

Appendix F

Biological Data and Report

LIMITED BIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT

of Eight (8) Residential Properties Located in Falcon Village,
Starr County, Texas

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Introduction

This biological investigation report presents the results of a field reconnaissance conducted June 24 and 25, 2013 and a literature review for the potential occurrence of animal and plant species listed by the federal and/or state government as threatened and/or endangered, or their critical habitat. No federal or state listed plant or animal species were observed on the subject property, although habitat for the state-threatened Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) and Texas indigo snake (*Drymarchon melanurus erebennus*) is present. It is recommended that if any of these easily identifiable lizards or snakes are seen during the demolition of the houses, all activity should cease and the lizard or snake be relocated to a preferred habitat away from the demolition activities. In addition two species of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act have constructed nests in the abandoned houses, the cave swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) and an oriole (*Icterus sp.*). It is recommended that the proposed demolition be completed between September 15th and January 1st to avoid the migratory bird nesting season.

General Site Description

The subject property is located in both the northeast and southeast quadrants of Falcon Village, Texas quadrangle, Starr County, Texas (TX) approximately 2.0 miles east and approximately 2.5 miles north of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico. The site encompasses eight buildings (designated L-101, C-102, C-104, C-106, I-401, I-403, I-405, and I-407) to be demolished located between Reservoir and Dormitory Roads and 1st and 5th Avenues. The area covers approximately 5.4 acres and is centered at about 26° 33' 43.55" N latitude and 99° 8' 3.52" W longitude, at an approximate altitude of 338 feet above sea level. The subject property is residential, with yards and landscaping. The terrain is relatively flat, with dry scrubby vegetation. Grasses and landscape plants are present at the occupied homes and some landscaping is still present at the abandoned properties. No low or wet areas are present.

The average rainfall at Rio Grande City (the closest large city) is 21.6 inches. The average high temperature is 85.9 °F and the average low is 61.2 °F (US Climate Data)

The subject property is located in the Southern Texas Plains ecoregion (level III) of Texas (United States Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA). Within this ecoregion the subregion in which this property is located is the Texas-Tamaulipan Thornscrub (EPA, level IV). This ecoregion is a diverse ecoregion located where the eastern Chihuahuan Desert, Tamaulipan thornscrub and subtropical woodlands along the Rio Grande intersect with the western edge of the coastal grasslands. This area is commonly referred to as the "brush country" due to 300 years of fire suppression, grazing and drought which have decreased the grass coverage and increased the brush coverage of the land. Soils are varied: highly alkaline to slightly acidic, composed of sands, clays and/or clay loams. Caliche and gravel ridges are common. Rainfall peaks in both spring and fall and is erratic. Droughts are common. Vegetation is therefore mostly drought tolerant species with small leaves, and thorny. Common brush species found are honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), brasil (*Condalia hookeri*), lime pricklyash (*Zanthoxylum fagara*), Texas persimmon (*Diospyros texana* Scheele), lotebush (*Zizyphus*

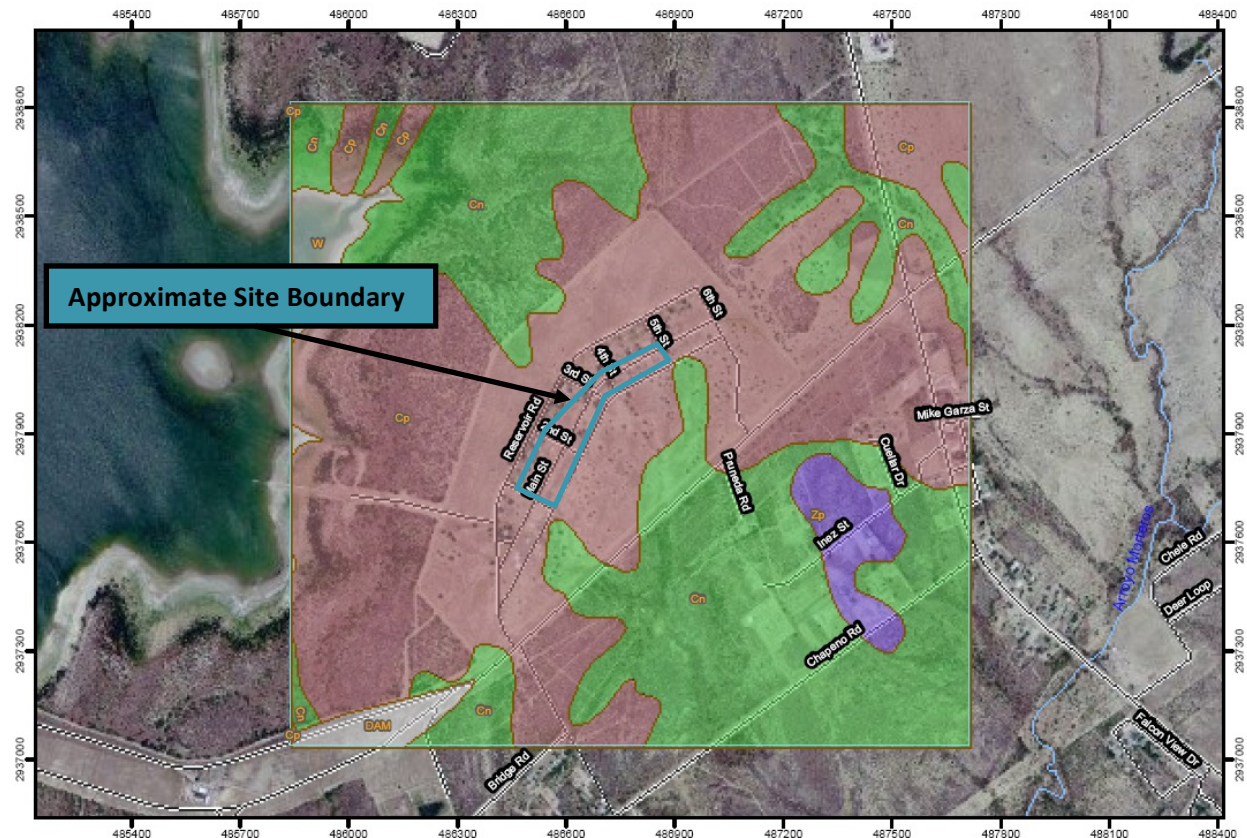
obtusifolia), spiny hackberry (*Celtis pallida*), Texas kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia texana*), coyotillo (*Karwinskia humboldtiana*), Texas paloverde (*Parkinsonia texana*), Texas wild olive (*Cordia boissieri*) and various cacti. Common grass species include sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), pink pappusgrass (*Pappophorum bicolor*), bristlegasses (*Setaria spp.*), lovegrasses (*Eragrostis spp.*), tobosa (*Hilaria mutica*), cane bluestem (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*), silver bluestem (*Bothriochloa laguroides*) and triflowered Trichloris (*Trichloris pluriflora*). Ranching is the primary use of the land in this region, along with hunting and some cultivation.

The site is situated on a topographic high, sloping to the west, south and east to the Falcon Dam Reservoir and the Rio Grande. Specific descriptions of the site characteristics follow in the subsections below.

Site Geology and Soils

The site is relatively flat located on a locally high area, with land sloping down to the east, south and west to the Rio Grande and the reservoir (as determined from the contour intervals of the USGS Falcon Village Quadrangle Maps, 1965, 2012). The site visit confirmed the mapped topography is current. The property is mapped as being underlain by the Yegua Formation of the Claiborne Group (Eocene). This formation consists of “clay and sandstone; mostly clay, lignitic, sandy, bentonitic, silty, mostly well laminated, chocolate brown to reddish brown, lighter colored upward, produces dark-gray soil; sandstone, mostly quartz, some chert, fine grained, indurated to friable, calcareous, glauconitic, massive, laminated, crossbedded, weathers to loose, ferruginous, yellow-orange and reddish-brown soil; some fossil wood; thickness about 400 feet” (Geologic Atlas of Texas, McAllen - Brownsville Sheet, Bureau of Economic Geology, 1987) (USGS).

The soils are classified as rangeland by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Three soil series are mapped at and near the property: the Catarina Series surrounding the site, the Zapata Series east of the property and the Copita Series at the property (see NRCS soil classification map below). These soils are all rated non-hydric. The site soils are Copita Series. The Copita Series is rated “not limited” for burrowing mammals and reptiles, meaning these soils are suitable habitat for burrowers. Many burrows were observed on the site, evidencing the suitability of the soils for burrowing.



NRCS Soil Classification map – Cp-Copita Series. Cn-Caterina Series. Zp-Zapata Series. W-Water. DAM – Falcon Dam.

Site Flora

The subject property has been cleared with housing constructed on the site. The yards are mowed, but not too regularly. Sugarberry trees (*Celtis laevigata*) are growing and are by far the dominant tree species present throughout the property. Honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), Texas ebony (*Ebenopsis ebano*), palm (Arecaceae family), crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*) and arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) trees are also present on site. Shrubs present include white thorn acacia (*Acacia constricta*) and lotebush (*Zizyphus obtusifolia*). Several vine species are present: old man's beard (*Clematis drummondii*) and morning glory (*Ipomoea* species).

Some of the main herbs present are silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum eleagnifolium*), common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), sunflowers (*Helianthus sp.*), common purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), violet ruellia (*Ruellia nudiflora*), damianata (*Chrysactinia mexicana*), and sensitive plant (*Mimosa strigillosa*).

The most common grasses present are buffelgrass (*Chenchrus ciliaris*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), Caucasian bluestem (*Bothriochloa bladhii*), Wright's beardgrass (*Bothriochloa wrightii*) and bulb panicgrass (*Zuloagaea bulbosa* a.k.a. *Panicum bulbosum*).

Site Fauna

Cave swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva*), a scissor-tailed flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) and red-bellied woodpeckers (*Melanerpes carolinus*) were all present on the date of the site visit. In addition, two types of nests were present on the eaves and carports of seven of the eight houses – cave swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) and oriole (*Icterus* species). Cave swallow nests were present on L101, C102, C104, C106, and I407. Oriole nests were present hanging from carport lights at I405 and I407. Note: both types of nests are present at I407. Only I403 is currently nest-free.

Also observed on the dates of the site visit were raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) and an eastern fence lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*). Dead animals were present inside several of the houses, including a gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), a mouse (family Muridae), an unidentified lizard, and a red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). Dead insects were also present inside the houses: American cockroaches (*Periplaneta americana*), crickets (2 different species, both family Gryllidae) and tarantulas (genus *Aphonopelma*), among others. Scat and feather piles were also observed in the houses – the above evidence indicates a cat (*Felis catus*) - or cats - has been using the houses to bring in kills for feasting or deposition. Outside, dead snails (2 species, bleached shells observed, class-Gastropoda), fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*), tarantulas (genus *Aphonopelma*), jumping spiders (family Salticidae), termite tubes (order Isoptera, now epifamily Termitoidae), a beetle (order Coleoptera), red harvester ants (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*), sulphur butterflies (sub-family Coliadinae), a giant swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*), black witch moths (*Ascalapha odorata*) and antlions (family Myrmeleontidae) were observed. In addition, both paper wasp (genus *Polistes*) and mud dauber wasp (*Sceliphron caementarium*) nests were observed on the houses. Neither of the nests appeared to be currently occupied. Photographs of soil, typical vegetation, flora and fauna, and animal traces present on the property follow the text.

Federal and State Listings

Federal agencies have classified rare plant and animal species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) according to their conservation status. The purpose of the act was to prevent these species from becoming extinct. These classifications include endangered, which means the species is in danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a significant portion of its range; threatened, which means the species is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future; candidate, which means the species has been studied and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has concluded that they should be proposed for addition to the endangered and threatened species lists; and proposed, which are those candidate species which are actively under review for listing. Threatened and endangered species are protected by the ESA (and subsequent legislation), which provides authority to acquire land for the conservation of listed species and authorizes grants to states that maintain active programs for endangered and threatened plants and animals as well as assigning penalties for violating the act, even allowing for rewards to be paid to persons reporting violators who are convicted of causing harm to these species. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages terrestrial and freshwater

species and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Marine Fisheries Service manages marine species.

Potential Federal or State Endangered or Threatened Species at the Subject Property

Thirty-six species are listed as threatened and/or endangered by either the federal government and/or the state of Texas in Starr County, Texas (Tables 1-7).

