907, and he apparently occupied the property and used it for farming purposes. Between 1915 and 1948, the purchase price paid for the 110 acres ranged from $2,500 to $3,500, suggesting the presence of improvements. When the government acquired the property in 1953, the purchase prices and structure reservation indicated that the property was improved.

Site 41CV499 (Tract 1415)

Site History: Site 41CV499 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 160-acre John Williams Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was designated Tract 1415, which encompassed 90 acres out of the Williams Survey and contained one site.

Williams received this preemption grant as a bona fide settler on vacant public domain on March 25, 1872. George Motz, county surveyor, surveyed the acreage for him on May 28, 1872. In 1874, Williams paid taxes on his preemption, which was valued at $80. He also paid taxes on one horse worth $40, four cattle worth $12, and $115 in miscellaneous property (1874b). Although Williams claimed to be a settler on the 160 acres, these values suggest little in the way of improvements on the property.

Williams conveyed the 160 acres to J. B. Irvin [also spelled Ervin or Irwin] on July 21, 1874, for the sum of $300. In 1875, Irvin paid taxes on the 160 acres, which were valued at $160. He also paid taxes on one horse or mule worth $40, nine cattle worth $36, and eight goats or hogs worth $12 (1875b). The value of the property had increased from the previous year, but there is still little suggestion of improvements.

Irvin and his wife, L. A., quitclaimed the 160-acre grant to James A. Ray on December 8, 1880. By a proof of settlement under a homestead act, James A. Ray appeared before the Coryell County Clerk in 1881 and swore that he had occupied and improved the property as his homestead beginning on March 25, 1872. The Williams Survey was patented to Ray on January 19, 1881 (Texas. General Land Office 1881). Ray paid taxes on the 160 acres beginning in 1881, and through 1884, the property was valued at $160 each year (1881b–1884b). In 1885, Ray paid taxes on the 160 acres, now valued at $240. Ray also paid taxes on 3 horses or mules worth $70, 5 cattle worth $50, 30 hogs worth $30, and $10 in miscellaneous property (1885b). Despite many previous owners and supposed residents on the Williams Survey, initial indication of any substantial improvements does not appear until 1885.

Members of the Ray family retained ownership of the Williams Survey. In 1926, Maggie Wolff and her husband, R. M. Wolff; Lena Dunn and her husband, Henry Dunn; Lula Upchurch and her husband, W. W. Upchurch, all being the heirs of James A. Ray and his wife, S. L. Ray, both deceased, conveyed the 160 acres to R. V. Ray (CC, DR 106:127). Jacob Levi Cooksey and his wife, Dollie, purchased the northern 90 acres of the Williams Survey on which present-day 41CV499 is located from Ray in 1942 for the sum of $1,470 cash and the assumption of a $330 note payable to the Federal Land Bank of Houston (CC, DR 142:528). Jacob Levi Cooksey died on June 12, 1953 (CC, DR 189:506). A year later, Ray quitclaimed the 90 acres to Cooksey's widow, Dollie (CC, DR 189:505).

The U.S. government purchased the 90 acres from Dollie Cooksey in 1954 for $6,925. Mrs. Cooksey reserved the right to remove the following: a dwelling measuring 40x36x17x18½ x23x17½ ft with a 30x8-ft porch, 8x10-ft smokehouse, 12x14-ft chicken house, 8x10-ft

cow shed, 12x12-ft feed house, 12x21-ft cow shed, and a windmill with a 30-ft tower (CC, DR 189:507).

Summary: James A. Ray homesteaded the 160-acre Williams Survey beginning in 1872, although there is no indication of substantial improvements until 1885. Ray's heirs continued to own the land until 1942. Jacob and Dollie Cooksey purchased 90 acres out of the Williams Survey in 1942 and sold them to the U.S. government in 1954. At the time of acquisition, the land contained a number of structures that could be associated with the Ray occupation and/or Jacob and Dollie Cooksey.

Site 41CV531 (Tract 1435)

Site History: Site 41CV531 is located in the northwest portion of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1435, which encompassed 151 acres in two surveys and contained two sites, 41CV400 and 41CV531.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV531 is located from 1837 until 1936, when the heirs of T. S. Tippit partitioned the estate's land, see the site history for 41CV345. Fay Shelton, a daughter of T. S. Tippit, acquired a 28-acre parcel in the northwestern portion of the Cooper Survey in the partition (CC, DR 139:88). Site 41CV531 is located on the 28 acres.

Shelton continued to own the property until 1951, when she sold it to Johnnie McFarlin for $2,000 (CC, DR 178:384), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. McFarlin added the 28 acres to his holdings in the area, and in 1952, he and his wife, Stella, sold 151 acres that included the 28-acre parcel where 41CV531 is located to Tom V. Freeman for $8,800 in cash and notes (CC, DR 180:37). While the purchase price clearly suggests the presence of improvements, the 151 acres also included a 5-acre parcel in the John Allen Survey where 41CV400 is located.

Freeman and his wife, Uneva, sold the 151-acre parcel to the Veterans' Land Board of Texas (VLB) for $7,500 in September 1952 (CC, DR 184:166). The VLB immediately entered into a contract of sale with Billie Joe Price, providing for the sale of the 151 acres when Price had paid the agreed-upon sum of $7,500 (CC, DR 184:168). In late 1953, the VLB, reciting satisfaction of all requirements in the contract of sale, sold the 151-acre parcel to Price (CC, DR 189:70).

On October 17, 1953, Price and his wife, Martha Jean, conveyed 151 acres that included the land where 41CV400 and 41CV531 are located to the U.S. government for $13,675 and the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling, garage, barn, chicken house, tool shed, and other agricultural outbuildings (CC, DR 189:71). The purchase price and structure reservation indicates that the property was improved at the time. When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1435, it encompassed land in the Joseph Cooper and John Y. Allen Surveys and contained two sites: 41CV400 (Allen Survey) and 41CV531 (Cooper Survey).

Summary: Early owners of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey apparently did not live in Coryell County. J. A. Wylie purchased 1,120 acres in the survey in 1884, and ad valorem tax records suggest occupation. However, the location of his residence and other improvements is not clear. Use and occupancy from 1890 until 1905, when Nick Buck owned the property, also are uncertain.

In 1905, T. S. Tippit purchased 800 acres in the survey, and he may have lived there until his death in the mid-1930s. His heirs partitioned the property in 1936, and Fay Shelton, a daughter of T. S. Tippit, got a 28-acre parcel in the northwestern portion of the Cooper Survey. Site 41CV531 is located on this 28-acre parcel. Shelton owned the property until 1951, by which time it appears to have been improved. The next owner, Johnnie McFarlin, added the property to this holdings, creating the present-day 151-acre Tract 1435. He may have lived on the 151 acres which was the location of two sites, 41CV531 and 41CV400.

Between 1952 and 1953, when the government acquired present-day Tract 1435, the property sold four times for prices that indicate the presence of improvements. In October 1953, when the government bought the property, the purchase price and structure reservation also suggest that the property was improved.

Site 41CV533 (Tract 1422)

Site History: Site 41CV533 is located in the western portion of the 320-acre Hobson Whitley Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the

government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1422, which encompassed 110 acres in the survey, and contained two sites: 41CV533 and 41CV545.

In December 1839, the Red River County Board of Land Commissioners issued a conditional headright certificate (No. 477) for 640 acres to Hobson Whitley. In 1849, the Washington County Board of Land Commissioners confirmed that Whitley was entitled to 640 acres because he had performed all the duties required of him as a citizen and resident of the state for 3 years. Whitley sold his claim to the 640 acres to John Hughes for $100 in March 1851. William Armstrong, Milam County Surveyor, filed field notes describing one of Whitley's parcels as containing 320 acres on Owl Creek about 10 miles above its junction with the Leon River in April 1851. Josiah Blackman and Obediah Trimmier assisted as chain carriers. In November 1854, Hughes swore that he actually had purchased the 640-acre certificate from J. W. Mitchell, who held a blank assignment and transfer from Whitley. Upon the completion of the sale, Mitchell instructed Hughes to insert his name (Hughes's) as transferee in the assignment from Whitley. On December 11, 1854, the State of Texas patented the 320-acre parcel to John Hughes (Texas. General Land Office 1854b). Use and occupancy of the property during the early to mid-1850s remains uncertain (1855b).

Hughes sold the 320-acre survey to J. C., J. B., and M. F. Stribling for $480 in March 1855 (CC, DR A:266), a price that might reflect the presence of improvements. In 1857 and 1858, the Striblings conveyed interests in the property to one another (CC, DR C:284, 332, 334), and by 1858, J. C. Stribling owned full interest in the 320-acre parcel. The prices in these transactions are inconclusive regarding the presence of improvements, and use and occupancy during this period remains unclear (1856b, 1861b–1862b, 1866b).

In August 1870, Stribling conveyed the 320-acre Whitley Survey to Hugh Evetts for $100 (CC, DR F:254), a price that indicates that the property was unimproved. Evetts apparently improved the land, because the ad valorem tax evaluation rose dramatically to $1,000 in 1871. In 1872, Evetts sold the west 160 acres of the survey to F. M. Drake for $1,100 (CC, DR G:300), indicating that that portion of the property had sustained improvements. Tax records suggest that Drake operated a farm or ranch on the land and may have lived there (1874b–1875b).

Drake and his wife, M. H., sold the western 110 acres of the survey back to Evetts in January 1876 for $1,000 (CC, DR K:242). Sites 41CV533 and 41CV545 are located on this 110-acre parcel. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Evetts ranched the property and probably lived there for more than 10 years (1876b, 1882b, 1886b). In August 1888, Evetts and his wife, Elizabeth, conveyed the 110-acre parcel to W. S. Cole Jr. and J. C. Cole for $1,000 (CC, DR P:757), a price that indicates the presence of improvements.

The Coles, sons of W. S. Cole Sr. and his wife, M. M., appear to have operated a ranch on land that included the 110-acre parcel, and they may have lived there for a period of time (1889b). By 1898, J. C. Cole was dead, and W. S. Cole Jr. sold his interest, which consisted of his purchased interest and the interest he had inherited from his brother, J. C., in the 110 acres to two of his sisters, Mellie and Fannie Cole (CC, DR 18:569).

By 1899, Coryell County was assessing the W. S. Cole Estate for 210 acres that included the western 110 acres and the eastern 100 acres of the Whitley Survey. The assessment, while maintaining a value that suggested the presence of improvements, listed no personal property, suggesting that the property may have been occupied by tenants. The county continued this assessment (assessing the W. S. Cole Estate for an increasing value but no personal property) for many years, suggesting that the Cole family maintained the improvements on the land and probably rented the property to tenants (1909b, 1919b, 1929b). Since 41CV533 and 41CV545, both located on the western 110-acre portion of the survey, are the only sites located on the 210 acres, the improvements most likely are associated with those sites.

Mellie Cole died in 1931. Her will, probated in Coryell County, left her estate to her sister, Mary O. Woodward. It stipulated that Mellie Cole had purchased an interest in the 110-acre parcel, and that she had inherited an interest in the same land from both her brother, Clay, and her sister, Fannie (CC, Probate File No. 1658). The document also sets out that Cole had inherited an interest in the eastern 100 acres of the Whitely Survey from her parents, W. S. Cole Sr. and M. M. Cole.

On January 7, 1954, the U.S. government condemned the 110-acre parcel where 41CV533 and 41CV545 are located, that from Mary O. Woodward and the other Cole family heirs owned (CC, DR 189:337). The condemnation covered approximately 1,160 acres and provided a total compensation of $58,370. However, no allocation of that total was made on a per-tract basis, nor were there any structure reservations cited in the document. The property, identified as Tract 1422, encompassed the western 110 acres of the Hobson Whitley Survey, and contained two sites: 41CV533 and 41CV545.

Summary: Land and tax records suggest that the early owners John Hughes may have improved the Whitley Survey by the time he sold it to the Striblings in 1855. However, use and occupancy by Hughes and the Striblings has not been verified. Hugh Evetts, who owned the 320 acres between 1870 and 1872, is the most likely initial occupant of the property, but the location of his improvements is uncertain. F. M. Drake, who owned the property from 1872 until 1876, is believed to have maintained improvements and lived on the 320-acre parcel.

Hugh Evetts owned the western 110 acres where 41CV533 and 41CV545 are located from 1876 until 1888, and he appears to have operated a ranch on the land and occupied the property. Members of the Cole family, who owned the western 110 acres of the Whitley Survey from 1888 until 1954, may have maintained improvements there.

Site 41CV537 (Tract 1423)

Site History: Site 41CV537 is located in the central portion of the 320-acre Hobson Whitley Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1423, which encompassed 114 acres in the survey, and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV537 is located from 1839 until 1872, when Hugh Evetts owned the 320-acre survey, see the site history for 41CV533.

Between 1872 and 1876, various parcels within the Whitley Survey were conveyed among Evetts, F. M. Drake, and John M. Dodson (CC, DR K:438–439, 441, 444). The purchase prices in these transactions ranged from $1,100 for the west half to $3,600 for the eastern 204 acres of the survey, prices that suggest the presence of improvements. By mid-1876, F. M. Drake had acquired the eastern 204 acres of the survey (CC, DR G:300; K:442).

Drake and his wife, M. A., sold 114 acres out of the central portion of the survey to Simpson Newman for $1,400 in May 1878 (CC, DR L:422), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Since 41CV537 is the only recorded site located on the 114 acres, it is possible that the improvements can be associated with that site. Coryell County ad valorem tax records suggest that Newman and his family farmed the property and probably lived there (1880b, 1886b, 1889b, 1899b).

In April 1913, Newman's widow and children sold the 114-acre parcel to W. P. Young for $3,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 67:258), a price that indicates the presence of improvements. Young and his family apparently lived on the property until his death in 1934. Young's will devised his estate to his wife, Nannie, for her life, then to his daughter, Etta Young, for her life; at the death of both mother and daughter, Young's interest in the property would vest in his then-living children and grandchildren (CC, Probate File No. 1798). The inventory of Young's estate valued the 114-acre parcel in the Whitley Survey at $4,400.

Nannie Young died in 1948, and Etta Young died in 1951 (CC, DR 189:367). As provided in the will of W. P. Young, title to the 114-acre parcel passed to his children and grandchildren who were living at that time. On November 14, 1953, these heirs sold 114 acres out of the central portion of the Whitley Survey to the U.S. government for $7,730 and the right to remove growing crops (CC, DR 189:369), a price and reservation that indicate the presence of improvements and farm use. When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1423, it encompassed land in the Hobson Whitley Survey and contained one site.

Summary: Land and tax records suggest that the early owner John Hughes may have improved the Whitley Survey by the time he sold it to the Striblings in 1855. However, use and occupancy by Hughes and the Striblings have not been verified. Hugh Evetts, who owned the 320-acre survey between 1870 and 1872, is the most likely initial occupant of the property, but the location of his improvements is uncertain. F. M. Drake, who owned the property from 1872 until 1876, is believed to have maintained the improvements and lived on the 320-acre parcel.

Simpson Newman and his family owned the 114-acre parcel where 41CV537 is located between 1878 and 1913; land and tax records suggest that he farmed the land and probably lived there. W. P. Young and his family owned the 114 acres from 1913 until 1954, when it was acquired by the government. The 1954 purchase price and crop reservation suggest the presence of improvements and use of the property as a farm.

Site 41CV538 (Tract 1426)

Site History: Site 41CV538 is located between Cedar Branch Creek and Owl Creek in the west-central portion of the one-third league (1,476 acres) Samuel Bruff Survey. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was a part of Tract 1426, which encompassed 123.5 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV538 is located from 1838 to 1854, see 41CV178.

In 1870, Dennis Perkins of New York, New York, sold 100 acres out of Samuel Bruff Survey to W. T. Dodson of Coryell County for $300 (CC, DR G:149). In 1872, Dodson paid taxes on the 100 acres, which were valued at $200. He also paid taxes on 18 horses worth $375, 50 cattle worth $200, and $130 in miscellaneous property (1872b). These values suggest that Dodson had improved the property, was in residence, and was raising livestock.

In 1881, W. T. Dodson and his wife, L. J., conveyed a 70-acre tract on which present-day 41CV538 is located to A. H. Wolf for the sum of $1,100. This increase in the purchase price of the land from $3 per acre in 1870 to over $15 per acre in 1881, suggests that improvements may have been made to the property between those years. In 1881, Wolf paid taxes on the 70 acres, which were valued at $420. He also paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $50, two horses or mules worth $100, nine cattle worth $45, eight hogs worth $6, and $15 in miscellaneous property (1881b). The values from the ad valorem tax records also suggest that the property had been heavily improved.

A. H. Wolf and his wife, S. E., sold the land less than 2 months after purchase to R. K. Hinds (also spelled Hines) for an unidentified amount (CC, DR 105:392). In 1882, Hinds paid taxes on 50 acres in the Bruff Survey valued at $400, as well as 50 acres in the Huffman Survey valued at $25. Hinds also paid taxes on a carriage or wagon worth $40, 4 horses or mules worth $140, 14 cattle worth $100, and 11 hogs worth $11 (1882b). These values suggest that improvements were made to the property, and that Hinds probably was living there and farming.

In 1888, R. K. Hinds, and his wife, Elizabeth, sold the 70 acres to Hugh Evetts for $1,500 to be paid in cash and notes (CC, DR 14:638). The amounts of the considerations increased, again suggesting that additional improvements may have been made to the land.

In 1905, Mrs. Lucy Ann Elizabeth Evetts, the wife of Hugh Evetts, died. Surviving children of Lucy and Hugh were T. F. Evetts, R. N. Evetts, and Mrs. Pearl Mounce. In a 1907 settlement of the community estate of Lucy, the property was resurveyed and partitioned. Hugh and his current wife, Elisie, conveyed the property on which present-day 41CV538 is located to the Evetts children for the sum of $600 (CC, DR 46:104). On the same day, T. F. Evetts, Mrs. Pearl Mounce, and her husband, J. E., conveyed the property to their brother, R. N. Evetts, for the sum of $650 (CC, DR 44:63). According to deed records, this was the parcel known as the "second tract" and was the same land conveyed by R. K. and Elizabeth Hinds to Hugh Evetts in 1888 (CC, DR 44:63).

In 1947, Mrs. Mary Bell Evetts of Coryell County (widow of R. N. Evetts); Hugh and Bettie Evetts of Coryell County; Frankie Ridling and her husband, C. W., of McLennan County; Pauline Mayfield of Dallas County (a widow); and Margaret Price and her husband, E.C., of Harris County conveyed the property on which present-day 41CV538 is located, now described as 78.5 acres, to Roy N. Evetts for $10 and the assumption of a debt payable to the Federal Land Bank of Houston (CC, DR 159:538). In 1954, the U.S. government paid Roy N. Evetts, and his wife, Ruby, $14,155 for a total of 123.5 acres out of the Samuel Bruff Survey (CC, DR 189:337). This acreage included the 78.5-acre parcel on which 41CV538 is located.

Summary: Site 41CV538 shares a common history with 41CV178 through 1854. Owners/occupants of the Bruff Survey and/or 41CV538 may have included W. T. Dodson (1870–1881), A. H. Wolf (1881), R. K. Hinds (1881–1888), Hugh Evetts (1888–1907), R. N. Evetts (1907–1947), and Roy Evetts (1947–1954). Deed and ad valorem tax records suggest that improvements may have been made between 1870–1881 and/or between 1881–1888.

Site 41CV541 (Tract 1420)

Site History: Site 41CV541 is located in the upper northwest portion of the one-third league (1,476 acres) Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was a part of Tract 1420, which encompassed 58.33 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained two sites, 41CV179 and 41CV541.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV541 is located between 1838 to 1918, see 41CV178.

In 1919, N. E. Puckett and his wife, Sidney, conveyed 25 acres out of their 155 acres in the Bruff Survey to L. J. Turner for $550 (CC, DR 91:201). In 1920, Turner paid taxes on the 25 acres in the Bruff Survey, which were valued at $100, as well as 119 acres in the Hoffman Survey valued at $750, and $550 in personal property (1920b). These values suggest that, although the Bruff Survey was improved, Turner possibly was living on the more improved property in the Hoffman Survey. Turner might have had tenants in occupation on the 25 acres.

In 1936, Turner and his wife, L. P. Turner, of Coryell County conveyed the 25 acres to L. A. Shelton of Coryell County for $500 (CC, DR 125:553). In 1944, Shelton conveyed the 25 acres to Life Shelton of Coryell County for $600 (CC, DR 148:466).

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV541 is located from 1946 until acquisition in 1953, see 41CV179.

Summary: The earliest date of possible owner-occupancy probably dates to 1910, when J. D. Brown purchased portions of the property. Subsequent occupation of Tract 1420 within the Samuel Bruff Survey and/or site 41CV541 may be associated with R. H. Hopson (1913–1916), Dennis Carroll (1916–1918), N. E. Puckett (1918–1919), possible tenants of L. J. Turner (1919–1936), L. A. Shelton (1936–1944), and Life Shelton (1944–1953). Deed records appear to indicate that improvements may have been made to the property between 1910 and 1913.

Site 41CV545 (Tract 1422)

Site History: Site 41CV545 is located in the western portion of the 320-acre Hobson Whitley Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1422, which encompassed 110 acres in the survey, and contained two sites: 41CV533 and 41CV545.

For the legal history of 41CV545, see the site history for 41CV533.

Summary: Site 41CV545 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41CV533. Site 41CV545 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV548 (Tract 1418)

Site History: Site 41CV548 is located in the south-central portion of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1418, which encompassed 2 acres in the Bruff Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV548 is located from 1838 until 1901, when the heirs of Daniel Perkins owned the land in the Bruff Survey, see the site history for 41CV178.

There is no heirship information or probate for Daniel Perkins filed in Coryell County. However, Henry C. Perkins and George D. Perkins, residents of New York and presumably heirs of Daniel Perkins, conveyed all of their interest in the Bruff Survey to Maria P. Wilson, also of New York and perhaps another heir of Daniel Perkins, for $500 in May 1901 (CC, DR 30:112). Wilson apparently remarried, because in November 1910, Maria B. Parish, Seymour Perkins, and their respective spouses, all of New York and New Jersey and identified as the heirs of Eliza M. Perkins, sold their property in the Bruff Survey to J. D. Brown Jr. for $1,750 (CC, DR 59:260). The property, described as 685.1 acres, contained the land where 41CV548 is located. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Brown owned the property in the Bruff Survey and other rural land, along with three lots in Gatesville (1912b).

Brown sold 132 acres out of his holdings in the Bruff Survey to L. J. Turner for $1,056 in cash and notes in April 1912 (CC, DR 58:282). Site 41CV548 is located on the southern portion of this 132-acre parcel. Turner apparently sold 2 acres to the county for school purposes sometime between 1910 and 1915, because when

he sold the 132 acres in 1915, he excepted the school land to insure that the 2 acres were not conveyed (CC, DR 74:70). However, the deed to the county for the 2-acre school plot apparently was not recorded with the county at the time of the conveyance. Site 41CV548 is located on this 2-acre parcel and probably is associated with the school that was located there.

It appears that the missing deed was discovered when the government was about to acquire the 2-acre school land, because L. J. Turner and his wife conveyed the 2 acres to the Flat Common Consolidated School District No. 93 in November 1953 (CC, DR 189:211), just a few days before the school district sold the property to the government. No consideration was cited in the deed, perhaps because the school and Turner thought the property already belonged to the school.

On December 8, 1953, the trustees of the Flat Consolidated School District No. 93 conveyed the 2-acre parcel to the U.S. government for $2,645 (CC, DR 188:522), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The 2-acre parcel, identified as Tract 1418, was located in the Samuel Bruff Survey and contained one site.

Summary: Portions of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey, where 41CV548 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1844. From 1854 to 1901, the Bruff Survey was owned by residents of New York, during which time it probably was unoccupied.

J. D. Brown Jr. owned approximately 685 acres that included the land where 41CV548 is located from 1910 until 1912. L. J. Turner acquired 132 acres from Brown in 1912; 41CV548 is located on the southern portion of this 132-acre parcel.

Turner apparently sold 2 acres to the county for the purpose of establishing a school sometime between 1912 and 1915; and a school probably was located on the property from ca. 1912 until 1953. The school appears to have been associated with the Flat Common Consolidated School District No. 93; 41CV548 may have been associated with the activities of that school district.

Site 41CV549 (Tract 1419)

Site History: Site 41CV549 is located in the central portion of the one-third league (1,476 acres) Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was a part of Tract 1419, which encompassed 261.77 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained four sites: 41CV178, 41CV180, 41CV549, and 41CV961.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV549 is located between 1838 and 1910, see 41CV178.

In 1913, J. D. Brown Jr. sold 250 acres out of the original Bruff Survey to T. A. Botkin for the sum of $2,000 to be paid in cash and notes (CC, DR 60:512). That year, Botkin paid taxes on 46 acres in the Bruff Survey, which were valued at $200, as well as two other, more improved, properties. He also paid taxes on seven horses or mules worth $500, three cattle worth $45, one jack or jennet worth $100, four hogs worth $15, two vehicles worth $80, and $10 in tools and machinery (1913b). These values suggest that, although the land in the Bruff Survey was improved, Botkin might have been living elsewhere and had tenants in occupation and farming his property in the Bruff Survey.

Ten years later, in 1923, Botkin and his wife, T. B. Botkin, sold 50 acres out of this acreage to an apparent family member, V. L. Botkin, for the sum of $1,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 98:256). This amount represents an increase in value per acre from $8 to $20 between 1913 and 1923 and suggests that improvements had been made to the property. In 1927, V. L. Botkin and his wife, Ollie, conveyed the same 50 acres to L. A. Shelton for the sum of $1,400 in cash and notes. Botkin also paid all taxes up to and including those due in 1927 (CC, DR 107:229). The increase in the selling prices from $1,000 to $1,400 between 1923 and 1927 also may indicate that some additional improvements were made to the property.

Shelton held the property until 1953, when he sold 261.77 acres to the U.S. government (CC, DR 189:10). For additional information about this purchase, see 41CV178.

Summary: Site 41CV549 shares a common history with 41CV178 through 1910. While 41CV549 lies within Tract 1419, it is not known at this time if it can be associated with J. D. Brown (1910–1913). Subsequent occupation of Tract 1419 within the Samuel Bruff Survey and/or site 41CV549 may be associated with T. A. Botkin (1913–1923), V. L. Botkin (1923–1927), and L. A. Shelton (1927–1953). Deed records and ad valorem tax records appear to indicate that

improvements may have been placed on the property between the years 1910–1913, 1913–1923, and 1923–1927.

Site 41CV550 (Tract 1427)

Site History: Site 41CV550 is located along Cedar Branch Creek in the southwestern portion of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was a part of Tract 1427, which encompassed 45.63 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV550 is located from 1838 to 1854, see 41CV178.

In 1871, N. H. Shelton purchased 246.5 acres out of the Samuel Bruff Survey from Dennis Perkins of New York, New York, for the sum of $730 (CC, DR F:542). There is a gap in the chain of title from Shelton to the next owner. In 1872, Shelton paid taxes on the 246.5 acres valued at $493. He also paid taxes on 4 horses worth $110, 15 cattle worth $60, and $60 in miscellaneous property (1872b). These values indicate that Shelton had improved the property, and possibly was living there. Shelton paid taxes on the 246.5 acres again in 1873, indicating his continued ownership (1873b).

However, in 1874, Shelton no longer appeared in the ad valorem tax records. Instead, L. W. Jones paid taxes on 96.5 acres in the Bruff Survey. By 1883, S. W. Jones and his wife, M. C. Jones, owned a total of 96.5 acres out of the Bruff Survey where present-day 41CV550 and 41CV552 are located. Presumably, this is the same piece of property, and S. W. and M. C. Jones might have acquired it from L. W. Jones, possibly a family member. Under L. W. Jones's ownership in 1874, the 96.5 acres were valued at $500. He also paid taxes on two horses worth $100, four cattle worth $16, and $99 in miscellaneous property (1874b). These values suggest that the property continued to be improved, and that L. W. Jones might have been in occupation.

In 1875, S. W. Jones paid taxes on the 96.5 acres in the Bruff Survey valued at $400, presumably having acquired the property from L. W. Jones. S. W. Jones also paid taxes on a horse or mule worth $40, 8 cattle worth $60, 17 goats or hogs worth $25, $20 in instruments or tools, and $6 in miscellaneous property (1875b). These values suggest that, although the property had decreased in value, it still was improved and possibly occupied. In 1883, Jones and his wife sold the property to E. B. Moore for the sum of $500 (CC, DR R:118).

In 1893, Moore and probable family members, Thomas S. Tippit and his wife, E. J., conveyed their interests in the 96.5 acres to L. C. Durham for $562.50 in cash and notes (CC, DR 16:236). Two years later, in January 1895, W. M. Moore and his wife, B. L., also probable family relations, conveyed their interests in the acreage back to Durham (CC, DR 16:237). Durham and his wife, Mattie, sold the property 5 months later to D. Carroll for $750 cash and notes (CC, DR 16:238). Durham then repurchased the property for the same sales price on November 1, 1895 (CC, DR 26:535).

In 1898, Durham and his wife, S. J., conveyed the southern 48.5 acres out of the 96.5 acres, including 15 acres on which present-day 41CV550 is located, to G. H. Short for the sum of $750 cash and notes (CC, DR 26:536). In an apparent familial transaction, Short sold the property to Lucian Short in 1907 for $1,050 to be paid in cash and notes (CC, DR 51:137), a price that again indicates possible improvements to the land. Lucian Short and his wife, Bertha, sold the acreage to R. A. Livingston in 1909 for the same sales price of $1,050 (CC, DR 51:370). Livingston, a single man, sold the property to L. J. Turner in 1912 for $1,300 (CC, DR 50:358). Turner and his wife, Laura, sold a total of 15 acres out of the 48.25 acres to L. A. Shelton in 1912 for $215 (CC, DR 54:613). Shelton owned the 15 acres from 1912 to 1947 as well as other acreage in the Bruff Survey.

In 1947, L. A. Shelton and his wife, LaVerne, sold a total of 45.5 acres, including the 15 acres on which 41CV550 is located, to J. C. Roden for the sum of $1,300 cash and notes. The deed required that improvements on the property be insured against loss by fire (CC, DR 161:177), which implies that the property might have been occupied. Roden, a single man, sold the property to J. D. Bay in 1949 for the same price (CC, DR 163:574). J. D. Bay and his wife, Ruby, conveyed the tract to Roy F. Wittie in 1951 for the sum of $2,500 cash and notes (CC, DR 179:352), an increase that suggests further improvements. Less than 2 months later, Wittie and his wife, Dorothe, sold the tract to Roy Evetts for $2,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 179:567).

In 1952, Evetts and his wife, Ruby, of Coryell

County conveyed five parcels of land totalling 45.5 acres, including the 15 acres where present-day 41CV550 is located, to Milford C. Evetts of Coryell County for $10 cash and the assumption of $1,750 in notes (CC, DR 184:373). The next year, Milford Evetts and his wife, Ocie Ray, sold the land later designated Tract 1427 to the U.S. government for the sum of $3,465. The tract included the 15-acre parcel where present-day 41CV550 is located and encompassed what was then described as 45.63 acres in the Bruff Survey. Evetts reserved the right to harvest all the crops growing on the land and to remove a dwelling with porch, a feed house, and a shed (CC, DR 187: 568).

Summary: Site 41CV550 shares a common history with site 41CV178 until 1871. Subsequent owners/occupants of the Bruff Survey, and/or site 41CV550 may have been N. H. Shelton (1871–ca. 1873), L. W. Jones (ca. 1874), S. W. Jones (ca. 1874–1883); E. B. Moore (1883–1893), L. C. Durham (1893–1895), D. Carroll (1895), L. C. Durham (1895–1898), G. H. Short (1898–1907), Lucian Short (1907–1909), R. A. Livingston (1909–1912), and L. J. Turner (1912). Based on the deed transactions and ad valorem tax records, improvements may have been made to Tract 1427 and/or site 41CV550 between 1872–1875, 1893–1907, or 1909–1912. Owners L. A. Shelton (1912–1947), J. C. Roden (1947–1949), and J. D. Bay (1949–1951) might have been residents. Roy F. Wittie owned the property for less than 2 months, and probably was not in occupation. Members of the Evetts family owned the property from 1952 until acquisition in 1953 and might have been residents.

Site 41CV551 (Tract 1429)

Site History: Site 41CV551 is located in the central portion (southwest quadrant) of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1429, which encompassed 170.7 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained two sites, 41CV551 and 41CV552.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV551 is located from 1838 until 1854, see 41CV178.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV551 is located from 1854 until 1873, see 41CV550.

In 1873, N. H. Shelton owned 246.5 acres out of the Bruff Survey. The property on which present-day 41CV551 is located remained in the Shelton family until 1935, when the estate was partitioned among the heirs. Tract No. 8 in the division of the Shelton Estate was conveyed from the other Shelton heirs to T. A. Shelton of Coryell County for $10 and other valuable considerations. The tract consisted of 32.3 acres and is the location of present-day 41CV551 (CC, DR 124:314). In 1937, Shelton paid taxes on the 32 acres, which were valued at $300 and on $110 worth of personal property (1937b). These values suggest that the property was improved and Shelton might have been living there. By 1942, Shelton still was paying taxes on the 32 acres, now valued at $200. More importantly, Shelton had designated the property as his homestead (1942b), indicating that he was living there.

In 1942, T. A. Shelton and his wife, Myrtle, conveyed the 32.3 acres out of the Bruff Survey to G. W. Stovall of Coryell County for $1,050 in cash and notes (CC, DR 168:423). For the years 1943–1945, a presumed family member, H. G. Stovall, was paying the taxes on the 32 acres, which consistently were valued at $300. Also, this property was H. G. Stovall's designated homestead (1943b–1945b). It was not until 1946 that G. W. Stovall began paying the taxes on the 32 acres, still valued at $300, and now G. W. Stovall's designated homestead (1946b). Based on this information, members of the Stovall family were in residence during their ownership.

G. W. Stovall and his wife, Bula, conveyed the 32.3 acres to Vernon J. Smith of Bell County for $1,250 in cash and notes on July 6, 1949 (CC, DR 168:576). A year later, Smith and his wife, Joyce, conveyed the 32.3 acres, on which present-day 41CV551 is located, to Johnnie McFarland for $3,000 cash (CC, DR 176:583). McFarland and his wife, Stella, in turn conveyed the 32.3 acres to Felix R. Cole in January 1951 for $1,000 in notes (CC, DR 177:73). By July of that same year, Cole and his wife, Jeraldine, conveyed the 32.3 acres to Raby Lee for $1,100 in cash and notes (CC, DR 178:394).

On October 9, 1953, Lee and his wife, Ettie R., conveyed Tract 1429, consisting of 170.7 acres total and including the 32.3 acres on which present-day 41CV551 is located, to the United States government for $13,655. At that time, they reserved the right to remove the following improvements: a dwelling with two porches, a wash and smokehouse, two toilets, a garage,

windmill and tank, two feed houses with sheds, a chicken house, barn, water trough, and shed (CC, DR 187:498).

Summary: From 1854 until 1870, the Bruff Survey was owned by a resident of New York, during which time it possibly was unoccupied. From 1871 until 1942, the portion of the Bruff Survey on which present-day 41CV551 is located had been improved and was owned by members of the Shelton family. By 1942, T. A. Shelton had his designated homestead on the 32 acres where present-day 41CV551 is located. G. W. Stovall (1942–1949) lived elsewhere until 1946, when he also designated the 32 acres as his homestead. From 1949 until 1951, owners were Vernon J. Smith, Johnnie McFarland, and Felix R. Cole, all of who owned the land for short periods of time. Their occupational status is unclear. From 1951 until acquisition in 1953, the Raby Lee family owned the property on which present-day 41CV551 is located. When the 170.7 acres of Tract 1429 was acquired, it had substantial improvements, including a dwelling and agricultural outbuildings. This suggests occupation and farming on the property by the Lee family.

Site 41CV552 (Tract 1429)

Site History: Site 41CV552 is located in the central portion of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1429, which encompassed 170.7 acres in the Bruff Survey and contained two sites, 41CV551 and 41CV552.

For a legal history of the property on which 41CV552 is located from 1838 until 1854, see 41CV178. For a legal history of the property on which 41CV552 is located from 1854 until 1895, see 41CV550.

At various times during 1895, L. C. Durham owned a 96.5-acre parcel in the Bruff Survey on which 41CV550 and 41CV552 are located. Although some deed records associated with his purchases and sales of the 96.5-acre parcel are in conflict, it is apparent that he was treating the parcel as though it actually were two 48.25-acre parcels (see 41CV550). Present-day 41CV552 is located in the middle of the 96.5 acres, precisely where the property was divided, thus necessitating following both parcels until they were reunited.

For the northern parcel, Durham conveyed the property to E. B. Moore in April 1895 for $256.25 in cash and notes (CC, DR 22:479). In 1897, E. B. Moore paid taxes on 48 acres in the Bruff Survey valued at $400. He also paid taxes on four horses or mules worth $100, four cattle worth $20, one carriage or wagon worth $20, and $20 in miscellaneous property (1897b). These values suggest that the southern parcel was improved and Moore might have been living there. That year, E. B. Moore Sr., together with E. B. Moore Jr.; L. J. Turner and wife, L. P. Turner; and J. L. Moore, all the heirs of Permelia Moore, deceased, conveyed the northern 48.25 acres to G. D. Brown for $456.25 in cash and notes (CC, DR 38:446). In January 1907, Brown and his wife, S. J. Brown, conveyed the northern 48.25 acres to J. N. Barr for $700 in cash and notes (CC, DR 46:47). By October of the same year, Barr had conveyed the 48.25 acres to M. A. Webb for $712.50 in cash and notes (CC, DR 49:257). In 1908, Webb and his wife, M. A., of Coryell County conveyed 48.25 acres (with a 6-acre exception) to H. C. Gray of Coryell County for $810 in cash and notes (CC, DR 44:610). In 1911, Gray conveyed the property to L. J. Turner for $950 in cash and notes. However, the 6 acres on the west end of the parcel were again excepted, making it a conveyance of 42.25 acres (CC, DR 59:593).

For the legal history of the southern 48.25-acre parcel from 1898 until 1912, see 41CV550.

