

El Paso County Historical Commission



2018 QUARTERLY REPORT

**FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY, FEBRUARY,
AND MARCH 2018**

**PRESENTED TO EL PASO COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018

2018 FIRST QUARTER MEETINGS

- The Commission conducted regular meetings on January 9, February 13, and March 20, 2018
- All three Commission meetings made quorum
- Seven of the nine standing committees conducted meetings during this quarter
- Complete information including Commission meeting minutes and committee reports as agenda attachments are available online

2018 FIRST QUARTER MEETINGS

- The Commission's main focus during these three months were
 - Historical marker dedications
 - ✦ Marker dedications held at Chamizal for Estela Portillo Trambley Marker and at the Tornillo Bridge for the Fabens-Casetas Marker
 - Establishment of a Special Committee for the Oñate Crossing/Hart's Mill/Old Fort Bliss site
 - El Paso County's pending grant application for work on the Oñate Crossing site
 - Need for archeological investigation of Duranguito

SUMMARY OF JANUARY MEETING

- The Commission met on January 9 with 19 commissioners present
- The Commission received reports from the following committees: Administration, Archeology, Architectural Preservation, Finance, Markers, Outreach and Publicity
- The Commission reviewed the draft of the revised bylaws
- Jose Quiñones provided Commissioners an update on the county's work on Casa Ronquillo

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY MEETING

- The Commission met on February 13 with 16 commissioners present
- The Commission received reports from the following committees: Administration, Archeology, Finance, Markers, Outreach, and Publicity
- The Commission discussed the need to reconstitute the committee for the Oñate Crossing/Hart's Mill/Old Fort Bliss site
- The Commission received information on the upcoming historical marker dedications at the Chamizal and the Tornillo Bridge

SUMMARY OF MARCH MEETING

- The Commission met on March 20 with 21 commissioners present
- This was the first meeting for the four new commissioners appointed this year
- Three of the four new commissioners (Nancy Gonzalez, Brian Kanof, and Harry Kirk) were present and introduced themselves and were welcomed to their fellow commissioners
- The Commission received reports from the following committees: Administration, Archeology, Finance, Markers, Outreach, and Publicity
- The chair reviewed the annual report submitted to the Texas Historical Commission
- The Oñate Crossing/Hart's Mill/OFB Committee was reconstituted and made a Special Committee with reauthorization on December 31, 2020 with a vote of 21-0

SUMMARY OF MARCH SPECIAL SESSION

- A Special Session was held at 3 pm on March 20 before the regular meeting
- This session was led by EPCHC Commissioner Mark Calamia to present information on the need for an archeological investigation of Duranguito
- Presenters included Elia Perez, Professor David Romo, Centennial Museum Director Daniel Carey Whalen, and EPCHC Commission Prince McKenzie

THANK YOU!

- **Janine Young, Chairperson**
- **Mark Howe, Chairman of Archaeology Committee**
- **Mark Calamia, Co-Chairperson of Markers Committee**

TORNILLO - GUADALUPE (FABENS - CASETA) BRIDGE : A History to a Dedication

EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MARK L. HOWE



International Boundary & Water Commission
United States and Mexico

United States Section



Est. 1889

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Contexts of the 2004 MOA

- *WHEREAS, the Department of State, proposes to issue a Presidential Permit to El Paso County (County) for the construction of a new six-lane International Bridge approximately 1,950 feet upstream of the existing Fabens-Caseta Bridge (also known in International Boundary and Water Commission records as the Tornillo-Guadalupe Bridge and hereinafter referred to as FabensCaseta Bridge), in Tornillo, El Paso County, Texas; and*
- 1.The County proposes to document the Fabens-Caseta Bridge to Level II, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Standards.
- 2.The USIBWC will provide the County the historic information it owns to assist in the development of the Historical Documentation report.
- 3.The USIBWC will coordinate with the SHPO and shall ensure that all mitigation documentation is completed and accepted by SHPO prior to commencement of the demolition of the existing bridge.
- 4.Within 90 days after the demolition of the existing bridge, the USIBWC will submit a complete application for an official Texas Historical Subject Marker in accordance with SHPO provisions. If the marker is approved, the USIBWC will install the marker within 90 days of receipt of SHPO approval.