Table 1. Federal and State Listed Amphibian Species Occurring or Potentially Occurring in Starr County, Texas

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
Black-spotted Newt (<i>Notophthalmus meridionalis</i>)	-	T	Arroyos, canals, ditches, shallow depressions; aestivates in the ground during dry periods	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Mexican Burrowing Toad (<i>Rhinophrynus dorsalis</i>)	-	T	Roadside ditches, temporary ponds, arroyos, loose friable soils for burrowing; generally underground	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Mexican Treefrog (<i>Smilisca baudinii</i>)	-	T	Subtropical region of extreme southern Texas, eggs laid in temporary rain pools; Riparian, herbaceous wetland, hardwood forest, savanna, suburban; can burrow in soil, also fallen logs and standing snags	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Sheep Frog (<i>Hypopachus variolosus</i>)	-	T	Grassland and savanna; moist sites in arid areas	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
South Texas Siren (large form) (<i>Siren sp 1</i>)	-	T	Arroyos, canals, ditches, shallow depressions; aestivates in the ground during dry periods	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
White-lipped Frog (<i>Leptodactylus fragilis</i>)	-	T	Grasslands, cultivated fields, roadside ditches, wide variety of other habitats; under rocks, in burrows, under clumps of grass	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.

T -State Listed Threatened

Table 2. Federal and State Listed Avian Species Occurring or Potentially Occurring in Starr County, Texas

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
American Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	DL	T	Cliffs, outcrops, usually within the vicinity of a water feature	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (<i>Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum</i>)	-	T	Riparian trees, brush, palm, and mesquite thickets; day – small caves and recesses on low hills	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Common Black Hawk (<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>)	-	T	Cottonwood-lined rivers and streams; willow tree groves on the lower Rio Grande floodplain	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Gray Hawk (<i>Asturina nitida</i>)	-	T	Riparian woodlands, semi-arid mesquite and scrub grasslands near riparian woodlands	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Interior Least Tern (<i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>)	LE	E	Riverine sand and gravel bars, beaches	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>)	-	T	Mesquite woodlands; near Rio Grande – cottonwood, willow, elm and great leadtree	No	None. Very poor quality habitat.
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	DL	T	Cliffs, outcrops, usually within the vicinity of a water feature	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
Rose-throated Becard (<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>)	-	T	Riparian trees, woodlands, open forest, scrub and mangroves	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Spragues' Pipit (<i>Anthus spragueii</i>)	C	-	Native upland prairie, coastal grasslands, avoids edges. Migrant, only present mid-September to early April	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Tropical Parula (<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>)	-	T	Dense or open woods, undergrowth, brush, and trees along edges of rivers and resacas	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
White-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>)	-	T	Prairies, mesquite and oak savannas, and mixed savanna-chaparral	No	None observed. potentially present in the area, but unlikely onsite
Wood Stork (<i>Mycteria americana</i>)	-	T	Prairie ponds, flooded pastures or fields, ditches, other shallow standing water, roosts in tall snags	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Zone-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>)	-	T	Open arid country to forests, near watercourses	No	None observed; potentially present in the area, but unlikely onsite.

DL-Federally Delisted, T-State Listed Threatened, LE-Federally Listed Endangered, E-State Listed Endangered, C-Federal Candidate for Listing

Table 3. Federal and State Listed Fishes Occurring or Potentially Occurring in Starr County, Texas

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (<i>Hybognathus amarus</i>)	LE	E	Pools and backwaters of medium to large streams with low or moderate gradient in mud, sand or gravel bottom (extirpated)	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.

LE-Federally Listed Endangered, E-State Listed Endangered

Table 4. Federal and State Listed Mammalian Species Occurring or Potentially Occurring in Starr County, Texas

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
Coues' Rice Rat (<i>Oryzomys couesi</i>)	-	T	Cattail-bulrush marsh with shallower zone of aquatic grasses near the shoreline; shade trees near shoreline important	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Jaguarundi (<i>Puma yagouaroundi</i>)	LE	E	Thick brushlands, near water	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Ocelot (<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>)	LE	E	Dense chaparral thickets, mesquite-thorn scrub and live oak mottes, avoids open areas	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
White-nosed Coati (<i>Leptonycteris nivalis</i>)	-	T	Woodlands, riparian corridors and canyons, transient in TX	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.

T-State Listed Threatened, LE-Federally Listed Endangered, E-State Listed Endangered

Table 5. Federal and State Listed Molluskan Species Occurring or Potentially Occurring in Starr County, Texas

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
False Spike Mussel (<i>Quadrula mitchelli</i>)	-	T	Medium to large rivers in substrates varying from mud through mixtures of sand, gravel and cobble; possibly extirpated	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Salina Mucket (<i>Potamilus metnecktayi</i>)	-	T	Moving waters, submerged soft sediment (clay, silt) along river bank in Rio Grande basin	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Texas Hornshell (<i>Popenaias popeii</i>)	C	T	Both ends of narrow shallow runs over bedrock, in areas where small-grained materials collect in crevices, along river banks, and at the base of boulders; Rio Grande basin	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.

T-State Listed Threatened, LE-Federally Listed Endangered, E-State Listed Endangered

Table 6. Federal and State Listed Reptilian Species Occurring or Potentially Occurring in Starr County, Texas

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
Northern Cat-eyed Snake (<i>Leptodeira septentrionalis septentrionalis</i>)	-	T	Thorn-brush woodland, dense thickets bordering ponds and streams, semi-arboreal	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Reticulate Collared Lizard (<i>Crotaphytus reticulatus</i>)	-	T	Open brush-grasslands; thorn-scrub vegetation, usually on well-drained rolling terrain of shallow gravel, caliche or sandy soils; scattered flat rocks below escarpments or isolated rock outcrops	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Texas Horned Lizard (<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>)	-	T	Sparsely vegetated (grass, cactus, scattered brush or scrubby trees) arid to semi-arid regions with soil suitable for burrowing	Yes	None observed. Species likely present in the area.
Texas Indigo Snake (<i>Drymarchon melanurus erebennus</i>)	-	T	Thornbush-chaparral woodlands, dense riparian corridors, moist micro-habitat (such as burrows), can do well in suburban environment	Yes	None observed. Species likely present in the area.
Texas Tortoise (<i>Gopherus berlandieri</i>)	-	T	Open brush with grass understory; open grass and bare ground avoided; occupies shallow depressions at base of bush or cactus, sometimes under objects or in burrows	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.

T-State Listed Threatened

Table 7. Federal and State Listed Plant Species Occurring or Potentially Occurring in Starr County, Texas

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
Ashy Dogweed (<i>Thymophylla tephroleuca</i>)	LE	E	Grasslands with scattered shrubs, on sands or sandy loams on level or very gently rolling topography over Eocene strata of the Laredo Formation	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	State Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Potentially Present?	Known Occurrence?
Johnston's Frankenia (<i>Frankenia johnstonii</i>)	LE-PDL	E	Dwarf shrublands on strongly saline, highly alkaline, calcareous or gypseous, clayey to sandy soils of valley flats or rocky slopes	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Star Cactus (<i>Astrophytum asterias</i>)	LE	E	Gravelly clays or loams on gentle slopes and flats in sparsely vegetated openings between shrub thickets within mesquite grasslands or mesquite-blackbrush thorn shrublands. Plants sink into the ground during dry periods.	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Walker's Manioc (<i>Manihot walkerae</i>)	LE	E	Periphery of native brush in sandy loam, possibly also on caliche cuevas	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.
Zapata bladderpod (<i>Physaria thamnophila</i>)	LE	E	Open thorn shrublands on shallow, well-drained sandy loams and sandstone outcrops of Eocene origin	No	None. No suitable habitat within site.

LE-Federally Listed Endangered, E-State Listed Endangered, PDL-Proposal for Delisting

Sources: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2013; United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 2013; NatureServe, 2013.

Six are amphibian species, twelve are avian species, one is a fish, four are mammals, three are mollusks, five are reptiles and five are plants. There are also two federal candidate species.

The federally listed endangered species are the interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*), the Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*), the jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*), the ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), ashy dogweed (*Thymophylla tephroleuca*), Johnston's frankenia (*Frankenia johnstonii*), star cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*), Walker's manioc (*Manihot walkerae*) and Zapata bladderpod (*Physaria thamnophila*). The Rio Grande silvery minnow is thought to be extirpated in Texas. All nine of these species are also listed as endangered by the state of Texas. Johnston's frankenia is proposed for delisting federally.

No species is listed as threatened by the federal government. Species listed by the state of Texas as threatened are the black-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus meridionalis*), the Mexican burrowing toad (*Rhinophrynus dorsalis*), the Mexican treefrog (*Smilisca baudinii*), the sheep frog (*Hypopachus variolosus*), the south Texas siren (large form) (*Siren sp 1*), the white-lipped frog (*Leptodactylus fragilis*), the American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*), the common black hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*), the gray hawk (*Asturina nitida*), the northern beardless-tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*), the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), the rose-throated becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*), the tropical parula (*Parula pitiaimi*), the white-tailed hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*), the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), the zone-tailed hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), the Coues' rice rat (*Oryzomys couesi*), the white-nosed coati (*Leptonycteris nivalis*), the false spike mussel (*Quadrula mitchelli*), the Salina mucket (*Potamilus metnecktayi*), the Texas hornshell (*Popenaias popeii*), the northern cat-eyed snake (*Leptodeira septentrionalis septentrionalis*), the reticulate collared lizard (*Crotaphytus reticulatus*), the Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*), the Texas indigo snake (*Drymarchon melanurus erebennus*) and the Texas tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri*). The peregrine falcon/American peregrine falcon is delisted federally.

In addition to these species, the two species on the federal candidate species list are Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) and the Texas hornshell (*Popenaias popeii*), which is also listed as threatened in Texas. None of the endangered, threatened, candidate or proposed species was observed on the subject property.

Amphibians

Habitat for the black-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus meridionalis*) and the south Texas siren (large form) (*Siren sp 1*) is arroyos, canals, ditches and shallow depressions; these species aestivate in the ground during dry periods. Habitat for the Mexican burrowing toad (*Rhinophrynus dorsalis*) is roadside ditches, temporary ponds, arroyos, and loose friable soils for burrowing – it is generally found underground. The Mexican treefrog (*Smilisca baudinii*) is found in the subtropical region of extreme southern Texas in riparian zones, herbaceous wetlands, hardwood forests, savannas, and suburban areas. It requires pools for egg-laying, can burrow in soil, and can also be found in fallen logs and in standing snags. The sheep frog (*Hypopachus variolosus*) is found in grasslands and savannas, in moist sites within arid areas. The white-lipped frog (*Leptodactylus fragilis*) is found in grasslands, cultivated fields, roadside ditches, and a wide variety of other habitats; under rocks, in burrows and under clumps of grass. The site is within a development of homes. It is very dry with no water sources (or low areas for holding rains) for any of these amphibians, and as such does not provide habitat for these species.

Birds

Habitat for American/peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum* and *Falco peregrinus*, respectively) includes cliffs or cliff-like structures near the coast or other bodies of water providing prey and is not present on the property. Habitat for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*) is riparian trees, brush, palm and mesquite thickets, and during the day it retreats to small caves and recesses on low hills. No such habitat exists on the subject property, as it is developed and open. The common black hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) is found by cottonwood-lined rivers and streams or in willow tree groves on the floodplain. The property is not suitable habitat due to its distance from water and openness due to development. The gray hawk (*Asturina nitida*) habitat is riparian woodlands and semi-arid mesquite and scrub grasslands near riparian woodlands. There are no suitable woodlands onsite for the gray hawk. The interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*) breeds along inland river systems, and could possibly breed along the Rio Grande system if suitable habitat is available. This property is not located close enough to breeding grounds along the Rio Grande for it to be suitable habitat for this bird. The interior least tern requires bare to sparsely vegetated river sand, shell or gravel bars or salt flats near shallow water with plentiful small fish *with little to no human disturbance* as its breeding habitat. The site is not suitable also due to it being a neighborhood with daily human disturbance. The northern beardless-tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*) prefers mesquite woodlands and, near the Rio Grande, areas with cottonwood, willow, elm and great leadtree. The site does not provide woodland habitat for this bird. Habitat for the rose-throated becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) is riparian trees, woodlands,

open forest, scrub and mangroves. The site does not provide suitable habitat for this bird. Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) winters in Texas and requires an extensive area of pastures, weedy fields or grasslands with dense herbaceous vegetation. Since this property is in the middle of a developed area with heavy human traffic, it would not be suitable for wintering of Sprague's pipit. The tropical parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) requires dense or open woods, undergrowth, brush and trees along edges of rivers and resacas (channels in the Rio Grande basin of southernmost Texas, which hold water). This property does not have preferred habitat for the tropical parula as the area is too clear and developed. The white-tailed hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*) is found in prairies, mesquite and oak savannas, and mixed savanna and chaparral. The property does have a few mesquite trees in the yards, and theoretically the hawk could nest in the mesquite trees. No white-tailed hawks were observed on site. It is highly unlikely that white-tailed hawks would nest so close to human disturbance. Habitat for the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) is prairie ponds, flooded pastures of fields, ditches, and other shallow standing water. It roosts in tall snags. This habitat is not present at the site. The zone-tailed hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) prefers open arid country to forests, near watercourses. None were observed on site, and they need tree thickets for nesting, which are not present onsite.