The northern and southern tracts were reunited with a total of 21.25 acres excepted under the ownership of L. J. Turner in 1912. He retained a total of approximately 77 acres out of the Bruff Survey until 1915 when he conveyed the land, plus an additional 132 acres out of the Bruff Survey, for $3,000 in cash and notes to R. A. Livingston, the previous owner of the southern tract (CC, DR 74:70). Livingston owned the property until 1927. In that year he was married to Sudie and they were residents of Red River County. Also in that year, they conveyed the same property back to L. J. Turner for $4,500 in cash and notes (CC, DR 103:577). In 1930, Turner and his wife, L. P. Turner, conveyed the land out of the Bruff Survey to V. L. Botkin for $4,500 in cash and notes. The deed specified the first two parcels as 48.25 acres each (less the exceptions noted), together representing the property on which present-day 41CV552 is located.

In 1945, Botkin and his wife, Ollie, of Lynn

County, conveyed 138.4 acres out of the Bruff Survey to J. W. Palmer for $2,750. The acreage was specified as consisting of 77 acres out of the 96-acre tract, on which present-day 41CV552 is located, combined with acreage adjacent to the north (CC, DR 156:303). The next year, Palmer and his wife, Jonnie, conveyed the 138.4 acres to Raby Lee and the Guaranty Band and Trust Company of Gatesville in consideration of cash paid by Lee and notes due payable to the bank. The deed noted that the property was rented to a tenant in that year (CC, DR 156:355).

For a legal history of the property on which 41CV552 is located in 1953 when it was acquired by the United States government, see 41CV551.

Summary: From 1854 until 1870, the Bruff Survey was owned by a resident of New York, during which time it possibly was unoccupied. Owners N. H. Shelton (1871–ca. 1873), L. W. Jones (ca. 1874), S. W. Jones (ca. 1874–1883), E. B. Moore (1883–1893), and L. C. Durham (1893–1895) might have been in occupation. From 1895 until 1912 ownership of the property changed many times, and the property ultimately was split into two parcels. During this period, although both parcels show evidence of improvements, it is unlikely that any habitation on them would have been related to present-day 41CV552 in its location on a dividing line. Until 1930, ownership alternated between R. A. Livingston, a non-resident, and L. J. Turner, suggesting the property was not a residence. From 1930 until 1945, owner V. L. Botkin was a non-resident as welL. J. W. Palmer only owned the property for a year, again making an association less likely. From 1946 until acquisition in 1953, the Raby Lee family owned the property on which present-day 41CV552 is located. When the 170.7 acres of present-day Tract 1429 were acquired, they were the location of substantial improvements, including a dwelling. This suggests occupation and farming on the property by the Lee family, possibly associated with either 41CV552 or 41CV551.

Site 41CV553 (Tract 1434)

Site History: Site 41CV553 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1434, which encompassed 86 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained two sites, 41CV553 and 41CV556.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV553 is located from 1838 until 1854, see 41CV178. For the legal history of the property on which 41CV553 is located from 1854 to 1937, see 41CV554.

In the 1937 partitioning of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, granddaughters Watie Bell Little and Middie Pearl Hardin (also spelled Medie) were awarded Tract 2, which consisted of 43 acres in the Bruff Survey where present-day 41CV553 is located (CC, DC Civil Minutes M:187–192). That year, Little and Hardin, both residents of Dallas County, conveyed the 43 acres to their uncle, L. A. Stovall of Coryell County. The consideration was $5 and title to 45 acres out of the Carper Survey, which was Tract 5 of the Stovall partition and the location of present-day 41CV665 (CC, DR 128:582). In 1938, L. A. Stovall purchased an adjacent 43-acre parcel (Tract 1 in the estate partitioning and the location of present-day 41CV556) from G. W. Stovall (CC, DR 129:450). In 1939, Stovall paid taxes on 43 acres that were valued at $400. The property also was designated as a homestead (1939b), suggesting that the property was improved and that Stovall was living there. However, it is not possible to discern which of the two 43-acre parcels that Stovall was claiming as his homestead.

L. A. Stovall, later a resident of Harris County, had been married three times and his last wife, Bertha, died in 1933, leaving three heirs (CC, DR 153:23). On September 21, 1945, two of those heirs, both stepsons, Floy Powell of Bell County and Grady C. Hill of Harris County, separately signed quitclaim deeds to Stovall in consideration of $10 each for their interests in the estate of their mother, Mrs. Bertha Stovall (CC, DR 153:24).

The next day, on September 22, 1945, L. A. Stovall along with his daughter and son-in-law, Mary and J. R. Fryman of Harris County, conveyed to R. T. Botkin of Coryell County two adjacent 43-acre tracts out of the Bruff Survey in consideration of $2,250. Tract 2 of this conveyance is the location of present-day 41CV553, and Tract 1 of this conveyance is the location of present-day 41CV556. In 1946, Botkin paid taxes on land in four adjacent surveys. The land was composed of six parcels, five of which (a total of 189 acres) had been designated as homestead property. They

consisted of two 31-acre parcels in the Allen Survey that were each valued at $100, 26 acres in the Walden Survey that were valued at $150, 15 acres in the Bruff Survey that were valued at $50, and the 86 acres in the Bruff Survey that were valued at $400. Botkin also paid taxes on $520 in personal property (1946b). These values suggest that the 86 acres were improved as part of a farm, but that the primary residence was probably located on the more-improved property in the Walden Survey.

Botkin and his wife, Lorita, retained ownership of the entire 86 acres until they conveyed the property to the United States government in 1953 for $7,400. The deed specified the vendor's right to harvest all crops growing on the property (CC, DR 188:301). This suggests that the 86 acres were under cultivation and possibly not being occupied during this period.

Summary: From 1854 until 1870, the Bruff Survey was owned by a resident of New York, during which time it possibly was unoccupied. Between 1870 and 1873, J. M. Dodson acquired 160 acres out of the Bruff Survey, of which he sold 60 acres to Adison Sharp and 100 acres to Hugh Evetts. Evidence suggests that Dodson made improvements to the property and might have been a resident. In 1873, Evetts conveyed the 100 acres to Allen P. Kelly who, in turn, immediately sold 20 acres to Adison Sharp, thereby creating an 80-acre parcel on which Sharp may have lived until 1884. From 1884 until 1888, W. T. Dodson owned the 80 acres and possibly lived there. From 1888 to 1898, J. P. Livingston owned the property and could have been in residence. From 1898 to 1945, the Stovall family owned the property; by 1939, L. A. Stovall appears to have improved the property and possibly lived there or on an adjacent tract, although he had moved from Bell County by the time he sold the property. From 1945 until 1953, the property appears to have been improved as part of a farm and used for cultivation, although the Botkin family appears to have been living on adjacent property.

Site 41CV554 (Tract 1433)

Site History: Site 41CV554 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1433, which encompassed 43 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV554 is located from 1838 until 1854, see 41CV178.

From 1854 until 1870, Dennis Perkins of New York New York owned the entire Bruff Survey, but then began selling portions of the property. In 1870, Perkins conveyed 160 acres, on which present-day 41CV554 is located, to J. M. Dodson of Coryell County for $400 (CC, DR F:238). In 1871, Dodson paid taxes on the 160 acres that were valued at $320. He also paid taxes on 8 horses worth $220, 29 cattle worth $150, and $20 in miscellaneous property (1871b). These values suggest that the property was improved, and that Dodson might have been living on and farming the property. In October of that year, Dodson and his wife, M. J. Dodson, conveyed a 60-acre parcel to Adison Sharp of Coryell County for $240; and in April 1873, Dodson conveyed 100 acres, on which present-day 41CV554 is located, to Hugh Evetts of Coryell County for $1,000 (CC, DR I:57; G:330).

On December 20, 1873, Evetts conveyed the 100 acres to Allen P. Kelly of Coryell County for $1,000 (CC, DR H:534). The same day, Kelly conveyed 20 acres out of that property, on which present-day 41CV554 is located, to Adison Sharp for $698 (CC, DR R:433). This 20-acre parcel was adjacent to the 60-acre parcel that Sharp had purchased in 1871, thus making a combined 80-acre parcel out of the Bruff Survey on which present-day 41CV554 is located. In 1876, Sharp paid taxes on the 80 acres that were valued at $320. He also paid taxes on 22 horses or mules worth $246, 18 cattle worth $90, 18 goats or hogs worth $18, $400 in instruments or tools, and $35 in miscellaneous property (1876b). These values suggest that Sharp continued to improve the property and probably had a farm there.

Sharp retained the 80 acres until 1884 when he and his wife, M. F. Sharp, along with R. J. Shelton of LaSalle County, conveyed the property to W. T. Dodson of Coryell County for $800 (CC, DR U:391). That year, Dodson paid taxes on a total of 195 acres in the Bruff Survey that were valued at $1,000 (1884b). This value suggests that the property still was improved, and that Dodson might have been in residence. In 1888, Dodson and his wife, L. J. Dodson, conveyed the 80 acres to J. P. Livingston of

Coryell County in consideration of $800 (CC, DR 3:362). In 1898, Livingston along with William Taylor and his wife, Annette, conveyed the 80 acres to W. H. Stovall for $1,300 (CC, DR 26:504).

Stovall retained ownership of the 80 acres until 1914. In that year, he conveyed to his wife, Mary C. Stovall, five tracts of land including the 80 acres for her own separate estate in consideration of $1. The conveyance also included two horses and a mule (CC, DR 61:477). By 1937, both W. H. and Mary Stovall were dead, and their estate was partitioned. In that partitioning, Stovall heir, O. C. Stovall, was awarded Tract No. 3, which was 43 acres in the Bruff Survey where present-day 41CV554 is located (CC, DC Civil Minutes M:187–192).

In 1938, O. C. Stovall and his wife, Delia, of Coryell County conveyed the 43 acres to Roy Evetts of Coryell County for $900 in notes (CC, DR 129:452). Evetts and his wife, Ruby, retained the 43 acres until 1954. On February 10, 1954, in consideration of $10, they signed a quitclaim deed to O. C. Stovall and his wife, the people from whom they had purchased the property previously (CC, DR 190:299). This quitclaim appears to have been made to clear the title for acquisition, 2 days prior, on February 8, 1954, Stovall had conveyed present-day Tract 1433 consisting of the 43 acres to the United States government for $4,335. Stovall, as vendor, reserved the right to remove the following improvements: a dwelling with a porch, smokehouse, windmill, barn, and feed house (CC, DR 189:527).

Summary: From 1854 until 1870, the Bruff Survey was owned by a resident of New York, during which time it possibly was unoccupied. Between 1870 and 1873, J. M. Dodson acquired 160 acres out of the Bruff Survey, of which he sold 60 acres to Adison Sharp and 100 acres to Hugh Evetts. Evidence suggests that Dodson made improvements to the property and might have been a resident. In 1873, Evetts conveyed the 100 acres to Allen P. Kelly who in turn immediately sold 20 acres to Adison Sharp, thus creating an 80-acre parcel on which Sharp may have lived until 1884. From 1884 until 1888, W. T. Dodson owned the 80 acres and possibly lived there. From 1888 to 1898, J. P. Livingston owned the property; and from 1898 to 1938, the Stovall family owned the property; either of these families could have been in residence. By 1938, O. C. Stovall owned 43 acres, which he conveyed to the government in 1954. However, also during that period, Roy Evetts had attempted to purchase the property, but possibly did not pay the notes on the land. Improvements present on the property indicate that probably Stovall or Evetts was in occupation and farming the property.

Site 41CV556 (Tract 1434)

Site History: Site 41CV556 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1434, which encompassed 86 acres in the Bruff Survey and contained two sites, 41CV553 and 41CV556.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV556 is located from 1838 until 1854, see 41CV178.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV556 is located from 1854 to 1937, see 41CV554.

In the 1937 partitioning of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, their son G. W. Stovall was awarded Tract 1, which consisted of 43 acres in the southeast corner of the Bruff Survey where present-day 41CV556 is located (CC, DC Civil Minutes M:187–192). That year, G. W. Stovall paid taxes on the 43 acres that were valued at $400, as well as $160 in personal property (1937b). These values suggest that the property was improved, and that Stovall might have been in occupation. The next year, Stovall and his wife, Buelah, of Coryell County, conveyed the 43 acres to his brother, L. A. Stovall of Coryell County. The conveyance was made in consideration of $1,000 to take the form of 160 acres out of the Carper Survey known as the Samuel Dodson place, plus an additional 5 acres out of the Young Survey (CC, DR 129:450).

For a legal history of the property on which 41CV556 is located from 1938 until acquisition by the government in 1953, see 41CV553.

Summary: From 1854 until 1870, the Bruff Survey was owned by a resident of New York, during which time it possibly was unoccupied. Between 1870 and 1873, J. M. Dodson acquired 160 acres out of the Bruff Survey, of which he sold 60 acres to Adison Sharp and 100 acres to Hugh Evetts. Evidence suggests that Dodson made improvements to the property and might

have been a resident. In 1873, Evetts conveyed the 100 acres to Allen P. Kelly who, in turn, immediately sold 20 acres to Adison Sharp, thus creating an 80-acre parcel on which Sharp may have lived until 1884. From 1884 until 1888, W. T. Dodson owned the 80 acres and possibly lived there. From 1888 to 1898, J. P. Livingston owned the property and could have been in residence. From 1898 to 1945, the Stovall family owned the property. By 1937, G. W. Stovall appears to have improved the property and might have lived there. From 1945 until 1953, the property appears to have been improved as part of a farm and used for cultivation, although the Botkin family appears to have been living on adjacent property.

Site 41CV561 (Tract 1417)

Site History: Site 41CV561 is located in the northeastern portion of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 199 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41CV561 and 41CV563.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV561 is located from 1838 until 1910, when J. D. Brown Jr. owned 685.1 acres in the northeastern portion of the Bruff Survey, see the site history for 41CV178.

Brown sold a 40.7-acre parcel out of the northeast portion of the Bruff Survey to T. A. Botkin for $400 in June 1911 (CC, DR 59:451), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Site 41CV561 is located on the southern part of this 40.7-acre parcel. Botkin acquired other land in the vicinity and probably lived there until his death in 1942, when ownership transferred to his widow, Belle, and their six children (CC, DR 177:574).

On January 28, 1954, Belle Botkin and her six children sold 199 acres to the U.S. government for $14,530 and the right to remove certain structures, including two tenant houses, two windmills, two chicken houses, a smokehouse, two barns, and two feed houses (CC, DR 190:228). When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1417, it encompassed land in the Samuel Bruff, John Allen, and George Walden Surveys, and contained two sites, 41CV561 (Bruff Survey) and 41CV563 (Allen Survey).

Summary: From 1854 until 1910, the part of the Bruff Survey where 41CV562 is located was owned by Dennis Perkins, a resident of New York, or his heirs. The most likely initial occupant of the property where 41CV561 is located is T. A. Botkin, who purchased 40.7 acres in the northeastern portion of the Bruff Survey in 1911. Site 41CV561 is located on the southern part of this 40.7-acre parcel.

Botkin and his family owned and probably occupied the property until his death in 1942; his widow and heirs continued to own the property until 1954, when they sold it to the government. The structure reservation contained in that conveyance suggests occupancy by tenants.

Site 41CV562 (Tract 1416)

Site History: Site 41CV562 is located in the northeastern portion of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it encompassed 256.77 acres in four surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV562 is located from 1838 until 1910, when J. D. Brown Jr. owned 685.1 acres in the northeastern portion of the Bruff Survey, see the site history for 41CV178.

Brown sold a 40.7-acre parcel out of the northeast portion of the Bruff Survey to T. A. Botkin for $400 in June 1911 (CC, DR 59:451), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Botkin already owned adjacent land, and in July 1912, he and his wife, Belle, sold a 72-acre parcel that included approximately 9 acres off the north end of the 40.7-acre parcel to Cora Encwailer for $1,000 (CC, DR 54:464), a price indicating the presence of improvements. Site 41CV562 is located on the 9-acre Bruff Survey portion of the 72 acres. Encwailer apparently had a reversal of some sort, because less than 1 month later, she conveyed the 72 acres back to the Botkins for the same price (CC, DR 50:398).

In October 1917, the Botkins conveyed the 72-acre parcel to one of their sons, V. A. Botkin, for $1,200 in cash and notes (CC, DR 82:328). V. A. Botkin and his wife, O. L., sold the 72 acres to J. R. Thompson for $1,800 in September 1924 (CC, DR 102:329). Thompson and his wife conveyed the 72-acre parcel to R. F. Johnston for the cancellation of an unspecified amount of debt in December 1931 (CC, DR 128:343). In

February 1938, Johnston and his wife, Ida, conveyed the 72 acres to Roy Botkin for $500 in cash and notes (CC, DR 132:315).

Botkin farmed and probably occupied the 72 acres, along with other land that he bought or inherited, until 1953, when he and his wife, Lorita, sold 256.77 acres to the U.S. government for $16,810 and the right to remove several structures, including a dwelling with a porch, smokehouse, garage, windmill and tank, tool house, machine shed, duck house, cow shed, and chicken house (CC, DR 189:293). When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1416, it encompassed land in the Samuel Bruff, John Allen, George Walden, and John Williams Surveys and contained one site in the Bruff Survey. Since 41CV562 apparently is the only site located on the tract, the improvements probably can be associated with that site.

Summary: From 1854 until 1910, the part of the Bruff Survey where 41CV562 is located, was owned by Dennis Perkins, a resident of New York, or his heirs. The most likely initial occupant of the property where 41CV562 is located is T. A. Botkin, who owned and may have occupied the land between 1911 and 1917, with one brief hiatus.

In transactions that occurred between 1917 and 1938, escalating purchase prices suggest the presence of improvements. Owners during this period included V. A. Botkin, J. R. Thompson, R. F. Johnston, and Roy Botkin.

Roy Botkin and his wife, Lorita, appear to have farmed and occupied land that included the property where 41CV562 is located between 1938 and 1953, when they sold 256.77 acres to the government. The property, identified as Tract 1416, encompassed land in four surveys and contained one site. The purchase price and structure reservation suggest that the property was improved at the time of government acquisition.

Site 41CV563 (Tract 1417)

Site History: Site 41CV563 is located in the south-central portion of the 160-acre John Y. Allen Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1417 which encompassed 199 acres in three surveys and contained two sites, 41CV561 and 41CV563.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV563 is located from 1872 until the mid-1880s, when Jesse Dodson owned the 160-acre Allen Survey, see the site history for 41CV400.

Ad valorem tax records suggest that Dodson owned the property as late as 1892, and that he farmed the land and may have the lived there (1882b, 1887b, 1892b). However, because he also owned other land that had a higher assessed value, it is difficult to ascertain the nature of his use and occupation of the Allen Survey.

There is a break in the chain of title between Dodson and T. A. Botkin or any intervening third party. However, by 1900, ad valorem tax records indicate that Botkin owned the property in the Allen Survey where 41CV563 is located, that he farmed the property, and that he probably lived there (1900b, 1905b).

Botkin acquired other land in the vicinity and probably lived there until his death in 1942, when ownership transferred to his widow, Belle, and their six children (CC, DR 177:574).

On January 28, 1954, Belle Botkin and her six children sold 199 acres to the U.S. government for $14,530 and the right to remove certain structures, including two tenant houses, two windmills, two chicken houses, a smokehouse, two barns, and two feed houses (CC, DR 190:228). When the government acquired the property, identified as Tract 1417, it encompassed land in the Samuel Bruff, John Allen, and George Walden Surveys, and contained two sites, 41CV561 (Bruff Survey) and 41CV563 (Allen Survey).

Summary: The 160-acre John Y. Allen Survey, where 41CV563 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1872, when Allen swore that he had settled on the land. L. K. Henderson, to whom Allen had assigned the claim, also swore occupancy in the early-1880s. It is uncertain, however, if this early occupancy can be associated with site 41CV563.

Jesse Dodson owned the 160-acre Allen Survey for a number of years between the mid-1880s and ca. 1900. Tax records suggest that he farmed the property and may have lived there. T. A. Botkin and his family farmed and probably occupied approximately 200 acres including the land where 41CV561 and 41CV563 are located from about 1900 until 1942, when he died. His widow and heirs continued to own the 199-acre parcel, identified as Tract 1417, until 1954, when they sold the property to the government. The purchase price and structure reservation

indicate that the property was improved, but suggest tenant occupancy.

Site 41CV664 (Tract 1441)

Site History: Site 41CV664 is located in the northwestern quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. When the property was acquired in 1953, the site was located on Tract 1441, which encompassed 45 acres out of the Carper Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV664 is located from 1838 to 1937, see 41CV351.

In the 1937 partition of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, their daughter, Willie Jean Quick, was awarded Tract 7, which consisted of 45 acres out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV664 is located (CC, DC Civil Minutes M:187–192). That year, Quick's husband, Jack, paid taxes on the 45 acres that were valued at $700, as well as $120 in personal property (1937b). These values suggest that the property was heavily improved, and that the Quicks might have been in occupation.

In 1947, for love and affection, Jack Quick conveyed to his wife, Willie Jean Quick, two 45-acre tracts out of the Carper Survey. One was Tract No. 7 of the Stovall Estate that Willie Jean originally had inherited from her father, where present-day 41CV664 is located. The other property was Tract No. 6 of the Stovall Estate, where present-day 41CV362 and 41CV365 are located. Jack Quick also gave his wife rights to all his other lands, livestock, and possessions (CC, DR 159:495). That year, Jack Quick paid taxes on 90 acres in the Carper Survey that were valued at $700, along with $450 in personal property. The property also was designated as a homestead (1947b). These values and the designation suggest that, although the property had declined in value, it still was improved and occupied by the Quick family.

Jack Quick died on August 17, 1949, and his widow remarried at some point after 1950 (CC, DR 176:581). On December 11, 1953, Willie Jean Cox and her husband, N. J. Cox, conveyed 45 acres out of the Carper Survey to the U.S. government for $3,310. This property was the same as Tract No. 7 of the Stovall Estate partition and contained the location of present-day 41CV664. The vendor retained the right to remove a barn, tool house, chicken house, toilet, and windmill (CC, DR 190:310). The reservation suggests that the 45 acres were improved as part of a farm, but that the primary residence was located on other property; it may have been associated with either present-day 41CV362 or 41CV365.

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere, and the property apparently remained unimproved. A. W. and/or J. P. Dunn appear to have improved the property by 1874 and could have been the initial residents. The property remained in the ownership of the Dunn heirs until 1905, during which time members of the family might have been residents. A Michigan bank owned the property briefly in 1905, during which time it probably was not occupied. From 1905 until 1937, the property was owned by W. H. Stovall or was part of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, and members of the family might have been in occupation. From 1937 until 1953, Stovall heir Willie Jean Quick, later Cox, owned the property. It appears to have been improved as part of a farm, but the primary residence was probably on adjacent property.

Site 41CV665 (Tract 1443)

Site History: Site 41CV665 is located in the northwest quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1443, which encompassed 45 acres in the Carper Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV665 is located from 1838 until 1937, see 41CV351.

In the 1937 partition of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, their son, L. A. Stovall, was awarded Tract No. 5, which consisted of 45 acres in the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV665 is located (CC, DC Civil Minutes M:187–192). The next year, Stovall conveyed the 45 acres to his nieces, Watie Bell Little and Middie Pearl Hardin, for $1,000 (CC, DR 129:206). That year, Hardin's husband, J. A. Hardin, paid taxes on the 45 acres that were valued at $600 (1938b). This value suggests that the property was improved and that the Hardins might have been living there.

In 1941, Little and her husband, W. A. Little

of Ector County, conveyed their undivided half interest in the 45 acres to Hardin for $500 in cash and notes (CC, DR 137:290). On March 8, 1954, Pearl Hardin Williams conveyed the 45 acres to the government for $3,525 as part of Civil Action Suit #1510 (CC, DR 189:546). The 45 acres was the same property as Tract No. 5 of the Stovall Estate partition where present-day 41CV665 is located.

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere, and the property apparently remained unimproved. A. W. and/or J. P. Dunn appear to have improved the property by 1874, and could have been the initial residents. The property remained in the ownership of Dunn heirs until 1905, and members of the family might have been residents. A Michigan bank owned the property briefly in 1905, during which it probably was not occupied. From 1905 until 1938, the property was owned by W. H. Stovall or was part of the W. H. and Mary C. Stovall Estate, and members of the family might have been in occupation. From 1938 until acquisition by the government in 1954, Stovall heirs owned the property and possibly lived there.

Site 41CV666 (Tract 1448)

Site History: Site 41CV666 is located in the north-central portion of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1448, which encompassed 110.46 acres in the Carper and Samuel Cash Surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV666 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV351.

For the legal history of the 209 acres where 41CV666 is located from 1872 until 1879, see 41CV898.

For the legal history of the 209 acres where 41CV666 is located from 1879, when J. P. Dunn owned the land, until 1891, when the 209 acres and other land were sold to E. A. Kincaid, see 41CV351.

For the legal history of the 247 acres where 41CV666 is located from 1892 until 1899, see 41CV691.

Until 1905, J. A. Walker owned the property on which present-day 41CV666 and 41CV691 are located. On March 20, 1905, Walker, a resident of Brown County, along with his stepfather, A. W. Dunn of Coryell County, conveyed a 105.8-acre tract out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV666 and 41CV691 are located to J. B. Barr of Coryell County for $1,587 in cash and notes (CC, DR 54:243). The next year, Barr paid taxes on the 105 acres that were valued at $650, as well as two other improved tracts. He also paid taxes on two horses or mules worth $100, three cattle worth $20, and $80 in miscellaneous property (1906b). These values suggest that as the most heavily improved of the three properties, Barr might have been living on the 105 acres on which 41CV666 is located and farming.

Barr heirs retained ownership of the property until 1943. At that time, John Barr along with Mrs. Susan Barr, widow of J. B. Barr and resident of Coryell County, conveyed the 105.8 acres to T. L. Walker of Coryell County for $2,800 in cash and notes. John Barr also swore that the property was not his homestead, and that he lived with his family in Waco (CC, DR 146:360). This suggests that the property could have been leased to tenants, been occupied by other Barr heirs, or was uninhabited.

On December 16, 1953, Walker and his wife, Clara Irene, conveyed 110.46 acres (present-day Tract 1448) out of the Cash and Carper Surveys where 41CV666 is located to the U.S. government for $11,525. The vendor reserved the right to remove the following improvements: a dwelling with a porch, a smokehouse, tool shed, windmill and tank, corn shed, and barn (CC, DR 188:631). The next year, an affidavit was filed that stated that the 110.46 acres had been fenced, grazed, and cultivated by Walker for the previous 25 years (CC, DR 188:629). This information suggests that the Walkers were in residence on the property and were farming it while they owned it; it also suggests that they may have been tenants-in-residence during part of the time the property was owned by the Barr family.

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere, and the property apparently remained unimproved. John Owens (1872–1873) appears to have improved the property and to have been in residence. W. J. Graham (1873–1879) might have lived there as welL. J. P. Dunn owned and might have lived on the property until his death in 1883, after which his heirs retained ownership

until 1891 and occupation status remains unclear. E. A. Kincaid (1891–1895) owned the property and might have lived there. E. B. Lockhart (1895–1897) might have been in occupation initially, but he had moved from Coryell County by the time that he sold the property. From 1897 to 1905, non-resident members of the Dunn family owned the property. The Barr family (1905–1943) owned the property, apparently improved it further, and probably lived and farmed there. However, subsequent Barr heirs apparently lived elsewhere. There are some indications that T. L. Walker might have been a tenant prior to his own purchase of the property (1943–1953). The Walkers apparently lived on and farmed the property.

Site 41CV670 (Tract 1436)

Site History: Site 41CV670 is located in the northeast portion of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1436, which encompassed 257.5 acres in two surveys and contained five sites: 41CV364, 41CV670, 41CV671, 41CV672, and 41CV673.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV364 is located from 1837 until 1936, when the heirs of T. S. Tippit partitioned the land in the Tippit Estate, see the site history for 41CV345. Mrs. E. J. Tippit, widow of T. S. Tippit, acquired a 40-acre parcel, along with other land in the Cooper Survey, in the partition (CC, DR 125:596). Sites 41CV670 and 41CV672 are located on the 40-acre parcel, which is described as the Tippit homestead in the partition.

Tippit continued to own the 40 acres until her death in June 1950 (CC, PR Y:316). Pursuant to instructions contained in E. J. Tippit's will, Fay Shelton, executrix for the Tippit Estate, sold the 40-acre parcel to M. L. Tippit, a son, for $3,500 in cash and notes (CC, DR 175:186). M. L. Tippit added the 40-acre parcel to his holdings in the area; in 1953, he and his wife, Alta, sold 257.5 acres that included the 40-acre parcel where 41CV670 and 41CV672 are located to the U.S. government for $19,555 and the right to remove 19 structures, including 2 houses, barns, smokehouses, and related agricultural outbuildings (CC, DR 189:49). The property, identified as Tract 1436, encompassed land in the Joseph Cooper and G. S. Dodson Surveys and contained five sites: 41CV364, 41CV670, 41CV671, 41CV672, and 41CV673.

Summary: Early owners of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey apparently did not live in Coryell County. J. A. Wylie purchased 1,120 acres in the survey in 1884, and ad valorem tax records suggest occupation. However, the location of his residence and other improvements is not clear. Use and occupancy from 1890 until 1905, when Nick Buck owned the property, also are uncertain.

In 1905, T. S. Tippit purchased 800 acres in the survey and may have lived there until his death in the mid-1930s. His heirs partitioned the property in 1936, and his widow, Mrs. E. J. Tippit, got the 40-acre parcel where 41CV670 and 41CV672 are located. The executrix of E. J. Tippit's estate sold the 40 acres to M. L. Tippit in 1950. M. L. Tippit and his wife owned the property, along with other land, until 1953, when they sold 257.5 acres in two surveys, identified as Tract 1436, to the government. The purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved.

Site 41CV671 (Tract 1436)

Site History: Site 41CV671 is located in the south-central portion of the 160-acre G. S. Dobson Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1436, which encompassed 257.5 acres in two surveys and contained five sites: 41CV364, 41CV670, 41CV671, 41CV672, and 41CV673.

On October 2, 1872, G. S. Dodson swore that he was a bona fide settler on 160 acres of vacant public land in Coryell County. In July 1873, J. P. Key, Coryell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Dodson's property as 160 acres on the Waters of Owl Creek. B. F. Dodson and W. S. Glass assisted as chainmen. Dodson sold his claim to the 160-acre parcel to J. E. Williams for $499 in cash and notes in November 1874. Williams and his wife conveyed the 160-acre claim to Wesley Scott in February 1877, for $500. In December 1880, Scott swore that he was a bona fide settler on the 160-acre parcel, that he and his assignors had occupied and improved the property as a homestead for 3 consecutive years, and that he had no other homestead. On May 30, 1882, the State of Texas patented the

160 acres to Scott (Texas. General Land Office 1882b). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Scott farmed the property and that he probably lived there (1877b, 1880b).

Scott and his wife, Dory, sold the 160-acre Dodson Survey to Adison Sharp for $250 in July 1880 (CC, DR R:434), although the instrument was not recorded until 1883. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Sharp farmed the property and may have lived there (1882b), however, the location of the improvements is uncertain.

Sharp and his wife, Mary, conveyed 120 acres that included the land where 41CV671 and 41CV678 are located to A. C. Thompson for $150 in January 1883 (CC, DR R:320). Less than 3 months later, Thompson and his wife, N. J., sold the 120-acre parcel to W. H. Partin for $200 in cash and notes (CC, DR 12:364). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Partin and his family farmed the property and probably lived there for a number of years (1884b, 1889b). However, the location of their improvements remains uncertain.

Partin apparently died about the turn of the century, and in November 1901, his widow and children sold the 120-acre parcel where 41CV671 and 41CV678 are located to J. A. Galloway for about $575 (CC, DR 29:1; 31:480), a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

In 1911, Galloway and his wife, M. S., conveyed 6 acres in the south-central portion of the Dodson Survey to T. S. Tippit for $72 (CC, DR 82:151), a price that suggests that the property was either unimproved or that the improvements were minimal. Site 41CV671 is located on this 6-acre parcel. Tippit added the 6-acre parcel to his holdings in the vicinity and owned the property until his death. His heirs partitioned the land in 1936, and E. I. Tippit, a son, received the 6-acre parcel where 41CV671 is located (CC, DR 127:450), along with other land.

In July 1946, E. I. Tippit sold about 180 acres that included the 6-acre parcel where 41CV671 is located to his brother, M. L. Tippit, for $2,635 in cash and notes (CC, DR 156:170). For the remainder of the legal history of the 6 acres where 41CV671 is located, see the site history for 41CV364.

Summary: The G. S. Dodson Survey, where 41CV671 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1872, when Dodson swore that he had settled on the 160-acre survey. Wesley Scott also swore that he occupied and improved the property in the late 1870s and early 1880s, and tax records suggest that he farmed the property. Land and tax records suggest that Adison Sharp also may have occupied the property between 1880 and 1883. However, the location of the improvements remains uncertain.

W. H. Partin and his family appear to have farmed and occupied 120 acres in the Dodson Survey from 1883 until 1900, although it is unclear if their improvements can be associated with the 6 acres where 41CV671 is located. T. S. Tippit purchased the 6 acres in 1911 for a price that suggests that the property was either unimproved or that the improvements were minimal.

M. L. Tippit owned the property from 1946 until 1953, when he and his wife sold 257.5 acres, identified as Tract 1436, to the government. The price and structure reservation indicates that the property was improved, but it is not clear if any of the improvements were associated with 41CV671.

Site 41CV672 (Tract 1436)

Site History: Site 41CV672 is located in the northeast portion of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1436, which encompassed 257.5 acres in two surveys and contained five sites, 41CV364, 41CV670, 41CV671, 41CV672, and 41CV673.

For the legal history of 41CV672, see the site history for 41CV670.

Summary: Site 41CV672 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as site 41CV670 and most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV673 (Tract 1436)

Site History: Site 41CV673 is located in the northeast portion of the 1,280-acre Joseph Cooper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1436, which encompassed 257.5 acres in two surveys and contained five sites, 41CV364, 41CV670, 41CV671, 41CV672, and 41CV673.

For the legal history of the land on which

41CV673 is located, see the site history for 41CV364.

Summary: Site 41CV673 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41CV364 and most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV674 (Tract 1414)

Site History: Site 41CV674 is located in the southern portion of the 148-acre R. E. Peeler Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1414, which encompassed 335 acres in three surveys and contained four sites: 41CV674, 41CV675, 41CV676, and 41CV678.

In November 1872, R. E. Peeler swore that he was a bona fide settler on 148 acres of vacant public land in Coryell County. That same month, George Motz, Coryell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Peeler's property as 148 acres on the waters of Owl Creek about 11 miles southeast of Gatesville. Peeler and his wife, T. S., sold their claim to C. Coalson for $200 in April 1873. In September 1876, Coalson swore that he was a bona fide settler on Peeler's 148 acres, that he and his predecessor in title, R. E. Peeler, had occupied and improved the property as a homestead for 3 years beginning in November 1872, and that he was the head of a family. S. G. and W. H. Dodson corroborated these facts. On April 5, 1877, the State of Texas patented the 148-acre parcel to Coalson, assignee of R. E. Peeler (Texas. General Land Office 1877a).

Even though both Peeler and Coalson swore that they occupied the property, their use and occupancy remain uncertain. Ad valorem tax records in 1872 and 1874 suggest that Peeler was assessed for four cows, but the county classified the land itself as unrendered. Coalson also was assessed for animals typically associated with a small farm operation, but the county continued to show the property as unrendered (1875b). In 1877 and 1878, neither individual was assessed for any personal property, and the 160-acre Peeler Survey continued to be carried on the county's unrendered tax roll.

In February 1878, C. Coalson sold the 148 acres to Dunn, Pruit & Co. for $400 (CC, DR 8:37), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The company owned the property until 1883–1884, when ownership was consolidated in one of the partners, J. M. Pruit (CC, DR V:163–164). Use and occupancy during this time is uncertain (1883b, 1886b).

Pruit conveyed the 148-acre parcel to J. H. James for $150 in March 1886 (CC, DR 8:35), a price that suggests that the property was either slightly improved or unimproved. James owned the property for several years, and ad valorem tax records indicate that he improved the land and probably lived there (1887b, 1890b). James and his family are the most likely initial occupants of the 148-acre parcel where 41CV674, 41CV675, and 41CV676 are located.

James and his wife, M. E., sold the 148 acres to W. A. Taylor for $600 in September 1890 (CC, DR 8:34), a price that appears to reflect the Jameses' improvements. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Taylor farmed 148 acres, further improved the property, and probably lived on land (1891b, 1894b).

Taylor and his wife, L. A., conveyed the property to J. H. Parrish for $900 in cash and notes in December 1895 (CC, DR 18:115), suggesting that the property had sustained additional improvements. There is a break in the chain of title between Parrish and W. H. Maddux. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Parrish owned the property in 1900, and Maddux was assessed for the 148 acres in 1902, but there is no conveyance between the two. Both parties farmed the property and may have lived there (1896b, 1900b, 1902b).

Maddux and his wife, E. C., sold the 148-acre parcel to J. A. Galloway for $865 in November 1904 (CC, DR 51:373), indicating the presence of improvements. Galloway owned the property, together with 154 acres he had acquired in 1901 (location of 41CV678) until 1938. Tax records suggest that he operated a farm on his land and probably lived there (1905b, 1910b, 1915b). However, because Galloway's land in both the Peeler and Dodson Surveys appears to have been improved; the location and nature of the improvements remains uncertain

Galloway apparently experienced financial difficulty, and in 1938, the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation foreclosed on a note from Galloway and purchased all of his property for $800. The land included the 148-acre Peeler Survey where the three sites are located (CC,

DR 130:480). In 1941, the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation sold 335 acres that included the 148-acre Peeler Survey, and a 154-acre parcel in the G. S. Dodson Survey where 41CV678 is located, to W. O. Lawson for $4,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 137:402), a price that suggests that the property was improved.

Between 1941 and 1954, the 335 acres were owned by Lawson (1941–1946), Thomas O. Carpenter (1946–1949), J. S. Jones (1949–1951), and P. R. Cox (1951–1954) (CC, DR 155:528; 171:318; 178:176). The purchase prices in these transactions rose from $4,000 to $10,000, indicating that the property was heavily improved.