Fabens – Caseta Bridge (October 31, 2013)

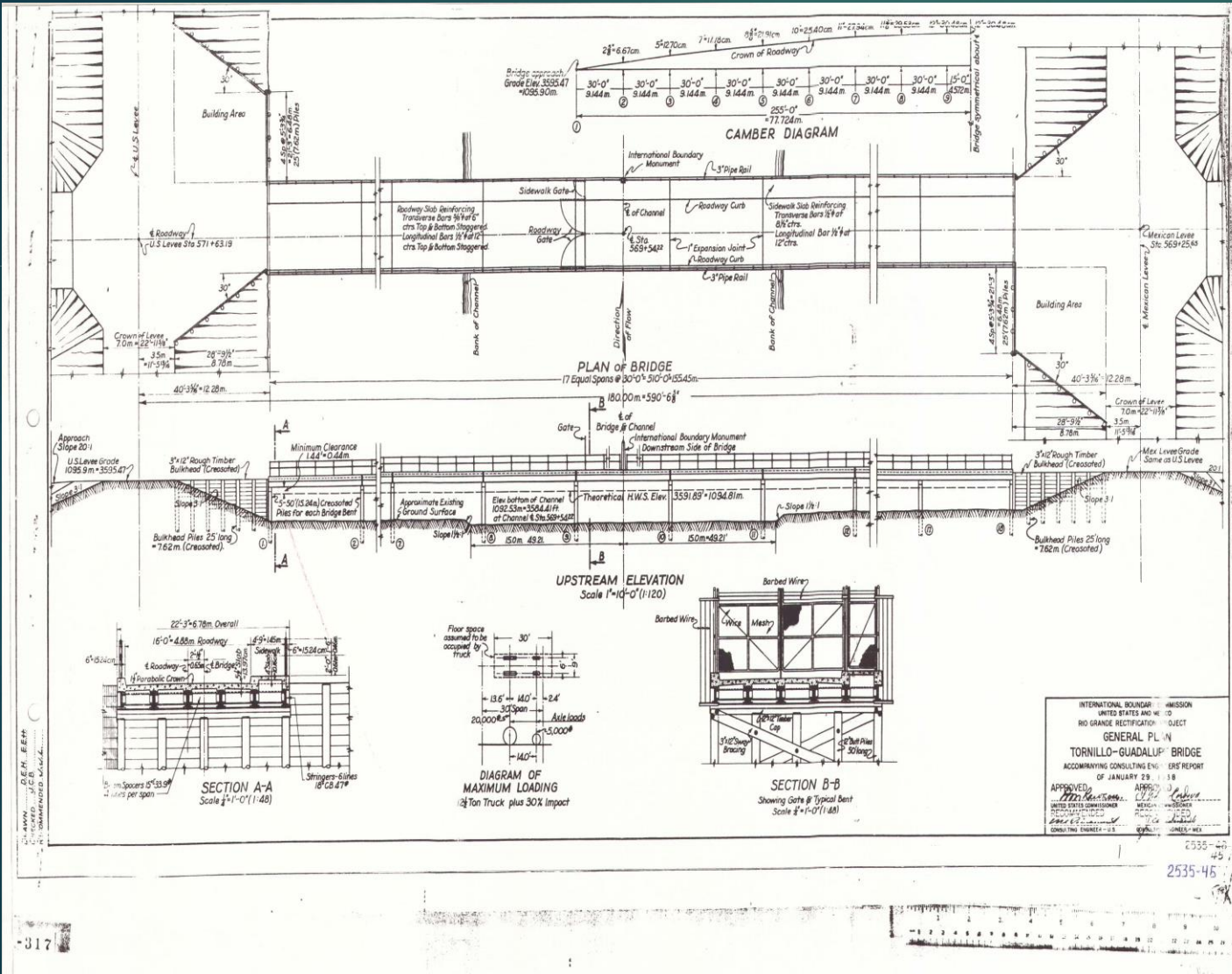
History of the Bridge

TORNILLO-GUADALUPE (FABENS-CASETA) BRIDGE

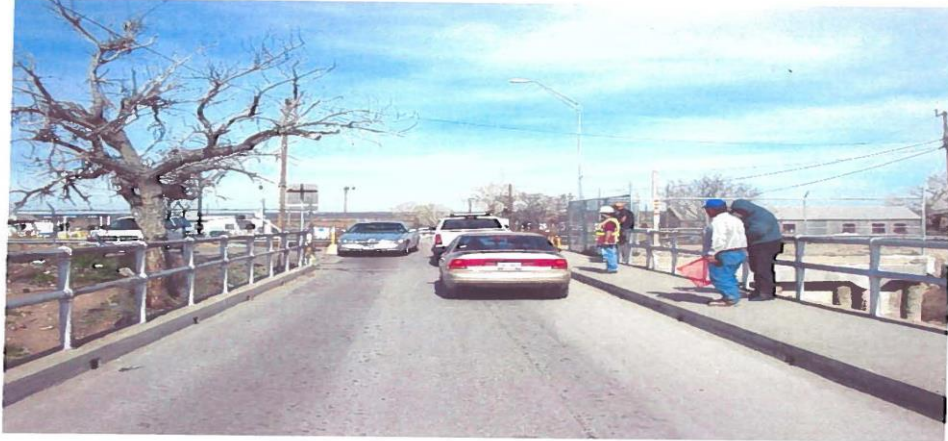
▶ THE TORNILLO-GUADALUPE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE, KNOWN LOCALLY AS THE FABENS-CASETA BRIDGE, ENCOURAGED TRADE AND COMMERCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO FOR SEVENTY-EIGHT YEARS (1938-2016), PROVIDING A SYMBOLIC AND PHYSICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND MEXICAN CULTURES. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED A HALF MILE SOUTHWEST OF THIS LOCATION IN 1938 AS PART OF THE RIO GRANDE RECTIFICATION PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION. IT WAS DEMOLISHED IN 2016. THIS BRIDGE, ALONG WITH ITS SISTER BRIDGE LINKING FORT HANCOCK, TEXAS, WITH EL PORVENIR, CHIHUAHUA, WERE CORNERSTONES OF THE RECTIFICATION PROJECT STRETCHING FROM EL PASO, TEXAS, TO LITTLE BOX CANYON SOUTH OF FORT QUITMAN, TEXAS, IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO OF FEBRUARY 1, 1933. THE AUSTIN BRIDGE COMPANY OF DALLAS CONSTRUCTED THE BRIDGE FROM MARCH 14 TO JUNE 30, 1938, FOR \$31,000. IT WAS THE LAST STRUCTURE OF THE RIO GRANDE RECTIFICATION PROJECT.

▶ THE PURPOSE OF THE RECTIFICATION PROJECT WAS TO PROVIDE FLOOD PROTECTION TO URBAN, SUBURBAN AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AND TO STABILIZE THE FLOOD-PRONE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY LINE IN THE EL PASO - JUÁREZ VALLEY. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY STRAIGHTENING THE MEANDERING RIO GRANDE CHANNEL AND CONSTRUCTING FLOOD CONTROL LEVEES IN BOTH COUNTRIES. A LARGE - SCALE ENDEAVOR, THE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE RECTIFICATION PROJECT PROVIDED 3.8 MILLION MAN - HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE MIDST OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

▶ THE FABENS - CASETA BRIDGE WAS A SIGNIFICANT EXAMPLE OF A STEEL I-BEAM BRIDGE THAT EMBODIED THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF 1930s - ERA BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION.