Fishes

Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) is a threatened species listed in Starr County, Texas requiring pools and backwaters of medium to large streams with low or moderate gradient in mud, sand or gravel bottoms. It is presumed extirpated in Texas. This means that they are no longer present in Texas, but are present elsewhere in the world, in contrast with extinct, which means a species is no longer found anywhere in the world. The site has no stream and is not suitable habitat for this fish.

Mammals

The habitat for Coues' rice rat (*Oryzomys couesi*) is cattail-bulrush marsh with a shallower zone of aquatic grasses near the shoreline with shade trees near the shoreline. This habitat is not present at the site. The jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*) prefers thick brushlands near water. The site is cleared and not suitable for this animal. The ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) habitat is dense chaparral thickets, mesquite-thorn scrub and live oak mottes. The ocelot avoids open areas, so the site (which is cleared with buildings) is not suitable habitat for this secretive animal. The white-nosed coati (*Leptonycteris nivalis*) prefers woodlands, riparian corridors and canyons and is known to be transient in TX. Since the site is cleared with buildings, this animal also would not likely be present.

Mollusks

There are three mollusk species potentially present in Starr County: false spike mussel (*Quadrula mitchelli*), salina mucket (*Potamilus metnecktayi*) and Texas hornshell (*Popenaias popeii*). All are listed as threatened by the state of Texas. The false spike mussel resides in medium to large rivers in substrates varying from mud through mixtures of sand, gravel and

cobbles; it is possibly extirpated. The salina mucket prefers moving waters and submerged soft sediment (clay, silt) along the river bank in Rio Grande basin. The Texas hornshell is found at either end of narrow shallow runs over bedrock in areas where small-grained materials collect in crevices, along river banks and at the base of boulders in the Rio Grande basin. Since there is no stream on site, this site is not suitable habitat for any of these species.

Reptiles

Five reptiles are listed as threatened by the state of Texas: the northern cat-eyed snake (*Leptodeira septentrionalis septentrionalis*), the reticulate collared lizard (*Crotaphytus reticulatus*), the Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*), the Texas indigo snake (*Drymarchon melanurus erebennus*) and the Texas tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri*). The northern cat-eyed snake is semi-arboreal, found in thorn-brush woodlands and dense thickets bordering ponds and streams. This habitat is not present at the site. The reticulate collared lizard is found in open brush-grasslands with thorn-scrub vegetation, usually on well-drained rolling terrain of shallow gravel, caliche or sandy soils. It is also found on scattered flat rocks below escarpments or on isolated rock outcrops. This lizard does not prefer cleared land or buffelgrass, both of which are present on site. Although the site is located within the range of this lizard, it is not likely to be present due to the habitat alteration. The Texas horned lizard prefers open arid and semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, including grass, cactus, scattered brush or scrubby trees with soil suitable for burrowing animals. The soils present on site are “not limited” for burrowing; thus the site has suitable soils for burrowing. Many burrows (not necessarily inhabited by this lizard) were observed on the date of the site visit. The vegetation is sparse at some locations; with some bare ground. Ant species observed were red harvester ant colonies (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*) and red fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) which tend to eradicate harvester ant colonies (the Texas horned lizard's preferred prey). This property is presently suitable for the Texas horned lizard due to the abundance of its preferred food and the suitability of the soil for burrows. None were observed on the date of the site visit. The habitat of the Texas indigo snake is thornbush-chaparral woodlands, dense riparian corridors, a moist micro-habitat (such as burrows) and suburban environments. It is possible that it could be found here, although with the fear of snakes it is likely that if it were present one of the neighbors might destroy it due to its large size and their lack of knowledge of its propensity to eat rattlesnakes. The Texas tortoise is found in open brush with a grass understory; it avoids open grass and bare ground and occupies shallow depressions at the base of a bush or cactus, or is sometimes under objects or in burrows. They mowed yards of a developed area is not ideal habitat for the Texas tortoise. No snakes or tortoises of any species were observed on the date of the site visit.

Plants

Five plant species are listed as endangered by both the federal government and the state of Texas: ashy dogweed (*Thymophylla tephroleuca*), Johnston's frankenia (*Frankenia johnstonii*), star cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*), Walker's manioc, or manihot (*Manihot walkerae*) and Zapata bladderpod (*Physaria thamnophila*). None were observed on the date of the site visit. Ashy dogweed is found in grasslands with scattered shrubs, on sands or sandy loams on level or very

gently rolling topography over Eocene strata of the Laredo Formation. The site is mapped as the Yegua Formation, so this species likely is not present. Johnston's frankenia is found in dwarf shrublands on strongly saline, highly alkaline, calcareous or gypseous, clayey to sandy soils of valley flats or on rocky slopes. The Copita Series (soil present on site) is moderately alkaline and calcareous with up to 2% gypsum, and is sandy with clay (a loam). The site is not a valley flat but is slightly sloped. This plant was not found at the site; the habitat is marginal but it is possible it could be found there were the site not mowed regularly. The star cactus, very popular among cactus growers, has been hunted almost out of existence, although it is readily available from cactus growers. It is found on gravelly clays or loams on gentle slopes and flats in sparsely vegetated openings between shrub thickets within mesquite grasslands or mesquite-blackbrush thorn shrublands. Plants sink into the ground during dry periods. Overall, this site is probably too grassy and not gravelly or open enough for this cactus plant, although there are a few gravelly, open areas. Walker's manioc habitat is at the periphery of native brush in sandy loam, and possibly also on caliche cuevas. It was thought to be extirpated from the United States, but recently several plants were found on wildlife refuge tracts in Texas. Clearing and developing land, and conversion to rangeland are the main causes of habitat destruction for this plant. Since the site has been cleared and developed, it is not suitable habitat for this plant. The Zapata bladderpod is found in open thorn shrublands on shallow, well-drained sandy loams and sandstone outcrops of Eocene origin, often entangled in cactus clumps or small shrubs. Since the site is mowed, no shrubs or cactus clumps are present. If the site land were allowed to revert to nature and not disturbed, it is possible that this plant could survive at this location. Although native habitat in the general area of the site could support three of these plant species (Johnston's frankenia, star cactus and Zapata bladderpod), the constant human activity and mowing prevent the site from being suitable habitat for these species.

Summary and Conclusions

The result of the biological investigation revealed that no federal and/or state endangered and/or threatened species were observed at the subject property on the dates of the site visit. However, preferred habitat is present for the state-of-Texas-threatened Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*). In addition, it is possible that the state-of-Texas-threatened Texas indigo snake (*Drymarchon melanurus erebennus*) could be present at the site. No Texas horned lizards or Texas indigo snakes were seen on the dates of the site visit, but if any of these easily identifiable lizards or snakes are seen during the demolition of the houses it is recommended that all activity cease and the lizard or snake be relocated to a preferred habitat away from the demolition activities.

Two hawks, the white-tailed hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*) and the zone-tailed hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) are likely present in the area, but not on site due to the lack of nesting sites. No action is recommended pertaining to these birds.

Three plant species, Johnston's frankenia (*Frankenia johnstonii*), star cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*) and Zapata bladderpod (*Physaria thamnophila*) are endangered at the federal and state levels and could possibly exist at the site, but only if both the site and its surrounding area were allowed to revert to native vegetation. This will not happen since the surrounding area is

currently a developed neighborhood. Therefore no action is recommended regarding these plant species.

The presence of the cave swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) and oriole (*Icterus sp.*) nests presents a complication to demolition, but only in the timing. It is illegal to destroy nests of these species if eggs or young are present (Migratory Bird Treaty Act). Therefore during nesting season the houses with nests cannot be demolished. This site is located within Region 2 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). USFWS administers the Migratory Bird Program. This program is responsible for maintaining healthy migratory bird populations through management and conservation. Permits may be required for nest removal, depending on the region of the Fish and Wildlife Service in which the nest is located. Region 2 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service was contacted about the cave swallow and oriole nests and their official response was as follows (on Friday, June 28, 2013):

“Cave swallows in that area should be about done nesting for the season. A permit to remove them takes about 60 days to process, so they will most likely be gone before we could issue the permit. Once the nests are no longer active (no chicks or eggs) you are free to knock them down without a permit. If the demolition is not going to take place for several months, I would suggest your client knock all the nests down while they are not occupied and monitor them for nesting activity. Cave swallows in that area begin nesting in January. If that happens, they can be removed up until they become active. Cave swallows are colonial nesters, so if one nest in a group becomes active, the rest will very shortly thereafter. You will need to be vigilant in monitoring them, too, as they can build nests and lay eggs in a very short time.”

It is recommended that the demolition be completed between September 15th and January 1st to avoid the migratory bird nesting season.

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Site Photographs



House and habitat at L101



Scissor-tailed flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) at L101



Cave swallow nest at L101



Cave swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva*) in flight at L101



Red harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*) nest at L101



C102 house and habitat



Small burrow at C102



One of the cave swallow nests at C102



Another cave swallow nest at C102, with male black witch moth (*Ascalapha odorata*)



Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*) at C102, C104 in background



Dead tarantula (*Aphonopelma* sp.) at C102



Feather remains in C102



C104 house and environs



Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), sensitive plant (*Mimosa strigillosa*) and shell (class-Gastropoda) at C104



C106 house and environs



Red harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*) mound at C106



Cave swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) nests at C106



1401 house and environs. Mimosa saplings (*Albizia julibrissin*) near house out of reach of mower



Mud dauber (*Sceliphron caementarium*) nest at I401



I403 house and surroundings



Dead mouse (family Muridae) in I403



Cat (*Felis catus*) scat in I403



Burrows at I403



Red harvester ants (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*) at I405



Oriole nest (*Icterus* sp.) at I405



Fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) at I405



Dead red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) in I405



I407 house and environs



Large burrow near curb at I407



Dead gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) in I407



Cave swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) nest built over oriole (*Icterus sp.*) nest at I407



Red harvester ants (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*) at I407

Appendix G

Historical and Cultural Resources Data and Reports

HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FALCON DAM AND RESERVOIR PROJECT

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION



Prepared for:
United States Section
International Boundary and Water Commission

Prepared by:
MWH Americas, Inc.

In Association with:
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Anna Mod, Julie McGilvray, Kevin A. Miller, and James W. Steely

April 29, 2011

**HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FALCON DAM AND
RESERVOIR PROJECT**

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

Prepared for

**UNITED STATES SECTION
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**

4171 North Mesa, Suite C100
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Principal Investigator

Kevin A. Miller

SWCA Project Number 17032-053-AUS
SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 11-42

April 29, 2011

ABSTRACT

On behalf of MWH Americas, Inc. (MWH), SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted a historic resources survey of portions of the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) International Falcon Dam and Reservoir (hereinafter Falcon Project, Falcon Dam, Falcon Reservoir, and Falcon Village). The USIBWC has developed a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) in order to provide for effective management of cultural resources at the Falcon Project, located along the Rio Grande in Zapata and Starr counties, Texas. As of 2003, most of the reservoir area had been inventoried for archaeological resources. However, elements of the built environment, many now well beyond 50 years of age, had not been evaluated.

With growing needs for maintenance and improvement to the built environment, USIBWC initiated its identification and evaluation responsibilities at Falcon Reservoir under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA). SWCA and MWH were contracted to assist the USIBWC in completing this historic resources survey to document, identify, and assess the historic significance of the architectural and engineering resources of the Falcon Dam and Reservoir, built between 1950 and 1954.. In addition to the dam itself, the scope of this survey focused on the related buildings, structures, objects and landscape of the entire Falcon Dam and Reservoir property including its associated infrastructure and engineered landscape, field office buildings, power plant, water treatment facility, maintenance area, overall layout and circulation systems, and the Falcon Village housing neighborhood.