On January 11, 1954, P. R. Cox and his wife, Mildred, sold 335 acres that included the 148-acre Peeler Survey where 41CV674, 41CV675, and 41CV676 are located, and the 154-acre parcel in the G. S. Dodson Survey where 41CV678 is located, to the U.S. government for $20,023 and the right to remove certain structures, included a dwelling, tenant house, garage, smokehouse, chicken houses, and barns. The property, identified as Tract 1414, encompassed land in the J. Y. Allen, G. S. Dodson, and the R. E. Peeler Surveys, and contained four sites: 41CV674, 41CV675, and 41CV676 in the Peeler Survey and 41CV678 in the Dodson Survey.

Summary: The 148-acre R. E. Peeler Survey, where 41CV674, 41CV675, and 41CV676 are located, may have been occupied as early as 1872, when Peeler swore that he lived on the property. In 1876, C. Coalson, patentee, swore that he had occupied and improved the 148 acres for 3 years. However, ad valorem tax records are inconclusive regarding occupancy by either party.

The most likely initial occupant of the 148-acre parcel is J. H. James, who owned the property between 1886 and 1890. Land and tax records suggest that he farmed the land and probably lived there. W. A. Taylor appears to have lived on the 148 acres between 1890 and 1895; and J. H. Parrish and W. H. Maddux owned and may have occupied the property between 1895 and 1904.

J. A. Galloway owned and apparently occupied 335 acres that included the 148-acre Peeler Survey between 1904 and 1938, when the property was foreclosed. The property sold several times between 1941 and 1954, and escalating purchase prices suggest ongoing improvement. Since three recorded sites (41CV674, 41CV675, and 41CV676), are located on the 148-acre Peeler Survey portion of the property, the increasing value may be associated, at least in part, with these sites.

The government purchased the 335 acres, Tract 1414, from P. R. Cox and his wife, Mildred, in 1954, at which time the purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was substantially improved

Site 41CV675 (Tract 1414)

Site History: Site 41CV675 is located in the southern portion of the 148-acre R. E. Peeler Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1414, which encompassed 335 acres in three surveys and contained four sites: 41CV674, 41CV675, 41CV676, and 41CV678.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV675 is located, see the site history for 41CV674.

Summary: Site 41CV675 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41CV674 and 41CV676; it most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV676 (Tract 1414)

Site History: Site 41CV676 is located in the central portion of the 148-acre R. E. Peeler Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1414, which encompassed 335 acres in three surveys and contained four sites: 41CV674, 41CV675, 41CV676, and 41CV678.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV676 is located, see the site history for 41CV674.

Summary: Site 41CV676 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41CV674 and 41CV675; it most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV678 (Tract 1436)

Site History: Site 41CV678 is located in the north-central portion of the 160-acre G. S. Dodson Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1414, which encompassed 335 acres in three surveys and contained four sites: 41CV674, 41CV675, 41CV676, and 41CV678.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV678 is located from 1872 until 1901, when J. A. Galloway acquired a 120-acre parcel in the G. S. Dodson Survey, see the site history for 41CV671. Galloway also had acquired the other land in the Dodson Survey and 33 acres in the west-adjacent Allen Survey by 1901.

For the legal history of the 154-acre parcel in the G. S. Dodson Survey where 41CV678 is located from 1901 until 1954, when P. R. Cox and his wife sold 335 acres, identified as Tract 1414, to the U.S. government, see the site history for 41CV674.

Summary: The G. S. Dodson Survey, where 41CV678 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1872, when Dodson swore that he had settled on the 160-acre survey. Wesley Scott also swore that he occupied and improved the property in the late 1870s and early 1880s, and tax records suggest that he farmed the property. Land and tax records suggest that Adison Sharp also may have occupied the property between 1880 and 1883. However, the location of the improvements remains uncertain.

W. H. Partin and his family appear to have farmed and occupied 120 acres in the Dodson Survey from 1883 until 1900, and it appears that their improvements can be associated with site 41CV678.

J. A. Galloway acquired the 120-acre parcel in the Dodson Survey where 41CV678 is located in 1901. By 1904, Galloway also had acquired other land in the area, expanding his farming operation to include 335 acres in three surveys that contained four recorded sites: 41CV674, 41CV675, 41CV676, and 41CV678. Galloway owned and probably occupied the 335 acres until 1938, when the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation foreclosed on the property. The property sold several times between 1941 and 1954, and escalating purchase prices suggest ongoing improvements.

The government purchased the 335 acres, identified as Tract 1414, from P. R. Cox and his wife, Mildred, in 1954. The purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was substantially improved.

Site 41CV688 (Tract 1413)

Site History: Site 41CV688 is located in the western portion of the S. R. Tippit Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1413, which encompassed 102 acres in two surveys and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV688 is located from 1874 until 1888, when A. H. Lockhart owned the 136-acre S. R. Tippit Survey, see the site history for 41CV155.

Lockhart sold the western 40 acres of the Tippit Survey to H. H. Kendrick for $100 in July 1888 (CC, DR 4:582), a price that might suggest the presence of improvements. Site 41CV688 is located on this 40-acre parcel, but Kendrick's use and occupancy of the property remain uncertain (1889b–1890b). In 1893, Kendrick and his wife, Mary, conveyed the 40-acre parcel to W. C. Stephens for $100 (CC, DR 12:287). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Stephens farmed the property and that he probably lived there (1894b, 1899b). Stephens probably is the initial occupant of the 40 acres where 41CV688 is located.

Stephens and his wife, E. L., sold the 40 acres to J. B. Barr for $200 in December 1899 (CC, DR 26:264), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Tax records indicate that Barr farmed the land and that he may have lived there (1900b–1901b, 1905b). However, because Barr later acquired adjacent land, the nature of his improvements cannot be ascertained.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV688 is located from 1899 until 1939, when the Barr heirs partitioned the property, see the site history for 41CV155. In the partition of Barr's estate, Melissa Lofton, a daughter, got 160 acres that included the 40-acre parcel in the Tippit Survey where 41CV688 is located (CC, DR 132:13). On November 7, 1953, Lofton conveyed 102 acres, identified as Tract 1413, to the U.S. government for $4,825. When the government acquired Tract 1413, it encompassed land in the S. R. Tippit and B. F. Dodson Surveys, and contained one site.

Summary: The S. R. Tippit Survey, where 41CV688 is located, may have been occupied between 1874 and 1880 by S. R. Tippit. Land

and tax records suggest that F. M. Childress, assignee of Tippit, may have occupied the property between 1880 and 1886. W. C. Stephens, who purchased the eastern 40 acres of the Tippit Survey in 1893, most likely is the initial occupant of that parcel. Land and tax records indicate that Stephens farmed and resided on the property until 1899.

The J. B. Barr family owned the 40-acre parcel, along with other property, from 1899 until 1939. Barr operated a farm on his land, but because he owned other, adjacent property, the nature and locations of his improvements cannot be established. Melissa Lofton, a daughter of Barr, owned the 40 acres where 41CV688 is located from 1939 until 1953, when she sold 102 acres, identified as Tract 1413, to the government.

Site 41CV691 (Tract 1447)

Site History: Site 41CV691 is located north of Owl Creek in the central portion of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1447, which encompassed 151.4 acres out of the Carper Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property where site 41CV691 is located from 1838 to 1871, see 41CV351.

For the legal history of the 209 acres where site 41CV691 is located from 1872 to 1879, see 41CV898.

For the legal history of the 209 acres where site 41CV691 is located from 1879 to 1891, when E. A. Kincaid was the owner, see 41CV351.

In 1892, E. A. Kincaid and his wife, M. E. Kincaid, conveyed a 167-acre tract out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV691 and 41CV666 are located to E. B. Lockhart and his wife, L. B. Lockhart, for $1,336 (CC, DR 16:593). The next year, Lockhart paid taxes on the 167 acres that were valued at $500. He also paid taxes on one carriage or wagon worth $30, two horses or mules worth $30, and two cattle worth $10 (1893b). These values suggest that the property was improved and that Lockhart might have been in residence.

In 1897, Lockhart, then a resident of Bell County, conveyed the 167 acres (with a 24.17-acre exception) to Mrs. Caledonia Dunn of Bell County for $1,600 cash and notes (CC, DR 26:11). Mrs. Dunn had been widowed previously, and she died in December 1898. She was survived by a son from her first marriage, J. A. Walker; her second husband, A. W. Dunn; and their only daughter, Mrs. Rosa Lee Burton (CC, DR 137:121), who apparently inherited the 167 acres and additional property.

In 1899, Rosa Lee Burton and her husband, C. H. Burton of Reeves County, conveyed a total of 247 acres out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV691 and 41CV666 are located to her half brother, J. A. Walker, of Bell County. The conveyance was made in consideration of $10 and the assumption of four promissory notes (CC, DR 25:35). On November 14, 1905, Walker and his wife, M. E. Walker, now residents of Brown County, along with A. W. Dunn of Lampasas County, conveyed a 151.4-acre tract out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV691 is located to R. L. Whaley for $2,157 (CC, DR 43:587).

R. L. Whaley died in July 1942, and his wife, Manerva A. Whaley, died in January 1948. They left 7 children (and spouses) and 4 grandchildren (and spouses) as their heirs (CC, DR 162:82). In 1949, the 22 Whaley heirs (residents of Lynn, Cameron, Hamilton, Bastrop, McLennan, and Coryell Counties) conveyed the 151.4 acres to Johnnie McFarlin of Coryell County for $5,600 in cash and notes. The deed stipulated that improvements on the property be insured against loss by fire (CC, DR 170:562). Although the property apparently was improved, the McFarlin homestead was located on the Cooper Survey, which suggests that tenants might have been living on the property where present-day 41CV691 is located (CC, DR 177:312).

In 1951, McFarlin and his wife, Stella, conveyed the 151.4 acres to George Turner Jr. of Coryell County for $6,500 cash and notes. This deed also stipulated that improvements be insured against fire (CC, DR 177:31). On October 3, 1953, Turner and his wife, Maggie, conveyed the 151.4 acres to the U.S. government for $10,910. The vendors reserved the right to harvest all crops growing on the land and to remove the following improvements: a dwelling with two porches, a smokehouse, garage, toilet, chicken house, windmill and tank, water trough, feed house, and barn (CC, DR 189:1).

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere, and the property apparently remained unimproved.

John Owens (1872–1873) appears to have improved the property and to have been in residence. W. J. Graham (1873–1879) might have lived there as well. J. P. Dunn owned and possibly lived on the property until his death in 1883, and his heirs owned it until 1891, during which time residency status remains unclear. E. A. Kincaid (1891–1892) owned the property and might have lived there. E. B. Lockhart (1892–1897) might have been in occupation initially, but he had moved from Coryell County by the time he sold the property. From 1897 to 1905, non-resident members of the Dunn and Walker families owned the property. Members of the Whaley family (1905–1949) might have lived on the property. Johnnie McFarlin (1949–1951) lived elsewhere and might have had tenants in occupation. From 1951 until acquisition by the government in 1953, George Turner Jr. and his family apparently were in residence on and farming the property on which 41CV691 is located.

Site 41CV696 (Tract 1430)

Site History: Site 41CV696 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1430, which encompassed 155.3 acres and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV696 is located from 1838 until 1854, see 41CV178.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV696 is located from 1854 until 1871, see 41CV550.

The property on which present-day 41CV696 is located was owned by the Shelton family from 1871 until 1935 when the estate was partitioned among heirs (CC, DR 149:257). Tract No. 2 in the division of the N. H. Shelton Estate, consisting of 23.5 acres on which present-day 41CV696 is located, was conveyed by the Shelton heirs to Dick Shelton and Lydia (also spelled Liddie) Wolff in consideration of $10 (CC, DR 139:248). In 1942, Dick Shelton and his wife, Rozelle, conveyed a one-half interest in Tract No. 2 to Mrs. Effie Shelton for $150 (CC, DR 188:364). The deed specified that the grantee was entitled to rents and revenues from the land for 1942, which indicates that tenants were probably in occupation. In 1945, Effie Shelton and Lydia Wolff paid taxes on 23 acres in the Bruff Survey that were valued at $100. The property also was designated as a homestead (1945b). This suggests that members of the Shelton family, as well as tenants, were in occupation.

In October 1953, L. A. Shelton and his wife, Vonia, conveyed present-day Tract 1430, a total of 155.3 acres, to the United States government for $9,425 (CC, DR 189:132). The tract included the 23.5 acres on which present-day 41CV696 is located, although L. A. Shelton apparently did not have completely clear title to that parcel. A month after the property was acquired by the government, other Shelton heirs signed quitclaim deeds to L. A. Shelton for the 23.5 acres. It was noted that the quitclaim deeds were executed as correction deeds to correct the title on the tract (CC, DR 188:359–360). When Tract 1430 was acquired, L. A. Shelton reserved the right to harvest crops growing on the land and to remove the following improvements: two tenant houses, a smokehouse, two barns, a toilet, feed barn, chicken house, and storm cellar (CC, DR 189:132). This information indicates that Shelton may have had multiple tenants farming and living on the tract.

Summary: From 1854 until 1870, the Bruff Survey was owned by a resident of New York, during which time it possibly was unoccupied. From 1871 until 1935, the portion of the Bruff Survey on which present-day 41CV696 is located was owned by members of the Shelton family, and they might have been in residence. From 1935 until 1953, Shelton heirs continued to own the property on which present-day 41CV696 is located. Evidence suggests that Shelton family members and tenants might have been in occupation.

Site 41CV697 (Tract 1428)

Site History: Site 41CV697 is located in the southwestern quadrant of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1428, which encompassed 2 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV697 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV178.

For the legal history of the property on which

41CV697 is located from 1871 until 1877, see 41CV550.

N. H. Shelton of Coryell County owned a 246.5-acre tract out of the Bruff Survey. In 1877, he gave a 2-acre tract out of that property to S. B. Raby, Coryell County Judge, and his successors as the Dodson School Commissioners No. 36 for the benefit of a free public school (CC, DR J:671). Presumably, a school was operated on this property after 1877.

In 1954, the trustees for Dodson School Commissioners No. 36 conveyed the 2 acres on which present-day 41CV697 is located to the U.S. government in consideration of $105. The tract was conveyed as part of Civil Action 1481, No. 2, in which various owners conveyed a total of 3,629.5 acres. The 2-acre tract was identified as the Hubbard Cemetery. Friends and relatives of individuals interred in the cemetery retained visitation rights and the right to relocate burials under the rules of the commanding officer of Fort Hood (CC, DR 191:341).

Summary: Although there is evidence that N. H. Shelton had made improvements to his property in the Bruff Survey, it is unclear if any would be related to the 2-acre tract he donated for the location of the Dodson School. Presumably, at some point after 1877, a school was operated on the 2 acres. Apparently the Hubbard Cemetery and the Dodson School both were located on the 2 acres, either simultaneously or at different times.

Site 41CV720 (Tract 1450)

Site History: Site 41CV720 is located in the northeastern quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the property was acquired by the U.S. government, the site was located on Tract 1450, which encompassed 119.01 acres in the Carper Survey and contained two sites, 41CV720 and 41CV951.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV720 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV351.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV720 is located from 1872 until 1892, see 41CV1405.

In 1892, W. J. Collins owned a 400-acre tract in the Carper Survey on which 41CV720 and 41CV1405 are located. In 1897, Collins conveyed a portion of it, a 40-acre tract where present-day 41CV720 is located, to William W. Seaton (also spelled Seeton) for a $550 note (CC, DR 30:63). The next year, Seaton and his wife, Ida E., residents of Coryell County, conveyed the 40 acres to G. D. Brown of Coryell County for $600 cash and notes (CC, DR 24:466). In 1899, Brown paid taxes on the 40 acres that were valued at $160. He also paid taxes on two horses or mules worth $40, two cattle worth $15, one carriage or wagon worth $20, and $5 in miscellaneous property (1899b). These values suggest that the property was improved, Brown was probably living there, and he might have been farming.

In 1901, Brown and his wife, S. J., conveyed the 40 acres to J. R. Lee for $650 cash and notes (CC, DR 26:263). That year, Lee paid taxes on the 40 acres, now valued at $200. He also paid taxes on two horses or mules worth $40, a cow worth $10, seven hogs worth $10, two carriages or wagons worth $30, and $150 in the bank (1901b). These values suggest that Lee made additional improvements to the property and probably lived and farmed there.

By 1951, Lee was dead and his 10 heirs (residents of Coryell, Bell, and Harris Counties) conveyed two parcels of land out of the Carper Survey to James L. Stivers and his wife, Flora, for $6,000 cash and notes. The parcels consisted of the 40 acres where present-day 41CV720 is located and an 80.25-acre tract on which present-day 41CV951 is located, for a total of 120.25 acres (CC, DR 179:433). On October 10, 1953, James L. and Flora Stivers conveyed the 120.25 acres (less a 1.24-acre right of way) to the U.S. government for $10,120. The vendors reserved the right to harvest crops growing on the land and to remove the following improvements: a dwelling with two porches, pump house, water tank, chicken house, garage and tool house, tenant house with porch, store room, chicken shed, and windmill (CC, DR 189:13). These reservations suggest that the Stivers family, as well as tenants, were in occupation and farming the property.

Summary: From 1838 until 1872, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere and the property apparently remained unimproved. Owners Hugh Evetts (1872–1874) and members of the Pruit family (1874–1891) improved the property; Evetts could have been in occupation, but the status of the Pruit occupation remains unclear. Residence status remains unclear under the ownership of Sims, Mann, and Kirby (1891–

1892). Owner William J. Collins (1892–1897) could have been in occupation. The residency status of William W. Seaton (1897–1898) remains unclear. Owners G. D. Brown (1898–1901) and members of the Lee family (1901–1951) apparently improved the property, and farmed and lived there. The Stivers family (1951–1953) apparently was in occupation and farming, as were tenants.

Site 41CV723 (Tract 1304)

Site History: Site 41CV723 is located in the south-central portion of the 160-acre J. D. Blair Survey which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. Site 41CV723 is in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1304 which encompassed 396.6 acres in two surveys and contained three sites: 41CV723, 41BL527 and 41BL534.

In November 1872, Joel D. Blair swore that he had settled on 160 acres of vacant public land. Ten days later, George Motz, Coryell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing Blair's land as 160 acres on the waters of Cowhouse Creek about 17 miles southeast of Gatesville. In January 1877, Blair swore that he was a bona fide settler on the 160-acre parcel and that he had occupied and improved the land for 3 consecutive years beginning November 5, 1872. On February 13, 1879, the State of Texas patented the 160 acres to Blair (Texas.General Land Office 1879a).

Coryell County tax records indicate that Blair operated a small ranch and probably lived on the 160 acres until 1883, when he sold the land to Mrs. S. A. Methvin for $500 (BC DR 41:557), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. Three days later, Methvin conveyed the 160-acre parcel to the GC&SF for $725 (BC DR 41:559), further indicating that the property was improved.

The GC&SF sold the 160 acres to Henry J. Runge for $425 in February 1889 (BC DR 68:489). Runge owned the land for over 15 years, but his use and occupancy are unikely (1892b, 1902b). In 1906, Runge conveyed the property to the First National Bank of Galveston for $10 and other valuable considerations (BC DR 169:555). Use and occupation of the property during this period are unclear (1912b).

Between 1906, when Runge sold the property to the bank, and 1938, the 160 acres were owned by the bank (1906–1918 and 1920–1936), R. Waverley Smith (1918), and the First Loan and Investment (1918–1920), and Fred Catterall (1936–1938) (BC DR 253: 611; 295:104; 298:582; 463:391). The conveyances recited nominal considerations; and the use, occupancy, and status of improvements during this period is uncertain (1912b, 1922b, 1932b).

In December 1938, Catterall sold the 160-acre Blair Survey to Jim Bundrant for $625 in cash and notes (BC DR 467:318). Bundrant appears to have operated a ranch on the property together with land adjoining on the south (1942b). He and his wife, Minnie, conveyed their land to A. B. Carothers, Marvin Brister, and O. C. Lacewell for $11,000 in July 1948. However, because the property is the location of three sites (41CV723, 41BL527, and 41BL534), it is difficult to allocate proportional value to individual sites.

The U.S. government condemned 396.6 acres owned by Carothers, Brister, and Lacewell and their respective spouses for $19,100 on March 1, 1954 (BC DR 703:123). The property, identified as Tract 1304, encompassed land in the Obadiah Taylor Survey and all of the 160-acre Blair Survey, it contained three sites.

Summary: The 160-acre Joel D. Blair Survey may have been occupied as early as 1872, when Blair swore occupancy to satisfy pre-emption requirements. Between 1883, when Blair sold the property, and 1938, the Blair Survey passed through a series of owners who do not appear to have lived on the property. Owners from this period include Mrs. S. A. Methvin, the GC&SF, Henry J. Runge, First National Bank of Galveston, R. Waverley Smith, First Loan and Investment Co., and Fred Catterall.

Jim Bundrant owned the property between 1938 and 1948, and he may have occupied it. A. B. Carothers, Marvin Brister, and O. C. Lacewell owned the property from 1948 until 1954, when the U.S. government condemned their 396.6 acres for $19,100, a price that suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41CV725 (Tract 1338)

Site History: Site 41CV725 is located in the southeastern portion of the 640-acre John Dixon Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County

line. The site is located in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1338, which encompassed 640 acres in one survey and contained one site.

On March 11, 1882, the General Land Office issued a scrip certificate to John Dixon for having been wounded in the Civil War. The certificate (No. 1747) entitled Dixon to 1,280 acres of land. Within 6 months, the certificate had been transferred four times: Dixon to B. S. Johnson (March 28, 1882), Johnson to John R. Webb (March 31, 1882), Webb to B. N. Woodson (August 9, 1882), and Woodson to Branch T. Masterson (September 15, 1882). John W. Turner, Bell County Surveyor, filed field notes describing a 976-acre parcel for Dixon that was located 16 miles northwest of Belton on the waters of Cowhouse Creek. J. M. Everett and A. Williams assisted as chainmen. Turner later filed corrected field notes describing a 640-acre parcel. On August 15, 1885, the State of Texas patented the 640-acre parcel to Branch Masterson, assignee of John Dixon (Texas. General Land Office 1885c).

Masterson owned the property until 1887, when he sold it to A. J. Smith for $1,200 (CC, DR 2:173), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. The use and occupation of the property during this period are uncertain (1886b, 1888b). J. M. Lanham, Coryell County Sheriff, auctioned the property to B. Alexander for $20 in April 1888 to satisfy a McLennan County judgment against Smith (CC, DR 2:633). Masterson apparently got the property back from Alexander, although there is no recorded instrument reflecting this conveyance. In 1892, Coryell County assessed Masterson, a Galveston resident, for 586 acres (the northwesterly 586 acres of the Dixon Survey being in Coryell County, the southeasterly 54 acres being in Bell County). The assessment did not include any personal property.

In March 1899, Masterson sold 160 acres out of the 640-acre Dixon Survey to E. J. Bush for $435 (CC, DR 31:8), a price suggesting the presence of improvements. Site 41CV725 is located on this 160-acre parcel. Bush's use of the property is uncertain; Coryell County carried the 580 acres of the Dixon Survey situated in that county on the unrendered portion of its tax roll in 1892.

Bush sold the 160-acre parcel to R. S. and J. E. Alexander for $450 in cash and notes in May 1901 (CC, DR 24:579). In December of the following year, R. S. Alexander and his wife, Laura, conveyed the 160 acres to J. E. Alexander for $458 in cash and notes. In 1907, Alexander conveyed the property to Branch Masterson, still a resident of Galveston County for the assumption of debt and the cancellation of notes. The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements, but the use and occupation of the property during this period remain unclear (1902b, 1912b).

In 1918, Masterson gave the 640-acre Dixon Survey, including the 160 acres where 41CV725 is located, to his son, Thomas W. Masterson (CC, DR 81:144). The following year, Masterson, of Bexar County, sold the 640-acre Dixon Survey to S. E. Spruell for $640 in cash and notes (BC DR 341:528). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Spruell may have lived on the property (1922b). In October 1920, Spruell and his wife, Amanda, sold the 640 acres to T. N. Parks for $1,280 (BC DR 341:530), another indication that the property was improved.

T. N. Parks owned the property until his death in 1937. He never married, had no children, and was survived only by his brothers and sisters (CC, DR 134:605). Between 1940 and 1942, J. W. Parks, a brother of T. N., purchased the interests of the remaining heirs (BC DR 482:89, 393; 493:424). The purchase prices, ranging from $250 to $1,100 for a one-seventh interest, suggest the presence of improvements that probably can be associated with 41CV725.

On April 1, 1954, Parks and his wife, Lee B., sold the 640 acres to the U.S. government for $18,915 (CC, DR 190:404). The property, identified as Tract 1338, encompassed 640 acres in the John Dixon Survey and contained one site.

Summary: The 640-acre John Dixon Survey, where 41CV725 is located, may have been occupied as early as 1885, when the state patented the land to Branch Masterson. However, tax and land records indicate that Masterson was a resident of Galveston County. Use and occupation between 1899, when Masterson sold the land, and 1918 remain unclear. S. E. Spruell may have lived on the property in 1919.

T. N. Parks acquired the land in 1920 and may have lived there until his death in 1937. One of his brothers, J. W. Parks, purchased the interests of the remaining heirs between 1940

and 1942. In 1954, Parks and his wife, Lee B., sold the 640-acre Dixon Survey, where 41CV725 is located, to the government. The purchase price suggests that the property was improved at that time.

Site 41CV728 (Tract 1310)

Site History: Site 41CV728 is located on 100 acres in the 1,280-acre James W. Smith Survey, Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1310, which consisted of 100 acres in one survey. The site is located in the south-central portion of Tract 1310.

On May 2, 1839, the Washington County Board of Land Commissioners issued a second class certificate (No. 85) for 1,280 acres to James W. Smith. Subsequently, the same entity issued Certificate No. 514 to Angelina Smith, administratrix of Smith's estate, to replace the original. William Armstrong surveyed the property for James W. Smith on October 15, 1850. John Taylor and Thomas Kenzie assisted as chain carriers. The field notes described a survey of 852.67 acres situated on Owl Creek, 6 miles above its junction with the Leon River. On November 9, 1854, the State of Texas patented 852.67 aces of land situated on Owl Creek in Coryell County to the heirs of James W. Smith, deceased (GLO 1854a).

According to an affidavit executed by Angelina D. Smith, Certificate No. 514 was the property of John Morgan, and Smith, with the other heirs, confirmed this transfer in a deed to John Morgan dated April 20, 1856. The consideration for this conveyance was $200.00 cash (CC, DR C:125).

According to an affidavit filed in Coryell County, John Morgan died, and his estate was administered in Washington County. Morgan was survived by five children and six grandchildren. The grandchildren had land in Washington County set aside to them as their inheritance from Morgan (CC, DR 76:303). On December 22, 1879, Morgan's five children partitioned the remaining land owned by his estate among themselves. Elizabeth White, a daughter, was awarded 633 acres in the J. W. Smith Survey (CC, DR O:295).

Elizabeth White and her husband, Thomas J. White, apparently occupied this land both before and after the partition. According to an affidavit executed by W. A. White, the land had been owned by Thomas J. White and wife Elizabeth since 1854. The affiant further stated that the Whites had made improvements, built a house, and farmed portions of the land from 1854 until they conveyed it to their children in 1887 (CC, DR 59:187). Coryell County tax records partially substantiate these facts. In 1863 and 1864, the county assessed Thomas J. White for 852 acres in the Smith Survey valued at $2 per acre. Beginning in 1865, the assessments included livestock, tools, and equipment. In 1867, the assessed land value escalated from $1,200 to $1,600, indicating the presence of improvements on the property. Beginning in 1871, the county assessed Mrs. E. C. White for the land, and the farm operation appeared to continue. Although the assessed value of the land dropped in the early and mid-1870s (1863–1867, 1871, 1875), that decrease probably reflects an economic recession which reduced the value of both farm land and the crops produced (Calvert and De León 1996: 213–214). However, throughout the period, the quantity and assessed value of livestock, tools, and equipment increased.

In 1880, the county assessed Elizabeth White $1,266 for 633 acres ($2 per acre) in the Smith Survey. She also was assessed for two carriages or wagons, four horses or mules, four head of cattle, and five hogs (1880). Census records and an affidavit corroborate occupancy and provide information about the White family. In 1880, when the Whites appear to have been living on the Smith Survey, the household consisted of Thomas J. White (born in Tennessee in 1836); his wife, Elizabeth (born in South Carolina in 1836); and two of their five living children, both of whom had been born in Texas (Wilson, born 1859 and Cary, born 1860). An affidavit indicated that the remaining three children, William (born 1862), Nancy (born 1865), and Thomas (born 1867), all were born in Texas, but they apparently lived elsewhere at the time of the census (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1880b; CC, DR 41:547). In 1886, the county assessed the land at $3 per acre. The assessment also included one carriage or wagon, two horses or mules, and three head of cattle (1886).

In 1887, Thomas J. and Elizabeth C. White conveyed portions of their 633 acres in the Smith Survey to their children. Nancy Glass, wife of Ed Glass, received 100 acres, now known as Tract 1310, the location of site 41CV728. Ad

valorem tax records for 1889 set out that E. B. Glass actually rendered 319 acres of land in the J. W. Smith Survey valued at $700 ($2.19 per acre). The records also reflect ownership of one carriage or wagon, one horse or mule, three head of cattle, and five hogs. In 1900, the county assessed Nancy Glass $500 for 100 acres of land in the Smith Survey, a substantial increase in value. There was no additional assessment for livestock or tools, but the $5 per acre land assessment indicates a structure of some kind on the property. By 1905, it appears that Glass was again farming the land, as the evaluation includes both the increased land/improvement value ($5 per acre) and livestock, tools, and a wagon. Occupancy was further substantiated in 1910 when the value of the land increased to $10 per acre, and by the fact that livestock and tools were a part of the evaluation.

Census records for 1900 confirm that Nancy A. Glass, a widowed head-of-household, lived in Precinct Five, farmed for a living, and owned her farm free of any mortgage. Five children, all of whom were born in Texas, lived with her: Eddie, a daughter born in 1886; Willis, a son born in 1888; Thomas J., a son born in 1891; John H., a son born in 1894; and Harry, a son born in 1896 (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900b).

The tract was continuously owned by Glass from 1887 until 1948, when her heirs conveyed it to D. D. Bell for $1,500 (CC, DR 174:236). On December 15, 1953, D. D. Bell and his wife, Elmer Lee Bell, sold the 100 acres on which 41CV728 is located to the U.S. government for $6,843. Language in the deed allowed Bell to remove certain improvements, including a residence with porch, smokehouse, garage, barn, chicken house, store room, windmill, and tank before December 1, 1953 (CC, DR 189:231).

Summary: Site 41CV728 is located on a survey that appears to have been owner-occupied for most of the period from a patent in 1854 to conveyance to the U.S. government in 1953 (see also 41CV384, Component J). Elizabeth C. White became the record owner in 1879, but there is evidence she and her husband occupied and improved the survey beginning in 1854. The location of their homestead has not been verified, but it appears to have been at 41CV384 on present-day Tract 1312 (CC, DR 44:595). In 1887 the Whites conveyed a 100-acre parcel to one of their children, Nancy Glass, who owned the land from 1887 until she died in 1950. Tax, census, and land records indicate that she not only used and occupied the land, but that she also constructed the improvements formerly located at 41CV728. D. D. Bell, who sold the land to the government in 1953, was the only child of Nancy Glass Bell's second marriage. His deed to the government contained language that allowed him to remove certain improvements, including a residence, several outbuildings, and a windmill.

Site 41CV729 (Tract 1311)

Site History: Site 41CV729 is on 136.5 acres out of the 1,280-acre James W. Smith Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1311, which encompassed 136.5 acres in one survey. The site is located in the east-central portion of Tract 1311.

For the site history through 1887, when Thomas J. and Elizabeth C. White conveyed the property to their children, see 41CV728. As a result of that conveyance, the Whites' son, Thomas A. White, received 230 acres in the Smith Survey. As part of the same series of transactions, another son, Cary B. White, acquired the west-adjacent 100 acres in the Smith Survey (CC, DR 2:190–191).

Ad valorem tax records substantiate ownership by the White family and indicate occupancy of the property on which 41CV729 is located. Apparently, Coryell County continued to assess Elizabeth White for the 230-acre tract even though it had been deeded to her son. As a result, in 1888 and 1890, the county assessed Elizabeth White $1,170 and $1,150, respectively, for the 230 acres. In an affidavit, she said that she reserved a life estate interest in approximately 130 acres of the 230-acre tract (CC, DR 41:546). However, she did not identify the location of the 130-acre tract, which probably was the location of her farmstead; other legal records suggest it may have been on Tract 1312, east of Tract 1311 (CC, DR 44:595). Assessments for property owned by Elizabeth White in 1888 and 1890 included land and various tools and livestock associated with farming.

In 1894, Thomas A. White deeded 44.75 acres out of his 230-acre tract to his brother, Cary B. White, who added the acreage to his 100 acres to the west. This conveyance gave Tract 1311 its present shape and approximate

size (CC, DR 26:44). The 44.75 acres included the location of 41CV729. Between 1894 and 1906, Cary White paid taxes on this parcel. In 1894, the assessed value of the land was about $5 per acre. By 1905, however, the tax evaluation increased to $7 per acre, indicating substantial improvements. The ad valorem tax assessments during this period included livestock, tools, and machinery typically found on working farms (1894b, 1900b, 1905b). Census records for 1900 reflect that C. B. White, his wife Sallie E. White, and their six children lived in Precinct Five of Coryell County. White farmed for a living and owned the farm free from any mortgage (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900b).

In 1906, White sold 97 acres, which included the location of 41CV729, to W. E. Spurlin for $2,500. This acreage was the southern portion of the land he then owned, less 3 acres along the creek and road on the south end. Spurlin conveyed the 97 acres to J. A. Ridling for $3,000 in 1909 (CC, DR 42:371; 51:351). The 1910 tax role assessed J. A. Ridling for 98 acres in the Smith Survey, valued at just over $15 per acre, a significant increase from the $7 per acre figure only 5 years earlier. Ridling also was taxed on four horses or mules, three head of cattle, and one wagon. Through a series of transactions, Ridling also acquired the northern 45 acres of the C. B. White land (CC, DR 58:627–628).

On January 1, 1920, J. A. Ridling and wife, M. E. Ridling, sold the parcels to J. W. Farmer for $6,000. The conveyance reflected the fact that Ridling had sold several additional small tracts off the south end so that the conveyance to Farmer covered a total of 138 acres (CC, DR 83:272). In September of 1920, Farmer and his wife conveyed 138 acres to R. L. Whaley for $7,750 (CC, DR 94:145).

During Whaley's ownership, he sold small parcels off the southern end of the 138 acres, including 516 acres for highway purposes. As a result, when 11 individuals and their spouses—apparently Whaley's heirs—conveyed his land to R. W. Alexander for $5,600 in 1948, the deed covered a total of 135.984 acres (CC, DR 163:605).

On December 16, 1953, Raphel W. Alexander and wife, Ruby Pearl Alexander, conveyed 135.98 acres in the Smith Survey to the U.S. government for $12,125. The tract was described as being 136.5 acres, less .52 acres sold to the State of Texas for highway purposes in 1946. The Alexanders also reserved the right to remove certain structures from the premises, including a dwelling with porch, smokehouse, chicken house, barn, a windmill on a 30-ft tower, and a 1,500-gallon tank. This reservation confirmed that the property was improved at the time it was sold to the government.

Summary: Site 41CV729 is located on a survey that could have been owner-occupied from as early as 1854, until the conveyance to the U.S. government in 1953 (see also 41CV384, Component J). Elizabeth C. White became the record owner in 1879, and there is evidence she and her husband improved and occupied the survey beginning in 1854. Documents do not specify the location of their homestead, but it appears to have been on present-day Tract 1312 (CC, DR 44:595). In 1887, the Whites partitioned the land among their children. Thomas A. White acquired 230 acres on which 41CV729 is located, but his mother reserved a life estate in and continued to pay taxes on the land until the early 1890s. In 1894, Thomas White sold that portion of the 230 acres on which 41CV729 is located to his brother, Cary B. White, who owned the adjoining 100 acres. Successive owners and possible occupants of the site include W. B. Spurlin (1906–1909), J. A. Ridling (1909–1920), R. L. Whaley (1920–1948), and R. W. Alexander (1948–1953). Alexander sold the property to the U.S. government in 1953, but reserved the right to remove several structures.

Site 41CV742 (Tract 1305)

Site History: Site 41CV742 is located on the 114.5-acre J. M. French Survey, Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1305, which consisted of 114.5 acres in one survey. The site is located in the northern portion of Tract 1305.

On August 1, 1914, J. M. French filed an affidavit and application to purchase unsurveyed school land appropriated as public free school land under the terms of Section 8 of an Act approved April 15, 1905. John Caufield, Coryell County Surveyor, surveyed land for French on August 3rd and 4th, 1914. The field notes describe a tract of 114.5 acres situated about 17 miles southeast of Gatesville and designated as Section 62, S. F. 11169 by the General Land Office (CC, SR 1:87).

In October 1922, French again filed to purchase 114.5 acres under the provisions of an act dated April 3, 1919. Chapter 163 of this act related to the sale of school and asylum land without settlement and reserving to the state all the oil, gas, coal, and other minerals. The land was described as Section 62, S. F. 11169, 17 miles southeast of Gatesville. French agreed to pay $2 per acre, specified that the land would be used for agricultural or grazing purposes, and made an initial payment of $5.73, which represented a 1/40 cash payment of the total price.

Coryell County did not assess French for the 114.5-acre tract until 1925. At that time, the county's evaluation for the land was $120, well below the $2–$3 per acre typically assessed for unimproved land. The county did not assess French for any personal property associated with the 114.5-acre tract. The county continued to use this $120 value until 1945, when the evaluation was raised to $250. While this is a substantial increase in value, the resulting $2 per acre falls within the lower range of evaluations for unimproved land in Coryell County at the time (1915b, 1920b, 1925b, 1930b, 1935b, 1940b, 1945b, 1946b).