The historic resources survey began with intensive archival research and a compilation of suitable historic contexts within the project area. The fieldwork consisted of reviewing resources within the USIBWC complex that are 45 years of age or older and built in 1965 or prior. In addition, each historic-age property within the project area was evaluated for its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and if determined to be eligible any integrity issues were noted. Historic-age properties were also evaluated to determine if they were part of a larger historic district.

SWCA identified Falcon Dam and Falcon Village as an example of a large, significant post-World War II federal public works project constructed to address the need for water conservation and irrigation, flood control, hydroelectric power generation, and recreation. Due to these factors of significance, SWCA recommends the “Falcon Dam and Falcon Village Historic District” as eligible for NRHP listing as a historic district. The dam and related engineering buildings, structures, objects, and sites are excellent survivors of the best of engineering technology of the mid-twentieth century. Falcon Village stands as an excellent example of a mid-twentieth century architecture and planned community, retaining outstanding examples of architect-designed mid-century homes.

The survey found 53 buildings, 19 objects, 91 structures, and four sites for a total of 167 resources within the recommended Falcon Dam and Falcon Village Historic District. Of the 167 resources, 138 or 83 percent are contributing and 29 are non-contributing to the potential historic district. The survey also found and documented 13 potentially eligible archaeological sites including foundations and push piles. The NRHP eligibility of these archaeological sites was not analyzed as part of the historic district recommendation. SWCA historians and architectural historians recommend the encompassing “Falcon Dam and Falcon Village Historic District” as eligible for the NRHP, at the national level under Criterion A in the areas of community planning and development, agriculture, conservation, and entertainment/recreation; and Criterion C is the areas of engineering and architecture. The period of significance for the recommended historic district is 1950–1965.

FALCON VILLAGE, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1 Reservoir Road
Falcon Heights Vicinity
Starr County
Texas

HABS TX-3557-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
Intermountain Region
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0267

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FALCON VILLAGE, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

HABS No. TX-3557-A

Location:

1 Reservoir Road
Falcon Heights vicinity
Starr County
Texas

Falcon Village Administration Building is located off Farm-to-Market Road 2098 Spur, 0.6 miles southwest of its intersection with Ranch Road 2098 (MAP 1).

The center of the building is located at latitude: 26.56, longitude: -99.14. Coordinates were obtained January 24, 2012 using ArcMap and NAIP aerial photography from USDA, which has 6-meter horizontal accuracy. Location information is not restricted.

Present Owner
And Occupant:

United States Section, International Boundary and Water
Commission (USIBWC)
4171 North Mesa, Suite C100
El Paso, Texas 79902-1441

Present Use:

Administration Building for Falcon Dam and Village

Significance:

The Falcon Village Administration Building (Administration Building) is a contributing resource in the National Register-eligible Falcon Dam and Falcon Village Historic District, significant on the national level as a mid-twentieth-century public works project that was part of a larger program to provide water conservation, flood control, power generation, and recreation to the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and Mexico. The project was also significant as a cooperative venture between the United States and Mexico to address water rights to the mutual benefit of the two nations. The Administration Building served as the project field office during the construction of the dam and power plants from 1951 to 1953 and as operations office for the facility after its completion. It is an integral part of Falcon Village, a post-World

War II planned community designed for government workers at a large, federal, public works facility.

Historian: Jeffrey L. Holland (Historian) and Geoffrey B. Henry
(Architectural Historian), TRC Environmental, Inc. April 2012.

Project Information: HABS documentation of the Falcon Village Administration Building was undertaken at the request of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) as partial mitigation for the loss of the building, which will be replaced with a new administration building for the USIBWC area operations office. Daniel Borunda, Natural Resources Specialist for USIBWC, and Kim Barker of the THC developed an MOU to address the impacts to the building. Jeffrey Holland and Vince Macek of TRC conducted the fieldwork on behalf of the USIBWC from January 9–12, 2012. The historical report was prepared by Mr. Holland and Geoffrey Henry of TRC. The photographs were taken and the graphics prepared by Mr. Macek. Elia Perez of TRC's El Paso office served as project manager for TRC.

Part I: Historical Information

A. Physical History:

- 1. Dates of construction:** December 1950–May 1951
- 2. Architect:** U.S. Section, International Boundary & Water Commission (USIBWC), El Paso, Texas. Rodger B. Collons oversaw construction for the USIBWC at Falcon Village as the field engineer for the project.¹
- 3. Owners, occupants, and uses:** The building has been owned and occupied by the USIBWC since its construction. It served as the administrative project office for the U.S. section during the construction of the dam and powerhouse. After the project was completed, it was converted to its planned use as the U.S. section's office for operation and maintenance of the dam, power plant, and appurtenant buildings. The building currently houses the offices of the area operations manager, dam operations manager, and other USIBWC employees.
- 4. Builder, contractor, suppliers:** Noser Construction Company, McAllen, Texas was awarded a contract for \$57,984 to construct the office building and garage, which were completed at a cost of \$59,009.65 (Contract IBM-4371). The cost of the office itself was \$32,314.86. Suppliers and subcontractors included: Valley Brick & Tile Company, Madero, Texas (brick); Alamo Iron Works, San Antonio, Texas (steel); Chrysler Corporation, Airtemp Division, Dayton Ohio (air conditioning); J. W. Martin Electric Company (electrical systems); Edwin F. Guth Company, St. Louis, Missouri (fluorescent light fixtures); Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Company, Hamilton, Ohio (vault door); and Crane Plumbing (bathroom fixtures).²
- 5. Original plans and construction:** Plans and elevations dated March 1950 and revised August 8, 1950 were prepared at the USIBWC headquarters in

¹ *Report on Construction of Falcon Dam and Power Plants*, [1958?], p. V-1, U.S. Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), Falcon Dam Power Plant Record Room ("Telephone Room").

² Correspondence, Office and Garage Building, Contract IBM-4371, 1950–1951, folder 14.11.1, USIBWC, Falcon Village Administration Building File Room, Falcon Village, Texas.

El Paso, Texas.³ The plans and specifications were made available to bidders, and a construction contract was signed with Noser Construction October 20, 1950 for \$57,984. Work was begun in December 1950 and completed in May 1951.⁴ The plans called for a one-story, concrete masonry building with brick veneer and overall dimensions of 44' wide x 51' deep. The Administration Building contained a lobby, six offices, a brick vault room, and restroom facilities for men and women. It was constructed as specified with only a few minor changes. In April 1951, the USIBWC directed Noser to substitute one coat of clear exterior brick waterproofing compound for the three coats of white waterproof paint called for in the specifications. A few other modifications were made to the original plans because of supply issues or price concerns.⁵

The design for the front (south) façade of the building featured five bays with an entrance door centered between four 4'-0" x 5'-5" windows with concrete sills and lintels. A full-length porch with concrete floor was sheltered by a shed roof with a centered cross-gable over the entrance door. The porch roof was supported by six, 8" x 8" Douglas fir posts topped with simple capitals. The rafter plates were 10" x 8" Douglas fir beams that turned out at the gabled entrance and had scalloped ends. The gabled entrance roof extended 15 inches beyond the porch roof. Galvanized iron gutters were attached to the fascia boards on the beveled rafters.

The three other facades were designed with little ornamentation. The windows were all of the same size with the exception of the two half-height windows in the restrooms in the north ell. The long east wall had two sets of paired windows between two single windows, while the west wall had three irregularly spaced single windows in the front section. There were two single windows on the rear (north) façade. The 3' overhanging eaves had exposed rafter ends. The low-pitched roof (at a ratio of 4:12) was covered with 1" sheeting and 5-ply built-up roofing material.

³ *Specifications, Schedule and Drawings, Garage and Office Buildings, Falcon Village, Starr County, Texas, Rio Grande International Dams Project, 1950, Falcon Village Administration Building Vault, Falcon Village, Texas.*

⁴ *Report on Construction of Falcon Dam*, p. V-12.

⁵ Correspondence.

The interior vault room was constructed with brick interior walls, a 6” reinforced concrete slab ceiling, and a Herring-Hall-Marvin No. 64 steel vault door (see Field Records) for fire protection. The interior of the vault room measured 10’ x 12’, with a 34 1/16”-wide. Other interior walls of the Administration Building were of metal lath covered with three layers of gypsum and lime plaster, finished with a coat of cement plaster. Floors in all rooms except the restrooms were covered with 9-inch-square asphalt tile. Ceramic tile was used in the restrooms. The Administration Building had 10’ ceilings fitted with acoustical tile attached to nailing strips on the ceiling joists.⁶

Drawings and specifications for the plumbing and electrical systems and fixtures were submitted by the contractor for approval. The plumbing included the laying of all lines for the air conditioning, water coolers, water heater, vent pipes, drains, janitor’s closet, and bathrooms. Lighting fixtures for the offices, halls, and vaults were 40-watt fluorescent lights, while the outside doorway lights, janitor’s closet, and bathrooms had 100-watt incandescent lights. In December 1950, John C. Tambernine, the office engineer, approved plans for 48 ½” Guth Hinged G-S-T fluorescent fixtures. Literature for a Chrysler Airtemp, 8-ton air conditioning unit Model M104 and a Marley Aquatower No. 72 cooling tower were submitted in January 1951 (see Field Records). This system was installed in the janitorial closet. Also in January 1951, Noser wrote to the IBWC that their subcontractor, J. W. Martin Electric Company proposed to use LaSalle recessed wall heaters and Electromode unit heaters.⁷

Only a few historic views of the Administration Building were located. The earliest view is captured from a film made in October 1953 at the dedication ceremony for the International Falcon Dam (PHOTO 1).⁸ Prior to the ceremony, President Dwight D. Eisenhower greeted local Girl Scouts in front of the building (PHOTO 2) and was then ushered inside. A newspaper photograph of this event ran in the local paper, as well. That photograph is copyright protected, but a copy of the article taken from the newspaper on microfilm is included in the Field Records.

⁶ Specifications, p.58, 63.

⁷ Correspondence.

⁸ Texas Department of Public Safety, “Eisenhower Visits Texas – DPS at the Falcon Dam Dedication, 1953.” Texas Archive of the Moving Image, Austin, Texas.

A photograph of unknown date in the possession of Mr. Alberto Hinojosa, current Dam Operations Manager, shows the front of the building (PHOTO 3).⁹ It appears that the front porch was being painted at the time. The details of the plans from 1950 seem to all be intact in this photograph and constructed to specifications. A photograph from 1957 that accompanies the project completion report shows the landscaping around the building (PHOTO 4).¹⁰ Finally, a photograph showing utility work near the garage building in 1962 shows the east side of the administration building in the background (PHOTO 5).¹¹ In all of these photos, the original design of the porch and roof appear to be intact.

A picture of several employees receiving 10-year service awards in January 1962 appears to have been taken in Administration Building lobby and is the only historic view of the building interior that was located (PHOTO 6).¹² It indicates that the wood paneling was added after that date and that the 9-inch-square asphalt tile floor was replaced after that date with a similar, but not identical, 12-inch square tile.

- 6. Alterations and additions:** The original roof was a 5-ply, built-up roof. It was repaired in 1962 by South Texas Roof and Metal Works of Laredo. The contract specified that the crushed stone on the roof be removed, then re-papered with 15-pound felt, mopped with 50 pounds or more of hot asphalt per 100 square feet, spread with marble chips 5/32" to 3/8", and embedded at a rate of 100 pounds or more per 100 square feet.¹³ The roof was later replaced by shingles, perhaps more than once.

No structural additions have been made to the building. A patio in the rear ell covered by a metal shed roof was added at an unknown date. The porch supports and some porch details were replaced sometime after 1962 based on the photo of that date that shows original porch supports in place (PHOTO 5).

⁹ Photograph in the office of Mr. Alberto Hinojosa, Falcon Village Administration Building, Falcon Village, Texas.

¹⁰ *Report on Construction of Falcon Dam*, p. V-9.

¹¹ Photographs on file, 1962, USIBWC, Falcon Village Administration Building Vault, Falcon Village, Texas.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Invitation, F-6532, Roof Repairs, Office Building, Garage and Vehicle Storage Building, 1962, folder 14.324, USIBWC, Falcon Village Administration Building File Room, Falcon Village, Texas.

Some interior details are also replacements, including the fluorescent light fixtures and linoleum tile flooring. Plywood paneling was added in the lobby and receptionist's office some time after January 1962. The air conditioning unit in the janitorial closet was replaced at an unknown date by an exterior unit located on the north side of the building. The two commodes in the men's room were replaced with one at an unknown date. The building entrance and bathrooms were made handicapped accessible sometime after 1990. Some restroom fixtures, the restroom signs, and some of the doors appear to be original.

B. Historic Context:

The Falcon Village Administration Building was constructed as part of the support facilities for the International Falcon Dam project on the Rio Grande River between Texas and Mexico. The dam was made possible by the Water Treaty of 1944, by which the United States and Mexico agreed to equitably distribute the water rights to the Rio Grande and cooperate in the management of its mutual water resources. The dam and matching power plants, one in Mexico and one in the U.S., were to be constructed under the oversight of the International Boundary and Water Commission, which maintained sections in both nations. The commission was established in 1889 as the International Boundary Commission to settle border disputes and water rights issues. Through a series of agreements, the IBWC made improvements to the Rio Grande that included channel rectification, dam construction, and levees.¹⁴

International Falcon Dam was the first storage dam project on the U.S./Mexican border and was intended to control water resources for the Lower Rio Grande Valley, which was developing as a major agricultural region. The benefits of the multi-purpose project included water conservation, flood control, control of silt deposition, power generation, and recreation. The dam was a joint construction project, with the powerhouses and ancillary features constructed by the respective countries in which they were located. The site of the dam was established by joint studies that found the Falcón-Salineño area most suitable. The location was approved in 1947. The dam was designed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1948 and specifications were completed by 1950, when initial construction began. The 5-mile long, rolled-

¹⁴ Julie McGilvray et al., *Historic Resources Survey for the International Falcon Dam and Reservoir Project, United States International Boundary and Water Commission*. Dallas: MWH Americas, Inc., 2011, 10–11.

earth dam was one of the longest in the world at the time of construction and created a 26-mile-long, 87,000-acre reservoir.¹⁵

The dam was constructed by a consortium of seven firms known as Falcon Dam Constructors, which included Mexican and U.S. sections, each employing its own workers and maintaining separate operational facilities. The main project office for the U.S. section was located at old Fort McIntosh in Laredo. Falcon Village, located northeast of the dam on the U.S. side, was the field headquarters for the U.S. section of the project, as well as serving as a temporary construction camp and residential community for workers and staff. A preliminary plan for Falcon Village made in October 1948 showed a similar layout to the one that was eventually built, including the bent-wing grid with two main longitudinal roads and a service area near the entrance to the village. However, the original plan called for masonry dwellings and featured more amenities such as a store, a filling station, and a swimming pool.¹⁶

In January 1950, at a meeting at the USIBWC headquarters in El Paso, project engineers discussed the permanent features planned for Falcon Village and a modified plan was developed. The bids received for the masonry dwellings exceeded Congressional budget caps for residential buildings and were rejected. Instead, it was recommended that 30 surplus buildings from old Fort McIntosh and Laredo Air Force Base in Laredo be moved to the site and refitted as semi-permanent dwellings. The original plans for the village also called for a permanent office building that could accommodate the staff necessary for the construction of the dam, but at the January 1950 meeting, it was determined to build a smaller permanent office suitable for administration and maintenance of the dam after the project was completed. Additional office space needed during construction was to be provided by bringing the old post engineer's building from Fort McIntosh to the site, which could be sold after completion of the dam and powerhouse. The store and filling station were

¹⁵ McGilvray, et al., *Historic Resources Survey*, 11–13; *International Falcon Dam Souvenir Program* (McAllen Chamber of Commerce, McAllen, Texas, 1953), 33; *Falcon Dam and Power Plant* [brochure], (El Paso, Texas: USIBWC, 1990).

¹⁶ *Preliminary Studies and Estimates of Cost of Construction for Falcon Village*, October 14, 1948, folder L-7.2.7, USIBWC, Falcon Village Administration Building File Room, Falcon Village, Texas.

eliminated from the plan under the assumption that private enterprise would provide these services.¹⁷

Meanwhile, temporary facilities were being constructed at Falcon Village to support the early stages of construction. In 1949, a temporary field office was established, and by July 1950, the construction camp included two dormitories, a mess hall, eight dwelling units, an office building, and a utility system, all of a temporary nature and erected by USIBWC workers.¹⁸

The foundations for the buildings arriving from Laredo were prepared in September 1950, and the buildings were moved to the site between November 1950 and January 1951. Government workers completed the conversion of the buildings to residential use, with the exception of plastering and tiling, which was done under contract. The residences were completed in April 1951 and were used until the 1960s when they were replaced by permanent dwellings.¹⁹

The current Administration Building and the nearby garage were the first permanent structures built for the village. They were constructed under the same contract, which was awarded to Noser Construction in October 1950. Work began in November 1950 and was completed in May 1951. The office building was used for administration of the construction work on the dam and powerhouse.²⁰

International Falcon Dam was completed in 1953 and was dedicated on October 19 of that year in a grand ceremony attended by the presidents of the United States and Mexico. U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's motorcade arrived at the dam site in the morning after driving from the Texas governor's residence in Sharyland, near Mission. At the USIBWC Administration Building in Falcon Village, the President was greeted by a Girl Scout troop from Hebbronville. A photograph of the President and the Girl Scout troop in front of the Administration Building was published on the front page of the *McAllen Valley Evening Monitor*. The President's Chrysler convertible then crossed into Mexico along the dam road, which was lined with 7,000 U.S. and Mexican troops standing nearly shoulder-to-shoulder for 12 miles, from the

¹⁷ R. B. Ward to L. M. Lawson, "Report on Meeting of January 11, 1950," 8 March 1951, Folder 11.2, Construction Details Preliminary to Preparation of Contract Plans and Specifications – Falcon Village, USIBWC, Falcon Village Administration Building File Room, Falcon Village, Texas.

¹⁸ *Report on Construction of Falcon Dam*, p. V-5-V-7; R. B. Ward to L. M. Lawson, 8 March 1951.

¹⁹ *Report on Construction of Falcon Dam*, p. V-5-V-7.

²⁰ *Report on Construction of Falcon Dam*, p. V-11-V-12.

Administration Building to the City Hall in Nuevo Guerrero, where he met Mexican President Ruiz Cortines. After festivities in the town, the two presidents returned to the USIBWC headquarters on the American side for a luncheon on the grounds of Falcon Village attended by 500 guests. This was followed by the dedication ceremony on the dam at the monument constructed at the official border between the two countries.²¹

Installation of the equipment in the powerhouses in the U.S. and Mexico was completed in April 1954, with the first commercial power generated October 11, 1954. After completion of the project, Falcon Village served as the operations center for the U.S. Section of the IBWC and a residential community for its employees. The Administration Building housed the project office for operation and maintenance of the dam, power plant, and appurtenant buildings. A report on the completed project made circa 1958 reported the construction cost of the village through June 1957 at just over \$1 million.²²

In 1959, plans were developed to replace the semi-permanent housing in the village with permanent dwellings. The architectural firm of Monroe Light & Higgins designed the two-, three-, and four-bedroom house plans, as well as the community building, the guest house (now called the hydro office), and the bachelor's quarters (now called the guest house). The guest house and bachelor's quarters were located in the same block as the Administration Building, while the dwellings, with the exception of one house, were located on four blocks extending in a bent-wing pattern beyond the office buildings. The community building was located in the middle of the four blocks in a triangular lot formed by the bend in the street grid. All of these building were of concrete masonry unit (CMU) construction, covered with stucco, except the community building which had exterior walls of brick. At least 28 houses were completed in this initial phase of construction. Another seven were built beginning in 1970 outside of the original four blocks. Amenities for residents of Falcon Village included a playground, ball fields, tennis courts, and a dock on Falcon Reservoir.²³

Overall, the Falcon Village complex is an excellent example of a mid-twentieth-century, utilitarian, planned community for government workers at a

²¹ "Mighty Falcon Dam Dedicated by Two Presidents." *The Westlaco News (Hidalgo County, TX)*, 22 October, 1953.

²² *Falcon Dam and Power Plant*.

²³ McGilvray, et al., *Historic Resources Survey*, 13–15, 30–39.

remote facility. It is typical of such communities found at military bases, national parks and recreation areas, and government installations. The village provides a central area for both work and leisure, making it more convenient for the employees of Falcon Dam than commuting long distances to the site. The layout of the site, its landscape features, and the architectural character of the buildings in Falcon Village are all designed with function in mind, but are congruent with the environment and culture of south Texas.

The basic design, appearance and floor plan of the Falcon Village Administration Building was re-used by the USIBWC at its other facilities in Texas. The 1961 building specifications and plans for the Amistad Dam Administration Building, located near Del Rio in Val Verde County, are nearly identical to those used at Falcon Dam. At Amistad, brick rowlock sills and lintels were substituted for the concrete sills at Falcon, but this is the only significant difference.

Although a modest structure, the Administration Building is the focal point of the Falcon Village, being the reception area for visitors as well as the command center for operations at the facility. The welcoming front porch, large door and window openings, and the warm brick veneer, elevate the structure from institutional blandness, and the original architectural details of the porch reflected the heritage of the Texas borderlands.

Part II. Architectural Information

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural character:** The Administration Building is typical of post-World War II construction and shows evidence of the then-popular residential Ranch style, particularly in its use of a shallow-pitched hipped roof, one-story height and L plan and the full-width front porch.
2. **Condition of fabric:** The Administration Building has been well maintained over its history, with repairs made as needed to the exterior and interior fabric. The brick veneer exterior is in good condition, and the concrete window sills and lintels are still intact. The metal windows and the doors are all operational and in fair-to-good condition. The original wood porch posts have been replaced with metal posts. The building's interior has retained its original floor plan, although wall finishes, lighting, and ceilings have been replaced or covered over by later materials.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions:** The Administration Building is a one-story, five-bay structure built on an L plan, with the façade on the south elevation and a rear wing or ell extending to the north. The front of the building is 44' wide and the west wall is 30' long. The rear ell is 26' wide and 21' deep. The east wall is 51' long.
2. **Foundations:** The Administration Building stands on a reinforced-concrete slab foundation and has no basement. The foundation is parged for approximately 10-12 inches above ground on the west side of the building.
3. **Walls:** The 13-foot-tall exterior walls are faced with a brick veneer, laid in American bond with a row of header bricks used on every sixth course.
4. **Structural System, Framing:** The Administration Building features CMU construction, with steel door frames.
5. **Stairways:** There are no exterior stairways in the Administration Building.
6. **Chimneys:** There are no chimneys in the Administration Building.
7. **Openings:** The Administration Building has retained its original number of door and window openings, with none having been added or removed.
 - a. **Doorways and doors:** The primary entrance is on the center of the south facade, with a single-leaf, wood-and-glass door that replaced the original single glass panel door at an unknown date. A screen door was also removed at an unknown date based on the original plans and a historic photograph of unknown date (PHOTO 3). Above the entrance is a concrete lintel to which is affixed a metal sign lettered with OFFICE. Above the lintel is a round metal sign with the USIBWC logo. A metal exterior light with glass panes is to the west of this door. A secondary entrance is on the west side of the north ell with a concrete sill and lintel. It has a single-leaf wood door with metal handle.

- b. Windows:** Fenestration consists of four-light awning windows with metal frames and operating hardware. Each window has a concrete sill and lintel. There are two windows flanking either side of the south entrance; three windows on the west wall; smaller two-light awning windows flank the secondary entrance on the north ell; there is one window on the north end, and four windows (single and paired) on the east wall.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering:** The gable-on-hip roof is clad with gray asphalt shingles. The triangular, louvered wood vents in the attic story of each gable end have been replaced by plywood with drilled vent holes.
- b. Cornice, Eaves:** The Administration Building has wide, overhanging eaves and exposed wood rafter ends on the east and west elevations. A galvanized iron gutter runs along the front porch roof. A section of aluminum gutter was added on the north eave to protect the A/C unit. The cross-gable porch roof is finished with a wood box cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor Plans:** The Administration Building floor plan consists of two sets of two offices flanking either side of the central lobby. To the rear (north) of the lobby and to the west of the hall is a fireproof vault room. The rear ell contains an additional office, a break room with sink and refrigerator, separate men's and women's restrooms, and a janitor's closet.
 - a. Main Floor:** See above.
 - b. Upper floors:** None.
 - c. Attic:** The attic crawlspace was not accessible.
 - d. Gallery, Porch:** The roof overhangs approximately five feet on the front to shelter a one-story, five-bay porch supported on six non-historic round metal posts. There is a shallow-pitched, centrally placed front gable on the porch roof, which extends eight inches beyond the porch roof eaves. The two central posts have wedge-shaped wood capitals. There is a narrow-width board ceiling. The concrete porch floor is a rust color and scored in blocks. The porch approach has been

altered by the addition of a concrete handicap access ramp leading to the entrance.