In June 1951, Millard M. Holmes filed to purchase a 114.5-acre tract of school land for $10 per acre. The application specifies that the land was originally filed by J. M. French as Survey 62, S. F. 11169, but that the land was never fully paid for, and the state, therefore, did not issue a patent for it. On July 17, 1951, the state awarded the 114.5-acre J. M. French Survey, A-1874, to Holmes, and issued a receipt for the $229 cash portion paid by Holmes (Texas. General Land Office 1951).

In Civil Action No. 1524, dated June 30, 1954, the U.S. government condemned Holmes's 114.5-acre parcel for $2,600 (CC, DR 192:194). The condemnation suit does not include the reservation of any structures, and the price does not support substantial improvements.

Summary: Site 41CV742 is located in the J. M. French Survey, A-1874, in Coryell County. It is immediately south of several tracts with a history of settlement and improvement. (See 41CV384, Components A–V; Tracts 1312 and 1314; 41CV749, Tract 1317). J. M. French applied for a 114.5-acre tract of vacant school land in 1914 and again in 1922. He took possession of the land, as substantiated by Coryell County tax records, but apparently did not complete the transaction by paying all amounts due to the state.

Millard M. Holmes applied to purchase the 114.5-acre J. M. French Survey for $10 per acre. In 1951, the State of Texas acknowledged receipt of $229 as partial payment for the tract and awarded the tract to Holmes. In June 1954, in Civil Action No. 1524, the U.S. government condemned Tract 1305. The relatively low purchase price agreed to by the parties, and the absence of structure reservation language does not support the presence of extensive improvements.

Site 41CV749 (Tract 1317)

Site History: Site 41CV749 is located on 90 acres in the 1,280-acre James W. Smith Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1317, which encompassed 160 acres in two surveys and contained two sites. Site 41BL749 is situated on the western 90-acre portion of Tract 1317; 41BL759 is situated on the eastern 70-acre portion of Tract 1317.

For the site history through 1875, with ownership of the southern 219-acre parcel of the James W. Smith Survey vested in the estate of John Morgan, deceased, see 41CV728.

In June 1875, J. G. Morgan and O. F. Morgan, administrators of the estate of John Morgan, deceased, conveyed the 219-acre tract to N. J. Thompson (CC, DR K:248). Thompson was a resident of Washington County when he purchased the land and sold it 9 years later, which probably is the reason that he does not appear on the ad valorem tax rolls of Coryell County (1875b–1870b, 1872b, 1874b).

Thompson sold the 219-acre parcel to Joel W. George in 1884 (CC, DR T:353). Coryell County assessed George $300 for the 219 acres. The evaluation also included a wagon, two horses or mules, and five cows, indicating farm use and probable occupancy (1885b).

In 1886, George conveyed the 219 acres to W. F. Glass (CC, DR Y:412). Less than a year later, Glass sold part of the land, leaving him with a residue of 90 acres in the Smith Survey. This is the western 90 acres of Tract 1317, and it is the location of 41CV749. During each of the 9 years that Glass owned the 90-acre tract (1886–1895), Coryell County assessed him $200 for the land. During the early years of Glass's ownership, the county's ad valorem tax

assessment reflected an increase in the number and value of stock animals and implements, suggesting a small farm operation. However, by the end of Glass's tenure, the assessment did not include any livestock or tools (1886b, 1888b, 1890b, 1983b–1895b).

Glass sold the 90-acre parcel to Thomas J. Fikes in 1895 (CC, DR 22:323). Possibly reflecting improvement, the county's evaluation for the 90-acre tract immediately rose from $200 to $300. In addition, Fikes paid taxes on livestock and implements that indicated use as a farm and probable occupancy (1896b, 1898b, 1900b, 1903b).

In 1905, Fikes sold the 90 acres to J. F. Cooksey (CC, DR 39:230). Cooksey also acquired a 70-acre parcel in the adjacent Charles D. Cotton Survey, giving Tract 1317 its present-day size and shape. Cooksey paid $750 for the 90-acres in 1905, and sold both the 90 acres and the adjacent 70 acres for $1,200 in 1944. The value of the land in both transactions was approximately $8 per acre, indicating that Cooksey maintained the property but probably did not improve it substantially.

Ownership of both the 90-acre parcel in the Smith Survey, and the 70-acre parcel in the Cotton Survey passed from Cooksey to Ellis Evans and Emilee Haley in 1944 for $1,200 in cash and notes (CC, DR 148:332). In 1951, Evans conveyed both tracts to Emilee Haley for $3,510 (CC, DR 178:355). The fact that the purchase price differed so little between 1905 and 1944, and so much between 1944 and 1951, indicates that these were something other than arms-length transactions between detached parties.

In Civil Action No. 1482, 160 acres out of the James W. Smith and Charles D. Cotton Surveys were condemned. In a companion deed executed in December 1953, Ellis M. Evans and wife, Melba Evans, conveyed the 160-acre tract to the U.S. government for a consideration of $12,406.68, but did not reserve the right to remove structures (CC, DR 188:624).

Summary: The State of Texas patented the James W. Smith Survey in 1854, and parts of the survey appear to have been occupied from then until the U.S. government acquired the land for the 1950s expansion of Fort Hood. Between 1854 and 1895, the property apparently was used and occupied by Smith or his heirs (1854–1856), John Morgan (1856–1875), N. J. Thompson (1875–1884), Joel W. George (1884–1886), and W. F. Glass (1886–1895). Land and tax records suggest that these owners used and improved the property. Thomas J. Fikes acquired the 90-acre portion of Tract 1317 which encompasses 41CV749 in 1895, and appears to have improved and used the land. J. F. Cooksey bought the 90-acre parcel in 1895 and also acquired an adjacent 70-acre parcel in the Charles D. Cotton Survey, giving Tract 1317 its present-day size and shape. Cooksey owned present-day Tract 1317 from 1905 until 1944, when he sold it to Ellis M. Evans and Emilee Haley. Evans sold both tracts to Emilee Haley in 1951. The purchase prices in these transactions indicate that these were not arms-length arrangements. The land was condemned in Civil Action No. 1482. In a companion deed, Ellis M. Evans and wife, Melba Evans, sold the 160-acre tract to the U.S. government but did not reserve the right to remove structures.

Site 41CV753 (Tract 1451)

Site History: Site 41CV753 is located in the southeast corner of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1451, which encompassed 235.84 acres in the southeast corner of the Carper Survey and contained two sites, 41CV753 and 41CV896.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV753 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV351.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV753 is located from 1872 until 1892, see 41CV1405.

In 1892, W. J. Collins owned a 400-acre tract in the Carper Survey. In 1895, he sold a portion of it, a 220-acre tract where present-day 41CV753 is located, to Jesse Dixon for $1,461 in cash and notes (CC, DR 22:305). The next year, Dixon paid taxes on the 220 acres that were valued at $1,100. He also paid taxes on four horses or mules, four cattle, and $20 in manufacturers tools (1896b). These values suggest that the property was improved, and Dixon probably lived and farmed it.

In 1898, Dixon and his wife, Elizabeth, conveyed the 220 acres to J. J. Stovall in exchange for 210 acres in Haskell County and the assumption of $1,230 in notes (CC, DR 22:306). In 1901, Stovall and his wife, Alice,

conveyed the 220 acres to C. C. Cheek for $700 cash plus four notes (CC, DR 24:615). Cheek did not fulfill the condition of the vendor's lien, so the 220 acres were sold at auction in 1903 to W. J. Collins for $1,200 (CC, DR 33:509). That same year, Collins conveyed the 220 acres back to J. J. Stovall for $3,000 cash and notes (CC, DR 35:222). In 1905, Stovall and his wife conveyed the 220 acres to J. M. Lanham for $4,500 cash and notes (CC, DR 38:470). In April 1906, Lanham and his wife, Fannie H., both residents of Denton County, conveyed the 220 acres to Mary H. Shirley for $5,000 cash and note assumptions (CC, DR 43:308). By July, Shirley, a feme sole and resident of Bell County, conveyed a 237²/7-acre parcel of land on which present-day 41CV753 is located to A. O. Woodberry for $4,744 in cash and notes (CC, DR 45:226).

In 1910, Woodberry, a resident of McLennan County, conveyed the 237²/7 acres back to Shirley in exchange for a cancellation of the notes due on the property because he was unable to pay them (CC, DR 53:451). The next year, Shirley, now a resident of El Paso County, conveyed a 237.5-acre tract on which present-day 41CV753 is located to J. W. Farmer for $5,000 cash and notes (CC, DR 50:288). In 1914, J. W. Farmer and W. J. Farmer, both unmarried men, conveyed the 237.5 acres to J. P. Murrah for $16,675 in cash and note assumptions (CC, DR 70:516).

Murrah retained ownership of the property until 1922. That year, he and his wife, Laura A., both residents of Bell County, conveyed the 237.5 acres to L. R. Murrah of Temple for $10 cash and a loan assumption (CC, DR 98:1). In 1934, L. R. Murrah and his wife, Merle W., now residents of Navarro County, conveyed the 237.5 acres to R. W. Wells and his wife, L. V. Wells, for $4,308.50 in notes and note assumptions (CC, DR 123:511). In 1945, Wells and his wife, Lula V., conveyed the 237.5 acres to E. H. Watts for $2,000 and a note assumption (CC, DR 152:348). In 1950, Watts and his wife, Mary S., both residents of Harris County, conveyed the 237.5 acres, with a 0.66-acre exception for a farm highway, to J. G. Geiselbrecht for $8,000 cash and note assumption (CC, DR 176:113).

On December 7, 1953, Geiselbrecht and his wife, Ethel Mae, along with Lloyd D. Geiselbrecht and his wife, Bobbie Jo, conveyed 236.5 acres (with the noted exception) to the U.S. government for $18,685. The vendor retained the right to harvest crops growing on the property and to remove the following improvements: a dwelling with porch, tool house, smokehouse, barn, chicken house, and toilet (CC, DR 188:467).

Summary: From 1838 until 1872, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere and the property apparently remained unimproved. Owners Hugh Evetts (1872–1874) and members of the Pruit family (1874–1891) improved the property; Evetts could have been in occupation, but the status of the Pruit occupation remains unclear. Residence status remains unclear under the ownership of Sims, Mann, and Kirby (1891–1892). Owner William J. Collins (1892–1895) could have been in occupation. Jesse Dixon (1895–1898) apparently lived on and farmed the improved property. J. J. Stovall (1898–1901, 1903–1905) and W. J. Collins (1903) appear to have owned the property as an investment rather than a residence. In the interim, C. C. Cheek (1901–1903) might have been living there. J. M. Lanham (1905–1906), Mary H. Shirley (1906, 1910–1911), and A. O. Woodberry (1906–1910) lived elsewhere. J. W. Farmer (1911–1914) might have been living on the property. Members of the Murrah family (1914–1934) lived elsewhere. Owner R. W. Wells (1934–1945) might have been in residence. E. H. Watts (1945–1950) lived elsewhere. The Geiselbrecht family (1950–1953) apparently was in residence on and farming the property.

Site 41CV759 (Tract 1317)

Site History: Site 41CV759 is located on 70 acres of the 160-acre Charles D. Cotton Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1317, which encompassed 160 acres in two surveys and contained two sites. Site 41BL749 is situated on the western 90-acre portion of Tract 1317; 41BL759 is situated on the eastern 70-acre portion of the same tract.

On January 30, 1871, Charles D. Cotton filed a certificate of occupancy claming that he was a bona fide settler on 160 acres of vacant public land in the Milam Land District. J. W. Tabor and J. M. Pruit executed a companion affidavit corroborating the facts in Cotton's certificate. John Armstrong, Coryell County Surveyor, surveyed a tract of land for Cotton. The field notes describe a 160-acre survey located about 15 miles southeast of Gatesville, situated

partially in Coryell and Bell Counties. R. G. and Thomas McGowen assisted as chainmen. On July 12, 1873, Cotton filed an affidavit of settlement, asserting that he had a preemptive right to land by virtue of the fact that he was the head of a family and had occupied and improved the 160-acre tract for 3 years, beginning on February 3, 1870. The document was witnessed by H. M. Morrison and J. C. Lusby. On September 9, 1873, the State of Texas patented 160 acres to Charles D. Cotton (Texas. General Land Office 1873f; CC, DR H:408).

In October 1873, less than 2 months after the state issued the patent, Charles D. Cotton conveyed the 160-acre survey to W. F. Glass (CC, DR I:52). Glass owned the survey, from that date until his heirs sold the land in 1907. Early in this 34-year period, Glass appears to have had an active farm operation. Coryell County appraised the property for $400 and $500 for the 160 acres between 1873 and 1885. The assessment also included horses or mules, cattle, goats or sheep, and implements usually found on a farm or ranch (1873b, 1875b, 1880b). By 1885, the county's assessment increased to $600 for the land, perhaps suggesting improvements, but included no livestock or tools (1885b, 1890b). During the 1890s, the evaluation of the land rose to $650 and reflected the addition of a few animals, but in smaller numbers and lower values than the 1870s. By 1907, when the Glass heirs sold the property, the county's evaluation had dropped to $400 and included no personal property (1895b, 1900b, 1905b, 1907b).

In October 1907, the apparent heirs of W. F. Glass conveyed the 160-acre tract to G. G. Riddle for a consideration of about $6 per acre (CC, DR 56:308, 312). In 1910, Riddle sold 50 acres out of the northern portion of the Cotton Survey to J. E. Thompson for $10 per acre (CC, DR 50:436). This increase, from $6 to $10 per acre in only 2 years, suggests a substantial improvement to the property. Site 41CV759 is located on this 50-acre portion of the eastern 70 acres of Tract 1317.

In 1913, Thompson conveyed the 50-acre parcel in the Cotton Survey to J. F. Cooksey for $14 per acre (CC, DR 50:437), a price that perhaps indicates additional improvements. Cooksey also acquired 20 acres in the Cotton Survey, giving the eastern portion of Tract 1317 its present-day size and shape. Finally, Cooksey bought the west-adjacent 90-acre parcel in the Smith Survey. The two parcels together comprise Tract 1317. Site 41CV759 is located on the eastern 70 acres, a part of the Charles D. Cotton Survey; 41CV749 is located on the western 90 acres, a part of the James W. Smith Survey.

Title to both the 70-acre and the 90-acre parcels passed from Cooksey to Ellis Evans and Emilee Haley in 1944 for $1,200 in cash and notes (CC, DR 148:332). In 1951, Evans conveyed both tracts to Emilee Haley for $3,510 (CC, DR 178:355). The fact that the purchase price differed so little between 1905 and 1944, and so much between 1944 and 1951, indicates that these were something other than arms-length transactions between detached parties.

In Civil Action No. 1482, 160 acres out of the James W. Smith Survey and the Charles D. Cotton Surveys were condemned. In a companion deed, Ellis M. Evans and wife, Melba Evans, conveyed the 160-acre tract to the U.S. government for a consideration of $12,406.68, but did not reserve the right to remove structures (CC, DR 188:624).

Summary: The 160-acre Cotton Survey may have been occupied by Charles D. Cotton by 1870. Between 1873 and 1905, W. F. Glass owned and apparently improved the 160-acre survey. The value of the property, as indicated by the purchase price, then rose from $6 per acre in 1907, to $14 per acre in 1913, strongly suggesting improvements. During this period, the property was owned by G. G. Riddle (1907–1910) and J. E. Thompson (1910–1913). J. F. Cooksey separately acquired a 50-acre and 20-acre parcel of the Cotton Survey, giving the eastern 70 acres of Tract 1317 its present-day size and shape. Site 41CV759 is located on the 50-acre parcel of the Cotton Survey, and 41CV749 is situated on an adjacent 90-acre parcel in the James W. Smith Survey. In 1944, Cooksey sold both the 70-acre parcel and the 90-acre parcel to Ellis M. Evans and Emilee Haley. Evans sold both tracts to Emilee Haley in 1951. The purchase prices in these transactions indicate that these were not arms-length transactions. The last private owners, Ellis M. Evans and his wife, Melba Evans, sold their 160 acres to the U.S. government, but did not reserve the right to remove structures.

Site 41CV762 (Tract 1329)

Site History: Site 41CV762 is located on 160.48 acres of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams

Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1329, which encompassed 160.48 acres in one survey and contained three sites. Site 41CV762 is located in the eastern, 50-acre portion of the tract; 41CV777 and 41CV778 are in the western, 110.48-acre portion. All sites are situated in Coryell County.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV762 is located between 1838 and 1853, see 41CV784. For the site history from 1862 through 1887, when Claiborn T. Osman and his wife, Mattie J. Osman conveyed the eastern 242.2 acres of a 504-acre parcel to Mrs. E. M. Osman, see 41CV538. This conveyance partitioned the 504-acre tract between two brothers, Claiborn and Clarence Osman, and their respective wives, Mattie J. Osman and Eliza M. Osman.

Between 1887 and 1902, Clarence and Eliza M. Osman owned the 242.2 acres on which 41CV762 is located three different times—1887–1889, 1891–1893, and 1895–1900 (CC, DR 1:200; 12:283; 16:320). During their first ownership (1887–1889), the assessed value remained in the $700–$800 range, and the personal property taxed with the land consisted of two horses or mules (1888b, 1889b).

In the second period of ownership (1891–1893), the assessed value jumped from $740 to $1,470, and the personal property taxed included tools and livestock typically associated with a farm operation. The increase in the value of the land and personal property indicated substantial improvement and probable occupancy (1892b–1893b).

When the Osmans acquired the property for the last time (1895), the tract was smaller—192.2 acres. They also had acquired the adjacent 200-acre tract, so that the county taxed them on a total of 392 acres. Between 1895 and 1900, the assessed evaluation rose from $1,960 to $2,000 indicating maintenance of existing improvements. In addition, the county assessed the Osmans for tools, implements, and livestock usually found on farms (1895b, 1898b, 1900b).

During the 15-year period from 1887–1902, the Osmans owned the 192.2-acre tract or its 242.2-acre parent tract for a total of 9 years. In the intervening years, the land was owned by H. V. Smith (1889–1891), C. T. Osman (1893–1895), and W. O. Osman (1900–1902) (CC, DR 6:248; 12:293; 26:495). Ad valorem tax records for these intervening years indicate property evaluations consistent with those rendered by the Osmans (1890b, 1894b, 1902b). There is some question, however, whether the improvements made during this 15-year period were associated with 41CV762 or some other site on the 242.2-acre parcel. (See 41CV772, Tract 1327; 41CV775, Tract 1328; and 41CV777 and 41CV778, Tract 1329.)

In 1902, W. O. Osman conveyed the 192.2-acre parcel to J. D. Jeffcoat for a consideration of a deed from Jeffcoat for 80 acres in the John Garrett Survey, and the assumption by Jeffcoat of two deeds of trust totaling about $900 (CC, DR 33:53). In 1910, Jeffcoat sold the 192.2 acres to Fred Wolff for $1,700 in cash and notes (CC, DR 58:212).

Wolff apparently improved the land substantially. In 1916, he conveyed a 114-acre parcel out of the 192.2 acres to O. D. Kelly for $4,000 in cash and notes. Thus the value of the land was higher and the size of the parcel was smaller (CC, DR 77:71). This 114 acres is the eastern 114 acres of Tract 1329, and the improvements can be associated directly with 41CV762.

There is a break in the chain of title between Kelly and H. G. Umberhagen. However, Umberhagen conveyed the 114 acres back to Kelly in 1928 for a consideration of $5,500 in cash and notes (CC, DR 112:99). Kelly then sold the 114 acres to W. E. Holcomb in 1936 for a consideration of $2,200 in cash and notes (CC, DR 124:541). Eleven years later, Holcomb sold the 114 acres and the adjacent 50-acre parcel to Otto Wolff. The consideration was $6,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 161:348), indicating improvements. Wolff sold both parcels to the U.S. government in 1954 for a consideration of $14,205, and he reserved the right to remove several structures, including a residence, smokehouse, garage and machine shed, and other outbuildings (CC, DR 189:463). This reservation and the increased value substantiate the fact that the property was improved. However, because there are two sites on Tract 1329, it is unclear if the reserved structures are associated with 41CV762, 41CV777, or 41CV778.

Summary: Various tracts within the Henry Williams Survey appear to have been occupied and improved from the patent date of 1853, until the government acquired the land as part of the 1950s Fort Hood expansion. Claiborn and

Margaret Osman appear to have used and occupied 504 acres in the Williams Survey between 1867 and 1887, but it is not clear if their improvements were associated with 41CV762 or another of the five sites located on their property. Clarence and Eliza Osman appear to have improved and used the 242.2 acres on which 41CV762 and other sites are located during the time they sporadically owned the property (1887–1902), as may intervening owners H. C. Smith (1889–1891), C. T. Osman (1893–1895), and W. P. Osman (1900–1902). The land on which 41CV762 and several other sites are located continued to be improved by J. D. Jeffcoat (1902–1910) and Fred Wolff (1910–1916), at which time Tract 1329 assumed its present-day size and shape and clearly was improved. The property continued to increase in value between 1916 and 1928, and by 1954, it was the location of several structures. However, because 41CV762, 41CV777, and 41CV778 are situated on Tract 1329, the location, identity, and associations of the improvements enumerated in 1954 are not clear.

Site 41CV763 (Tract 1334)

Site History: Site 41CV763 is located in the southeastern portion of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, part of which lies in Bell County and part of which lies in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1334, which encompassed 143 acres in one survey divided by the Bell-Coryell County line and contained one site. Site 41CV763 is located in Coryell County.

For the legal history of the land where 41CV763 is located, beginning with the records of the General Land Office through the patent to Henry Williams in 1853, see the site history for 41CV784. For the legal history from the patent to 1866, when L. L. Johnston acquired the eastern 973 acres of the Williams Survey, see the site history for 41CV538.

Johnston owned the property for about 4 years. Ad valorem tax records suggest that he owned livestock, but it is uncertain if he lived on the land (1868b). Johnston sold a 243-acre parcel of his land to Elizabeth M. Johnston for $350 in December 1869 (CC, DR F:350). One year later, in November 1870, Johnston and her husband, W. M., conveyed the southern 200 acres to John Pruit for $1,200 (CC, DR F:250). This sudden increase in value suggests that the Johnstons improved the property. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Pruit operated a farm on the property and that he may have lived there (1871b, 1875b, 1880b).

Pruit, then a resident of Rusk County, sold the 200-acre parcel to E. M. Osman for $2,050 in August 1892 (CC, DR 27:427). Coryell County tax records indicate that Elizabeth M. Osman operated a farm on the property and probably lived there (1892b, 1902b).

Osman's heirs conveyed the southern 143 acres of her land to J. K. Touchstone for $2,600 in cash and notes in July 1907 (CC, DR 45:509), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. One year later, in July 1908, Touchstone and his wife, Katy, sold the 143-acre property to F. W. Wolff for the same price (CC, DR 54:212). In November 1910, Wolff and his wife, R. T., conveyed the 143-acre parcel to W. H. Dixon for $2,500 in cash and notes (CC, DR 54:213).

Tilda Dixon, presumably W. H. Dixon's only heir, sold the property to J. W. Palmer for $4,000 in cash and notes in November 1949 (CC, DR 171:389). The purchase price suggests that improvements on the property were maintained during Dixon's ownership.

On December 15, 1953, J. W. Palmer and his wife, Undine, conveyed the 143 acres, identified as Tract 1334, to the U.S. government for $11,255 and the right to remove several structures, including a residence, garage, two barns, and various other outbuildings (CC, DR 189:226). When the government acquired the property, it encompassed 143 acres in the Henry Williams Survey, which straddled the Bell-Coryell County line and contained one site in Coryell County.

Summary: The Henry Williams Survey, on which site 41CV763 is located, was patented in 1853. Various tracts within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1953. John Pruit owned 200 acres in the southeastern portion of the Williams Survey, where 41CV763 is located, from 1870 to 1892. During that period, tax and land records indicate occupancy and improvements.

Between 1892 and 1910, the property may have been further improved. Owners during this period include E. M. Osman, J. K. Touchstone, F. W. Wolff, and J. W. Palmer.

W. H. Dixon acquired the 143-acre parcel where 41CV763 is located in 1910 and probably lived there until his death. His widow conveyed the property to J. W. Palmer in 1949. Palmer sold the land identified as Tract 1334 to the government in 1953. The purchase price and structure reservation in the deed to the government indicate that the property was improved.

Site 41CV764 (Tract 1318)

Site History: Site 41CV764 is on a tract in the southwest corner of the 640-acre S. G. Evitts Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired Tract 1318, it encompassed 213 acres in two surveys and contained four sites. Sites 41CV764 and 41CV767 are located in the Evitts portion of Tract 1318; 41CV770 and 41CV773 are in the Williams portion of the tract. All sites are situated in Coryell County.

On March 25, 1838, a bounty and donation certificate (No. 282) was issued to Samuel G. Evitts, who established that he had fought at the Battle of Bexar from the 5th to the 10th of December 1835. On October 22, 1850, William Armstrong, District Surveyor for the Milam District, surveyed land for Evitts, with John Taylor and Thomas Kinzie serving as chainmen. The field notes describe a 640-acre tract on Owl Creek about 4.5 miles above its junction with the Leon River. Of the total 640 acres, 437 acres were located in Coryell County and the balance in Bell County. On November 22, 1850, the State of Texas issued a patent to S. G. Evitts for 640 acres on Owl Creek as described in the field notes (Texas. General Land Office 1850e).

In 1895, Mrs. E. A. Evitts, widow and apparently the only heir of Samuel G. Evitts, sold a tract of 127 acres out of the S. G. Evitts Survey to T. C. Morrison. The consideration for the transfer was $1,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 30:136). Site 41CV764 is located on this 127-acre parcel in the Evitts Survey and is the eastern portion of Tract 1318.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV764 is located from 1895 until 1953, when the U.S. government acquired Tract 1318, see Site 41CV770.

Summary: Several tracts within the S. G. Evitts Survey appear to have been occupied and improved between the patent issuance in 1850 until the U.S. government acquired the land in 1953. The State of Texas patented 640 acres to Samuel G. Evitts in 1850. His widow, Mrs. E. A. Evitts, sold a 127-acre tract in the Evitts Survey to T. C. Morrison in 1895. Morrison appears to have used and occupied the land until 1909. Land and tax records substantiate occupancy and use. (See also 41CV770.) Morrison also acquired land in the adjacent Henry Williams Survey. Present-day Tract 1318 consists of the portion of these two tracts lying south of Preacher's Creek.

G. W. and Martha Copeland owned Tract 1318 from 1917 until 1946, when their heirs sold the property to W. T. Copeland. The purchase price does not establish if the property was significantly improved during this period, nor is it clear which of the four sites (41CV764, 41CV767, 41CV770, and 41CV773) on Tract 1318 might have been occupied during this time.

W. T. and Ruth Copeland sold the present-day 213-acre Tract 1318 to the U.S. government in 1953. Both the purchase and structure reservation suggest improvements to the tract, but the association of buildings, sites, and property owners is unclear.

Site 41CV767 (Tract 1318)

Site History: Site 41CV767 is on a tract in the southwest corner of the 640-acre S. G. Evitts Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1318, which encompassed 213 acres in two surveys and contained four sites. Sites 41CV767 and 41CV764 are located in the Evitts Survey portion of Tract 1318; 41CV770 and 41CV773 are in the Williams Survey portion of the tract. All sites are situated in Coryell County.

For the legal history of the land on which site 41CV767 is located from 1838 to 1895, see the site history for 41CV764. For the legal history from 1895 to 1953, when the government acquired Tract 1318, see the site history for 41CV770.

Summary: Site 41CV767 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41CV764, 41CV770, and 41CV773. Site 41CV767 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV770 (Tract 1318)

Site History: Site 41CV770 is located in the southeast corner of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1318, which encompassed 213 acres in two surveys and contained four sites. Sites 41CV770 and 41CV773 are in the Williams portion of Tract 1318; 41CV764 and 41CV767 are located in the Evitts portion of Tract 1318. All sites are situated in Coryell County.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV770 is located between 1838 and 1853, see 41CV784. For the site history from the patent to 1866 when L. L. Johnston acquired the eastern 973 acres of the Williams Survey, see 41CV1538.

In 1888 and 1889, what appear to be two of the four heirs of L. L. Johnston Sr., conveyed their one-quarter interests in the eastern 286 acres in the Williams Survey to T. C. Morrison (BC DR 3:161; 4:190). T. C. Morrison sold the collective one-half interest in the property to H. M. Morrison (BC DR X:617). H. M. Morrison also acquired an additional one-quarter interest from Tommie Johnston and conveyed the resulting three-quarter interest in the 286 acres to T. C. Morrison (BC DR 4:189, 192). T. C. Morrison then purchased the remaining one-quarter interest in the property from T. E. Johnston (BC DR 4:162). The purchase prices for these one-quarter interests ranged from $500 to $1,000, making this a relatively high-priced property.

In 1888, when Morrison owned the entire 286-acre tract, Coryell County assessed him $890 for the land and an additional $900 for personal property that included 60 head of livestock, an amount that suggests a substantial farm and ranch operation. Although the value of the personal property decreased during Morrison's ownership, the county's evaluation of the land remained consistently in the $3 per acre range (1885b, 1888b, 1890b, 1892b, 1896b, 1901b, 1907b–1909b).

Morrison tried to divide and sell the 286 acres in 1892. In August of that year, he conveyed the southern 132-acre portion of the acreage to F. M. Cross (CC, DR 10:342). In September, Morrison sold the northern remainder of the 286 acres, a 154-acre parcel, to G. A. Wilkins (CC, DR 10:340). However, both of these transactions apparently failed, probably for nonpayment of the notes retained by the seller; and title to both tracts reverted to Morrison.

In 1904, Morrison acquired an adjacent 127-acre parcel in the S. G. Evitts Survey. Tract 1318 consists of those parts of the acreage lying south of Preacher's Creek. Site 41CV770 is located in the southern portion of the western 286 acres of Tract 1318; 41CV773 is located in the northern portion of the western 286-acre parcel of Tract 1318; and 41CV764 is located in the east-central portion of the eastern 127-acre parcel of Tract 1318. The 286-acre parcel of Tract 1318 is situated in the Henry Williams Survey, and the 127-acre parcel of Tract 1318 is situated in the S. G. Evitts Survey.

In 1909, Morrison sold both parcels of Tract 1318 to James R. Wylie, trustee, for the sum of $3,584.41. The conveyance was made to discharge a judgment rendered in Cause No. 7,040, district court of Bell County, a suit styled Michigan Trust Company, Trustee of the estate of George P. Wanty, deceased, plaintiffs, vs. T. C. Morrison, the First National Bank of Gatesville, and John Palmer, defendants (CC, DR 58:449).

James R. Wylie, trustee, executed a bond for title to G. W. Copeland in 1912, agreeing to convey the land to Copeland for a consideration of $4,600 in cash and notes. In addition to the monetary compensation, Copeland agreed to build a house costing at least $500 and to occupy and use the land as a farm, eradicating the Johnson grass and putting the fields in good condition for the raising of crops (CC, DR 69:231). The purchase price suggests the existence of improvements to the property. However, because three sites (41CV764, 41CV770, and 41CV773) are located on Tract 1318, the exact locations of the existing improvements and the house built under the terms of the agreement are unclear.

In 1917, Curtis M. Wylie, successor in interest to James R. Wylie, conveyed two parcels of land to G. W. Copeland, the first being a 246-acre parcel out of the Williams Survey, and the second being 127 acres out of the Evitts Survey (CC, DR 78:603). Language in the deed stipulated that the parcel in the Williams Survey actually contained 246 acres rather than 286 acres, the figure used in previous conveyances. The purchase price specified in the deed was $4,600 in cash and notes, suggesting that the

house erected under the terms of bond for title in 1913 (CC, DR 69:231) was, in fact, built.

In 1946 and 1947, 9 of the 10 living children of G. W. and Martha Copeland conveyed 357.5 acres, described as 246 acres in the Williams Survey and 111.5 acres in the Evitts Survey, to W. T. Copeland, the tenth surviving heir. The total consideration in the two deeds was $8,400, consisting of cash, notes and the assumption of existing indebtedness (CC, DR 158:409; 161:429). This represents a substantial increase from the previous purchase price and suggests either significant improvements to the property or an increase in value attributable to the passage of time. If the increase is due to improvements, it is unclear which of the three sites (41CV764, 41CV770, or 41CV773) may be associated with the improvements. A companion affidavit to these transactions substantiates the heirship and family history of G. W. and Martha Copeland (CC, DR 161:428).

In 1953, W. T. and Ruth Copeland conveyed present-day Tract 1318 to the U.S. government for $15,975. The tract consisted of the residue of the 286-acre parcel in the Williams Survey and the residue of the 127-acre parcel in the Evitts Survey. The purchase price represented a significant increase in value in only 5 years and suggested substantial improvements, as did the fact that the Copelands reserved the right to remove a number of structures including a residence, tenant house, garage, smokehouse, two chicken houses, two toilets, and several barns (CC, DR 189:289). The reservation clearly substantiated improvements in Tract 1318, but the location of these structures and the association of sites and specific owners is unclear.

Summary: Various tracts within the Henry Williams Survey appear to have been occupied and improved between the patent in 1853 and the time when the government acquired the land in 1953. L. L. Johnston acquired the eastern 973 acres of the Williams Survey in 1866. His heirs conveyed the eastern 286 acres of the survey to T. C. and H. M. Morrison in 1888 and 1889, and the purchase price suggests the existence of improvements. T. C. Morrison appears to have used and occupied the land until 1909. Land and tax records substantiate occupancy and use. Morrison also acquired a 127-acre parcel in the adjacent S. G. Evitts Survey. Present-day Tract 1318 consists of that portion of these two parcels lying south of Preacher's Creek.

G. W. and Martha Copeland owned present-day Tract 1318 from 1917 until 1946, when their heirs sold the property to W. T. Copeland. The purchase price does not clearly establish if the property was significantly improved during this period, nor is it clear which of the four sites–41CV764, 41CV767, 41CV770, and 41CV773—on Tract 1318 might have been occupied.

W. T. and Ruth Copeland sold Tract 1318 to the U.S. government in 1953. Both the purchase and structure reservation contained in the conveyance suggest improvements to the tract, but the associations of these improvements with specific owners are unclear.

Site 41CV772 (Tract 1327)

Site History: Site 41CV772 is located on 85.04 acres of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1327, which encompassed 88.04 acres in the Williams Survey. The site is in Coryell County and is situated in the southern portion of the tract.

For site history through 1866, when L. L. Johnston acquired 973 acres in the Williams Survey, see 41CV538.

In 1869, L. L. Johnston sold a 243-acre parcel to Elizabeth M. Johnston (CC, DR F:350). Less than a year later, Johnston sold the southerly 200 acres to John Pruit (CC, DR F:250). In 1872, Coryell County assessed Pruit $1,000 for the 200-acre tract. The assessment also included livestock and implements, indicating occupation and use of the property. By 1877, the tax evaluation increased to $1,600 for the 200 acres, marking a substantial improvement in the property. The county's assessment also reflected increases in the number and value of livestock. However, by the early 1880s, Pruit had moved to Rusk County, and he lived there until he sold the property in 1892 (1872b, 1877b, 1882b, 1887b, 1889b–1890b).

John Pruit conveyed the 200 acres to Mrs. E. M. Osman in 1892 (CC, DR 27:427). Mrs. Osman apparently occupied and used the property for farming purposes. She also acquired another parcel of 200 acres, and the two were combined for tax purposes. The value of the land remained in the $5 per acre range until she sold the land in 1900. During that period, the county also taxed her on livestock, tools, and implements, indicating a farm operation (1893b,

1897b, 1899b–1900b). Census records place Osman and her husband, C. L., in Coryell County in 1900. They farmed for a living and owned the farm with no mortgage. The couple, both born in Texas, had four children living at home who also were native Texans. (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900b).

Between 1900 and 1920, the 68-acre parcel, or a larger parent tract, was owned by D. M. Densman (1900–1905), J. I. Copeland (1905–1908), Joseph Barr and M. N. Lofton (1908–?), J. W. Hardin (?–1912), W. A. Howard (1912–1915), Tom J. Ayres (1915–1916), B. E. Ayres (1916), and W. H. Dixon (1916–1920) (CC, DR 26:136; 31:571; 70:545; 75:294; 82:150; 95:393).

W. H. Dixon conveyed the 68-acre parcel on which 41CV772 is located to J. L. Sims in 1920 (CC, DR 126:358). Sims had Arvin McDonald survey the 68 acres along with two other parcels owned by Sims. The new tract comprised 146 acres (CC, DR 181:503). J. L. Sims died in 1938, and his wife, R. E. Sims, died in 1951. Neither estate was probated, and title to the property passed to the three children of J. L. and R. E. Sims—Elmer Lee Bell, J. W. Sims, and J. L. Sims Jr. In 1952, J. L. Sims Jr. conveyed his one-third interest in the 146 acres to his sister and brother, Elmer Lee Bell and J. W. Sims (CC, DR 181:509). On January 12, 1954, J. W. Sims and wife, Juanita, and Elmer Lee Bell and husband, D. D., conveyed 85.04 acres and 3 acres to the U.S. government, reserving the right to remove a house and porch, smokehouse, and barn.

Summary: Site 41CV772 is located in a survey that was patented in 1853. Various parcels within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1954. Site 41CV772 is located on Tract 1327, consisting of an 85.04-acre parcel and a 3-acre parcel.

John Pruitt acquired 200 acres in the Williams Survey in 1870. Land and tax records indicate that Pruitt occupied the land and used it for farming and grazing purposes until he sold it in 1892. E. M. Osman owned the 200-acre tract from 1892 until 1900, and according to land, tax, and census records, used it for farming.

Between 1900 and 1920, the tract was owned by D. M. Densman (1900–1905), J. I. Copeland (1905–1908), Joseph Barr and M. N. Lofton (1908–?), J. W. Hardin (?–1912), W. A. Howard (1912–1915), Tom J. Ayres (1915–1916), B. E. Ayres (1916), and W. H. Dixon (1916–1920). During this period the tract was subdivided with Dixon acquiring 68 of the 200 acres in 1916.

In 1920, Dixon sold this 68-acre parcel to J. L. Sims. Sims also had acquired adjacent acreage that he had surveyed. The new tract, a combination of Sims's holdings in the Williams Survey, comprised a 146-acre tract. Sims and his heirs occupied the land, using it for grazing and cultivation purposes from 1920 until 1954, when the residue of the 146-acre tract, 85.04 acres and 3 acres, was sold to the U.S. government. Sims's son and daughter, the grantors in the deed to the government, reserved the right to remove several buildings from the land.

Site 41CV773 (Tract 1318)

Site History: Site 41CV773 is located in the southeast corner of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1318, which encompassed 213 acres in two surveys and contained four sites. Sites 41CV770 and 41CV773 are in the Williams portion of Tract 1318; 41CV764 and 41CV767 are located in the Evitts portion of Tract 1318. All sites are situated in Coryell County.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV773 is located, see 41CV770.

Summary: Site 41CV773 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41CV764, 41CV767, and 41CV770. Site 41BL773 most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV775 (Tract 1328)

Site History: Site 41CV775 is located on 50 acres out of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1328, which encompassed 50 acres in one survey. Site 41CV775 is in Coryell County and is situated in the central portion of the tract.

For the history of the site through 1908, when Joseph Barr and M. N. Lofton acquired the 67-acre parcel, see the site history for 41CV772.

Between 1908 and 1912, the 67 acres were owned by Barr and Lofton (1908–1911), J. W. Hardin (1911 and 1912), and J. K. Touchstone (1912) (CC, DR 51:202; 64:417, 419). In 1912, J. W. Hardin conveyed 50 acres off the south side of the 67-acre parcel and a 75-acre parcel to J. E. Holt (CC, DR 40:416).

J. E. Holt sold the 50 acres to J. A. Ratliff in 1915 (CC, DR 62:112). Coryell County assessed the property at $500 beginning in 1915, and used that same evaluation until 1940, when the value dropped to $300. Ratliff's personal property was assessed for as much as $300 in 1920. Over time, the value of the personal property declined to a low $70 in 1940 (1915b, 1920b, 1925b, 1930b, 1940b). This pattern suggests that Ratliff did not improve the property, but may have maintained the existing improvements. Ratliff and his wife, Rebecca Ophelia Ratliff, lived in Precinct Five of Coryell County in 1920. Both were native Texans, and they had no children. The Ratliffs owned their farm free of any mortgage (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1920b). J. A. Ratliff died in 1943, survived only by his widow who continued to pay taxes on the land until she sold it to the U.S. government in 1954 (CC, DR 189:444–445).

Summary: Site 41CV775 is located in a survey that was patented in 1853. Various parcels within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1954. Site 41CV775 is located on Tract 1328 consisting of the southern portions of a 67-acre and 75-acre parcel. The site is located in that portion of the 50 acres that was once the southern portion of the 67-acre tract.

John Pruitt acquired 200 acres in the Williams Survey in 1870. Land, tax and census records indicate that Pruitt occupied the land and used it for farming and grazing purposes until he sold it in 1892. E. M. Osman owned the 200 acres from 1892 until 1900, apparently using it for farming.

Between 1900 and 1915, the land was owned by D. M. Densman (1900–1905), J. I. Copeland (1905–1908), Joseph Barr and M. N. Lofton (1908–1911), J. W. Hardin (1911 and 1912), J. K. Touchstone (1912), and J. E. Holt (1912–1915). J. A. Ratliff acquired the 50 acres in 1915, and he is believed to have used it for farming and grazing purposes until his death in 1943. His widow, Rebecca Ophelia Ratliff, continued to use the farm until she sold it to the U.S. government in 1954.

Site 41CV777 (Tract 1329)

Site History: Site 41CV777 is located on 50 acres out of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1329, which encompassed 160.48 acres in the Williams Survey, and contained three sites. Site 41CV762 is located in the eastern, 50-acre portion of the tract; 41CV777 and 41CV778 are in the western, 110.48-acre portion. All sites are situated in Coryell County.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV777 is located between 1838 and 1853, see 41CV784. For the site history from 1862 to 1887, when Clarence L. Osman and wife, Eliza M. Osman, conveyed the western 250.8-acre parcel of a 504-acre tract to Mattie J. Osman, see 41CV538. This conveyance partitioned the 504-acre tract between two brothers, Claiborn and Clarence Osman, and their respective wives, Mattie J. Osman and Eliza M. Osman.

Claiborn T. Osman and his wife, Mattie J. Osman, owned all or part of the 250.8-acre parent tract from 1887 to 1894. During this period, ad valorem tax records reflect an increase in the county's evaluation for the land from $3.20 per acre to over $6 per acre. In addition, the county assessed the Osmans for more livestock, tools, and implements in 1894 than in 1887 (1887b–1888b, 1890b, 1892b, 1894b). It appears that the Osmans improved and probably used the property, but it is unclear whether the improvements were associated with 41CV777 or some other site on the 250.8-acre parcel. (See 41CV538, Tract 1322 and 41CV762, Tract 1329.)

In 1894, the Osmans sold a 50-acre parcel out of the 250.8 acres to T. F. Evetts (CC, DR 22:472). This 50-acre parcel is the western 50 acres of Tract 1329 and is the location of 41CV777. Coryell County assessed Evetts about $4 per acre from 1894 until 1905. Evetts also paid taxes on livestock, tools, and implements typically associated with a farm operation (1895b–1896b, 1898b, 1900b, 1902b, 1904b).

There is a break in the chain of title between T. F. Evetts and R. T. Taylor. However, Coryell County assessed Taylor $5 per acre in the 1905. In July 1905, Taylor sold the 50-acre parcel to

W. H. Dixon (CC, DR 39:619). Between 1905 and 1910, the 50-acre parcel was owned by Dixon (1905–1910), Fred Wolff (1910), and R. T. Taylor a second time (1910–?) (CC, DR 58:187, 54:335). During the period from 1905 to 1910, the purchase prices of the 50 acres rose from a low $410 (Taylor to Dixon) to a high $1,400 (Dixon to Wolff). This increase strongly suggests continuing improvement of the property.

There is a break in the chain of title between R. T. Taylor and W. E. Holcomb. However Holcomb acquired the adjacent 114 acres (the eastern 114-acre parcel of Tract 1329, 41CV762) in 1936, and it is possible that he acquired the 50-acre parcel about the same time.

In 1947, Holcomb conveyed both the 50-acre parcel and the 114-acre parcel to Otto Wolff (CC, DR 161:348). The consideration was $6,000, paid in a combination of cash and notes, and indicated that the improvements on both parcels were maintained during this period. Wolff sold the land to the U.S. government in 1954 for $14,025, and he reserved the right to remove a house, garage, several barns and other fixtures from the premises. This reservation substantiates the fact that the property contained improvements. However, because there are two sites on Tract 1329, it is unclear if the reserved structures are associated with 41CV777 or 41CV762.

Summary: Various tracts within the Henry Williams Survey appear to have been occupied and improved from 1853 until the government acquired the land in 1954. Claiborn and Margaret Osman appear to have used and occupied 504 acres out of the middle portion of the Williams Survey from 1867 to 1887, but it is not clear if their improvements were associated with 41CV777 or one of the other two sites on the property. Claiborn T. and Mattie J. Osman appear to have improved and used the 250.8 acres on which 41CV777 and 41CV762 are located during the time they owned the property (1887–1894). Land and tax records suggest continued improvement during the ownership of T. F. Evetts (1894–1905), when the western portion of Tract 1329 assumed its present-day size and shape and clearly was improved. The property continued to increase in value between 1905 and 1947 and, by 1954, several structures were located on Tract 1329. However, because both 41CV777 and 41CV762 are situated there, the location and identity of the improvements reserved in the conveyance to the government are not clear.

Site 41CV778 (Tract 1329)

Site History: Site 41CV778 is located on 50 acres out of the central portion of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1329, which encompassed 160.48 acres in the Williams Survey and contained three sites. Site 41CV762 is located on the eastern 110.48-acre portion of the tract; 41CV777 and 41CV778 are on the western 50-acre portion. All sites are situated in Coryell County.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV778 is located, see the site history for 41CV777.

Summary: Site 41CV778 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as sites 41CV762 and 41CV777. Site 41CV778 most likely is associated with the occupants of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV781 (Tract 1315)

Site History: Site 41CV781 is on 6 acres out of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1315, which encompassed 56 acres in two surveys—the 6-acre parcel in the Williams Survey, and a 50-acre parcel in the James W. Smith Survey. The site is in the central portion of the 6-acre parcel and is located in Coryell County.

For a history of the site from 1838 through the ownership of F. W. Wolff (1929), see 41CV784, Tract 1320. In 1929, F. W. Wolff conveyed 56 acres of land described in two separate parcels to Alvis Dixon—6 acres in the Williams Survey and 50 acres in the Smith Survey. Dixon owned the land from 1929 to 1941 and, during this period, the county tax evaluations for the land remained constant. The 6-acre parcel was valued at $50, and the 50-acre parcel was valued at $400. Personal property associated with the smaller parcel ranged from $110 to $170, although the tax roll gives no breakdown as to specific categories of property. Dixon may have occupied the property, but the county tax evaluations provide no data to confirm substantial improvements (1930b, 1935b, 1940b).

Dixon sold the 6-acre parcel to R. M. Wolff in 1941, although the deed was not filed until 1942 (CC, DR 139:84). Tax records reveal a steady land value of $8 per acre, with a declining personal property value between $70 and $90 (1943b–1944b). In two separate transactions in 1944, Wolff conveyed the 6-acre parcel and the 50-acre parcel to J. T. Gallaway for a total consideration of $2,250. The price for each parcel—$1,000 for the smaller acreage, and $1,250 for the larger (CC, DR 150:275–276)—indicate substantial improvements on the 6-acre parcel. Tax records during Gallaway's ownership also reflected these improvements. The evaluation for the land remained fixed in the $8 per acre range for both tracts, but the personal property evaluation associated with the 6-acre parcel increased from $90 during 1944, to $380 in 1945 (1943b–1945b).

On November 14, 1953, J. T. Gallaway and his wife, Leo, sold the 56-acre parcel to the U.S. government for $8,545—substantially higher than Gallaway's purchase price 9 years earlier. In addition, Gallaway reserved the right to harvest the crops on the land and to remove several structures, including a residence, smokehouse, windmill and tank, two chicken houses, garage, and barn (CC, DR 188:294).

Summary: Site 41CV781 is located on a survey that was patented in 1853. Various tracts within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1953. J. M. Pruit owned the westernmost 246 acres of the Williams Survey from 1869 to 1883. During that period, tax and land records indicate occupancy and improvement. However, multiple sites have been found on the tracts that include portions of Pruit's 246 acres. (See also sites 41CV58, Tract 1319; 41CV384, Component O, Tract 1321; 41CV784, Tract 1320; and 41CV785, Tract 1320.)

Site 41CV781 is located in the southwesterly 6 acres of a 50-acre parcel in the Henry Williams Survey. The northeasterly 44 acres of the 50 acres, a part of Tract 1320, are discussed in the site history for 41CV784. The adjacent 50-acre portion of Tract 1315 is located in the James W. Smith Survey.

Owners of the 6-acre parcel between 1883 and 1913 included Doctor Franks (1883–1894), S. P. Mayes (1894–1905), R. R. Ludwick (1905–1906), and C. E. Whitmore (1906–1913). Franks, Mayes, and Whitmore probably occupied and improved the land substantially, but it is unclear whether these improvements were associated with sites 41CV781 or 41CV785. Between 1913 and 1924, the 50 acres on which these two sites are located was owned by E. W. Dixon (1913–1915), E. L. Densman (1915–1917), D. I. Glass (1917), F. W. Wolff (1917–1918 and 1923–1924), R. T. Taylor (1918–1920), and M. J. Lynch (1920–1923). Densman and Wolff appear to have occupied and improved the land. The remaining owners may have occupied the property, but did not substantially improve the land.

In 1929, Wolff sold the 6-acre parcel in the Williams Survey and the 50-acre parcel in the Smith Survey to Alvis Dixon. Between 1929 and 1944, Dixon (1929–1941) and R. M. Wolff (1941–1944) owned the property. Both may have lived there, but land and tax records are inconclusive regarding improvements. Wolff conveyed the 56 acres to J. T. Gallaway in 1944, and Gallaway apparently improved the property substantially. Tax and land records reflect an increase in both the evaluations and purchase price for the land. The assumption that Gallaway made improvements is further supported by the fact that he reserved the right to remove various structures from the property when he and his wife sold the land to the government in 1953.

Site 41CV783 Tract 1323)

Site History: Site 41CV783 is on 55 acres out of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1323, which encompassed 55 acres in one survey. The site is in the central portion of Tract 1323 and is situated in Coryell County.

For a history of the site through 1869, when L. L. Johnston and Hugh Evetts partitioned the westernmost 492 acres of the Williams Survey, see 41CV784. In that partition, Johnston got the eastern one half of the western 492 acres of the Williams Survey. Approximately 1 year later, on August 3, 1870, Johnston sold his 246-acre parcel to Isaac Lucky (CC, DR F:118). Coryell County assessed Lucky $492 for the 246 acres, as well as livestock and implements associated with farming (1871b). The county maintained this land evaluation throughout the period of Lucky's ownership, although beginning in 1876, the Isaac Lucky estate was listed as the owner (1876b, 1878b, 1881b).

In 1883, Art Williams, acting as administrator of the estate of Isaac Lucky, deceased, conveyed the land to T. S. Miller (CC, DR S:599). The following year, the county assessed Miller $700 for the 246 acres and for livestock and implements indicating occupancy. However, beginning in 1885, Miller disappeared from the tax roll (1884b, 1887b, 1889b–1891b).

In 1891, J. W. Hammack, sheriff of Coryell County, auctioned a 55-acre parcel of the 246 acres to J. D. Brown Jr. for $75 (CC, DR 9:11). The sale was made to satisfy a Coryell County District Court judgment in favor of T. S. Miller for the use of Brown. Between 1891 and 1894, the 55-acre parcel was owned, and possibly occupied, by Brown and S. M. Battles (CC, DR 10:29).

S. M. Battles conveyed the 55-acre parcel to T. F. Evetts in 1894 (CC, DR 22:471). Evetts appears to have occupied and improved the land. In 1895, the county assessed him $200 for the 55-acre parcel, along with livestock and implements indicating a farm operation. By 1898, Evetts had acquired additional acreage in the Williams Survey, but the county's tax evaluation stayed in the $4.00 per acre range. Evetts also rendered livestock and tools indicating that he lived on and farmed the land (1898b, 1902b). In 1900, Thomas F. Evetts and his wife, Annie, lived in Precinct 5 of Coryell County. The Evettses, aged 46 and 43, respectively, had seven children, all of whom lived at home. Evetts owned his farm outright and listed it as his primary occupation. All members of the Evetts family were native Texans (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900b).

Between 1902 and 1920, the 55-acre parcel was owned, and possibly used, by W. R. Cavett and R. M. Washington (1902–1904), J. D. Barclay (1904–1906), P. H. Staggs (1906–1908), W. H. Dixon (1908–1910), Fred Wolff (1910), J. F. Lucky (1910–1916), L. A. Staggs (1916–1920), and R. T. Taylor (1920) (CC, DR 29:147; 35:228; 44:319; 54:23; 58:187–188; 83:623).

R. T. Taylor conveyed the 55-acre parcel to B. P. Watts in 1920 (CC, DR 83:622). Watts owned the property from that point until he and his wife, Wille Lee Watts, sold it to the U.S. government in 1953 (CC, DR 190:120). Watts apparently occupied the land and either improved it or maintained existing improvements. The government acquired the land subject to Watts's right to remove a house, garage, two sheds, windmill, and tank.

Summary: Site 41CV783 is located on a survey that was patented in 1853. Various tracts within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1953. Isaac Lucky owned a 246-acre tract of land in the Williams Survey from 1870 to 1883. Land, tax and census records indicate that Lucky occupied the property and conducted a farm operation. Between 1883 and 1894, the property was owned by T. S. Miller (1883–1891), J. D. Brown Jr. (1891), and S. M. Battles (1891–1894). All three may have lived on the property and maintained the improvements.

T. F. Evetts owned the 55-acre parcel from 1894 to 1902. Land, tax, and census records indicate that Evetts occupied the property and used the acreage for a farm operation.

Between 1902 and 1920, the property was owned by W. R. Cavett and R. M. Washington (1902–1904), J. D. Barclay (1904–1906), P. H. Staggs (1906–1908), W. H. Dixon (1908–1910), Fred Wolff (1910), J. F. Lucky (1910–1916), L. A. Staggs (1916–1920), and R. T. Taylor (1920). R. T. Taylor sold the 55-acre parcel to B. P. Watts in 1920. Watts owned the land until 1953, when he sold it to the U.S. government, at which time occupancy and improvement were indicated by the fact that Watts reserved the right to remove several structures, including a house and garage.

Site 41CV784 (Tract 1320)

Site History: Site 41CV784 is located on 80 acres out of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1320, which encompassed 80 acres in one survey and contained two sites. Site 41CV784 is in the northeastern portion of the

Tract 1320 and 41CV785 is in the southeastern portion of the tract. Both sites are in Coryell County.

On February 1, 1838, the Washington County Board of Land Commissioners issued Certificate No. 189, a first class certificate for one-third league, to Henry Williams. Williams proved that he had immigrated to Texas in 1834, was a citizen at the time of the Declaration of Independence, and was single. On October 14, 1850, William Armstrong, district surveyor,

surveyed property in Bell County for Williams; John Taylor and Thomas Kenzie assisted as chain carriers. The field notes describe one-third league in Bell County on Owl Creek, a tributary of the Leon, about 5 miles above the junction of the creek and river. On April 8, 1853, the State of Texas patented 1,476 acres on Owl Creek to Henry Williams (Texas. General Land Office 1853b; CC, DR 57:588).

According to a deed filed in 1867, the westernmost 492 acres of the Williams Survey were conveyed by Henry Williams to J. D. Allison in August 1853, although that deed is not of record in Coryell County. This, most likely, is due to the fact that Coryell County was not organized until 1855, and that the conveyance was made by virtue of an order issued by the Washington County Court. On December 31, 1867, Lydia Allison, guardian of the estate of J. H. Allison, *non compos mentis*, conveyed this 492-acre tract out of the Williams Survey to L. L. Johnston and Hugh Evetts (CC, DR E:367). In 1869, Johnston and Evetts partitioned the land, with Evetts taking the western 246 acres. One week later, on December 7, 1869, Evetts conveyed the 246-acre parcel out of the Williams Survey to J. M. Pruit (also may appear as Pruitt in some records) (CC, DR E:647). The parcel comprised the western 246 acres of the Henry Williams Survey and ran from the north line of the survey to Owl Creek on the south. (See also sites 41CV58, Tract 1319; 41CV384, Component O, Tract 1321; 41CV781, Tract 1315; and 41CV785, Tract 1320.) Site 41CV784 is located on the northerly 36 acres of Tract 1320.

J. M. Pruit owned the 246-acre parcel from 1869 until 1883, and he appears to have occupied and improved the land. However, it is unclear whether the improvements occurred at 41CV784 or at one of the other sites on the 246 acres. While Pruit owned the land, the assessed Coryell County evaluation rose from approximately $1.50 per acre to almost $2.50 per acre, indicating improvements. Pruit also was assessed for implements and livestock associated with farming. In 1875, for example, his assessment included 9 horses or mules, 21 head of cattle, 14 goats or hogs, $50 in household goods, and $75 in miscellaneous equipment (1871b, 1875b, 1880b).

In 1883, Pruit sold the northerly 146 acres out of the 246-acre tract to Green Franks (CC, DR R:428). Between 1883 and 1897, Green Franks (1883–1887, 1890–1893), W. J. McIlhaney (1887–1889), A. M. Fikes (1890–1893), and W. L. Ayres (1893–1897) owned the property (CC, DR Y:556; 4:150; 12:145; 25:372). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Franks and McIlhaney may have briefly occupied the 146 acres, but it is unclear if the property was improved further (1883b–1885b, 1888b, 1890b, 1895b–1897b).

On December 27, 1897, Ayres conveyed the 146-acre tract to T. F. Evetts (CC, DR 22:473). Tax records confirm Ayres's ownership and, with census records, indicate both occupancy and improvements. In addition to livestock and implements, the county assessed Evetts between $3.50 and $4.00 per acre for land in the Williams Survey (1898b, 1900b). In 1900, Evetts, his wife Annie, and their seven children lived in Precinct Five of Coryell County. Evetts, 48, farmed for a living, owned the land free of any mortgage, and had been married to Annie, 39, for 22 years. All members of the family were native Texans (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900b).

Between 1902 and 1908, the 146-acre parcel was owned by W. R. Cavett and R. M. Washington (1902–1904), J. D. Barclay (1904–1905), and P. H. Staggs (1905–1908) (CC, DR 29:147; 35:228; 44:319). These individuals apparently did not occupy or substantially improve the land during the course of their ownership (1902b, 1905b, 1907b).

In 1908, Staggs conveyed the land to D. M. Densman (CC, DR 44:582), and between 1908 and 1910, the county assessed Densman for property in the Williams Survey. The first evaluation consisted of $400 for the land, with no additional assessment for personal property. In 1909 and 1910, the evaluation reflected Densman's acquisition of two horses or mules, five head of cattle, and miscellaneous tools, indicating that he occupied the property and may have improved it. Census records set out that Densman lived in Precinct Five of Coryell County in 1910. He was 46 years old, had been married for 14 years, and farmed. He owned the farm that provided his livelihood, but it was mortgaged. His wife, Ida, was 32 years old and helped her husband on the farm. The couple had four children in 1910, ranging from 6 months of age to 11 years. Both parents and all children were native-born Texans.

In 1911, D. M. Densman conveyed the southern 36 acres of his 136 acres to B. M. Van

Winkle (CC, DR 54:366). Between 1911 and 1918, the 36-acre parcel was owned by Van Winkle (1911–1915), W. A. McGlothin (1915), M. S. Hinson (1915–1916), John J. Spires (1916), and F. M. Duncan (1916–1918) (CC, DR 62:157; 74:280; 75:105; 76:296, 304). These individuals may have occupied, but did not substantially improve, the property. An affidavit filed in 1916 stated that the land was fenced and continuously cultivated during the period (1911b, 1913b, 1915b–1918b).

In 1918, F. M. Duncan conveyed the 36 acres to F. W. Wolff, who owned the property until 1924. County tax records during this period reflected Wolff's ownership, and assessments that valued the land at over $8 per acre, indicating improvements (1919b, 1921b). Census records showed that Wolff, 41, and his wife, Dashie, 34, lived in Precinct Five in 1920. They farmed for a living and had seven children, the oldest three of whom helped with the farm chores. Fred and Dashie were both native Texans, although his father had been born in Germany. All their children were born in Texas.

In 1924, F. W. Wolff conveyed 80 acres in the Williams Survey to Homer Farris (CC, DR 103:38). The 80 acres consisted of the 36-acre tract in the north and 44 acres in the south (see also 41CV785). Less than 6 months later, Homer Farris sold the 80 acres to W. E. Farris (CC, DR 104:12). W. E. Farris owned, and may have occupied, the property until 1946. However, it is unclear from the records available whether Farris occupied site 41CV784 on the 36-acre parcel, site 41CV785 on the 44-acre parcel adjoining on the south, or neither site. Throughout his ownership period (1924–1946), he was assessed for 80 acres in the Williams Survey at a value of $600; there was no additional assessment for personal property until 1945, and the evaluation was minimal ($50 in 1945, $20 in 1946).

Farris sold the 80 acres to J. E. Woodson in 1946 (CC, DR 156:223). No conveyance appears to have been filed in Coryell County from Woodson to Lloyd H. Jones, but on November 30, 1953, Jones and his wife, Ellen M. Jones, conveyed their 80 acres to the U.S. government (CC, DR 188:471).

Summary: Site 41CV784 is located on a survey that was patented in 1853. Various parcels of land within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1953. J. M. Pruit owned the westernmost 246 acres of the Williams Survey from 1869 to 1883, when tax and land records indicate occupancy and improvement. However, multiple sites have been found on the land that now comprise Pruit's 246 acres. (See also sites 41CV58, Tract 1312; 41CV384, Component O, Tract 1321; 41CV781, Tract 1315; and 41CV785, Tract 1320.) Site 41CV784 is located on the northerly 36 acres of Tract 1320.

From 1883 until 1924, the 36-acre portion of Tract 1320 was owned by Green Franks (1883–1887, 1889–1890), W. J. McIlhaney (1887–1889), A. M. Fikes (1890–1893), W. L. Ayres (1893–1897), T. F. Evetts (1897–1902), W. R. Cavett and R. M. Washington (1902–1904), J. D. Barclay (1904–1906), P. H. Staggs (1906–1908), D. M. Densman (1908–1911), B. M. Van Winkle (1911–1915), W. A. McGlothin (1915), M. S. Hinson (1915–1916), John J. Spires (1916), F. M. Duncan (1916–1918), and F. W. Wolff (1918–1924). Several of these owners (Franks, Evetts, Densman, and Wolff) occupied and improved the land, and it was used primarily as farmland. The remaining owners either did not occupy the property, or if they did occupy it, they did not substantially improve it.

W. E. Farris owned present-day Tract 1320 (both the 36-acre parcel and the 44-acre parcel) from 1924 until 1946, and the property does not appear to have been improved substantially during that time. Subsequent owners, and possible occupants were J. E. Woodson (1946–?) and Lloyd H. Jones (?–1953).

Site 41CV785 (Tract 1320)

Site History: Site 41CV785 is located on 80 acres out of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1320, which encompassed 80 acres in one survey and contained two sites. Site 41CV784 is in the northeastern portion of the tract; 41CV785 is in the southeastern portion of Tract 1320. Both sites are in Coryell County.

For the history of the site through 1883, the period that concludes with J. M. Pruit's owning the westernmost 246 acres of the Williams Survey, see 41CV784. (See also sites 41CV58, Tract 1319; 41CV384, Component O, Tract 1321; and 41CV781, Tract 1315.)

In 1883, Pruit sold 50 acres in the Williams Survey to Doctor Franks, who appears to have occupied and improved the property. Between 1883 and 1893, Coryell County tax assessments for the land increased from $5 to $10 per acre, indicating substantial improvements. In addition, the assessments for the period also include livestock, tools, and equipment typically associated with a farm operation (1883b, 1888b, 1893b). However, because the 50 acres later became part of two separate tracts—the northeastly 44 acres became part of Tract 1320, and the southwesterly 6 acres became part of Tract 1315—and because each of these parcels contains a site (41CV785 and 41CV781, respectively), the location of the improvements relative to present-day tracts is unclear.

Franks sold his 50 acres to S. P. Mayes in 1894, and he appears to have occupied the property (CC, DR R:427). The 1894 tax evaluation decreased to just under $8 per acre and by 1905 dropped to about $7 per acre, but that probably is due to a general depression in land prices in Texas during the 1890s (Calvert and De León 1996: 203). Mayes also was assessed for livestock, tools, and equipment indicating a farm operation (1900b, 1905b). From the records available, the improvements could be located at 41CV785 or 41CV781. Mayes, 35, was a blacksmith in Bell County in 1900. He was born in Texas and rented his home. He and his 36-year-old wife of 14 years, Alice, had five sons, all born in Texas and ranging in age from 4 to 12 years. Alice, a native of Mississippi, did not work outside the home (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900b).

In 1905, Mayes conveyed the property to R. R. Ludwick, who kept it for about 18 months (CC, DR 40:151). Ludwick sold the 50 acres to C. E. Whitmore on October 19, 1906. Between 1906 and 1912, Coryell County assessed Whitmore for 50 acres in the Williams Survey. The assessments rose from $7 to $9 per acre, indicating substantial improvements at either 41CV785 or 41CV781. The assessments also included valuations for livestock, tools, and equipment associated with an active farm operation. Whitmore, 30, lived in Precinct Five of Coryell County and farmed for a living. He and his wife, Arreana, 29, had two children—David and Ella. All were native-born Texans (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1910b).

Between 1913 and 1924, the 50-acre parcel was owned, and possibly occupied, by E. W. Dixon (1913–1915), E. L. Densman (1915–1917), D. I. Glass (1917), F. W. Wolff (1917–1918, 1923–1924), R. T. Taylor (1918–1920), and M. J. Lynch (1920–1923) (CC, DR 81:104; 82:120–122; 94:127–128). In 1924, F. W. Wolff sold the northeasterly 44 acres of the 50-acre parcel to Homer Farris (CC, DR 103:38). (See 41CV781 for the site history concerning the remaining 6 acres.)

For the balance of the legal history of the land associated with 41CV784, beginning with the conveyance from Wolff to Homer Farris in 1924, see 41CV784.

Summary: Site 41CV785 is located on a survey that was patented in 1853. Various parcels within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1953. J. M. Pruit owned the westernmost 246 acres of the Williams Survey from 1869 to 1883 when tax and land records indicate occupancy and improvements. However, multiple sites have been found on the tracts that now comprise Pruit's 246 acres. (See also sites 41CV58, Tract 1312; 41CV384, Component O, Tract 1321; 41CV781, Tract 1315; and 41CV784, Tract 1320.) Site 41CV785 is located on the southerly 44 acres of Tract 1320.

The 44-acre parcel on which 41CV785 is located is the northeasterly portion of 50 acres that were owned by Doctor Franks (1883–1894), S. P. Mayes (1894–1905), R. R. Ludwick (1905–1906) and C. E. Whitmore (1906–1913). Franks, Mayes, and Whitmore occupied and improved the land substantially, but it is unclear whether these improvements were associated with site 41CV785 or 41CV781. Between 1913 and 1924, the 50 acres on which 41CV785 and 41CV781 are located were owned by E. W. Dixon (1913–1915), E. L. Densman (1915–1917), D. I. Glass (1917), F. W. Wolff (1917–1918 and 1923–1924), R. T. Taylor (1918–1920), and M. J. Lynch (1920–1923). Densman and Wolff appear to have occupied and improved the land. The remaining owners may have occupied the property, but did not improve the land substantially. In 1924, Wolff sold the northeasterly 44 acres to Homer Farris, who conveyed them to W. E. Farris just a few months later.

W. E. Farris owned the 36-acre and 44-acre parcels that comprise the tract on which 41CV785 is located from 1924 until 1946. The property does not appear to have been substantially improved during that time. Subsequent

owners, and possible occupants, were J. E. Woodson (1946–?) and Lloyd H. Jones (?–1953).

Site 41CV896 (Tract 1451)

Site History: Site 41CV896 is located in the southeast corner of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1451, which encompassed 235.84 acres in the southeast corner of the Carper Survey and contained two sites, 41CV753 and 41CV896.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV896 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV351.

For the legal history from 1872 until 1892, see 41CV1405.

For the legal history from 1892 until acquisition by the government in 1953, see 41CV753.

Summary: From 1838 until 1872, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere and the property apparently remained unimproved. Owners Hugh Evetts (1872–1874) and members of the Pruit family (1874–1891) improved the property; Evetts could have been in occupation, but status of the Pruit occupation remains unclear. Residence status remains unclear under the ownership of Sims, Mann, and Kirby (1891–1892). Owner William J. Collins (1892–1895) could have been in occupation. Jesse Dixon (1895–1898) apparently lived on and farmed the improved property. J. J. Stovall (1898–1901, 1903–1905) and W. J. Collins (1903) appear to have owned the property as an investment rather than a residence. In the interim, C. C. Cheek (1901–1903) might have been living there. J. M. Lanham (1905–1906), Mary H. Shirley (1906, 1910–1911), and A. O. Woodberry (1906–1910) lived elsewhere. J. W. Farmer (1911–1914) might have been living on the property. Members of the Murrah family (1914–1934) lived elsewhere. Owner R. W. Wells (1934–1945) might have been in residence. E. H. Watts (1945–1950) lived elsewhere. The Geiselbrecht family (1950–1953) apparently was in residence on and farming the property.

Site 41CV897 (Tract 1343)

Site History: Site 41CV897 is located in the northeast portion of the 320-acre Robert Bartlett Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1343, which encompassed 10 acres in one survey and contained one site.

In August 1853, the commissioners of the General Land Office authorized Robert Bartlett to survey 320 acres of vacant public land, a parcel that comprised the unlocated balance of his original headright certificate (2336/2437). H. F. Hoover, deputy surveyor for the Milam Land District, filed field notes in February 1854 describing a 320-acre parcel on the south side of Owl Creek, a tributary of the Leon River about 15.5 miles southeast of Gatesville. Rufus Parks and Andrew Wolf assisted as chainmen. Hoover surveyed the land for Andrew Wolf, assignee of Robert Bartlett. However, there is no formal transfer of rights from Bartlett to Wolf in the General Land Office records or in the land records in Coryell County. On July 8, 1857, the State of Texas patented the 320-acre parcel to Robert Bartlett (Texas. General Land Office 1857a).

Andrew Wolf owned the 320-acre parcel for over 20 years. Ad valorem tax records suggest that he also owned approximately 2,000 acres east of the Bartlett Survey; he was assessed for a large herd of cattle and horses, suggesting a ranching operation. However, the records do not establish where Wolf lived, although the larger parcel appears to have sustained improvements during this period (1859b, 1871b). When Andrew Wolf died in 1879, he was a single man and had no children (Stabler 1998:131).

G. W. Walton, administrator of the estate of Andrew Wolf, sold 37 acres located in the northeast portion of the Bartlett Survey to S. H. Walton for $156.10 in June 1880 (CC, DR N:539), a price that may suggest the presence of improvements. Walton's use and occupation of the property remain uncertain (1882b).

About 2 years later, in June 1882, Walton conveyed a 10-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the survey, along with land in the Womack Survey several miles to the east, to R. A. Grimes for $250 (CC, DR T:482). As most of the land conveyed was located in the Womack Survey, the relative value of the 10 acres in the Bartlett Survey is uncertain. Grimes's use and occupation are unclear (1882b).

In January 1883, Grimes sold the property to John A. Grimes for $650 (CC, DR T:483). However the conveyance again covered a much

larger parcel in the Womack Survey. Coryell County assessed Grimes for livestock in numbers that suggest a ranching operation, and the assessed land values of his two properties indicate that the parcel in the Womack Survey was more heavily improved (1887b).

John A. Grimes and his wife, J. S., conveyed approximately 3,400 acres that included the 10-acre parcel in the Bartlett Survey to L. Pate Grimes for $3,500 in cash and notes in October 1891 (CC, DR 10:43). Tax records suggest that L. P. Grimes ranched the property. However, his use of the 10-acre parcel in the Bartlett Survey remains uncertain (1892b).

There is a break in the chain of title between John A. Grimes and J. H. Ayres. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Ayres acquired the 10-acre parcel in the Bartlett Survey between 1922 and 1932. However, the assessment does not reflect ownership of any personal property (1902b, 1922b, 1932b).

In July 1942, Ayres and his wife, Sarah, sold 21 acres that included the 10-acre parcel in the Bartlett Survey to M. C. Junnell for $500 in cash and notes (CC, DR 140:289). Language in the deed suggests that J. H. Ayres acquired the property from D. M. Ayres, who had purchased it from J. H. Fisher. However, no further references were provided and none were found in the land records of Coryell County.

On December 9, 1953, Junnell and his wife, Florence Pearl, sold a 10-acre parcel to the U.S. government for $275 (CC, DR 188:634), a price that suggests the presence of improvements. When the government acquired the property identified as Tract 1343 it consisted of 10 acres in the Robert Bartlett Survey and contained one site.

Summary: The Robert Bartlett Survey, on which 41CV897 is located, may have been occupied as early as the late 1850s, when the state patented the 320-acre survey to Andrew Wolf. Wolf owned the land for more than 20 years. However, he also owned a larger parcel several miles to the east, casting some doubt on his use and occupation of the Bartlett Survey property.

John Grimes owned 10 acres in the northeast corner of the Bartlett Survey, where 41CV897 is located, between 1883 and 1891. Tax records indicate that he operated a ranch, but also reflect the fact that Grimes owned a larger and apparently more-improved parcel in the Womack Survey.

Between the late 1920s and 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was owned by J. H. Ayres and M. C. Junnell, both of whom also owned adjoining property in the Carper Survey. It is possible, though not certain, that the improvements associated with 41CV897 date to this period. When the government acquired the property, it encompassed only the 10-acre parcel, and the purchase price suggests the presence of improvements.

Site 41CV898 (Tract 1445)

Site History: Site 41CV898 is located in the south-central portion of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1445, which encompassed 114.3 acres out of the Carper Survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV898 is located from 1838 until 1872, see 41CV351.

In 1872, N. H. Conger owned the Carper Survey. That year, he conveyed a 209-acre tract where present-day 41CV898 and 41CV691 are located to John Owens for $1,045 (CC, DR G:344). Also that year, Owens paid taxes on the 209 acres that were valued at $836. He paid taxes on 1 horse worth $40, 12 cattle worth $48, 2 mules worth $150, and $15 in miscellaneous property (1872b). These values indicate that the property was improved and that Owens might have been living and farming there.

The next year, Owens conveyed the 209 acres to W. J. Graham for $1,250 (CC, DR 8:342). In 1874, Graham paid taxes on the 209 acres that were valued at $850. He also paid taxes on one horse worth $40, seven cattle worth $28, one mule worth $50 and $164 in miscellaneous property (1874b). These values suggest that Graham might have been living and farming there. Graham retained ownership of the property until 1879, when he conveyed the 209 acres to J. P. Dunn for $1,900 (CC, DR N:317). That year, Dunn paid taxes on a total of 663 acres in the Carper Survey that were valued at $2,500 (1879b). This property consisted of the 209 acres where present-day 41CV898 and 41CV691 are located and a 456-acre tract where present-day 41CV351 is located. The taxable value suggests that the property was improved, but the status of residency remains unclear.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV898 is located from 1879 to 1891, when E. A. Kincaid was the owner, see 41CV351.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV898 is located from 1895 to 1905, see 41CV483.

In 1905, A. W. and Margaret Dunn conveyed a 125.3-acre parcel out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV898 is located, to W. W. Deyerle of McGregor, Texas, for $1,389.77 in cash and notes (CC, DR 38:100). By 1924, Deyerle had died and his widow had remarried. That year, Mrs. W. A. Sanborn (née Deyerle) and her husband, Camden Sanborn of Matagorda County, conveyed the 125.3 acres to L. J. Simons. The vendor placed an 11-year exception (equivalent to the schedule of payments on the vendor's lien) on rights to cedar timber growing on the south end of the tract, as well as the spring rising from a branch that furnished water for the house place (CC, DR 101:623). This information indicates that the property was improved, occupied, and used. The location described strongly corresponds to the location of present-day 41CV898, which might represent the remains of the house mentioned in the 1924 deed.