The roof of the north ell overhangs on the west to shelter a one-story, one-bay porch over the secondary entrance. The porch has a concrete floor.

2. **Stairways:** There are no interior stairways.
3. **Flooring:** The floors are covered with linoleum tiles and have wood baseboards, except for the two restrooms which have ceramic tile floors and a strip of tile running above the floor.
4. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** The interior walls were all originally plastered, but have been clad with plywood paneling in the entrance lobby and receptionist's office.
5. **Openings:**
 - a. **Doorways and doors:** The door frames have molded wood jambs. The office doors are wood with metal hinges and door knobs. There is a wood louvered door with brass knob to the janitor's closet. The restroom doors are topped by wood signs lettered with MEN or WOMEN. The vault room has a metal-clad door with metal latch handle.
 - b. **Windows:** There are two translucent glass windows along the north hall that light the two offices from the hall. The wall between the lobby and the receptionist's office has a large opening, originally with a sliding glass pane.
6. **Decorative Features:** The Administration Building was designed as a utilitarian structure with an emphasis on simplicity of design and finishes and there are no decorative features on the interior.
7. **Hardware:** Most door knobs are replacements of the originals except for the brass knob on the janitor's closet door. Metal door hinges are original.
8. **Mechanical Equipment:**

- a. **Heating and Cooling:** The Administration Building features central heating and cooling. Heating and cooling units, as well as a hot water heater are located in the janitor's closet.
- b. **Plumbing:** The Administration Building has original indoor plumbing. Men's and women's restrooms are located in the north ell.
- c. **Electric:** The Administration Building retains its original electrical wiring and outlets.

D. Site:

The Falcon Village Administration Building is set at the entrance to Falcon Village, a planned community for the operatives of the International Falcon Dam and Reservoir. The building faces roughly south toward the dam. The paved entrance road to the village (Falcon Main Street) is located off FM 2098, the rural farm road that leads to International Falcon Dam. The entrance road splits in front of the Administration Building, with Main Street on the east and Reservoir Road on the west forming the two main roads into the village. A small parking area and a flagpole are located in the triangle formed by the split in the road and the Administration Building. A garage, warehouse, and other support facilities are located to the right of (to the east) and behind the building (to the north). The building is located in a cleared, generally level park-like setting of maintained grass lawn dotted with isolated hardwoods and palm trees. Views of Falcon Reservoir can be seen to the west.

1. **Historic Landscape Design:** The initial landscape design for Falcon Village was prepared in 1951 by a firm in Laredo, Texas. Although some of the mature trees planted as part of that plan were lost to drought in recent years, the overall design was not significantly different than the current appearance. The grounds were to be covered by lawns with native trees planted throughout, including fan and date palms, Rio Grande ash, mesquite, and ebony. Many of these trees still are found dotting the village. Historic aerial photographs and a few contemporary photographs suggest that the landscape around the Administration Building is not significantly changed from its historic appearance. The area has been kept clear, with widely-spaced trees and a maintained lawn. During construction of the dam, a number of temporary buildings were located around the Administration Building, including a mess hall, a dormitory,

and a warehouse to the east, and an office building and laboratory to the north. These buildings were removed sometime after 1954. Two palm trees were located on the grass between the front of the building and the parking area from at least 1953 to sometime after 1962. They are no longer standing.

2. **Outbuildings:** A small utility shed is located behind the Administration Building. It was constructed in the late 1980s and contains an emergency generator for the building.²⁴ It is not considered a contributing structure to the historic district.

Part III. Sources of Information:

- A. **Architectural Drawings:** Original plans for the Falcon Village Administration Building were located in the vault room of the building and will likely be transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration Region Branch in Fort Worth, Texas before demolition. They were photographed as part of the documentation and are reproduced in Figures 1–4. Larger copies of these plans are included in the Field Records.
- B. **Early Views:** Video footage of President Eisenhower’s 1953 visit to International Falcon Dam for the dedication ceremony is the earliest image found of the Administration Building. Still photo captures from that video are shown in Photos 1 and 2 of this report. Several photographs dating to the late 1950s and early 1960s show portions of the building. These views were located in the vault, file room, and offices of the building. They are discussed in the physical history section of the historical report and are reproduced below in Photos 3–6.
- C. **Bibliography:**

1. **Primary and Unpublished Sources:**

Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, Texas. Falcon Dam and Reservoir newspaper clippings and vertical files.

²⁴ Mr. Raul Garcia, USIBWC, personal communication 11 April, 2012.

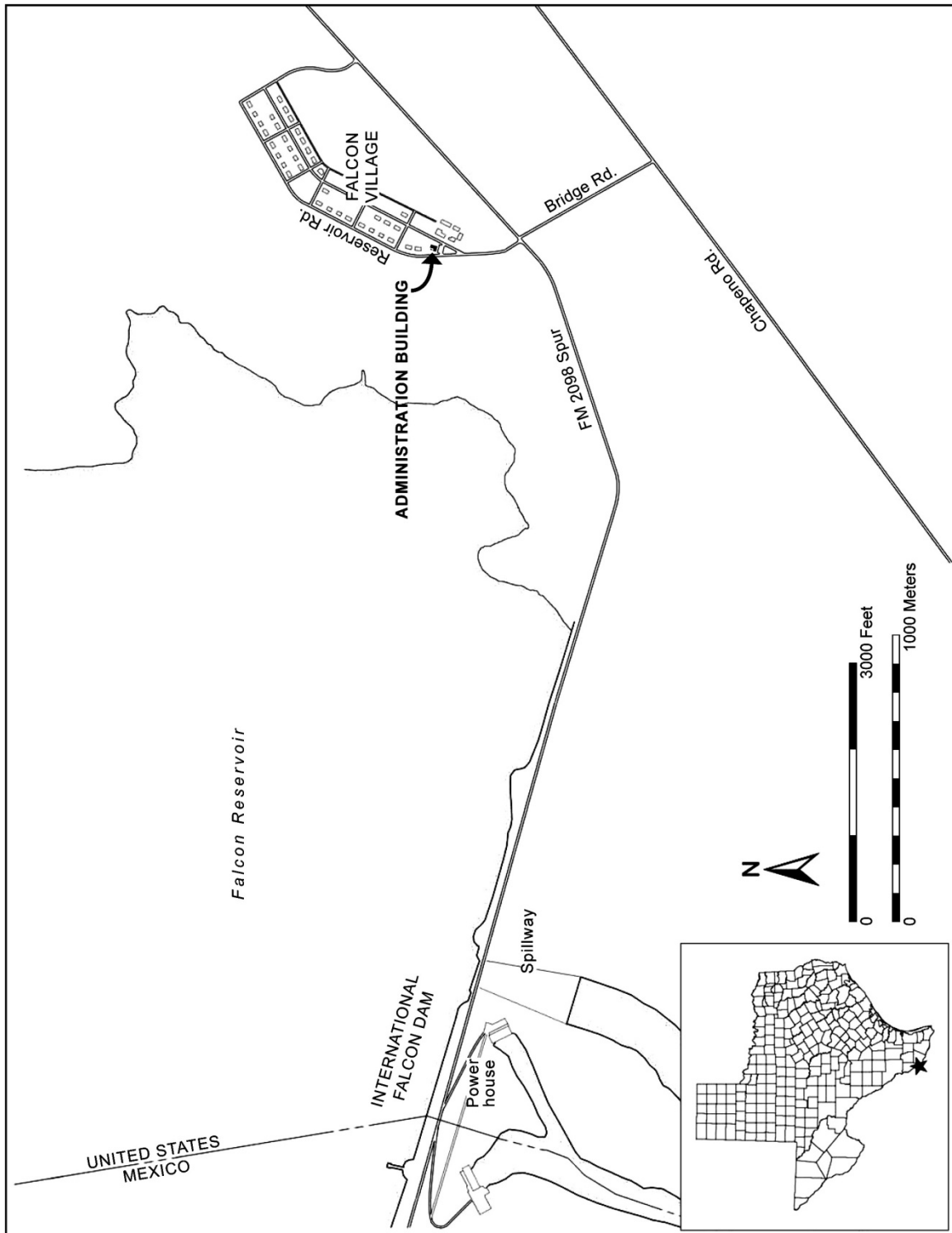
U.S. Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC),
Falcon Dam File Room and Falcon Village Administrative Building
Vault and File Room, Falcon Heights, Texas. Correspondence,
Studies, Specifications, Plans, Reports, Photos.

2. Secondary Sources:

McGilvray, Julie, James W. Steely, Anna Mod, and Kevin A. Miller. *Historic Resources Survey for the International Falcon Dam and Reservoir Project, United States International Boundary and Water Commission*. MWH Americas, Inc., Dallas, Texas in association with SWCA Environmental Consultants, Austin, Texas. Submitted to United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, El Paso, Texas, 2011.

D. Sources Not Investigated: There are no significant sources of information that have not been investigated.

E. Supplemental Material: A location map, copies of the original plans, and copies of historic photographs of the building are attached to this report. Larger copies of the plans, digital color photographs taken in the field, newspaper clippings related to International Falcon Dam, and literature on the original air conditioning, lighting, and vault door are submitted as Field Records.



Map 1. Location of Falcon Village Administration Building in relation to Falcon Village, International Falcon Dam, and existing roads.



Photo 1. Composite view of Administration Building during the dedication ceremony for Falcon Dam (still image from film, courtesy of Texas Archive of the Moving Image).



Photo 2. President Eisenhower greeting Girl Scouts in front of the Administration Building (still image from film, courtesy of Texas Archive of the Moving Image).



Photo 3. Photo of unknown date of the entrance to the Administration Building (photo in possession of Mr. Alberto Hinojosa, Falcon Dam Operations Manager).



Photo 4. View of the south and east sides of the Administration Building, 12 September 1957
(photo from *Report on Construction of Falcon Dam*, 1958[?]).



Photo 5. View of utility construction with Administration Building in background, 6 June 1962
(photo from Administration Building Vault).



Photo 6. USIBWC employees receiving their 10-year service pins in the lobby of the Administration Building, 15 January 1962 (photo from Administration Building Vault).

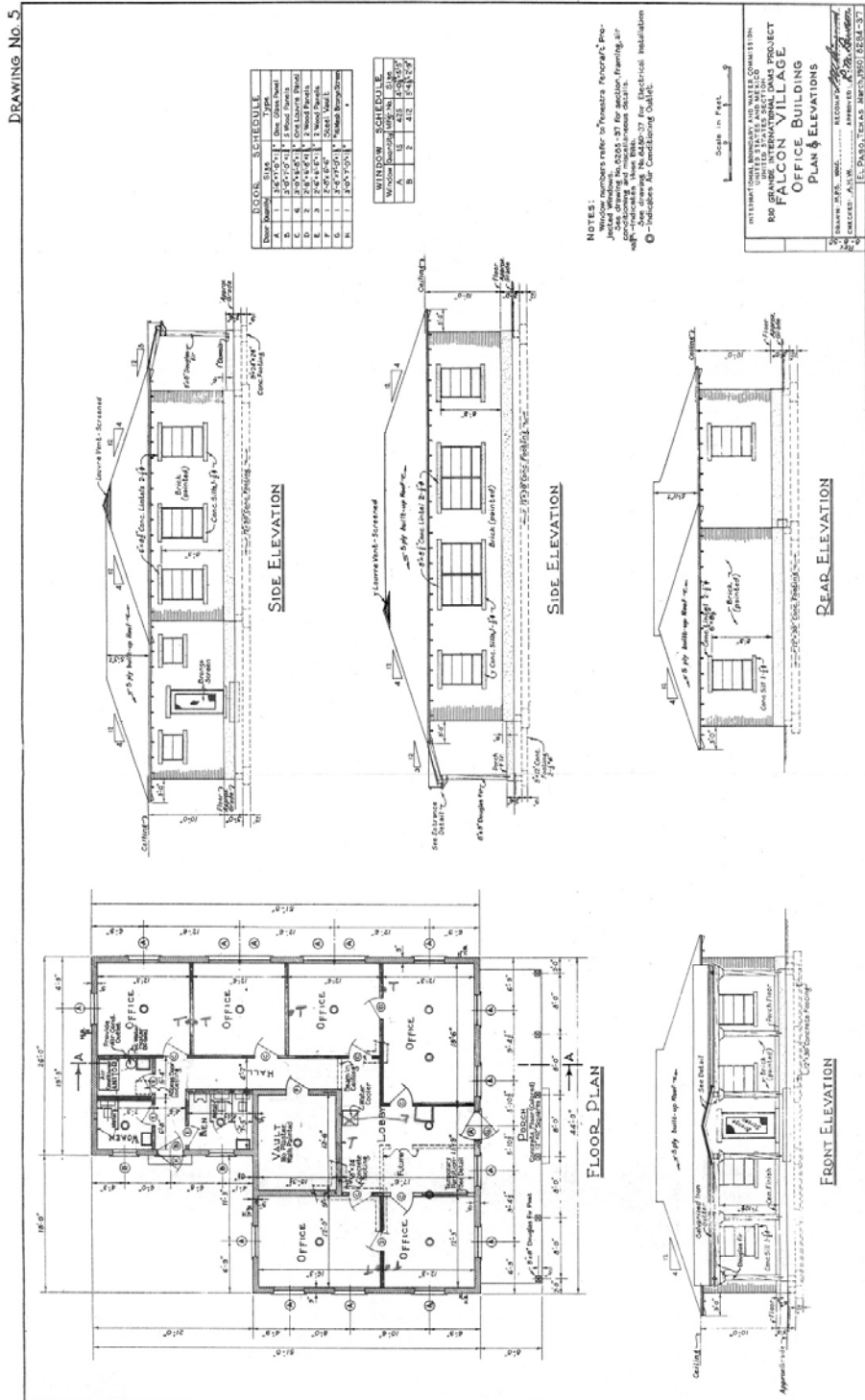


Figure 1. Original plan and elevations for Falcon Village Administration Building.