On November 9, 1953, Simons and his wife, Eva, conveyed a tract of 114.3 acres where present-day 41CV898 is located to the U.S. government for $8,750. The vendor reserved the right to harvest crops growing on the land and to remove the following improvements: a 28x24 ft residence with 9x20-ft porch, 15x19-ft garage, 7x20-ft chicken house, two barns (one 12x37 ft and one 9x18 ft), 3x4-ft toilet, 10x7-ft smokehouse, and 15x15-ft tenant house (CC, DR 189:112). The reservation demonstrates that the property was improved and suggests that both owner and tenants were in occupation and farming.

Summary: From 1838 until 1873, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere, and the property apparently remained unimproved. John Owens (1872–1873) appears to have improved the property and to have been in residence. W. J. Graham (1873–1879) might have lived there. J. P. Dunn owned and might have lived on the property until his death in 1883, after which the Dunn heirs owned the land until 1891 and occupation status remains unclear. E. A. Kincaid (1891–1895) owned the property and might have lived there. A. W. and Margaret Dunn (1895–1905) lived in Killeen, but they improved the property and might have had tenants in residence or used it themselves. Members of the Deyerle family (1905–1924) owned the property but lived elsewhere. From 1924 to acquisition by the government in 1953, L. J. Simons, as well as his tenants, apparently improved, occupied, and farmed the property. There is a strong correlation between the location of a residence on the property and present-day 41CV898.

Site 41CV899 (Tract 1347)

Site History: Site 41CV899 is located in the west-central portion of the 320-acre Robert Bartlett Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1347, which encompassed 229 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the land where 41CV899 is located from August 1853 to June 1880, see the site history for 41CV897.

In June 1880, G. W. Walton, administrator of Andrew Wolf's estate, sold approximately 118 acres in the Bartlett Survey and 500 acres in the Womack Survey to Mrs. M. A. Wolf for $535 in cash and notes (CC, DR L:790). Mary A. Wolf was the widow of Andrew Wolf's brother. She owned several parcels of land but, according to ad valorem tax records, her use and occupation of the Bartlett Survey land remain uncertain (1881b, 1884b). She and her family apparently lived on the Memucan Hunt Survey in the early 1880s (Stabler 1998:131, 186).

For more than 60 years, Coryell County carried between 60 and 200 acres of the 320-acre Bartlett Survey on the unrendered portion of its tax rolls (1881b, 1887b, 1892b, 1902b, 1912b, 1922b, 1932b, 1942b).

The U.S. government condemned the 229-acre parcel designated Tract 1347 and the location of 41CV899 in January 1954, along with other land totaling approximately 1,160 acres (CC, DR 189:337). The owners collectively were compensated $58,370. However, no amounts were allocated to individual tracts. The 229-acre Tract 1347 was owned by the Mary A. Wolf Estate and contained one site.

Summary: The Robert Bartlett Survey, on which 41CV899 is located, may have been occupied as early as the late 1850s, when the state patented the 320-acre survey to Andrew

Wolf. Wolf owned the land for more than 20 years. However, he also owned a larger parcel several miles to the east, casting some doubt on his use and occupation of the Bartlett Survey property.

Mary A. Wolf purchased approximately 118 acres in the Bartlett Survey, where 41CV899 is located, in 1880. Wolf's use and occupation of the property are uncertain, primarily because she apparently maintained a farm in the Womack Survey and lived on the Memucan Hunt Survey in the 1880s. Coryell County appears to have carried the land where 41CV899 is located on its unrendered tax rolls between 1881 and 1942.

Site 41CV951 (Tract 1450)

Site History: Site 41CV951 is located in the northeastern quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the property was acquired by the U.S. government, the site was located on Tract 1450, which encompassed 119.01 acres in the Carper Survey and contained two sites, 41CV720 and 41CV951.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV951 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV351.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV951 is located from 1872 until 1892, see 41CV1405.

In 1892, W. J. Collins owned a 400-acre tract in the Carper Survey. In 1906, Collins sold a portion of it, an 80-acre parcel where present-day 41CV951 is located, to Robert Taylor for an $880 note (CC, DR 49:127). The next year, Taylor paid taxes on the 80 acres that were valued at $400. He also paid taxes on three horses or mules worth $215, two cattle worth $15, one vehicle worth $10, and $10 in manufacturers tools (1907b). These values suggest that Taylor was probably living and farming there.

In 1907, Taylor and his wife, Lillie, conveyed the 80 acres to J. R. Lee for $1,000 in notes and note assumptions (CC, DR 44:234). The next year, Lee paid taxes on 120 acres in the Carper Survey, which consisted of the 40-acre parcel where present-day 41CV720 is located, and the 80-acre parcel where present-day 41CV951 is located. The total 120 acres were valued at $1,200. Lee also paid taxes on four horses or mules worth $250, eight cattle worth $60, two vehicles worth $50, $30 in manufacturers tools, and $10 in miscellaneous property (1908b). These values suggest that Lee had made improvements to the property, where he was probably living and farming.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV951 is located from 1951 until acquisition by the government in 1953, see 41CV720.

Summary: From 1838 until 1872, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere and the property apparently remained unimproved. Owners Hugh Evetts (1872–1874) and members of the Pruit family (1874–1891) improved the property; Evetts could have been in occupation, but the status of the Pruit occupation remains unclear. Residence status remains unclear under the ownership of Sims, Mann, and Kirby (1891–1892). Owner William J. Collins (1892–1906) could have been in occupation. Robert Taylor (1906–1907) apparently lived and farmed the property. Members of the Lee family (1907–1951) made improvements to the property where they apparently lived and farmed. The Stivers family (1951–1953) apparently was in occupation and farming, as were tenants.

Site 41CV961 (Tract 1419)

Site History: Site 41CV961 is located in the north-central portion of the 1,476-acre Samuel Bruff Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1419, which encompassed 261.77 acres out of the Bruff Survey and contained four sites: 41CV178, 41CV180, 41CV549, and 41CV961.

For the legal history of the property on which site 41CV961 is located through 1910, see 41CV178. For the legal history of the property on which site 41CV961 is located from 1910 to 1953, see 41CV180.

Summary: Site 41CV961 shares a common history with 41CV178 through 1910. Site 41CV961 lies within Tract 1419, but it is not known at this time if it can be associated with J. D. Brown (1910–1912). Subsequent occupation of Tract 1419 within the Bruff Survey and/or 41CV961 may be associated with L. J. Turner (1912–1913) and L. A. Shelton (1913–1953). The earliest improvements may have occurred on the property between 1910–1912 or 1912–1913.

Site 41CV1015 (Tract 1501)

Site History: Site 41CV1015 is located in the northeastern corner of the 160-acre Alfred Short Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1501, which encompassed 340 acres out of the Short, J. M. Barmore, W. L. Carlyle, M. J. Bates, Thomas Chatham and J. E. Alsop Surveys and contained two sites, 41CV1015 and 41CV1018.

Alfred Short filed an affidavit on February 21, 1857, witnessed by L. M. Robinson and William Wiggins, stating that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land. He was settled at the date of an act passed on August 26, 1856, authorizing the sale, location, and settlement of the Mississippi and Pacific Railroad Reserve. He also swore that he had continued to reside on the same land from the time of his initial settlement until the time of his affidavit. George F. Adams, the Coryell County Surveyor, made a survey of 160 acres for Short in Coryell County on January 5, 1858, on Shoal Creek, with William Glass and Alfred Short acting as chain carriers. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Alfred Short was living on his preemption survey as early as 1855 and that he resided there until about 1859 (1855b–1859b). In 1859, Short conveyed the 160 acres to W. W. Hammack for $150. The State of Texas issued a patent for 160 acres in Coryell County to W. W. Hammack, assignee of Alfred Short, on September 27, 1859 (Texas. General Land Office 1859f).

Hammack sold the 160-acre Short Survey, on which 41CV1015 is located, to Madison Kinsey on May 31, 1861, for $320 (CC, DR D:345). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Madison Kinsey improved and probably lived on the property from 1861 to 1867 (1861b-1867b). He then sold the survey to David Pilkington on October 10, 1867, for $250 (CC, DR E:253). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Pilkington continued to improve the property and possibly resided there from 1867 to 1878 (1867b–1878b).

In 1878, Pilkington and his wife, Sarah, sold the 160-acre Short Survey to David T. Logan for $1,500 (CC, DR N:398). Ad valorem tax records suggest that David T. Logan made even more improvements to the property from 1879 until 1890 (1879b–1890b). The land in the Short Survey was the most valuable of Logan's properties, which suggests he might have been living there. On December 1, 1890, Logan and his wife, Jennie, deeded the 160-acre Short Survey, on which present-day 41CV1015 is located, to George Y. Coop for $1,800 (CC, DR 7:388). Coop then sold the 160 acres to William L. Carlyle on March 3, 1892, for $2,000 (CC, DR 10:222). Carlyle patented an adjoining tract of 40 acres, on which 41CV1018 is situated, in 1894. However, Carlyle owned the Short and Covington Surveys, which were equally improved properties, and he could have been in residence either place.

William L. Carlyle deeded 80 acres in the Short Survey, on which present-day 41CV1015 is located, and the 40-acre William L. Carlyle Survey, on which 41CV1018 is located, to his son, John E. Carlyle, on July 3, 1899, for $250 and other valuable considerations (CC, DR 23:277). John E. Carlyle then sold a 140.9-acre parcel out of the Short, Carlyle, and Barmore Surveys back to his father, William L. Carlyle, on July 25, 1907 (CC, DR 51:14).

William L. Carlyle sold the 140.9 acres, on which present-day 41CV1015 and 41CV1018 are located, to Ed M. Berry on November 29, 1907, for $2,000 (CC, DR 49:197). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Berry possibly resided on the Short Survey, which was his most valuable property (1907b–1914b). In 1914, Berry sold the 140.9 acres to Thomas F. Walker for $3,250 (CC, DR 72:48). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Walker probably occupied the property from 1914 to 1916, when he sold the land to Martin V. Dyer on October 4 for $2,850 (CC, DR 75:518).

Martin V. Dyer died on May 5, 1930, and was buried in the Walker Cemetery. His wife, Martha, died on August 17, 1932, and also was buried in the Walker Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records). On March 29, 1933, the heirs of Martin V. and Martha Dyer agreed on a partition of the Dyer property. Irma Dyer McClesky, a daughter, was allotted the 140.9 acres in the Alfred Short, William L. Carlyle, and John M. Barmore Surveys, on which present-day 41CV1015 and 41CV1018 are located (CC, DR 119:152). McClesky and her husband, J. H., resided on the James E. Alsop Survey. They may have rented their property in the Short Survey to tenants from 1933 to 1954.

J. H. McClesky died in about 1949, and Irma McClesky retained title to the 80 acres in the Short Survey, on which present-day 41CV1015

is located, and the 40-acre Carlyle Survey, on which present-day 41CV1018 is located. On March 9, 1954, 340.9 acres out of the Short, Carlyle, Barmore, Alsop, Bates, and Chatham Surveys were condemned by the United States government in Civil Action Suit No. 1513 for the expansion of Fort Hood. Compensation was $28,815 (CC, DR 190:368).

Summary: The first occupant of the Short Survey appears to have been Alfred Short, who apparently resided on the 160 acres from 1855 to 1859. Madison Kinsey probably occupied the property from 1861 to 1867, after which David Pilkington probably resided there from 1867 to 1878. Subsequent residents possibly included David T. Logan (1878–1890), William L. Carlyle (1892–1899), and John E. Carlyle (1899–1907). Ed M. Berry may have lived on the Short Survey from 1907 to 1914, and it probably was occupied by Thomas F. Walker and his family from 1914 to 1916. Martin V. and/or Martha Dyer may have rented the property to tenants under their ownership from 1916 to 1933, as may the last owners, J. H. and Irma Dyer McClesky, between 1933 and 1954.

Site 41CV1018 (Tract 1501)

Site History: Site 41CV1018 is located in the northeastern corner of the 40-acre William L. Carlyle Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1501, which encompassed 340 acres out of the Short, J. M. Barmore, W. L. Carlyle, M. J. Bates, Thomas Chatham, and J. E. Alsop Surveys and contained two sites, 41CV1015 and 41CV1018.

On August 11, 1894, A. J. Emertte submitted a protest to the commissioner of the General Land Office. He stated that he had filed on a piece of land in Coryell County on September 17, 1891, and had had the 40-acre tract surveyed on October 13 of that year. As of August 11, he was occupying the property and claiming it as his homestead. He noted that an individual named W. L. Carlyle also had filed on and surveyed the same piece of land for the purpose of purchasing it under the Scrip Act. Despite his protest, Emertte's claim was disallowed, and a survey was made for Carlyle on August 10, 1894; the state issued a patent to him on December 1 (Texas. General Land Office 1894).

Carlyle's acquisition of the 40-acre parcel put him in possession of a total landholding of approximately 950 acres, including the 160-acre Short Survey that adjoined the Carlyle Survey. Carlyle held the property until July 3, 1899, when he sold the Carlyle Survey and the eastern 80 acres of the Short Survey to his son, J. E. Carlyle (CC, DR 23:277).

For the legal history of the 40-acre Carlyle Survey on which 41CV1018 is located from 1899 until acquisition by the government, see 41CV1015.

Summary: The 40-acre William L. Carlyle Survey, on which present-day 41CV1018 is located, may have been occupied by A. J. Emertte as early as 1891. Emertte's claim was disputed, and it is possible that the land actually was vacant when Carlyle patented it in 1894. Because present-day 41CV1018 was on land that was part of the Carlyle family holdings from 1894 to 1907, it is possible that it was associated with present-day 41CV1015 on the Short Survey nearby. Owners Ed M. Berry (1907–1914), Thomas F. Walker (1914–1916), Martin and Martha Dyer or their tenants (1916–1933), and J. H. and Irma Dyer McClesky or their tenants (1933–1954) apparently lived on the Short Survey, and improvements on the Carlyle Survey might have been related to farm operations.

Site 41CV1059 (Tract 1506)

Site History: Site 41CV1059 is located in the west-central portion of the 160-acre Jacob Jobe Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1506, which encompassed 259.83 acres in the Jobe and Juan Francisco Bueno Surveys and contained three sites: 41CV151, 41CV1059, and 41CV1174.

Jacob Jobe filed an affidavit on February 11, 1857, witnessed by James E. Alsop and Lawrence White. Jobe stated that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land at the date of an act passed on August 26, 1856, to authorize the location, sale, and settlement of the Mississippi and Pacific Railroad Reserve. He also swore that he had continued to reside on the land from the time of his settlement until the date of his affidavit. George F. Adams, the Coryell County Surveyor, surveyed a tract of 160 acres for Jobe on January 3, 1857, in Coryell County on Henson

Creek, with Samuel Jobe and S. Tipton acting as chain carriers. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Jacob Jobe paid taxes on his land from 1855 until 1858. The 160 acres were valued at $160 each year (1855b–1858b). These values suggest that any improvements on the property were minimal, at best. In 1858, Jobe transferred his 160-acre survey to Madison Kinsey for $250 (CC, DR C:481). The State of Texas issued a patent on September 28, 1859, to Kinsey as assignee for the 160 acres that had been surveyed for Jacob Jobe (Texas. General Land Office 1859f).

In 1861, Kinsey paid taxes on the 160 acres that were valued at $240 (1861b). This value suggests that Madison Kinsey improved the property and possibly lived there. In 1862, Kinsey and his wife, Malisa A., sold the 160-acre Jobe Survey to William Kinsey for $200 (CC, DR D:389). In 1862, William Kinsey paid taxes on the 160 acres, now valued at $450 (1862b). This value suggests that William Kinsey made further improvements to the property and might have lived there. In 1863, William Kinsey and his wife, Nancy Ann, sold a parcel of 110 acres out of the western portion of the Jobe Survey, on which present-day 41CV1059 and 41CV1174 are located, to John E. Pidcoke for $400 (CC, DR D:575). Ad valorem tax records indicate that the property still was improved, and that John E. Pidcoke possibly resided there from late 1863 to 1869.

On November 6, 1869, Pidcoke sold 110 acres in the Jobe Survey, on which present-day 41CV1059 and 41CV1174 are located, to F. M. Childress for $600 (CC, DR E:635). F. M. and M. E. Childress then conveyed the 110-acre parcel to Daniel White on May 14, 1870, for $600 (CC, DR F:81). In 1880, White paid taxes on the 110 acres that were valued at $600. He also paid taxes on 11 horses or mules worth $130, 15 cattle worth $75, 23 sheep worth $23, and 25 hogs worth $25 (1880b). These values suggest that White and his family probably improved, occupied, and farmed the property from 1870 to 1895.

On May 21, 1895, Daniel and Elvira White sold the 110 acres in the Jobe Survey on which present-day 41CV1059 and 41CV1174 are located to Alfred Carlyle in exchange for $2,000 worth of lands in Baylor County (CC, DR 16:216). Carlyle died on February 15, 1897, and was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records). That same year, his widow, Susan M. Carlyle, and their children, William L. Carlyle, C. M. Carlyle, M. E. Carlyle Gooch, and I. D. Carlyle Auten, agreed on a partition of the Alfred Carlyle lands. William L. Carlyle, C. M. Carlyle, M. E. Carlyle Gooch, and I. D. Carlyle Auten were allotted the 110-acre parcel in the Jobe Survey, along with other lands in Coryell County (CC, DR 17:367). William L. Carlyle, C. M. Carlyle, M. E. Gooch, and I. D. Auten then further partitioned the lands allotted to them from their father's estate, with William L. Carlyle being allotted the 110 acres in the Jobe Survey (CC, DR 17:369). Carlyle held the property until September 20, 1902, when he sold a parcel of 107 acres out of the Jobe Survey to Edgar M. Berry for $180 (CC, DR 30:364). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Berry probably resided on and farmed the property between 1902 and 1907 (1902b-1907b).

Edgar M. and Rebecca E. Berry sold the 107 acres in the Jobe Survey, on which present-day 41CV1059 and 41CV1174 are located, to R. L. Wiggington on November 26, 1907, for $2,200 (CC, DR 44:377). Wiggington then deeded a 50x100-ft piece of land out of the 107 acres to Mrs. E. T. King on January 31, 1910. The parcel had been fenced off as a graveyard (CC, DR 54:154). This tract apparently is the land on which the Tipton Cemetery was located (Tract 1513). The cemetery appears to have been used as a family plot for the Tipton family. Mrs. E. T. King's maiden name was Tipton, and she was related to many of the people buried in the cemetery.

Ad valorem tax records suggest that R. L. Wiggington and his family probably resided on the property from 1907 to 1910 (1907b–1910b). Subsequent owners, and possible occupants, included W. B. Deavers (1910–1912) (CC, DR 59:89), I. M. White (1912–1919) (CC, DR 59:355), and S. D. Riddle (1919–1922) (CC, DR 75:114). On November 6, 1922, S. D. and Alice Riddle deeded the 110 acres in the Jobe Survey, on which present-day 41CV1059 and 41CV1174 are located, to G. (Bud) Cummings Jr. and his wife, Laura, for $4,000 (CC, DR 99:97). Ad valorem tax records indicate that G. Cummings might have occupied improved property in either the Jacob Jobe or Juan Francisco Bueno Surveys (see 41CV151) from 1922 to 1946 (1922b–1946b).

For the legal history of the land in the Jacob Jobe and Juan Francisco Bueno Surveys where

41CV1059 is located from 1946 to acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV151.

Summary: Jacob Jobe apparently occupied his survey as early as the period from 1855 to 1858, but with minimal improvements, at best. Madison Kinsey appears to have made the first substantial improvements in 1861 and possibly lived on the property until 1862. Subsequent owners, and possible occupants, included William Kinsey (1862–1863), John E. Pidcoke (1863–1869), F. M. Childress (1869–1870), Daniel White (1870–1895), the Carlyle family (1895–1902), Edgar M. Berry (1902–1907), R. L. Wiggington (1907–1910), W. B. Deavers (1910–1912), I. M. White (1912–1919), and S. D. Riddle (1919–1922). After 1922, owners appear to have lived on land designated as a homestead that consisted of acreage out of both the Jobe and Bueno Surveys.

Site 41CV1060 (Tract 1505)

Site History: Site 41CV1060 is located in the southeastern corner of the 160-acre Samuel Jobe Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1505, which encompassed 311 acres in the Jobe and E. D. Gaines Surveys and contained three sites: 41CV1060, 41CV1168, 41CV1170.

Present-day 41CV1060 lies about 350 m southeast of present-day 41CV1168, and the two sites probably are associated with one another. For the legal history of the property on which 41CV1060 is located from 1855 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV1168.

Summary: Present-day 41CV1060 is most likely is associated with present-day 41CV1168. Samuel Jobe apparently occupied his survey from 1855 until 1858. William Moorhead appears to have lived elsewhere, after which Lawrence A. White occupied the property from 1879 until 1895. White apparently made improvements to the property in 1882. Alfred Carlyle probably lived elsewhere from 1895 to 1897, after which his widow and stepson could have lived on the property until 1925. Orville H. Baker and his heirs apparently occupied the property from 1925 to 1939. Wayne Dyer appears to have lived on the property from 1940 to 1949, when he apparently moved to Lampasas County. Homer L. Tennison apparently was the final occupant of the property from 1950 to 1954.

Site 41CV1072 (Tract 1507)

Site History: Site 41CV1072 is located in the northeastern quadrant of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1507, which encompassed 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained eight sites: 41CV150, 41CV404, 41CV1072, 41CV1164, 41CV1171, 41CV1175, 41CV1177, and 41CV1181.

Present-day 41CV1072 is located about 60 m northeast of present-day 41CV1175 and on the same tract of land. The sites most likely are associated with one another. For the legal history of the property on which 41CV1072 is located from 1839 to 1861, see 41CV151.

For the legal history from 1861 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV1175.

Summary: Present-day 41CV1072 is in close proximity to present-day 41CV1175 and on the same tract of land. The sites most likely are associated with one another. The property apparently was improved by William Moorhead in about 1861 and possibly occupied by him and his slaves until his death in 1875. William Rose possibly resided on the property from 1884 to 1890. After that date, the Bates family apparently lived on the Bueno Survey, but the exact location of their improvements remains unclear.

Site 41CV1074 (Tract 1508)

Site History: Site 41CV1074 is located in the east-central portion of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1508, which encompassed 444 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained two sites, 41CV134 and 41CV1074.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV1074 is located from 1839 until 1869, see 41CV151.

For the legal history from 1881 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV134.

Summary: Improvements appear to have been made on the property by 1878, and John H. C. Wiggington apparently occupied the property from 1878 until 1923. John G. Morse

and his family probably occupied the property from 1923 to 1954.

Site 41CV1082 (Tract 1509)

Site History: Site 41CV1082 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the property was acquired by the U.S. government, the site was located on Tract 1509, which encompassed 131.45 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained two sites, 41CV1082 and 41CV1179.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV1082 is located between 1839 and 1869, see 41CV151.

On March 1, 1900, John H. Wiggington purchased 337.4 acres out of the Bueno Survey from the Bayland Orphans' Home for $674 (CC, DR 22:417). In 1904, Wiggington and his wife, Isabelle W., sold 131.45 acres out of the southeastern portion of their land, to their son, Rueben L. Wiggington, for $293 (CC, DR 36:53). Ad valorem tax records suggest that the property had minor improvements in 1904 and possibly was occupied by Wiggington and his family until 1907 (1900b–1904b).

Rueben L. and Lula Wiggington sold the 131.45 acres in the Bueno Survey on which present-day 41CV1082 is located to J. P. Murray on March 22, 1907, for $900 (CC, DR 44:114). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Murray possibly resided on the property from 1907 to 1908, when he and his wife, Bertie Murray, sold the 131.45 acres to Henry P. Tipton for $960 (CC, DR 44:548; 1907b–1908b). Subsequent owners, and possible occupants, appear to have included Henry P. Tipton (1908–1910), A. W. Ward (1910–1913) (CC, DR 54:186), William B. Deavers (1913–1915) (CC, DR 40:458), John H. Logan (1915–1924) (CC, DR 40:558), and Gregory R. Smith (1924–1936) (CC, DR 99:329).

Gregory R. Smith died in Coryell County on November 10, 1935, and was buried in the Walker Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records; CC DR 133:116). His widow, Melvina Smith, sold the 131.45 acres on the Bueno Survey on which present-day 41CV1082 is located to J. H. Jones on May 25, 1936, for $1,600 (CC, DR 125:92). Jones deeded the 131.45 acres to C. D. States some time in 1936, but this deed never was recorded. Instead, the heirs of Gregory R. Smith executed a deed for the 131.45 acres in the Bueno Survey to C. D. States on September 18, 1939, to provide him with a clear title to the property (CC, DR 133:117). Ad valorem tax records indicate that States had designated the property as his homestead from 1936 to 1947 (1936b–1947b).

On October 22, 1947, C. D. and M. I. States sold 131.45 acres in the Bueno Survey to Marshall Wash (also spelled Walsh) for $2,650 (CC, DR 160:367). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Wash probably occupied the property from late 1947 to early 1949 (1947b–1949b), when he sold the property to Raymond McCutchen for $3,945 (CC, DR 165:368). Ad valorem tax records suggest that McCutchen possibly lived there in 1949 and probably moved out of Coryell County in 1950. He and his wife, Kathleen McCutchen, were residents of Coke County when they sold the 131.45 acres to H. R. Carothers on January 5, 1951, for $4,000 (CC, DR 177:603).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that Carothers designated the property as his homestead from 1951 to 1954 (1951b–1954b). In 1954, he and his wife, Sarah, sold the 131.45 acres to the United States government for the expansion of Fort Hood for $5,980. The Carothers were given the right to remove a dwelling, smokehouse, shed, chicken house, and barn with a lean-to that were located on the property (CC, DR 190:255).

Summary: The property on which 41CV1082 is located appears to have been improved by 1904 and probably was occupied by Rueben L. Wiggington from 1904 until 1907. Subsequent owners and possible occupants included J. P. Murray (1907–1908), Henry P. Tipton (1908–1910), A. W. Ward (1910–1913), William B. Deavers (1913–1915), John H. Logan (1915–1924), Gregory R. Smith (1924–1936), C. D. States (ca. 1936–1947), Marshall Wash (1947–1949), Raymond McCutchen (ca. 1949), and H. R. Carothers (1951–1954).

Site 41CV1159 (Tract 1504)

Site History: Site 41CV1159 is located in the west-central portion of the 160-acre J. M. Hays Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1504, which encompassed 100 acres out of the Hays and E. C.

Gaines Surveys and contained two sites, 41CV331 and 41CV1159.

J. M. Hays filed an affidavit on September 10, 1875, which was witnessed by David Pilkington and J. W. Poe. He stated that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land under an act for the benefit of the actual occupants of the public lands approved May 19, 1873; as the head of a family he was entitled to have 160 acres surveyed. L. J. Kimbell, the Coryell County Surveyor, surveyed 160 acres for Hays on December 29, 1875, in Coryell County on Shoal Creek, with P. Alexander and E. Gaines acting as chain carriers. J. M. Hays filed his proof of settlement affidavit on July 9, 1879, declaring that he had occupied and improved the land as a homestead for 3 consecutive years beginning on September 10, 1875. The State of Texas issued a patent for 160 acres in Coryell County to Hays on July 9, 1879 (Texas. General Land Office 1879b).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that J. M. Hays paid taxes on the land from 1875 to 1879. Between 1875 and 1878, the 160 acres were valued at $100, and in 1879 they were valued at $160. Hays also paid taxes each year on a modest number of livestock (1875b–1879b). These values suggest that, although Hays was supposedly living on the property, any improvements he made were minimal and apparently were made primarily in about 1879.

On August 27, 1879, J. M. and M. M. Hays sold their 160-acre preemption survey, on which present-day 41CV1159 is located, to A. H. Tipton for $150 (CC, DR M:785). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Tipton resided on the A. H. Tipton Preemption Survey from 1879 to 1884, during which time his wife, Tabitha Tipton, died and was buried in the Tipton Cemetery (1880b–1884b; Fort Hood Cemetery Records). A. H. Tipton and three of his children, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Kinsey, Mrs. Emiline Tipton King, and Benjamin W. Tipton, sold the 160-acre Hays Survey to James Ross on August 14, 1884, for $480 (CC, DR 3:363).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that James Ross and his family made improvements to and probably resided on the property from 1884 to 1886, and that subsequent owner-occupants were J. W. Coleman (1886–1892) (CC, DR Y:54) and Richard Pennington (1892–1916) (CC, DR 40:195), both of whom continued to improve the property. Richard Pennington died on August 3, 1916 (CC, DR 84:128), and his heirs sold 100 acres out of the Hays and Gaines Surveys, on which present-day 41CV1159 is located, to R. L. Cummings in January and March 1919, for $3,200 (CC, DR 87:290, 292, 295). In 1919, ad valorem tax records indicate that R. L. Cummings possibly occupied the adjacent property in the Gaines Survey, which was much more improved, although the land in the Hays Survey probably was improved as part of a farm (1919b). R. L. and Willie Cummings then deeded the 100 acres to Virgil Deavers on June 26, 1920, for $2,000 (CC, DR 83:533). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Virgil Deavers probably also resided on adjacent property from 1920 to 1927 (1920b–1927b). In 1927, Deavers and his wife, Della, sold the 100 acres out of the Hays and Gaines Surveys, on which present-day 41CV1159 is located, to Edwin M. Elms for $2,600 (CC, DR 107:203).

On May 22, 1930, Edwin M. and Ellen Elms sold 86 acres in the Hays Survey on which present-day 41CV1159 is located, along with several other tracts, to K. L. Potter for $2,500 (CC, DR 114:99). Mrs. Connie Moore Elms acquired the property some time in 1930 or 1931 from K. L. Potter. Ad valorem tax records suggest that, although the property in the Hays Survey was improved, Connie Moore Elms owned other, more improved, lands that she probably occupied from 1931 to 1939 (1930b–1939b). She then married S. G. Dooley in 1940 and, according to ad valorem tax records, moved to Waco (1940b).

On April 27, 1940, S. G. and Constance Moore Dooley sold the 100 acres out of the Hays and Gaines Surveys, on which present-day 41CV1159 is located, to Mrs. Margaret French for $1,250 (CC, DR 134:446). Five months later, Margaret and Cecil French sold the 100 acres to Leverett D. Honeycutt for $900 (CC, DR 135:427). However, Mrs. Connie Dooley continued to pay the taxes on the property until 1942. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Leverett D. Honeycutt and his family probably resided on the adjacent Gaines Survey from ca. 1942 to 1954 (1942b-1954b). In 1954, Honeycutt sold the 100 acres to the United States government for $7,380. Honeycutt was given the right to remove a dwelling with lean-to porch, a well house, brooder house, wash house, barn, and toilet that were located on the property (CC, DR 190:283).

Summary: J. M. Hays appears to have occupied the property from 1875 to 1879. Subsequent occupants probably included James Ross and his family (1884–1886), J. W. Coleman (1886–1892), and Richard Pennington and his family (1892–1916). R. L. Cummings and his family (1919–1920), Virgil Deavers (1920–1927), Edwin M. Elms (1927–1930), K. L. Potter (1930), Connie Moore Elms (1931–ca. 1939), and Leverett D. Honeycutt and his family (ca. 1942–1954) apparently improved the property in the Hays Survey as part of a farm, but the primary residence appears to have been on adjacent property.

Site 41CV1160 (Tract 1500)

Site History: Site 41CV1160 is located in the east-central portion of the 320-acre James E. Alsop Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1500, which encompassed 292 acres in the Alsop, M. J. Bates, and Thomas Chatham Surveys and contained one site.

James Edward Alsop filed an affidavit on June 8, 1854, that, to the best of his knowledge, the land on which he had settled and to which he had made improvements was vacant and had not been filed on before. S. W. Bigham, deputy surveyor of the Milam Land District, made a survey of 320 acres for Alsop on July 22, 1854, in Coryell County on Snake Creek, with Thomas Griffin and John Turney acting as chain carriers. A preemption certificate (No. 19) was issued to James E. Alsop on January 12, 1857, after he appeared before the clerk of the Coryell County Court. He proved that he had fully complied with an act passed on January 22, 1845, granting preemption privileges to settlers on public domain; and that he had resided upon, cultivated, and improved the land for more than 3 years. On October 11, 1859, the State of Texas issued a patent for 320 acres in Coryell County to James E. Alsop (Texas. General Land Office 1859a).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that Alsop paid taxes on his preemption from 1860 until 1868. In 1860, the 320 acres were valued at $800. That year, Alsop also paid taxes on four horses worth $300, 300 cattle worth $2,100, and $40 in miscellaneous property. These values indicate that the property was improved, and Alsop apparently was living there and was engaged in large-scale livestock production. In the years 1861, 1862, 1864, and 1865, Alsop paid taxes on a single slave, who also might have been in residence on the property (1860b–1868b).

Alsop sold his 320-acre survey on which present-day 41CV1160 is located to Jefferson Bates on June 2, 1868, for $160 (CC, DR E:254). In 1876, Bates paid taxes on the 320 acres that were valued at $2,000. He also paid taxes on 25 horses worth $375, 29 cattle worth $185, and 20 goats or hogs worth $40 (1876b). These values suggest that the property was improved as a farm. Ad valorem tax and deed records suggest that Jefferson Bates and his family occupied the property from 1868 until 1891 (1869b–1891b). Bates died on January 24, 1891, and was buried in the Walker Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records). Two of his sons, Elza J. and William K. Bates, probated his will in Coryell County. The will stipulated that the homestead was to become the property of Jefferson Bates's widow, Caroline. The actual land comprising the 320-acre James E. Alsop Survey, as well as the adjoining M. J. Bates Survey, were willed to the three sons of Jefferson and Caroline Bates: M. J., Leander, and James M. Bates (CC, PM E:225).

On July 10, 1891, Caroline M. Bates deeded her interest in the Alsop Survey, on which 41CV1160 is located, along with another parcel of land, to her sons (CC, DR 9:6). M. J. Bates moved to Edwards County and sold his interest in the Alsop Survey to his brother, James M., on October 22, 1908, for $1,250 (CC, DR 47:445).

Caroline M. Bates may have continued to reside on the property until her death on October 10, 1911, when she was buried in the Walker Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records). Leander Bates and James M. Bates jointly owned several tracts of land and agreed on a division of their common property. James was allotted 210 acres in the Alsop Survey, on which present-day 41CV1160 is located, and 54 acres out of the adjoining Bates Survey on November 25, 1913 (CC, DR 50:587). He and his wife, Hattie, designated a 200-acre parcel out of the Alsop Survey as their homestead in 1925 (CC, DR 105:599). Ad valorem tax records suggest that the Bates family improved the property and apparently lived there until 1927, when they moved to Brownwood (1914b–1932b).

On January 30, 1932, James M. and Hattie Bates sold 292 acres out of the Alsop, Bates, and Chatham Surveys to J. B. Whigham for $9,412.67 (CC, DR 114:234). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Whigham improved the land in the Alsop Survey as his designated homestead from 1935 to 1944 (1933b–1944b). In 1944, Whigham sold the property to Hulon P. Brookshire for $8,250 (CC, DR 149:566). Ad valorem tax records show that Brookshire designated the 200 acres on which present-day 41CV1160 is located as his homestead from 1944 to 1954. With his wife, Iona, Brookshire conveyed his farm to the United States government on March 9, 1954, for $27,840 (CC, DR 190:368).

Summary: Initial occupation apparently was by James E. Alsop beginning in 1854 and ending in 1868. Jefferson and/or Caroline Bates are believed to have occupied the property from 1868 to 1911, after which James M. Bates, a son of Jefferson and Caroline Bates, resided on the property until about 1927, when he and his family moved to Brownwood. The property then may have been rented to tenants or occupied by a Bates family member in 1928. J. B. Whigham and his family probably resided on the property from 1932 to 1944. The final occupants appear to have been Hulon P. Brookshire and his family from 1944 to 1954.

Site 41CV1164 (Tract 1507)

Site History: Site 41CV1164 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1507, which encompassed 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained eight sites: 41CV150, 41CV404, 41CV1072, 41CV1164, 41CV1171, 41CV1175, 41CV1177, and 41CV1181.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV1164 is located from 1839 until 1869, see 41CV151.

For the history from 1869 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV150.

Summary: J. D. Brown Jr. and subsequent owners made minimal improvements to the property on which 41CV1164 is located. Occupation status remains unclear. Owners might have leased the property as pasture lands between 1917 and 1954.

Site 41CV1168 (Tract 1505)

Site History: Site 41CV1168 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 160-acre Samuel Jobe Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1505, which encompassed 311 acres in the Jobe and E. D. Gaines Surveys and contained three sites: 41CV1060, 41CV1168, 41CV1170.

Samuel Jobe filed an affidavit on February 11, 1857, which was witnessed by Lawrence White and T. S. Alford. He stated that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land at the date of an act passed on August 26, 1856, to authorize the location, sale, and settlement of the Mississippi and Pacific Railroad Reserve. He also stated that he had continued to reside on the land from the time of his settlement until the date of the affidavit. George F. Adams, the Coryell County Surveyor made a survey of 160 acres for Jobe on January 3, 1858, in Coryell County on Henson Creek, with Samuel Jobe and S. Tipton acting as chain carriers. Ad valorem tax records indicate that Samuel Jobe paid taxes on his 160-acre survey from 1855 to 1857. Each year the 160 acres were valued at $160 (1855b–1857b). These values suggest that, although Jobe apparently settled on the land, any improvements made were minimal. On November 19, 1858, Jobe transferred the 160 acres to William Moorhead. The State of Texas issued a patent for the survey to Moorhead as Jobe's assignee on September 28, 1859 (Texas. General Land Office 1859e).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that William Moorhead did not pay taxes on the survey from 1858 to 1864, after which he appears to have occupied the Bueno Survey (1858b–1864b). In 1865, Moorhead paid taxes on the 160 acres that were valued at $120, as well as the more-improved Bueno Survey. Moorhead also paid taxes on nine slaves worth $3,000 and $800 worth of horses, cattle, and other property (1865b). These values suggest that the Jobe Survey remained unimproved. Moorhead died in early 1875 and probably was buried in the Moorhead Cemetery.

W. W. Moorhead, one of the sons of William Moorhead, became the administrator of his estate (CC, PM B-2:403–405). On December 1, 1879, Moorhead's grandchildren (James P. Elam, William J. Elam, Franklin D. Elam, J. B. Elam, and H. F. Eddington), sold the 160-acre Jobe Survey to Lawrence A. White (CC, DR N:168).

Ad valorem tax records indicate that White paid taxes on the property from 1879 to 1895 (1879b–1895b). In 1882, White paid taxes on the 160 acres that were valued at $320. He also paid taxes on five horses or mules worth $100, seven cattle worth $50, and five hogs worth $5 (1882b). These values indicate that improvements had been made to the Jobe Survey. White might have been living and farming there.

On May 21, 1895, Lawrence A. and Mary E. White sold the 160-acre Jobe Survey, on which present-day 41CV1168 is located, along with the adjoining 146-acre E. D. Gaines Survey, to Alfred Carlyle for $3,000 and other lands in Baylor County (CC, DR 16:215). Ad valorem tax records (1896b) suggest that the Jobe Survey was an improved property as part of a farm, but Carlyle owned other, more improved, property where he probably lived until his death on February 15, 1897. Carlyle was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records), and his widow, Susan M. Carlyle, and their children, William L. Carlyle, C. M. Carlyle, M. E. Carlyle Gooch, and I. D. Carlyle Auten agreed on a partition of the Carlyle lands on April 13, 1897. Susan M. Carlyle was allotted the 160-acre Jobe Survey, on which present-day 41CV1168 is located, and the adjoining 146-acre Gaines Survey (CC, DR 17:367). Census records suggest that Susan M. Carlyle continued to reside with her son by her first marriage, Orville H. Baker, from 1898 to 1925. Ad valorem tax records suggest that, although the Jobe Survey was improved, it was not always the most valuable property that Carlyle owned, thus making it unclear where she might have been living (1898b–1925b).

Susan M. Carlyle died in 1925, and Orville H. Baker inherited the 160-acre Jobe Survey and the 146-acre Gaines Survey (CC, DR 117:636). Ad valorem tax records show that Orville H. Baker continued to pay taxes the property from 1925 to 1936 (1925b–1936b). In 1935, Baker designated his homestead as being on 146 acres in the Gaines Survey and 54 acres in the Jobe Survey (1935b). Orville H. Baker died on July 27, 1936, and was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery (Fort Hood Cemetery Records). M. Blankenship, administrator of the estate of Orville H. Baker, then deeded a 100-acre tract out of the Samuel Jobe Survey on which 41CV1168 is located to the Federal Land Bank of Houston on December 1, 1939, for $1,700 (CC, DR 133:254).

Two months later, on February 12, 1940, the Federal Land Bank of Houston sold the 100 acres to Wayne Dyer for $1,500 (CC, DR 134:363). Ad valorem tax records indicate that Dyer and his family designated the property as a homestead from 1940 until 1949, when they apparently left Coryell County (1940b–1949b). Dyer and his wife, Jesse, were residents of Lampasas County when they sold the 160-acre Jobe Survey and the adjoining 146-acre Gaines Survey to Homer L. Tennison on April 11, 1950, for $5,355 (CC, DR 173:618).

Ad valorem tax records suggest that Homer L. Tennison lived on the property from 1950 to 1954 (1950b–1954b), when the 311 acres out of the Jobe and Gaines Surveys were condemned by the United States government in Civil Action Suit No. 1505 on February 27 for $18,570 (CC, DR 189:537).

Summary: Samuel Jobe apparently occupied his survey from 1855 until 1858. William Moorhead appears to have lived elsewhere, after which Lawrence A. White occupied the property from 1879 until 1895. White apparently made improvements to the property in 1882. Alfred Carlyle probably lived elsewhere from 1895 to 1897, after which his widow and stepson could have lived on the property until 1925. Orville H. Baker and his heirs apparently occupied the property from 1925 to 1939. Wayne Dyer appears to have lived on the property from 1940 to 1949, when he apparently moved to Lampasas County. Homer L. Tennison apparently was the final occupant of the property from 1950 to 1954.

Site 41CV1170 (Tract 1505)

Site History: Site 41CV1170 is located in the southeastern corner of the 160-acre Samuel Jobe Survey in Coryell County.

Present-day 41CV1170 is located in close proximity to present-day 41CV1168, which suggests that the two sites were associated. For the legal history of the property on which 41CV1170 is located from 1855 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV1168.

Summary: Present-day 41CV1170 most likely is associated with present-day 41CV1168. Samuel Jobe apparently occupied his survey from 1855 until 1858. William Moorhead appears to have lived elsewhere, after which Lawrence A. White occupied the property from 1879 until 1895. White apparently made

improvements to the property in 1882. Alfred Carlyle probably lived elsewhere from 1895 to 1897, after which his widow and stepson could have lived on the property until 1925. Orville H. Baker and his heirs apparently occupied the property from 1925 to 1939. Wayne Dyer appears to have lived on the property from 1940 to 1949, when he apparently moved to Lampasas County. Homer L. Tennison apparently was the final occupant of the property from 1950 to 1954.

Site 41CV1171 (Tract 1507)

Site History: Site 41CV1171 is located in the northwest quadrant of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1507, which encompassed 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained eight sites: 41CV150, 41CV404, 41CV1072, 41CV1164, 41CV1171, 41CV1175, 41CV1177 and 41CV1181.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV1171 is located between 1839 and 1869, when it was acquired by the Bayland Orphans' Home, see 41CV151.

On March 1, 1900, the Bayland Orphans' Home deeded 300 acres out of the northwestern portion of the Juan Francisco Bueno Survey to J. M. Calhoun for $600 (CC, DR 22:416). Calhoun probably resided on a more-improved property that he had preempted to the west of the Bueno Survey. Throughout his ownership, Calhoun paid taxes on 400 acres in the Bueno Survey, which varied in value from $400 to $600 (1900b–1927b). These values indicate that the property had minor improvements, possibly related to farm use. Calhoun died on May 8, 1927 (CC, DR 111:397). The heirs of J. M. and Annie H. Calhoun then sold the 300 acres in the Bueno Survey, on which 41CV1171 is located, along with several adjoining tracts, to J. D. Brown Jr. on July 16, 1928, for $6,000 (CC, DR 111:298). Brown owned a total of 2,150 acres in the Bueno Survey, which consistently were valued at $3,000 (1930b–1944b). This value again suggests only minimal improvements, possibly associated with farming activities.

On October 1, 1945, J. D. and Myrtle Brown sold 2,115.2 acres out of the Bueno Survey on which 41CV1171 is located, along with several other surrounding tracts, to J. H. Bulman for $41,153.50 (CC, DR 153:179). J. H. and Grace Bulman sold the 2,115.2 acres in the Bueno Survey and other lands to the Lander Trust Company of Ellis County on February 1, 1950, for $30,010 and other valuable considerations not listed (CC, DR 174:298). After that date, the property possibly was rented for grazing by the Lander Trust Company until 1954. That year, the United States government condemned the 2,115.2 acres in the Juan Francisco Bueno Survey on which 41CV1171 is located, and other property, in Civil Action Suit No. 1513 for $96,111 (CC, DR 190:368).

Summary: The property where present-day 41CV1171 is located probably was associated with minimal improvements made by J. M. Calhoun from 1900 to 1928. The property probably continued to be used for farming or grazing purposes by subsequent property owners or their renters from 1928 to 1954.

Site 41CV1174 (Tract 1506)

Site History: Site 41CV1174 is located in the north-central portion of the 160-acre Jacob Jobe Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1506, which encompassed 259.83 acres in the Jobe and Juan Francisco Bueno Surveys and contained three sites: 41CV151, 41CV1059, and 41CV1174.

Present-day 41CV1174 is situated 300 m north of 41CV1059. For the legal history of the property on which 41CV1174 is located from 1855 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV1059.

Summary: Present-day 41CV1174 possibly is associated with 41CV1059. Jacob Jobe apparently occupied his survey as early as the period from 1855 to 1858, but with minimal improvements at best. Madison Kinsey appears to have made the first substantial improvements in 1861 and possibly lived on the property until 1862. Subsequent owners, and possible occupants, included William Kinsey (1862–1863), John E. Pidcoke (1863–1869), F. M. Childress (1869–1870), Daniel White (1870–1895), the Carlyle family (1895–1902), Edgar M. Berry (1902–1907), R. L. Wiggington (1907–1910), W. B. Deavers (1910–1912), I. M. White (1912–1919), and S. D. Riddle (1919–1922). After 1922, owners appear to have lived on land designated as a homestead that consisted of acreage out of both the Jobe and Bueno Surveys.

Site 41CV1175 (Tract 1507)

Site History: Site 41CV1175 is located in the eastern-central portion of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County, and is situated about 60 m to the southwest of present-day 41CV1072. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1507, which encompassed 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained eight sites: 41CV150, 41CV404, 41CV1072, 41CV1164, 41CV1171, 41CV1175, 41CV1177, and 41CV1181.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV1175 is located between 1839 and 1851, when Thomas M. League owned the Bueno Survey, see 41CV151.

There is an apparent gap in the chain of title between League and the next known owners of the 160 acres where present-day 41CV1175 is located. By 1860, William Alexander and H. B. Granburry owned the 160 acres out of the Bueno Survey. In March of that year, Alexander and Granburry conveyed the property to William Moorhead for an unspecified valuable consideration (CC, DR D:147).

Moorhead paid taxes on the property every year of ownership, with values ranging from $320 to $800. Ad valorem tax records indicate that the 160 acres were improved as early as 1861, and that the property was the most heavily improved of Moorhead's properties. Between 1861 and 1865, Moorhead also owned between seven and nine slaves (1860b–1875b). These values suggest that the 160 acres were improved and possibly were occupied by Moorhead and his slaves. Moorhead died in 1875 and probably was buried in the Moorhead Cemetery, which is located on Tract 1514, near present-day 41CV1175. His grave, however, was not marked at the time the cemetery was moved from Fort Hood in 1954, so it is uncertain whether he was buried at that location (Ft. Hood Cemetery Records).

Moorhead's son, William W. Moorhead, applied to the probate court of Coryell County to administer his father's estate on March 10, 1875 (CC, PM B-2:403). The heirs of William Moorhead agreed on a partition of the lands belonging to the Moorhead Estate on November 20, 1890. William and S. C. Rose were allotted the eastern 108 acres of William Moorhead's 160-acre parcel in the Bueno Survey on which present-day 41CV1072 and 41CV1175 are located (CC, DR 7:220). Ad valorem tax records suggest that the property was improved, and that William Rose probably occupied the property from 1884 to 1890 (1884b–1890b). In 1890, Rose sold the 108 acres to Owen L. Bates for $1,250 (CC, DR 7:220). By that time, Bates owned both the 108 acres where present-day 41CV1072 and 41CV1175 are located, as well as the 200 acres where present-day 41CV404 is located. Assessed together in the ad valorem tax records, the properties appear to have been improved, and Bates probably lived somewhere on his land in the Bueno Survey (1890b).

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV1175 and other sites are located between 1890 and 1954, see 41CV404.

Summary: The property where present-day 41CV1175 is located apparently was improved by William Moorhead in about 1861 and possibly occupied by him and his slaves until his death in 1875, when he probably was buried in the Moorhead Cemetery. William Moorhead's grave marker was not located when the cemetery was moved. However, the cemetery bears his last name, and many of his children and grandchildren are buried in this plot, so it is likely that he also was buried there. William Rose possibly resided on the property from 1884 to 1890. After that date, the Bates family apparently lived on the Bueno Survey, but the exact location of their improvements remains unclear.

Site 41CV1177 (Tract 1507)

Site History: Site 41CV1177 is located in the west-central portion of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1507, which encompassed 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained eight sites: 41CV150, 41CV404, 41CV1072, 41CV1164, 41CV1171, 41CV1175, 41CV1177, and 41CV1181.

For the legal history of the property on which 41CV1177 is located from 1839 to 1869, see 41CV151.

For the history from 1869 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV150.

Summary: J. D. Brown Jr. and subsequent owners made minimal improvements to the property on which 41CV1177 is located. Occupation status remains unclear. Owners

might have leased the property as pasture lands between 1917 and 1954.

Site 41CV1179 (Tract 1509)

Site History: Site 41CV1179 is located in the southeastern quadrant of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the property was acquired by the U.S. government, the site was located on Tract 1509, which encompassed 131.45 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained two sites, 41CV1082 and 41CV1179.

Present-day 41CV1179 is located about 675 m west of 41CV1082, and they possibly are associated with one another. For the legal history of the property on which 41CV1179 is located from 1839 until 1869, see 41CV151.

For the history from 1869 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV1082.

Summary: The property on which 41CV1179 is located appears to have been improved by 1904 and probably was occupied by Rueben L. Wiggington from 1904 until 1907. Subsequent owners and possible occupants include J. P. Murray (1907–1908), Henry P. Tipton (1908–1910), A. W. Ward (1910–1913), William B. Deavers (1913–1915), John H. Logan (1915–1924), Gregory R. Smith (1924–1936), C. D. States (1936–1947), Marshall Wash (1947–1949), Raymond McCutchen (1949), and H. R. Carothers (1951–1954).

Site 41CV1181 (Tract 1507)

Site History: Site 41CV1181 is located in the east-central portion of the 4,605-acre Juan Francisco Bueno Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was situated on Tract 1507, which encompassed 2,144 acres in the Bueno Survey and contained eight sites: 41CV150, 41CV404, 41CV1072, 41CV1164, 41CV1171, 41CV1175, 41CV1177, 41CV1181.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV1181 is located between 1839 and 1861, see 41CV151.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV1181 is located between 1861 and 1875, see 41CV1175.

The heirs of William Moorhead agreed on a partition of the lands belonging to the Moorhead Estate on November 20, 1890. Martha J. Wilson and Mary D. Moorhead, two daughters of William Moorhead, were allotted the northwestern 52 acres of William Moorhead's 160-acre parcel in the Bueno Survey, on which present-day 41CV1181 is located (CC, DR 7:220). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Wilson and/or Moorhead may have lived on their property from about 1891 to 1903 (1891b–1903b). The two women then deeded the 52 acres to M. H. A. Pennington on January 26, 1903, for $375 (CC, DR 29:299). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Pennington might have resided on the property from 1903 to 1916.

On March 20, 1916, Pennington sold the 52 acres in the Bueno Survey on which 41CV1181 is located to R. L. Cummings for $1,000 (CC, DR 75:152). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Cummings might have occupied the property from 1916 to 1918 (1916b–1918b), at which time he and his wife, L. B. Cummings, sold the 52 acres to R. L. Wyatt for $1,250 (CC, DR 82:291). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Wyatt might have resided on the property briefly before moving to Lampasas County (1918b). On October 29, 1919, R. L. and E. L. Wyatt conveyed the 52 acres in the Bueno Survey to H. C. Witte for $1,250 (CC, DR 83:224).

Ad valorem tax records suggest that Witte might have resided on the property from 1919 to 1946 (1919b–1946b). However, H. C. and Lillie Pearl Witte had moved to Eastland County by October 9, 1946, when they sold the 52 acres to H. B. Witte for $1,000 (CC, DR 158:80). One month later, H. B. and Pauline Elizabeth Witte sold the 52 acres to Early Bennett, who lived on another parcel of land in Coryell County, for $1,000 (CC, DR 157:398). On March 18, 1950, Bennett and his wife, Lois P. Bennett, sold the 52 acres to Tom V. Freeman for $700 (CC, DR 173:317). Freeman resided in Gatesville and owned the acreage until June 11, 1951, when he sold a total of 652.2 acres in the Bueno Survey to Oscar Lander, Frank B. Lander, and Clarence H. Lander, Trustees of the Lander Trust Company of Ellis County, for $17,184.14 (CC, DR 178:310). On March 9, 1954, 652.2 acres in the Juan Francisco Bueno Survey, on which 41CV1181 is located, and additional acreage in the Bueno Survey were condemned by the United States government in Civil Action Suit No. 1513 for $96,111 (CC, DR 190:368).

Summary: Possible improvements were made ca. 1891 by Martha J. Wilson and/or

Mary D. Moorhead, daughters of William Moorhead. The property might have been occupied by one or both of them from 1891 until 1903. Subsequent owner/occupants may have included M. H. A. Pennington (1903–1916), R. L. Cummings (1916–1918), R. L. Wyatt (1918–1919), and H. C. Witte (1919–1946). Residency status under the ownership of Early Bennett from 1946 to 1950, Tom V. Freeman from 1950 to 1951, and the Lander Trust Company from 1951 to 1954 remains unclear.

Site 41CV1405 (Tract 1449)

Site History: Site 41CV1405 is located in the northeast quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1449, which encompassed 58.64 acres out of the Carper Survey and contained three sites: 41CV1405, 41CV1406, and 41CV1408.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV1405 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV351.

By 1871, N. H. Conger owned the Carper Survey. In 1872, Conger, a resident of McLennan County, conveyed a 400-acre tract out of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV720, 41CV753, 41CV951, 41CV1405, 41CV1406 and 41CV1408 are located to Hugh Evetts for $1,500 cash and notes (CC, DR G:346). The next year, Evetts paid taxes on the 400 acres that were valued at $1,600. He also paid taxes on 15 horses worth $300, 22 cattle worth $120, 2 mules worth $150, $150 cash on hand, and $10 in miscellaneous property (1873b).

In 1874, Evetts and his wife, L. A., conveyed a portion of that property, a 350-acre tract on which present-day 41CV1405 is located, to Jacob M. Pruit for $2,450 (CC, DR I:315). The next year, Pruit paid taxes on 444 acres in the Hollingsworth Survey that were valued at $1,776, 196 acres in the Williams Survey valued at $300, 143.5 acres in the Lajoice Survey valued at $500, and the 350 acres that were valued at $1,225, as well as an improved lot in The Grove. Pruit also paid taxes on 9 horses or mules worth $340, 21 cattle worth $126, 14 goats or hogs worth $14, $400 in instruments or tools, $50 in household and kitchen furniture, and $75 in miscellaneous property (1875b). These values suggest that the property in the Carper Survey was improved. However, several of Pruit's properties were of similar value, thus making somewhat unclear which piece of property Pruit might have been living on.

By 1891, the property was once again a 400-acre tract. That year, Sarah A. Pruit (an apparent relative of Jacob M. Pruit) conveyed the land to James M. Sims, Edward Mann, and Pleasant P. Kirby for $1,753.40 in notes (CC, DR 10:356). The next year, Sims and his wife, M. J.; Mann and his wife, Missouri; and Kirby and his wife, L. A., conveyed the 400 acres to William J. Collins for $3,000 (CC, DR 9:592).

In 1894, Collins and his wife, Annie H., conveyed a 60-acre tract on which present-day 41CV1405 is located to W. H. Galloway (also spelled Gallaway) for a $395 note (CC, DR 26:161). Galloway retained ownership of the property until 1906, when he and his wife, Eva, conveyed the 60 acres to Henry Galloway for $1,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 44:323).

Two years later, Henry Galloway and his wife, E. C., conveyed the 60 acres to J. B. Barr for $1,114 in cash and notes (CC, DR 58:315). By 1939, Barr was dead and his widow, Mrs. Susan Barr, along with the other Barr heirs, conveyed three parcels of land to Mrs. Melissa Lofton of Harris County for $10. The parcels consisted of property out of the Dodson and Tippitt Surveys, as well as the 60 acres out of the Carper Survey (CC, DR 132:13). The purchase price of the conveyance suggests that Lofton was possibly a Barr heir. On January 5, 1954, Lofton, who had been a widow since 1932, conveyed a 58.64-acre tract on which present-day 41CV1405 is located to the U.S. government for $4,125 (CC, DR 188:572).

Summary: From 1838 until 1872, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere and the property apparently remained unimproved. Owners Hugh Evetts (1872–1874) and members of the Jacob M. Pruit family (1874–1891) improved the property; Evetts could have been in occupation, but the status of the Pruit occupation remains unclear. Residence status remains unclear under the ownership of Sims, Mann, and Kirby (1891–1892). Owners William J. Collins (1892–1894), W. H. Galloway (1894–1906), and Henry Galloway (1906–1908) could have been in occupation. Although J. B. Barr (1908–1939) might have been in occupation on the property, his heirs apparently lived elsewhere. Melissa Lofton (1939–1954) lived in Harris County.

Site 41CV1406 (Tract 1449)

Site History: Site 41CV1406 is located in the northeastern quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1449, which encompassed 58.64 acres out of the Carper Survey and contained three sites: 41CV1405, 41CV1406, and 41CV1408.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV1406 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV351.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV1406 is located from 1871 until 1874, see 41CV1405.

In 1874, Hugh Evetts owned a 400-acre tract in the Carper Survey. That year, Evetts conveyed a 50-acre tract in the northeast corner of the Carper Survey where present-day 41CV1406 is located to John Cash for $225 (CC, DR U:100). In 1875, Cash paid taxes on the 50 acres that were valued at $25. He also paid taxes on one horse or mule worth $12.50 and $172 in miscellaneous property (1875b). These values suggest that the 50 acres were not improved. However, the sales price suggests that minimal improvements might have been present on the property.

In 1876, John Cash conveyed the 50 acres to Samuel Cash for $150 (CC, DR U:101). During the years of his ownership of the 50 acres, Samuel Cash never paid taxes on the property (1876b–1883b). Therefore, the status of improvement or occupation remains unclear. In 1883, Sam Cash and his wife, S. E., conveyed the 50 acres to Jacob M. Pruit for $150 (CC, DR U:102). This conveyance reunited the 50-acre tract with the 350-acre tract where present-day 41CV720, 41CV753, 41CV951, 41CV1405, 41CV1406, and 41CV1408 are located, thus re-creating the 400-acre tract from which they came. That year, Pruit paid taxes on 431 acres in the Hollingsworth Survey that were valued at $1,500, 140 acres in the Cary Survey that were valued at $450, 206.5 acres in the Lajoice Survey that were valued at $1,000, and the 400 acres that were valued at $1,200, as well as a lot in The Grove. He also paid taxes on 2 carriages or wagons worth $200, 7 horses or mules worth $270, 11 cattle worth $110, 6 hogs worth $10, $250 cash on hand, and $870 in miscellaneous property (1883b). These values suggest that the 400 acres in the Carper Survey were improved. However, several of Pruit's properties were of similar value, thus making it somewhat unclear which piece of property Pruit might have been living on.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV1406 is located from 1883 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV1405.

Summary: From 1838 until 1872, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere and the property apparently remained unimproved. Hugh Evetts (1872–1874) improved the property, and could have been in occupation. Members of the Cash family (1874–1883) possibly made minimal improvements to the land, but their use of the property remains unclear. Members of the Jacob M. Pruit family (1883–1891) apparently improved the property, but the status of their residency remains unclear. Residence status remains unclear under the ownership of Sims, Mann, and Kirby (1891–1892). Owners William J. Collins (1892–1894), W. H. Galloway (1894–1906), and Henry Galloway (1906–1908) could have been in occupation. Although J. B. Barr (1908–1939) might have been in occupation on the property, his heirs apparently lived elsewhere. Melissa Lofton (1939–1954) lived in Harris County, and occupation status of the property remains unclear.

Site 41CV1407 (Tract 1411)

Site History: Site 41CV1407 is located in the south-central portion of the 160-acre Samuel Cash Preemption Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1411, which encompassed 95.28 acres out of the Cash Survey and contained one site.

Prior to the 1874 preemption grant made to Samuel Cash, this land was in the possession of J. D. McCarver, who lived on the 160 acres at some unspecified time, but apparently had abandoned and/or forfeited the property by the time Cash applied for his preemption grant (Texas. General Land Office 1883).

On October 27, 1874, Samuel Cash of Coryell County filed an application for a survey of the same 160 acres of vacant public domain that had been occupied and abandoned previously by J. D. McCarver. He stated that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land under an act passed by the Texas legislature on May 19, 1873, and that he had no other homestead. His affidavit

was witnessed by S. R. Tippit and W. J. Tippit. A survey of 160 acres of land located on the waters of Owl Creek was made for Cash on March 4, 1875, by S. J. Kimble, Coryell County Surveyor. That year, Cash paid taxes on his preemption claim, which was valued at $200. He also paid taxes on two horses or mules worth $80, two cattle worth $10, and $10 in miscellaneous property (1875b). These values indicate that Cash took up residency and made modest improvements.

Cash lived on the land beginning on March 4, 1875, and held it in peaceable possession until he quitclaimed the property to John T. Morgan on March 5, 1883, for the sum of $100. On the same day, Morgan filed a proof of settlement under the homestead act passed by the Texas legislature on May 26, 1873, in which he stated that he had occupied and improved the land for a period of 3 consecutive years. S. W. Fikes and Samuel Cash appeared as witnesses for Morgan. A second quit claim deed from both Cash and his wife, Eugenia, for $60 was executed for Morgan on June 21, 1883. On June 25, 1883, Samuel Cash filed a proof of abandonment for the 160 acres (Texas. General Land Office 1883). The State of Texas then patented the 160-acre tract to Morgan on August 15, 1883 (CC, DR 14:171). That year, Morgan paid taxes on the 160 acres that were valued at $80, as well as 80 acres in the Manning Survey valued at $80. Morgan also paid taxes on 1 carriage or wagon worth $50, 2 horses or mules worth $100, and 15 hogs worth $20 (1883b). These values suggest that any improvements made previously by Cash had suffered from his subsequent abandonment of the property, and that Morgan made no further improvements.

In 1883, Morgan and his wife C. W., conveyed the 160 acres to F. M. Childress for the sum of $360 (CC, DR S:172). In 1884, Childress paid taxes on 160 acres each in the Cash and Tippit Surveys, each one of which was valued at $160. Childress also paid taxes on a carriage or wagon worth $70, 2 horses or mules worth $50, 9 cattle worth $90, 18 hogs worth $20, and $10 in miscellaneous property. These values suggest that Childress might have improved the Cash Survey and might have been using it for agricultural purposes. In 1887, Childress and his wife, M. E. Childress, sold the 160 acres to A. H. Lockhart for one $240 note due in 1888 (CC, DR 9:309). The Lockhart family executed familial transactions regarding the land with only a $20 value increase between 1887 and 1901, but A. H. Lockhart retained a life estate in the property (CC, DR 26:359; 30:230).

In 1908, A. H. Lockhart; Sam R. Lockhart and his wife, Mollie Lockhart; and R. I. McGowen and his wife, Jennie McGowen, conveyed 98.5 acres out of the 160 acres to apparent family members, Thomas F. McGowen and his wife, Ellen C. McGowen (CC, DR 47:605). The purchase price, to be paid in cash and notes, was $1,350. This increase in price, despite a decrease in acreage conveyed, suggests that improvements may have been made between 1901 and 1908 to this portion of the property.

Thomas F. McGowen sold the property to C. C. Stuteville in 1912 for $1,650 in cash and notes (CC, DR 58:268). Three years later, in 1915, Stuteville transferred the land to C. P. L. Thetford for $2,500, also paid in cash and notes (CC, DR 55:431). The increase in sales price of $800 suggests that either the land values had risen between 1912 and 1915, or improvements may have been added. In October 1916, Thetford and his wife, Nanie Thetford, conveyed the real estate to J. J. Spires of Bell County for $4,600 (CC, DR 74:431). This price represents an increase of $2,100 in 14 months, suggesting perhaps that additional improvements were made to the property. Spires sold the property to J. K. Campbell in 1923 with a decrease in the price of the land by $100. Campbell also assumed a $1,600 note payable to the Commerce Farm Credit Company (CC, DR 98:297).

Between 1924, when Campbell sold the real estate, and 1947, the land was purchased for the following amounts and owned by five individuals: H. D. Farris of McLennan County for $3,500 (1924–1946), J. J. Tippie and W. A. Matthews of McLennan County for $1,800 (1946), Mrs. Lillie Clawson for $2,000 (1946–1947), and W. C. Thomison for $2,500 (1947–1953) (CC, DR 103:19; 158:203; 161:142). The sale to Thomison excepted a 2-acre parcel along FM Highway No. 184, leaving a sum total of 96.5 acres (CC, DR 161:142;189:234). As a result, the property actually decreased in sales price from the high of $4,600 in 1916, suggesting a decrease in value per acre and/or no substantial improvements. The deed records appear to support absentee ownership by H. D. Farris of

McLennan County and tenant occupancy and activity from the years 1924–1946 (CC, DR 103:19; 189:234).

In 1953, W. F. Thomison and his wife, Wilhelmina, sold the 95.28 acres for $8,130 to the U.S. government. (CC, DR 189:234). The Thomisons reserved the right to harvest all crops growing on the land and to remove the following: a 30x32-ft residence with porches measuring 8x18 ft and 8½x7ft 7 inch; a windmill with an 8-ft wheel, tank, and 30-ft tower; a 5x10-ft concrete water trough; 16x14-ft wash house; 22x24-ft tenant house; 4x3-ft toilet; 8x7-ft smoke house; and 38½x21 ft barn.

Summary: The Samuel Cash Survey, on which 41CV1407 is located, may have been occupied by J. D. McCarver, who had abandoned the property by 1874 when Samuel Cash applied for a homestead designation for the property. Cash sold the 160 acres to John T. Morgan in 1883. Subsequent owners of the Cash Survey included F. M. Childress (1883–1887), A. H. Lockhart (1887–1908), Thomas F. and Ellen C. McGowen (1908–1912), C. C. Stuteville (1912–1915), C. P. L. Thetford (1915–1916), J. J. Spires of Bell County (1916–1923), J. K. Campbell (1923–1924), H. D. Farris of McLennan County (1924–1946), J. J. Tippie and W. A. Matthews of McLennan County (1946), Mrs. Lillie Clawson (1946–1947), and W. C. Thomison (1947–1953). Increases in value between 1901 and 1908, 1912 and 1915, and 1915 and 1916 suggest that improvements could have been made to the property at those times. However, it is not currently known which of the owners/occupants/tenants may have been associated directly with 41CV1407.

Site 41CV1408 (Tract 1449)

Site History: Site 41CV1408 is located in the northeastern quadrant of the 1,065-acre William Carper Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1449, which encompassed 58.64 acres out of the Carper Survey and contained three sites: 41CV1405, 41CV1406, and 41CV1408.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV1408 is located from 1838 until 1871, see 41CV351.

For the legal history from 1871 until 1874, see 41CV1405.

For the legal history from 1874 until 1883, see 41CV1406.

For the legal history from 1883 until acquisition by the government in 1954, see 41CV1405.

Summary: From 1838 until 1872, owners of the Carper Survey lived elsewhere and the property apparently remained unimproved. Hugh Evetts (1872–1874) improved the property, and could have been in occupation. Members of the Cash family (1874–1883) possibly made minimal improvements to the land, but their use of the property remains unclear. Members of the Pruit family (1883–1891) apparently improved the property, but the status of their residency remains unclear. Residence status remains unclear under the ownership of Sims, Mann, and Kirby (1891–1892). Owners William J. Collins (1892–1894), W. H. Galloway (1894–1906), and Henry Galloway (1906–1908) could have been in occupation. Although J. B. Barr (1908–1939) might have been in occupation on the property, his heirs apparently lived elsewhere. Melissa Lofton (1939–1954) lived in Harris County, and occupation status of the property remains unclear.

Site 41CV1419 (Tract 1404)

Site History: Site 41CV1419 is located in the southeastern portion of the 320-acre Solomon Huffman Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1404, which encompassed 211.8 acres in three surveys and contained one site.

In February 1839, the Harrisburg County Board of Land Commissioners issued a conditional headright certificate (No. 1310) to Solomon Huffman for 320 acres of land. G. B. Erath, Coryell County Surveyor, filed field notes in June 1841, locating Huffman's 320 acres on Owl Creek. Sam McKay and Tom Leal assisted with the chains; J. Hattinhorn served as marker. In 1847, the Navarro County Board of Land Commissioners certified that Huffman had performed all the duties of a citizen and was therefore entitled to an unconditional certificate, which they then issued (No. 1310). James Neill and John Huffman corroborated these facts. On June 6, 1848, the State of Texas patented the 320-acre parcel to Huffman (Texas. General Land Office 1848).

The property apparently remained in the Huffman family for many years, although the evidence of ownership is somewhat sketchy. Huffman died in 1847 or 1848, and his widow died in 1862; they were survived by six children (CC, DR 23:200). Ad valorem tax records classified all of the 320 acres as unrendered until the mid-1870s, and part of the survey remained on the unrendered role until the mid-1890s (1855b, 1860b, 1865b, 1869b, 1875b, 1878b, 1881b, 1883b, 1885b, 1890b, 1893b, 1895b).

By the late 1890s, Tennessee Huffman Rogers, a daughter of the Huffmans and a resident of Falls County, apparently was the only surviving heir of the Huffmans, although there is no evidence of that fact of record in Coryell County. In an affidavit Rogers executed in 1897 (CC, DR 23:200), she stipulated that the other children had sold their interests in the survey to third parties, but that she never conveyed her portion.

In January 1899, Rogers sold 174 acres that included the land where 41CV1419 is located to P. E. Short for $200 (CC, DR 23:203), a price that suggests that the property was unimproved. Ad valorem tax records suggest that Short farmed the property and may have lived there (1900b).

Short sold 224 acres that included the property where 41CV1419 is located to J. P. Livingston for $1,200 in 1903 (CC, DR 29:454), a price that indicates that Short had substantially improved the property in the 3 years he owned it. However, the sale also included a 50-acre parcel in the southwestern portion of the Huffman Survey that Short already owned. Site 41CV1426 is located on the 50-acre parcel, and the increase in the purchase price may reflect the presence of improvements there rather than on the portion in the southeastern portion of the survey where 41CV1419 is located. Tax records suggest that Livingston farmed the property and indicate that he lived there (1905b).

In 1912, Livingston conveyed the 224 acres where 41CV1419 and 41CV1426 are located to W. W. Carroll for $2,000 (CC, DR 50:397), suggesting further improvements. One year later, Carroll and his wife, Willie, sold 85 acres out of the southeastern portion of the survey to W. V. McBride for $800 (CC, DR 58:596). Site 41CV1419 is located on this 85-acre parcel. Ad valorem tax records suggest that McBride farmed the property, but lived in Killeen (1914b, 1919b).

Between 1919 and 1949, the 85-acre parcel was owned by H. C. Jones (1919–1921), L. A. Stovall (1921–1922), O. C. Gossett (1922–1931), Floyd White (1931–1934), Edd Bird (1934–1935), D. A. Smith (1935–1942), and Houston D. Gann (1942–1949) (CC, DR 83:114; 94:401; 98:114; 114:471, 564; 117:540; 144:15). Purchase prices from 1919 to 1931, rose from $1,190 (McBride to Jones), to $2,100 (Stovall to Gossett). In the later period (1931–1934), the purchase prices ranged between $1,350 (Gossett to White) and $850 (White to Bird). The general trend appears to represent a decline in the quality of the improvements.

Houston Gann and his wife, Sarah L., sold the 85 acres to A. D. Bruton and his wife, Lima, for $950 in January 1949 (CC, DR 169:569). On December 3, 1953, Bruton and his wife sold 211.8 acres, that included the 85-acre parcel where 41CV1419 is located, to the U.S. government for $18,300 (CC, DR 188:439). The property, identified as Tract 1404, encompassed land in three surveys and contained one site. The Brutons also reserved the right to remove several structures, including a residence, barn and corn shed, windmill and tank, toilet, and two concrete tanks. Since 41CV1419 is the only site on Tract 1404, the improvements probably can be associated with that site.

Summary: Ownership, use, and occupancy of the 320-acre Solomon Huffman Survey are somewhat cloudy during the nineteenth century. The property was patented to Huffman in 1848, about the time he died. He was survived by a widow, who died in 1862, and six children. Apparently some of the children sold parts of the Huffman Survey, but one of them, Tennessee Huffman Rogers, retained title to the southeastern portion of the survey where 41CV1419 is located.

In 1899, Rogers sold 174 acres that included the land where 41CV1419 is located to P. E. Short, who improved, farmed, and probably occupied the property. J. P. Livingston also appears to have farmed and occupied the property from 1903 to 1912. W. V. McBride owned 85 acres in the southeastern portion where 41CV1419 is located from 1913 until 1919. McBride apparently lived in Killeen, and tenants may have occupied the property.

The purchase price of the property rose in the period from 1919 until 1922, but then fell between 1931 and 1934, perhaps indicating a

decline in the quality of improvements. In 1953, when A. D. Bruton and his wife sold Tract 1404 to the government, the purchase price was $18,300 and included the Brutons' reservation of several structures. The price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved at that time. Since 41CV1419 is the only recorded site located on Tract 1404, these improvements probably are associated with that site.

Site 41CV1426 (Tract 1400)

Site History: Site 41CV1426 is located in the southwestern portion of the 320-acre Solomon Huffman Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1400 which encompassed 186 acres in one survey and contained one site.

For the legal history of the property where 41CV1426 is located from 1839 until 1874, when the Huffman heirs owned the survey, see the site history for 41CV1419.

There is a break in the chain of title between Solomon Huffman and his heirs and J. B. Bennett for property in the Huffman Survey. However, in 1874, Bennett, a resident of Dallas County, sold 50 acres in the southwest corner of the survey to R. Marks for $125 (CC, DR K:297). Marks apparently conveyed the land back to Bennett, although there is no instrument reflecting this transfer filed in Coryell County. Use and occupation of the property during this period are uncertain (1874b–1877b).

In 1877, Bennett sold the 50-acre parcel to W. J. Miller for $125 (CC, DR 7:284). Ad valorem tax records suggest that Miller farmed the property and may have lived there (1878b, 1880b). Miller sold the property to David Holcomb for $75 in May 1880 (CC, DR 7:285); Holcomb appears to have occupied the property and operated a small farm there (1881b). He and his wife, Mary, then sold the 50-acre parcel to R. K. Hinds for $30 in August 1881 (CC, DR 7:286). Tax records suggest that Hinds farmed the property and may have lived there (1883b).