[illegible]

Figure 2. Original sections and details for Falcon Village Administration Building.



Figure 3. Original electrical plan for Falcon Dam and Administration Building.

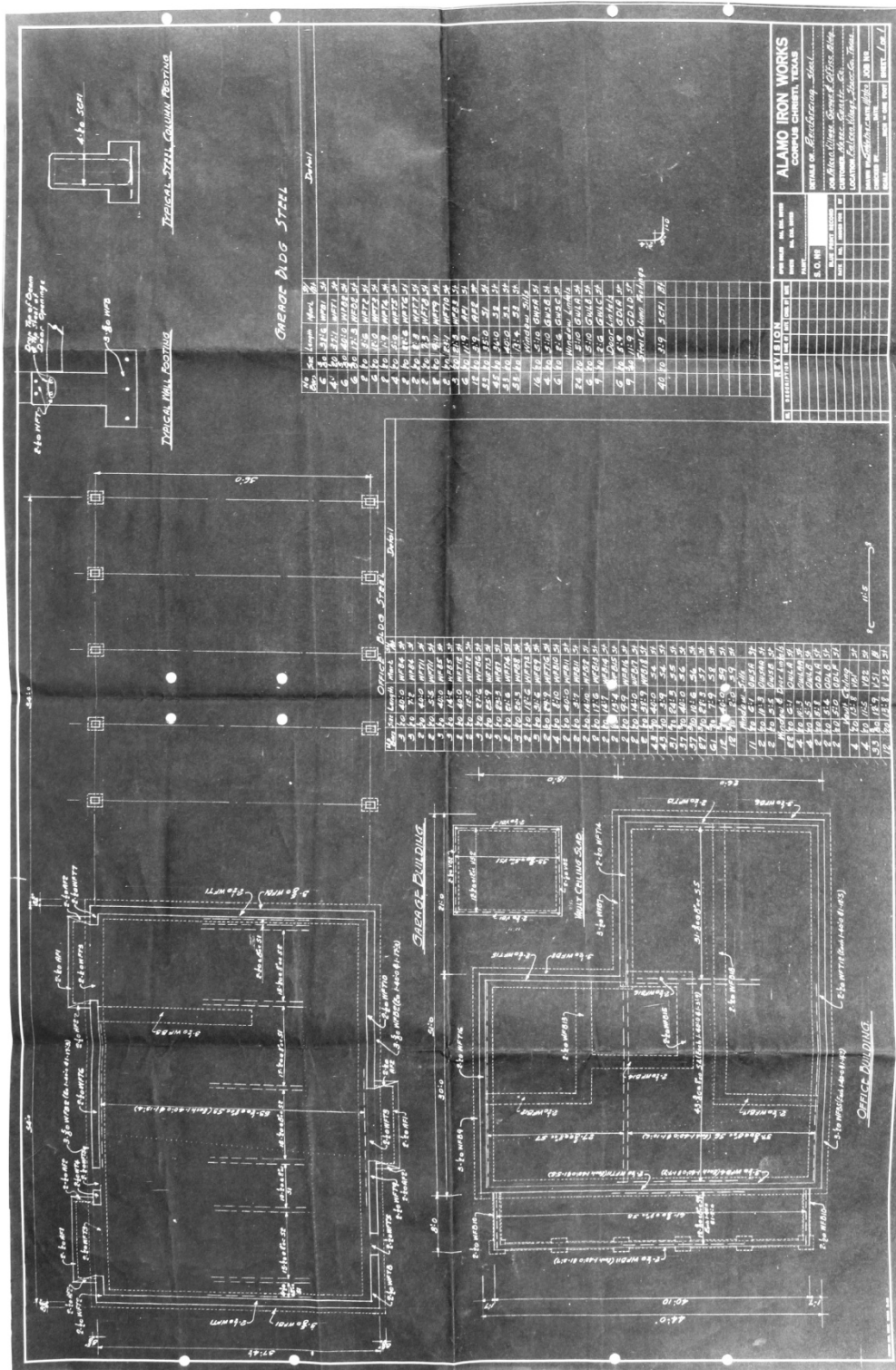


Figure 4. Original details of structural steel for Falcon Village Administration Building.

Cultural Resource Management Plan International Falcon Dam and Reservoir Zapata and Starr Counties, Texas Volume 1



Prepared for:

**United States Section,
International Boundary and Water Commission**

Prepared by:

PARSONS

Austin, Texas

October 2004

Cultural Resource Management Plan International Falcon Dam and Reservoir Zapata and Starr Counties, Texas Volume 1

Contract IBM 02D0002, Task Order 10

Prepared for:

**United States Section,
International Boundary and Water Commission**

The Commons, Building C, Suite 100
4171 North Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902-1441

Prepared by:

PARSONS

Austin, Texas

October 2004

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has developed this Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) in order to provide for effective management of cultural resources at the International Falcon Dam and Reservoir (Falcon Project), located along the Rio Grande River, which it controls. This is a five-year plan, for fiscal years 2003 through 2007. This plan summarizes the history and prehistory of the property, reviews past historical and archaeological survey efforts, outlines and assigns responsibilities for the management of cultural resources, and discusses related concerns and standard operating procedures for Falcon Project, in Zapata and Starr counties, Texas. It discusses procedures that will help to preserve the cultural resources of Falcon Project within the context of the agency's mission. This plan is intended for the use of any personnel involved in planning at Falcon Project.

The USIBWC has initiated its identification responsibilities at Falcon Reservoir under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As of FY 2003, most of the Reservoir has been inventoried for archaeological resources. Elements of the built environment, now approaching 50 years of age, have not been evaluated. This CRMP includes plans to inventory those buildings.

As of 2003, there are 847 known archaeological sites at Falcon Project, 66 (7.8%) of which have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). An additional 98 (11.6%) archaeological sites have been recommended potentially eligible for the NRHP by archaeologists, but have not had formal determinations of eligibility made by a federal agency, nor concurrence by the Texas Historical Commission (hereafter State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]). Therefore, 164 (19.4%) archaeological sites are eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP. Since most of the archaeological sites recorded at Falcon Project have not been subject to subsurface investigations, the large majority of sites (559) have an "unknown" or unassigned eligibility, pending further study, while 124 sites have been recommended not eligible to the NRHP. It is the policy of the USIBWC that any archaeological sites with unknown NRHP eligibility be treated as if they are eligible until additional study proves otherwise.

There is one (1) extant historic building (gas station complex-41ZP183) that has been identified and recommended as eligible for NRHP listing on USIBWC-controlled lands. An extensive architectural survey to identify additional architectural resources, including the recordation of Falcon Dam (1950-1954), has not been undertaken to date. Of the known recorded archaeological sites at Falcon Project, one hundred and eleven (111) sites include architectural components. Twenty-three (23) have been recommended as potentially eligible for NRHP listing and the SHPO concurs with the NRHP eligibility recommendation for an additional nineteen (19). Twenty-four (24) have been recommended as not eligible and the SHPO concurs with the not eligible recommendation for an additional fifteen (15). Thirty (30) resources have not been assessed for NRHP listing or lack sufficient information and have been recommended as unknown for NRHP listing.

The USIBWC-controlled property at Falcon Project also includes 21 documented historic cemeteries, surveyed in 1952 prior to the inundation of Falcon Reservoir. Of the 21 cemeteries located in 1952, 18 of them are within the boundaries of former ranch properties that now have been recorded as archaeological sites. The three ranches containing cemeteries that have not been given archaeological site numbers are Tortulas Ranch, Refugio Ranch, and Potrero Ranch. Despite the fact that most of the ranches with cemeteries have site numbers, archaeologists have only re-recorded the locations and conditions of four of the cemeteries documented in 1952. The remaining cemeteries have not been revisited or assessed for damage. Additional research is needed to ascertain the status and condition of these historic cemeteries within the USIBWC-controlled property at Falcon Project.

As of 2002, all of Falcon Project has been subjected to initial archaeological reconnaissance survey, except portions of two areas, labeled the Northern Unsurveyed Area (NUA) and the Central Unsurveyed Area (CUA). As part of this CRMP, a predictive model is included which assesses which portions of the NUA and CUA contain the greatest possibility of archaeological resources, based on a number of variables. The model is discussed in Section 3.

The USIBWC has yet to initiate contact with local Native American tribes or groups through an ethnohistorical study. A number of archaeological sites located at Falcon Project include Native American burials, and these burials would be subject to the provisions of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) or the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Additionally, there may be unmarked Native American burial grounds on the property that have yet to be identified. The USIBWC needs to initiate consultation with local Native American tribes or groups to determine which historic properties or other areas of concern exist at Falcon Project related to NHPA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), or the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA). One federally recognized tribe may include descendants from the area. Coordination with the National Park Service (NPS) National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) program may be necessary throughout this process.

The Environmental Protection Specialist has the primary responsibility for managing cultural resources on a day-to-day basis at the USIBWC. This individual is assigned to the Environmental Management Division of the USIBWC's Engineering Department. Section 4 outlines internal review procedures, and procedures for consultation with the SHPO, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council), and the NPS. In the event that human remains or archaeological materials are inadvertently found, work in the area of the find will stop, and the individual responsible for implementing the work (e.g. the principal investigator) will notify the Environmental Protection Specialist immediately. The Environmental Protection Specialist will follow the procedures outlined in Section 5.4.

Goals of the USIBWC for the Falcon Project cultural resources program over the next five years include: completing Section 106 consultation for upcoming undertakings; completing its archaeological survey of the property; completing its architectural survey of

the Falcon Dam and any extant buildings or structures 50 years of age or older; completing NHPA Section 110 inventories; initiating consultation with Native American groups; initiating consultation with descendants of individuals interred in historic cemeteries on the property; executing a Programmatic Agreement (PA) to streamline Section 106 review of undertakings at Falcon Project; maintaining the current CRMP; ensuring that archaeological artifacts and associated documentation are curated in accordance with 36 CFR 79; and continuing its policing activities to prevent Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) violations.

Section 2 provides an introduction to the USIBWC and Falcon Project, introduces goals of the agency and the cultural resources program, and assigns program responsibilities. Section 3 describes the historical background of the area, efforts to identify cultural resources on the property, known cultural resources at Falcon Project, and any areas where additional studies may be required. Section 4 details the USIBWC's compliance with historic preservation laws and regulations, and Section 5 outlines standard operating procedures for carrying out routine occurrences on or near cultural resources. Section 6 contains attachments.

PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF STARR

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AND THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER FOR DEMOLITION OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT FALCON VILLAGE, STARR COUNTY, TEXAS

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the General Services Administration utilizing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Guidelines and Procedures. Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, as implemented by DHS Directive 017-01, CBP is entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding mitigation for adverse impacts to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) - eligible Falcon Village Historic District (the District) as a result of a CBP Proposed Action that includes demolition of four (4) residential units considered to be contributing resources to the District. Mitigation will include photographs and development of sketch plans and a brief historical context and description of each unit. Details are included in the MOA.

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for the proposal and were made available for public review and comment from November 25 to December 25, 2013. The adverse impact of the proposed project has been documented in the Draft EA and Draft FONSI. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as well as the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, the Comanche Nation, and the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma have all been informed of the proposal and the adverse impact to the District.