Hinds and his wife, Lizzie, sold the 50 acres to J. H. Price for $170 in January 1884 (CC, DR U:107), a substantial increase in price suggesting the presence of improvements. Price owned the property for 6 years and appears to have lived there (1885b, 1887b, 1890b). In 1890, when Price sold the 50-acre parcel to O. W. Heyroth, the purchase price rose to $500 (CC, DR 7:287), indicating further improvements. Heyroth apparently lived on and farmed the property (1893b) before selling the 50 acres to P. E. Short for $750 in October 1893 (CC, DR 16:625), another significant price increase suggesting additional improvements.

In 1903, Short sold 224 acres out of the southern portion of the Huffman Survey to J. P. Livingston for $1,200 (CC, DR 29:454). Site 41CV1426 is located on the western portion of the 224 acres; site 41CV1419 is located on the eastern portion. Livingston conveyed the 224 acres to W. W. Carroll for $2,000 in September 1912 (CC, DR 50:397). Carroll and his wife, Willie, sold the western 139 acres of the 224-acre parcel to D. J. McBride for $1,737 in November 1913 (CC, DR 58:598). The purchase prices in these transactions suggest the presence of improvements. Site 41CV1426 is located on this 139-acre parcel.

McBride and his wife, Sallie, conveyed the 139 acres to L. J. Turner in July 1915 for $1,737 (CC, DR 74:68). Turner owned the property for many years. In 1934, the property was resurveyed and found to contain 153 acres, rather than 139 acres (CC, DR 122:156). Turner and his wife, L. P., then sold the 153 acres to Martha Farris in 1942 for $1,500 (CC, DR 140:148), a price suggesting that the property was improved. Farris sold the 153 acres, along with 33 acres to the north, to the Veterans' Land Board of Texas (VLB) for $3,500 in June 1950 (CC, DR 174:559), indicating further improvements. On the same date and for the same price, the VLB entered into a contract and sale agreement covering the 186 acres, with Harry L. Barber (CC, DR 174:560).

The VLB, citing the satisfaction of all terms in the contract and sale agreement, conveyed the 186-acre parcel to Barber in November 1953 (CC, DR 189:76). On the same date, Barber and his wife, Earlene, sold the 186-acre parcel to the U.S. government for $8,135 (CC, DR 189:77). The property, identified as Tract 1400, encompassed land in the Solomon Huffman Survey and contained one site. The Barbers also reserved the right to remove certain structures, including a dwelling with porch, windmill and tank, corn crib and shed, two sheds, and two chicken houses. Since 41CV1426 is the only recorded site on the property, the improvements probably can be associated with that site.

Summary: Ownership, use, and occupancy of the 320-acre Solomon Huffman Survey are somewhat cloudy during the nineteenth century. The property was patented to Huffman in 1848, about the time he died. He was survived by a widow, who died in 1862, and six children. Apparently some of the children sold a 50-acre parcel in the southwestern portion of the survey where 41CV1426 is located to J. B. Bennett sometime before 1874. However, this transaction was not recorded in Coryell County.

Land and tax records indicate steady increases in purchase prices and probable owner-occupation of the property between 1877 and 1912. Owners during this period included W. J. Miller (1877–1880), David Holcomb (1880–1881), R. K. Hinds (1881–1884), J. H. Price (1884–1890), O. W. Heyroth (1890–1893), P. E. Short (1893–1903), and J. P. Livingston (1903–1912).

From 1915 until 1942, the 153 acres where 41CV1426 is located were owned by L. J. Turner. Between 1942 and 1953, the property was owned by Martha Farris (1942–1950), the Veterans' Land Board of Texas (1950–1953), and Harry L. Barber (1953). The purchase prices in these transactions suggest ongoing improvement. In 1953, when the government acquired Tract 1400 from Barber, it encompassed 186 acres in the Huffman Survey and contained one site. The purchase price and structure reservation indicate that the property was improved at that time, and since 41CV1426 is the only recorded site on Tract 1400, these improvements most likely can be associated with that site.

Site 41CV1463 (Tract 1502)

Site History: Site 41CV1463 is located in the northeastern end of the 160-acre John Barmore Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the U.S. government acquired the property, the site was located on Tract 1502, which encompassed 23.9 acres in the Barmore and Alfred Short Surveys and contained one site.

On November 23, 1875, John M. Barmore and witnesses swore that Barmore was a bona fide settler upon vacant public land, was the head of a family, had no other homestead, and was, therefore, entitled to 160 acres of land. On February 14, 1876, 160 acres situated on Shoal Creek about 6.5 miles southwest of Gatesville were surveyed for Barmore by Coryell County Surveyor, L. J. Kimbell, with J. W. Poe and E. J. Bates as chainmen. However, several conveyances took place before the survey was patented. By December 1876, for example, Barmore and his wife, J. C. Barmore, had conveyed the survey to W. H. H. Lambright of Coryell County for $125. According to a later affidavit, both Barmore and his assignee, Lambright, and their respective families homesteaded on the Barmore Survey for a period of 3 consecutive years beginning in 1875. Barmore never paid taxes on his preemption, and Lambright did not begin to pay taxes on the property until 1877 (1875b–1877b). From 1877 until 1883, Lambright paid taxes on the 160 acres every year, and on a small number of livestock and miscellaneous property. Despite the fact that both the Barmore and Lambright families supposedly lived on the property, the 160 acres were consistently valued at $80 (1877–1883). These values suggest that the property was not improved, and if Lambright lived there, it was in a minimalist fashion.

In 1883, Lambright and his wife, F. A. Lambright, conveyed the 160 acres to H. H. Nicolson of Coryell County for $300. The next year, Nicholson paid taxes on the 160 acres that were valued at $200. He also paid taxes on 1 carriage or wagon worth $50, 2 horses or mules worth $200, 13 cattle worth $130, and 7 hogs worth $10 (1884b). These values suggest that Nicholson was the first owner to make improvements to the property. He probably also was living and farming there.

In 1890, Nicholson and his wife, M. A. Nicholson, conveyed the 160 acres to A. R. Pennington of Coryell County for $200 cash and $300 in notes. In 1894, Pennington and his wife, L. E. Pennington, conveyed the 160 acres to A. R. Hawkins of Coryell County for the assumption of the remaining notes that Pennington was unable to pay. The Barmore Survey finally was patented to A. R. Hawkins on May 30, 1895 (Texas. General Land Office 1895a).

By August, Hawkins had conveyed the Barmore Survey to G. M. Shumate for $460 cash and notes (CC, DR 16:324). The next month, Shumate and his wife, Mollie L., conveyed the 160 acres to James Y. Moore for $600 cash and notes (CC, DR 19:1). In 1897, Moore and his wife, Lula D., conveyed the property back to Shumate in consideration of $25 and the cancellation of all notes (CC, DR 18:498). Two years later, Shumate, a resident of McLennan County, sold two tracts to W. L. Carlyle for $400. The property

consisted of a parcel out of the Tipton Survey and the 160-acre Barmore Survey, where present-day 41CV1463 is located (CC, DR 27:33).

In 1909, Carlyle and his wife, N. C. Carlyle, conveyed nine parcels of land, including the Barmore Survey, to Ed M. Berry for $5,425 in cash and notes (CC, DR 53:236). In 1912, Berry and his wife, Rebecca, of Coryell County, conveyed two tracts to W. B. Deavers for $1,500 cash and notes. One of the tracts conveyed was 139.1 acres where present-day 41CV1463 is located. In 1915, Deavers and his wife, Willie, residents of Coryell County, conveyed three parcels of land, including the 139.1 acres, to D. W. Barnard of Coryell County for $3,000 in cash and notes (CC, DR 61:623).

Barnard retained ownership of the property until 1923, when he and his wife, F. I. Barnard, conveyed three parcels including the 139.1 acres, to J. M. Curry of Coryell County for $5,000 cash (CC, DR 73:297). On March 30, 1954, Curry and his wife, Viola, conveyed 23.9 acres out of the Short and Barmore Surveys where present-day 41CV1463 is located, to the U.S. government for $3,341 (CC, DR 189:597).

Summary: Initial occupation of the Barmore Survey may have begun as early as 1875 with the Barmore and Lambright families, who were residents until at least 1878. The Lambright occupation might have continued until 1883, but without the benefits of anything more than minimal improvements to the property. H. H. Nicolson (1883–1890) apparently made the first significant improvements to the property and probably lived and farmed there. Owner A. R. Pennington (1890–1894) might have been in occupation. The Barmore Survey was patented to A. R. Hawkins (1894–1895), which suggests that he lived there. G. M. Shumate (1895, 1897–1899) apparently owned the property as an investment, not a residence. In the interim, James Y. Moore (1895–1897) might have been in residence. Owners W. L. Carlyle (1899–1909), Ed M. Berry (1909–1912), W. B. Deavers (1912–1915), D. W. Barnard (1915–1923), and J. M. Curry (1923–1954) could have been in residence, but the occupation status of the property remains somewhat unclear.

Site 41CV1532 (Tract 1409)

Site History: Site 41CV1532 is located in the northeast portion of the Emanuel Fikes 160-acre Preemption Survey in Coryell County. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was located in Tract 1409, which consisted of the Fikes Survey and contained one site.

Emanuel Fikes (elsewhere spelled Fykes and Fickey) filed an affidavit on January 21, 1871, witnessed by A. M. Fikes and G. W. Dodson, stating that he was a bona fide settler on vacant public land. This affidavit was filed under an act to dispose of the vacant public domain of the lands of the State of Texas approved on August 12, 1870. A survey of 160 acres was made for Fikes in Coryell County on July 3, 1871, by John Armstrong, the county surveyor. Fikes filed a certificate of occupancy on March 2, 1874, stating that he had settled upon and cultivated the land as a homestead since October 1, 1870 (Texas. General Land Office 1874a). The land was patented to him on April 9, 1874 (CC, DR 6:22).

Fikes did not pay taxes on his preemption until 1874, at which time the 160 acres were valued at $500. He also paid taxes on nine cattle worth $36, one mule worth $25, and $120 in miscellaneous property (18874b). These values are consistent with Fikes's occupying, improving, and farming his survey.

Fikes was married only one time and had nine children: A. M. Fikes, who died in 1894; R. T. Fikes; James M. Fikes; T. J. Fikes; S. W. Fikes; W. Q. Fikes; Mary Jane Fikes, married to M. A. Hunt; Emma Fikes, married to R. J. Glass; and Bell C. Fikes (CC, DR 68:447). Emanuel died in 1885, and his wife died in 1886 (CC, DR 68:447), after which their children, less Thomas J. Fikes, conveyed their interests in the Fikes homestead to their brother, A. M. Fikes (CC, DR 4:273, 429; 6:23).

In 1886, A. M. Fikes paid taxes on the 160 acres that were valued at $800. He also paid taxes on a carriage or wagon worth $20, 5 horses or mules worth $150, 30 cattle worth $300, 60 hogs worth $100, and $50 in miscellaneous property (1886b). These values indicate that A. M. Fikes continued to improve, occupy, and farm his father's preemption.

A. M. Fikes was married twice. From his first marriage he had four children: Collin E. Fikes; August B. Fikes; Dessie Fikes, married to Sam Moore; and Nannie Fikes (CC, DR 68:447). After the death of A. M. Fikes in 1894, his brother Thomas J. Fikes and Thomas's wife, Janie, sold their one-ninth interest in the

homestead to three of A. M. Fikes's children (August, Collin, and Nannie); to O. M. Fikes; and to Mrs. S. Elizabeth (Lizzie) Fikes, the second wife of A. M. Fikes (CC, DR 16:482).

Until 1898, the Fikes children rented the land, at which point their stepmother, Lizzie Fikes Hurst, and her second husband, W. T. Hurst of Comanche County, quitclaimed the property to them (CC, DR 21:595). A. M. Fikes's children (and the stepchildren of Lizzie Fikes Hurst) then sold the land to J. M. Gilbreath in 1913 for $2,000 to be paid in cash and notes (CC, DR 67:582). Gilbreath transferred the acreage to J. G. Geiselbrecht in 1914 for $2,650, also to be paid in cash and notes (CC, DR 62:97). The $650 increase in the sales price between 1913 and 1914 suggests that additional improvements may have been made to the land.

J. G. Geiselbrecht and his wife, Ethel Mae, owned the land for the next 37 years before selling it to an apparent family member, James Leslie Geiselbrecht, in 1951 for $4,000 (CC, DR 177:190). In 1953, Geiselbrecht sold the 160 acres to the U.S. government for $11,930 (CC, DR 189:219). He reserved the right to harvest all the crops growing on the land and to remove structures on or before December 1, 1953. These included a 26⅓ x24⅓-ft residence with an 8x12-ft porch, an 18x12-ft garage, 8x12-ft smokehouse, 9x12-ft chicken house, 3½x4-ft toilet, 17x20-ft barn, and 8x18-ft cow shed and feed house (CC, DR 189:219).

Summary: The Emanuel Fikes Survey on which 41CV1532 is located was occupied by 1870, when Fikes homesteaded the property and added improvements. The property remained in the hands of the Fikes heirs until 1913. While 41CV1532 lies within this original survey, it is not known if the site can be associated clearly with occupation by various members of the Fikes family between 1870 and 1913. Subsequent occupation of the Fikes Survey and/or 41CV1532 may be associated with J. M. Gilbreath (1913–1914), J. G. Geiselbrecht (1914–1951), and James Leslie Geiselbrecht (1951–1954).

Site 41CV1534 (Tract 1309)

Site History: Site 41CV1534 is located in the western portion of the 160-acre Robert McGowen Survey in Coryell County. In 1954, when the government acquired the property, it was part of Tract 1309, which encompassed 160 acres in one survey and contained two sites, 41CV241 and 41CV534.

For the legal history of the 160-acre parcel where 41CV1534 is located, see the site history for 41CV241.

Summary: Site 41CV1534 is proximate to and on the same tract of land as 41CV241; it most likely is associated with the owners of the property. However, no specific association of sites and property owners can be determined from legal and ad valorem tax records alone.

Site 41CV1538 (Tract 1322)

Site History: Site 41CV1538 is located on 111.9 acres of the 1,476-acre Henry Williams Survey, which straddles the Bell-Coryell County line. In 1953, when the government acquired the property, the site was part of Tract 1322, which consisted of an eastern parcel of 111.9 acres and a western parcel of 116 acres in one survey.

For the legal history of the land on which 41CV1538 is located from 1838 to 1853, see the site history for 41CV784.

Henry Williams conveyed the eastern 973 acres of his patented lands to R. P. Knowles and W. E. Love on November 14, 1862 (CC, DR D:449). Between 1862 and 1866, Coryell County taxed Knowles and Love on 490 acres each in the Williams Survey, even though each man actually owned an undivided half interest in the 973 acres. The ad valorem tax value during this period was $1,200 for each 490-acre parcel. Both men owned slaves, substantial livestock, and other personal property indicating occupancy and use of the land (1862b, 1865b).

In 1866, Knowles conveyed his one-half interest in the 973-acre parcel to L. L. Johnston (CC, DR E:81). Later that same year, Johnston acquired the remaining half interest from W. E. Love (CC, DR E:95). Less than a year later, Johnston conveyed 487 acres of the 973 acres to Claiborn Osman (CC, DR E:258). Osman and his wife, Margaret, appear to have occupied this 487-acre parcel and to have used it for a cattle and horse operation. Beginning in 1868, Coryell County assessed the Osmans $800 for the land and $2,400 for 119 horses and 66 head of cattle. In 1873 and 1877, Margaret Osman was taxed for only 200 acres in the Williams Survey, but the value rose to $1,940. It is not clear from tax records if the improvements were associated with 41CV1538 or some other site on the 487

acres (1868b, 1873b, 1877b). The ranching operation became smaller over the period and, according to the 1880 census, Margaret Osman lived in Wise County, even though she still paid taxes on the 200 acres in Coryell County (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1880b). In 1883, Osman still paid taxes on the land, but the county did not assess her for any horses, cattle, or other personal property (1883b).

Margaret Osman, widow of Claiborn, conveyed 504 acres to her children, Clarence L. Osman and Claiborn T. Osman, in 1887. The consideration was $5 and the obligation to care for their mother for her natural life (CC, DR 1:198). In a companion deed of the same date, Clarence L. Osman and his wife conveyed all their interest in 250.8 acres of the 504-acre tract to Mattie J. Osman, Claiborn's wife (CC, DR 1:202). Apparently the objective was to partition the land and then to vest title to the partitioned parcels entirely in Claiborn T. and Mattie J. Osman.

Less than a year later, on December 1, 1888, Claiborn Osman and his wife conveyed 111.9 acres out of their 250.8 acres to J. W. Whitmore (CC, DR 4:132). In 1896, Whitmore also acquired an adjacent 116-acre parcel, giving Tract 1322 its present-day size and shape (CC, DR 16:580). Whitmore apparently improved the 111.9 acres between 1890 and 1895, since the county tax evaluation rose from $220 to $560. After he acquired the adjacent 116 acres in 1896, the county evaluated the two parcels of land at $800 until 1910. In that year, however, the evaluation rose to $1,200, reflecting another substantial improvement. Whitmore also paid taxes on livestock and implements generally associated with farming during the entire period (1890b, 1895b, 1900b, 1905b, 1910b). In 1910, Whitmore lived in Precinct 5 of Coryell County and farmed for a living on land he owned outright. He and his wife, Lue, aged 62 and 66 respectively, had seven children, one of whom still lived at home. J. W. Whitmore was born in Mississippi, but the rest of his family were native Texans (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1910b).

Between 1919 and 1936, both the 111.9-acre portion and the 116-acre portion of Tract 1322 were owned and possibly occupied by W. C. Homan (1919–1920), John Jones (1920–1924), A. A. Dixon (1924–1929), F. W. Wolff (1929), Lee Copeland (1929–1932), and B. B. Garrett (1932–1936) (CC, DR 83:188, 282; 104:136; 107:505, 567; 117:65). B. B. Garrett sold the two parcels to R. L. Copeland on November 13, 1936 (CC, DR 126:53). Part of the consideration was that Copeland agreed to keep a house and barn on the property insured for $500 and $250, respectively, thus indicating continued improvements and use of Tract 1322.

Copeland conveyed the property to Roy R. Callaway in 1951 (CC, DR 178:10). In 1953, Callaway sold both the 111.9-acre and 116-acre parcels to the U.S. government. Callaway's reservation of the right to remove a residence, toilet, smokehouse, chicken house, barn, and stock shed indicates both occupancy and use of the property and enumerates the improvements to it.

Summary: Site 41CV1538 is located on a survey that was patented in 1853. Various tracts within the survey appear to have been occupied and improved from that time until the government acquired the land in 1953. Claiborn and Margaret Osman owned 487 acres out of the middle portion of the Williams Survey from 1867 until 1887. They used and occupied the land, but it is not clear whether the improvements were associated with 41CV1538 or some other site on the 487-acre tract.

Between 1888 and 1896, J. W. Whitmore acquired 111.9 acres from the Osman family and an adjacent 116-acre tract, giving Tract 1322 its present-day size and shape. Site 41CV1538 is the only site that has been recorded on Tract 1322. Land, tax, and census records reveal that Whitmore occupied and substantially improved the land, and that he used it primarily for farming. These improvements probably are associated with site 41CV1538.

Between 1919 and 1936, both the 111.9-acre portion and the 116-acre portion of Tract 1322 were owned and possibly occupied by W. C. Homan (1919–1920), John Jones (1920–1924), A. A. Dixon (1924–1929), F. W. Wolff (1929), Lee Copeland (1929–1932), and B. B. Garrett 1932–1936).

B. B. Garrett sold the 111.9-acre and 116-acre parcels to R. L. Copeland in 1936, and the consideration included a requirement to maintain insurance on a house and barn. Copeland owned the property until 1951, when he sold it to R. R. Callaway. Callaway, in turn, sold present-day Tract 1322 to the U.S. government in 1953, but reserved the right to remove structures, including a house, barn, and several outbuildings.

REFERENCES CITED

Kolb, Michael J., and James E. Snead
1997 It's a Small World After All: Comparative Analyses of Community Organization in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 62 (4):609–628.

Bell County Abstract Company
[1952] Belton Reservoir Tract No. B-116. Original Abstract of Title Made for the United States of America by Bell County Abstract Company. Copy on file at the Cultural Resource Management Office, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Office, Fort Hood, Texas.

Bell County, Texas
Ad Valorem Tax Records
Deed Records
Deed of Trust Records
District Court Case Files
Plat Records
Probate Minutes
Surveyor's Records

Bishop, J. J.
1952 *The Rise and Fall of Sparta: A History of its Beginning and its End.* J. J. Bishop, Brownsville, Texas.

Blake, Marie E.
1999 *Archeological Investigations and Integrity Assessments for Historic Sites on Fort Hood, Texas.* United States Army Fort Hood, Archeological Resource Management Series, Research Report No. 41. Draft report. Prewitt and Associates, Inc., Austin.

Briuer, Fredrick L.
1996 Fort Hood. In *The New Handbook of Texas,* vol. 1, edited by Ron Tyler. The Texas State Historical Association, Austin.

Calvert, Robert A., and Arnoldo De Leon
1996 *The History of Texas.* Harlan Davidson, Inc., Wheeling, Illinois.

Coryell County, Texas
Ad Valorem Tax Records
Deed Records
District Court Case Files
District Court Minutes
Plat Records
Probate Minutes
Surveyor's Records

Freeman, Martha Doty
1998 *A History of Quintana, a Nineteenth-Century Coastal Port in Brazoria County, Texas.* Reports of Investigations, Number 117. Prewitt and Associates, Inc., Austin.

Kemp, L. W.
1996 Herman Aiken. In *The New Handbook of Texas,* Vol. 1:73, edited by Ron Tyler. The Texas State Historical Association, Austin.

Kleiner, Diana J.
1996 Bayland Orphans' Home for Boys. In *The New Handbook of Texas,* Vol. 1:422, edited by Ron Tyler. The Texas State Historical Association, Austin.

Kolb, Michael J., and James E. Snead
1997 It's a Small World After All: Comparative Analyses of Community Organization in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 62 (4):609–628.

Macaulay, Carol Fiorillo
1998 Sparta, Texas: Traditions of Self-Sufficiency and Community Solidarity. Unpublished Master's thesis, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Montieth Abstract Co.
1919 Commissioner's District Map No. 4. On file in the Genealogy Room, Temple Public Library, Temple, Texas.

Odintz, Mark
1996 Aiken, Texas (Bell County). In *The New Handbook of Texas,* Vol. 1:73, edited by Ron Tyler. The Texas States Historical Association, Austin.

Smith, Jerry K., and Patrick D. McLaughlin
1980 *Copperas Cove: City of Five Hills, a Centennial History.* Eakin Press, Burnet, Texas.

Stabler, Jennifer A.
1999 *Historical Research Preliminary to National Register Assessments of 719 Historic Sites at Fort Hood, Bell and Coryell Counties, Texas.* United States Army Fort Hood Archeological Resource Management Series, Research Report No. 36. Prewitt and Associates, Inc., Austin.

Texas. Comptroller of Public Accounts
1851–1910a Bell County Tax Rolls
1855–1947b Coryell County Tax Rolls

Texas. General Land Office
1842 Milam 2nd Class File No. 58. Abstract 250. Patented February 17, 1842, to William P. Dykeman.

1844 Milam Donation File No. 174. Abstract 789. Patented December 5, 1844, to Jack Shackelford.

1845a Milam 2nd Class File No. 94. Abstract 812. Patented July 17, 1845, to Stephen P. Terry.

1845b Milam Bounty File No. 183. Abstract 913. Patented February 19, 1845, to J. S. Wilder.

1845c Milam Bounty File No. 185. Abstract 430. Patented July 18, 1845, to Thomas Hemsworth.

1845d Milam 1st Class File No. 353. Abstract 60. Patented June 30, 1845, to the heirs of Samuel Bruff, deceased.

1845e Milam 1st Class File No. 447. Abstract 475. Patented July 1, 1845, to the heirs of Wiley Jones, deceased.

1846a Milam Bounty File No. 177. Abstract 786. Patented February 8, 1846, to the heirs of F. S. Shackelford, deceased.

1846b Milam Donation File No. 178. Abstract 787. Patented February 8, 1846, to the heirs of William J. Shackelford, deceased.

1846c Milam Bounty File No. 212. Abstract 186. Patented February 6, 1846, to the heirs of Joseph Cooper.

1846d Milam 1st Class File No. 259. Abstract 313. Patented February 10, 1846, to the heirs of R. P. Forbes, deceased.

1846e Milam 1st Class File No. 542. Abstract 54. Patented October 21, 1846, to P. G. Merritt, assignee of Andrew J. Yates.

1847a Milam Bounty File No. 235. Abstract 267. Patented February 8, 1847, to Isaac Dowess.

1847b Milam 1st Class File No. 419. Abstract 159. Patented January 15, 1847, to G. W. Cartwright.

1848 Milam 4th Class File No. 71. Abstract 756. Patented November 24, 1848, to Marcus Summerville.

1849a Milam 2nd Class File No. 65. Abstract 739. Patented April 7, 1849, to John Slaburn.

1849b Milam 2nd Class File No. 75. Abstract 871. Patented October 15, 1849, to Francis A. Wilson.

1849c Milam 1st Class File No. 308. Abstract 474. Patented April 17, 1849, to the heirs of Harwood W. Jones.

1849d Milam 2nd Class File No. 323. Abstract 83. Patented November 8, 1849, to the heirs of William B. Brent, deceased.

1849e Milam 1st Class File No. 423. Abstract 160. Patented December 19, 1849, to George W. Cartwright, assignee of James H. Conley.

1849f Milam Bounty File No. 593. Abstract 422. Patented November 8, 1849, to James Halfpenny.

1850a Milam 2nd Class File No. 64. Abstract 395. Patented December 4, 1850, to Thomas Hemsworth.

1850b Milam 2nd Class File No. 73. Abstract 80. Patented August 21, 1850, to Maples H. Bush.

1850c Milam Bounty File No. 237. Abstract 633. Patented December 23, 1850, to Frederick Niebling.

1850d Milam Donation File No. 642. Abstract 39. Patented October 16, 1850, to Moses Allen.

1850e Milam Bounty and Donation File No. 650. Abstract 297 (Bell County), Abstract 335 (Coryell County). Patented November 22, 1850, to S. G. Evitts.

1851a Milam 2nd Class File No. 398. Abstract 166. Patented September 18, 1851, to John Hemphill, assignee of William M. Carper.

1851b Milam 1st Class File No. 886. Abstract 245. Patented May 16, 1851, to the heirs of Elisha Davis, deceased.

1851c Milam 1st Class File No. 888. Abstract 286. Patented May 6, 1851, to James Earl.

1851d Milam 1st Class File No. 430. Abstract 867. Patented July 15, 1851, to James P. Warnock.

1852 Milam 2nd Class File No. 436. Abstract 347. Patented November 3, 1852, to the heirs of Thomas Gay, deceased.

1853a Milam 2nd Class File No. 395. Abstract 400. Patented April 9, 1853, to John Houchin.

1853b Milam 1st Class File No. 852. Abstract 1354 (Bell County), Abstract 1067 (Coryell County). Patented April 8, 1853, to Henry Williams.

1853c Milam 4th Class File No. 920. Abstract 747. Patented April 15, 1853, to George W. Cartwright.

1854a Milam 2nd Class File No. 360. Abstract 917. Patented November 9, 1854, to the heirs of James W. Smith, deceased.

1854b Milam 3rd Class File No. 822. Abstract 1086. Patented December 11, 1854, to John Hughes.

1855a Milam 2nd Class File No. 419. Abstract 87. Patented February 3, 1855, to William Brown.

1855b Milam 3rd Class File No. 1165. Abstract 102. Patented August 26, 1855, to R. M. Cox.

1855c Milam 3rd Class File No. 1375. Abstract 894. Patented April 9, 1855, to Samuel Wheat.

1856a Milam 3rd Class File No. 1169. Abstract 103. Patented January 15, 1856, to Daniel Jones, assignee of Davidson Barnes and B. S. Collins.

1856b Milam 3rd Class File No. 1215. Abstract 412. Patented September 20, 1856 to John Hughes.

1856c Milam 3rd Class File No. 1255. Abstract 701. Patented May 7, 1856, to Alfred Polk, assignee of David Russell.

1857a Milam 3rd Class File No. 1193. Abstract 80. Patented July 8, 1857, to Robert Bartlett.

1857b Milam Preemption File No. 1338. Abstract 414. Patented June 8, 1857, to H. F. Hoover.

1859a Milam Preemption File No. 1272. Abstract 18. Patented October 11, 1859, to James E. Alsop.

1859b Milam 3rd Class File No. 1314. Abstract 657. Patented June 2, 1859, to A. H. Parker.

1859c Milam 3rd Class File No. 1597. Abstract 775. Patented September 16, 1859, to William Potter, assignee of Joseph Spoonts.

1859d Milam 3rd Class File No. 1627. Abstract 661. Patented September 16, 1859, to William Potter.

1859e Milam 3rd Class File No. 1716. Abstract 565. Patented September 28, 1859, to William Moorhead, assignee of Samuel Jobe.

1859f Milam 3rd Class File No. 1731. Abstract 566. Patented September 28, 1859, to Madison Kinsey, assignee of Jacob Jobe.

1859g Milam 3rd Class File No. 1793. Abstract 928. Patented September 27, 1859, to W. W. Hammack, assignee of Alfred Short.

1860a Milam 3rd Class File No. 1034. Abstract 882. Patented August 15, 1860, to Alexander Walters.

1860b Milam 3rd Class File No. 1059. Abstract 402. Patented August 15, 1860, to M. F. Harmon.

1860c Milam 3rd Class File No. 1241. Abstract 411. Patented June 20, 1860, to John P. Hall.

1861a Milam 2nd Class File No. 655. Abstract 517. Patented August 30, 1861, to the heirs of Eli W. Lawler.

1861b Milam 3rd Class File No. 1182. Abstract 654. Patented December 14, 1861, to John M. Perryman.

1861c Milam 3rd Class File No. 1821. Abstract 523. Patented February 20, 1861, to William Wilkes, assignee of Patrick Lusk.

1862 Milam 2nd Class File No. 62. Abstract 476. Patented July 28, 1862, to Stephen Jarboe.

1864 Milam Scrip File No. 881. Abstract 842. Patented August 19, 1864, to William Tuder.

1870a Milam 1st Class File No. 1650. Abstract 868. Patented June 15, 1870, to the heirs of Joseph B. Waldron.

1870b Milam 3rd Class File No. 2134. Abstract 34. Patented July 6, 1870, to Herman Aiken, assignee of Nelson Arnold.

1870c Milam 3rd Class File No. 2153. Abstract 938. Patented August 23, 1870, to the heirs of Joseph Yates.

1871a Milam 3rd Class File No. 1862. Abstract 480. Patented October 5, 1871, to Margaret A. Jones.

1871b Milam 3rd Class File No. 2193. Abstract 109. Patented June 7, 1871, to Samuel W. Bishop.

1871c Milam 3rd Class File No. 2194. Abstract 702. Patented June 7, 1871, to Asa Reed.

1871d Milam 3rd Class File No. 2195. Abstract 360. Patented June 5, 1871, to Robert C. Gage.

1871e Milam 3rd Class File No. 2207. Abstract 111. Patented August 2, 1871, to John H. Bone.

1873a Milam Preemption File No. 45. Abstract 134. Patented November 19, 1873, to M. L. Blodgett.

1873b Milam Preemption File No. 190. Abstract 253. Patented September 9, 1873, to Charls C. Cotton.

1873c Milam Preemption File No. 579. Abstract 333. Patented February 15, 1873, to G. S. Feltman.

1873d Milam Bounty File No. 1500. Abstract 206. Patented April 24, 1873, to A. A. Cassidy and the heirs of Robert Walker.

1873e Milam 3rd Class File No. 2280. Abstract 188. Patented July 21, 1873, to B. L. Clements.

1873f Milam Preemption File No. 190. Abstract 253. Patented September 9, 1873, to Charles D. Cotton.

1874a Milam Preemption File No. 197. Abstract 383. Patented April 9, 1874, to Emanuel Fikes.

1874b Milam Preemption File No. 1328. Abstract 460. Patented June 22, 1874, to the heirs of H. K. Harrison.

1874c Milam Preemption File No. 1356. Abstract 935. Patented August 24, 1874, to T. J. Wilkerson.

1874d Milam Preemption File No. 1385. Abstract 284. Patented March 23, 1874, to C. C. Doss.

1875a Milam Preemption File No. 652. Abstract 297. Patented December 2, 1875, to M. A. Black.

1875b Milam Preemption File No. 810. Abstract 230. Patented June 29, 1875, to E. E. Clark.

1875c Milam Preemption File No. 948. Abstract 932. Patented November 22, 1875, to J. E. Willis.

1875d Milam 4th Class File No. 2384. Abstract 36. Patented February 27, 1875, to the heirs of Walter M. Booth, assignee of Christian Anderson.

1876a Milam 3rd Class File No. 1136. Abstract 822 in Bell County, Abstract 1864 in Coryell County. Patented August 17, 1876, to the heirs of Newton Parks, assignee of Obadiah Taylor.

1876b Milam Preemption File No. 1461. Abstract 301. Patented July 31, 1876, to L. C. Arvin.

1877a Milam Preemption File No. 878. Abstract 831. Patented April 5, 1877, to C. Coalson, assignee of R. E. Peeler.

1877b Milam Preemption File No. 2561. Abstract 303. Patented April 6, 1877, to J. M. Everett.

1877c Milam Preemption File No. 2662. Abstract 466. Patented May 15, 1877, to S. C. Hunt.

1878a Milam Preemption File No. 913. Abstract 636. Patented January 19, 1878, to M. L. Newman.

1878b Milam Preemption File No. 1327. Abstract 280. Patented October 3, 1878, to F. M. Defoor.

1879a Milam Preemption File No. 866. Abstract 138 (Bell County), Abstract 1192 (Coryell County). Patented February 13, 1879, to Joel D. Blair.

1879b Milam Preemption File No. 2303. Abstract 1221. Patented July 9, 1879, to J. M. Hays.

1880 Milam Preemption File No. 1330. Abstract 140. Patented May 3, 1880, to Thomas McDaniel, assignee of W. F. Bleeker.

1881 Milam Preemption File No. 668. Abstract 1118. Patented January 19, 1881, to James A. Ray.

1882a Milam Preemption File No. 667. Abstract 34. Patented December 5, 1882, to Jesse M. Dodson.

1882b Milam Preemption File No. 1223. Abstract 307. Patented May 30, 1882, to Wesley Scott.

1882c Milam Donation File No. 1733. Abstract 1091. Patented December 1, 1882, to J. B. McMahon.

1883 Milam Preemption File No. 2009. Abstract 2707. Patented August 15, 1883, to John T. Morgan.

1884 Milam Scrip File No. 3049. Abstract 1113. Patented January 8, 1884, to George J. Butler, assignee of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway Company.

1885a Milam Preemption File No. 179. Abstract 773. Patented February 20, 1885, to J. W. Palmer, assignee of Robert G. McGowen.

1885b Milam Scrip File No. 841. Abstract 222. Patented June 23, 1885, to the heirs of James Clements.

1885c Milam Scrip File No. 3152. Abstract 1143 (Bell County), Abstract 1350 (Coryell County). Patented August 15, 1885, to Branch T. Masterson.

1885d Milam Preemption File No. 3952. Abstract 1090. Patented July 6, 1885, to Adam Trischman.

1885e Milam Preemption File No. 4069. Abstract 1106. Patented August 14, 1885, to Eva Brown.

1886a Milam Preemption File No. 1964. Abstract 1046. Patented April 27, 1886, to F. M. Childress.

1886b Milam Preemption File No. 3297. Abstract 981. Patented October 31, 1886, to Levi Paulk, assignee of Z. T. Cartwright and George M. White.

1887a Milam Scrip File No. 3011 1/2. Abstract 1154. Patented September 9, 1887, to S. C. Hall.

1887b Milam Preemption File No. 3808. Abstract 1044. Patented May 7, 1887, to Alexander Kennedy, assignee of J. W. Ogletree and D. D. Potter.

1894 Milam Scrip File No. 3506. Abstract 1678. Patented December 1, 1894, to W. L. Carlyle.

1895a Milam Preemption File No. 2460. Abstract 1686. Patented May 30, 1895, to A. R. Hawkins.

1895b Milam Preemption File No. 5443. Abstract 1643. Patented December 24, 1895, to J. A. Collins.

1896a Milam Preemption File No. 5534. Abstract 1227. Patented December 14, 1896, to J. W. Daniel.

1896b Milam School File No. 40126. Abstract 1245 (forfeited).

1899 Milam School File No. 53989. Abstract 1263 (forfeited).

1900a Milam Preemption File No. 5565. Abstract 1228. Patented November 26, 1900, to B. F. Gibson, assignee of J. D. Henderson.

1900b Milam Preemption File No. 5653. Abstract 1244. Patented November 24, 1900, to B. F. Gibson.

1900c Milam School File No. 60229. Abstract 1131 (forfeited).

1901 Milam School File No. 55897. Abstract 1268. Patented July 20, 1901, to Ed F. Lee.

1902 Milam School File No. 3208. Abstract 1285. Patented May 16, 1902, to G. R. Kyle.

1907 Milam School File No. 100263. Abstract 1131 (forfeited).

1913 Milam School File No. 119228. Abstract 1131 (forfeited).

1918 Milam School File No. 127094. Abstract 1131 (forfeited).

1922 Milam School File No. 130319. Abstract 1245 (forfeited).

1923 Milam School File No. 131034. Abstract 1131 (forfeited).

1926 Milam School File No. 144435. Abstract 1362 (Bell County), Abstract 1846 (Coryell County) (forfeited).

1930 Milam School File No. 51795. Abstract 1261. Patented August 1, 1930, to G. E. Hallmark.

1942 Milam Bounty File No. 1747. Abstract 1135. Patented August 11, 1942, to John S. Lane.

1951 Milam School File No. S-152612. Abstract 1874 (forfeited).

n.d. Milam Scrap File No. 15929. Abstract 1389.

United States. Bureau of the Census
1880b Coryell County, Texas
1900b Coryell County, Texas
1910b Coryell County, Texas
1920b Coryell County, Texas