Please address comments or requests for a copy of the MOA to the following address: Karla Carmichael, Regional Environmental Quality Advisor, General Services Administration, Greater Southwest Region 7, 819 Taylor Street Room 12B, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. E-mail comments can be sent to: karla.carmichael@gsa.gov.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF TEXAS X

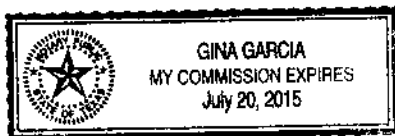
COUNTY OF STARR X

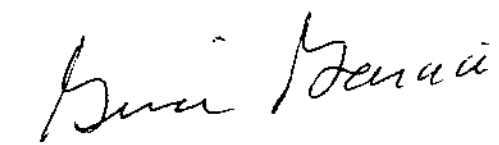
BEFORE ME, the undersigned Authority, on this day personally appeared REBECCA G. CANALES, who being by me duly sworn, deposes and says that she is the EDITOR-PUBLISHER of the STARR COUNTY TOWN CRIER that said newspaper is published weekly in STARR County, Texas, and generally circulated in STARR, County, Texas; and that the attached notice was published in said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit:

JANUARY 22, 2014 – PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICE, THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF STARR. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) AMONG THE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP) AND THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (SHPO) FOR DEMOLITION OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT FALCON VILLAGE, STARR COUNTY, TEXAS. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), CBP, and the General Services Administration utilizing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Guidelines and Procedures. Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, as implemented by DHS Directive 017-01, CBP is entering into a MOA with the Texas SHPO regarding mitigation for adverse impacts to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) - eligible Falcon Village Historic District (the District) as a result of a CBP Proposed Action that includes demolition of four (4) residential units considered to be contributing resources to the District. Mitigation will include photographs and development of sketch plans and a brief historical context and description of each unit.


REBECCA G. CANALES
EDITOR-PUBLISHER

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 22nd day of January, 20 14, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.




NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS

My Commission Expires



PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICE, THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF STARR. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) AMONG THE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP) AND THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (SHPO) FOR DEMOLITION OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT FALCON VILLAGE, STARR COUNTY, TEXAS. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), CBP, and the General Services Administration utilizing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Guidelines and Procedures. Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, as implemented by DHS Directive 017-01, CBP is entering into a MOA with the Texas SHPO regarding mitigation for adverse impacts to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) - eligible Falcon Village Historic District (the District) as a result of a CBP Proposed Action that includes demolition of four (4) residential units considered to be contributing resources to the District. Mitigation will include photographs and development of sketch plans and a brief historical context and description of each unit. Details are included in the MOA. A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for the proposal and were made available for public review and comment from November 25 to December 25, 2013. The adverse impact of the proposed project has been documented in the Draft EA and Draft FONSI. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as well as the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, the Comanche Nation, and the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma have all been informed of the proposal and the adverse impact to the District. Please address comments or requests for a copy of the MOA to the following address: Karla Carmichael, Regional Environmental Quality Advisor, General Services Administration, Greater Southwest Region 7, 819 Taylor Street Room 12B, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. E-mail comments can be sent to: karla.carmichael@gsa.gov.

City of La Grulla

Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

(AMENDED)

The City of La Grulla, Starr County will receive bids for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, supervision and performing all work required for a Drainage Improvement Project and all associated appurtenances until 11:00 a.m on Wednesday, February 12th, 2014 at City of La Grulla City Hall, 2 ½ M.S. FM 2360, La Grulla, Texas 78548. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 11:05 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12th, 2014 at City of La Grulla City Hall, 2 ½ M.S. FM 2360, La Grulla, Texas 78548.

Work to be financed by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) TxCDBG Contract No. 712170.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

February 11, 2014

Jennifer DeHart Hass, Director
Environmental and Energy Division
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 1525, MS 1226
Washington, DC 20229-1106

Re: *Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966,
Memorandum of Agreement for Demolition of Residential Units at Falcon Village, Starr County,
Texas (CBP/106 Track #201404929)*

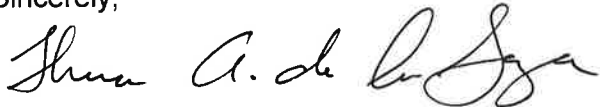
Dear Ms. Hass,

Thank you for providing us with an electronic version of the final Memorandum of Agreement for the above referenced project, signed by your agency's Federal Preservation Officer. This letter serves as final comment on the proposed document from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

We are returning eight (8) pages with the signature of the Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of the Texas Historical Commission. We have retained an copy of the document for our files.

Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process and resolution of adverse effects, in addition to your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If we can be of further assistance, please contact Theresa A. de la Garza at 512/463-8952.**

Sincerely,



Theresa A. de la Garza, Project Reviewer

For: Mark Wolfe, Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/tg



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG THE
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION,
AND THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
FOR DEMOLITION OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT FALCON VILLAGE,
STARR COUNTY, TEXAS**

WHEREAS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) proposes to demolish eight unoccupied residential units (C102, C104, C106, L101, I401, I403, I405, and I407) (Undertaking), on Falcon Main Street, in Falcon Village, located near the Falcon Dam Land Port of Entry (LPOE) in Starr County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, CBP is the lead agency in review of the project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as delegated project proponent pursuant to the Department of Homeland Security Directive DHS 017-01; and

WHEREAS, CBP has determined this action to be a Federal Undertaking (Undertaking) subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6(c); and

WHEREAS, the Falcon Village Historic District (Historic District) has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the International Boundary and Water Commission in 2011 and CBP concurs with this determination; and

WHEREAS, CBP has established the project's above-ground Area of Potential Effects (APE) as defined at 36 C.F.R. § 800.16(d) to be architectural resources within a 0.25-mile radius around the project area; and

WHEREAS, four of the residential units (C102, C104, C106, and L101) located in the APE have been identified as contributing resources to the Historic District; and

WHEREAS, CBP has determined there are no below-ground archaeological resources within the APE; and

WHEREAS CBP has, in consultation with the Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), performed due diligence in exploring alternatives to demolition; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.5(d)(2), CBP has determined that the Undertaking will have an adverse effect to the Historic District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.6(c) the adverse effects to the Historic District due to the Undertaking cannot be avoided or minimized and therefore CBP is entering into this Memorandum of Agreement (agreement) with the Texas Historical Commission (SHPO); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (Agreement) is to ensure further compliance with Section 106 and proper mitigation of the adverse effects; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2)(ii) CBP has invited the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, the Comanche Nation, and the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma to participate in this agreement due to demonstrated historical interests in the APE and they have declined to participate; and

WHEREAS, CBP has consulted with SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c); and

WHEREAS, CBP has notified SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) of its finding of adverse effect, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6(a)(1); and the Council has declined to participate but requests that pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6(b)(1)(iv), this Agreement be filed with the Council at the conclusion of the consultation process; and

WHEREAS, CBP and SHPO are the “Signatories” to this Agreement, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6(c)(1)(i);

NOW THEREFORE, CBP and SHPO, as Signatories to this Agreement, have agreed to the following measures, which shall be carried out to satisfy CBP’s obligations under 36 CFR 800.6 for the resolution of adverse effects to the Historic District.

STIPULATIONS

To the extent of its legal authority CBP, in coordination with SHPO, shall ensure that the following measures are carried out:

I. DOCUMENTATION

- A. CBP will document the four residential units (C102, C104, C106, L101), as outlined below. Work shall be conducted in accordance with the standards and procedures set forth by the Historic American Building Survey (HABS). The documentation will satisfy a modified version of HABS Level III.
 1. CBP shall digitally photograph the four residential units to be demolished. A minimum of eight (8) photographs per building, to show each façade and interior views, and at least two (2) photographs that show the entire cluster will be taken at a minimum of 1,200 x 1,600 pixels. The photography shall comply with the requirements of the National Park Service’s policies of the 2013 *National Register Photo Policy Factsheet updated 5/15/2013*. Labeled prints will not be required.
 2. CBP shall prepare written documentation for each of the four buildings to be demolished. The documentation shall include a historic context; a discussion of the architectural style and character, exterior and interior descriptions, and overall site appearance; a bibliography of sources; and any relevant supplemental data, such as copies of deeds or other property records, found during research. Measured drawings will not be required. Sketch plans will be submitted as part of

the documentation. Existing drawings, or photographs of them, will be included if available. Written documentation will be prepared to conform with HABS formatting.

3. Sketch plans for each building as well as an overall site plan will be prepared.
- B. CBP will submit a draft version of the documentation to SHPO for review and comment. The SHPO will provide CBP with written acceptance, rejection, or required revisions of the materials within 20 calendar days of receipt. CBP shall revise the documentation to reflect any recommendations of SHPO prior to the final submission.
- C. All final documentation will be printed on archivally stable 100% rag bond paper. Copies of the final submission to include the written portion and selected images, will be distributed to SHPO, up to three (3) regional libraries, and to the University of Texas at San Antonio, Special Collections Library. The regional libraries will receive the written portion and select images. Interested libraries will be identified during field investigations. CBP shall not submit the documentation to the National Park Service for inclusion in HABS.
- D. An electronic copy of the final documentation will be provided to SHPO on compact disk.
- E. Demolition or alteration of the four residential units will not commence until the final submission has been accepted by SHPO.

II. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

CBP will ensure that all historic preservation work performed by CBP, or on their behalf pursuant to this Agreement, shall be accomplished by or be done under the direct supervision of persons who meet or exceed the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualifications Standards* (48 FR 44738–44739) for History, Architectural History or Historic Architecture.

III. DURATION

This Agreement will be valid for two (2) years from the date of its execution. At the conclusion of two (2) years from the date of execution, the signatories to the Agreement may carry out a review of the Agreement in order to determine if the Agreement needs to be extended to allow for the completion of Stipulations.

IV. CHANGES TO APPROVED STIPULATIONS

CBP will notify SHPO immediately if there are proposed changes to the Undertaking or the Stipulations for the work.

V. POST-REVIEW DISCOVERIES

In the event of discovery of archaeological materials or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found during the demolition activities, CBP shall immediately stop work in the area of discovery and notify SHPO. CBP shall comply with 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b) and any other legal requirements to include consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. CBP will provide site information and a determination of National Register eligibility for the location to SHPO. The SHPO shall have 48 hours to review and concur with the determination of eligibility and any treatment needed. The SHPO shall consider the circumstances and nature of the discovery along with the redevelopment schedule to expedite the SHPO response when feasible.

VI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A. Should any party to this Agreement object at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this Agreement are implemented, CBP shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. CBP shall notify other parties to this Agreement if it believes that the objection requires additional parties to achieve resolution. If CBP determines that such objection cannot be resolved, it will:

1. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the CBP's proposed resolution, to the Council. The Council shall provide CBP with its advice on the resolution of the objection within 30 days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the dispute, CBP shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the Council and any signatories and concurring parties to the Agreement, and provide them with a copy of this written response. CBP will then proceed according to its final decision.
2. If the Council does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the 30 day time period, CBP may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, CBP shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from any signatories and concurring parties to the Agreement, and provide them and the Council with a copy of such written response.

B. Should a member of the public or other party with a demonstrated interest object to any proposed plan, the resolution of adverse impacts or sufficiency of proposed mitigation measures, CBP shall consult with the objecting party to seek to resolve the objection under Stipulation VI.A.

CBP's responsibilities to carry out all actions under this Agreement that are not the subject of the dispute will remain unchanged.

VII. AMENDMENTS

Any Signatory to this Agreement may request that it be amended, whereupon the parties will consult in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.6 to consider such amendment. This MOA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all Signatories. The amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all of the original Signatories is filed with the ACHP.

VIII. TERMINATION

If any Signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other parties to attempt to develop an amendment per Stipulation VII, above. If within thirty (30) days an amendment cannot be reached, any Signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other Signatory.

Once the MOA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the Undertaking, CBP must either (a) execute an MOA pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6 or (b) request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR § 800.7. CBP shall notify any signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

EXECUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION of this Agreement by CBP and SHPO evidences that CBP has satisfied its Section 106 responsibilities for the adverse effects to the Falcon Village Historic District.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG THE
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION,
AND THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
FOR DEMOLITION OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT FALCON VILLAGE,
STARR COUNTY, TEXAS**

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

By:  Date: 1/27/2014

Karl H. Calvo
Executive Director, Facilities Management and Engineering (FM&E)
Federal Preservation Officer

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

By:  Date: 2/6/14

Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer

ATTACHMENT A: LOCATION OF UNITS TO BE DEMOLISHED