1. Replacement was needed due to age and traffic congestion.
2. It was too small for two lanes of modern traffic.



LIMITED HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE FOR VEHICLE PASSAGE
LOOKING NORTH

VIEW 11



TYPICAL SPAN PROFILE & GATES
LOOKING SOUTHEAST

VIEW 12

STRUCTURE NO.: 24-116-0311-06-013
EI PASO DISTRICT - HUDSPETH CO. (116)

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TORNILLO-CASETA INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE
INSPECTION DATE 2/9/2005

Tornillo-Guadalupe (Fabens) International Bridge Inspection
April 2, 1997



East View of Abandoned U.S. Port-of-Entry Building



Structural Detail Showing Minor Corrosion of Beam

Documentation for HABs / HAER



FABENS-CASETA INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE
(TORNILLO-GUADALUPE BRIDGE)
Island-Guadalupe Road over Rio Grande
El Paso County
Texas

HAER No. TX-3399

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Texas Historical Commission Monument Dedication: March 21, 2018



Top Left: EPCHC Chair
Janine Young



Bottom Left: TX State
Representative Mary E.
Gonzalez



Left: USIBWC
Commissioner Edward
Drusina



EPCHC Commissioners and
County Economic
Development Officials



It is important to continue our mission to preserve and protect our Cultural Resources and to remember what was once there. I hope this presentation has been informative and educational on a small aspect of the grand history of El Paso County, Mexico and the United States. Thank You.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Chamizal National Memorial



El Paso County Historical Commission Estela Portillo Trambley Interpretive Marker Dedication 2.24.2018

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Speakers at Marker Dedication Ceremony 2.24.2018

Speakers at the dedication program were Janine Young, chair of the El Paso County Historical Commission; Dr. Mark A. Calamia, cultural resources program manager of Chamizal National Memorial; Tracey Trambley, daughter of Estela Portillo Trambley; and Dr. Yolanda Chávez Leyva of the Department of History at the University of Texas at El Paso.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



ESTELA PORTILLO TRAMBLEY

ESTELA PORTILLO TRAMBLEY (1926-1998), AN EL PASO NATIVE, WAS AN AWARD-WINNING FICTION WRITER, PLAYWRIGHT AND POET KNOWN FOR HER VIVID PORTRAYALS OF STRONG AND INDEPENDENT MEXICAN AND MEXICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN TEXAS AND ITS BORDERLANDS. RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE FIRST "CHICANO RENAISSANCE" AUTHORS, TRAMBLEY EARNED BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO. SHE TAUGHT HIGH SCHOOL IN EL PASO FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, INCLUDING OVER TWO DECADES AS A TEACHER OF HOME-BOUND STUDENTS. AN INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED AUTHOR, SHE LECTURED EXTENSIVELY AT UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

TRAMBLEY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARTS AND TO HIGHER EDUCATION ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF EL PASO'S ARTISTIC LEGACY. SHE WAS CO-FOUNDER OF LOS POBRES, A BILINGUAL THEATER IN EL PASO. HER PLAYS PREMIERED IN MANY THEATERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE CHAMIZAL NATIONAL MEMORIAL THEATER AND THE CHICANO THEATER OF EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE. IN 1972, TRAMBLEY BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO WIN THE PREMIO QUINTO SOL, A PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY PRIZE RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF CHICANO AND CHICANA AUTHORS. IN THE 1960s, SHE HOSTED "STELLA SAYS," A POLITICAL RADIO SHOW. SHE ALSO DIRECTED AND WROTE "CUMBRES," A TELEVISION CULTURAL PROGRAM, IN THE 1970s.

TRAMBLEY CONTRIBUTED TO CHICANA LITERATURE IN ITS FORMATIVE YEARS AND WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR MANY WRITERS WHO FOUGHT GENDER STEREOTYPES. "LOOK AT ALL THE WOMEN IN MY STORIES," TRAMBLEY TOLD AN INTERVIEWER IN 1982. "THEY'RE VERY INDEPENDENT. THEY CREATE THEIR OWN UNIVERSES. THEY ARE VERY... THEY ARE NOT DOWN BY RULES AND REGULATIONS."

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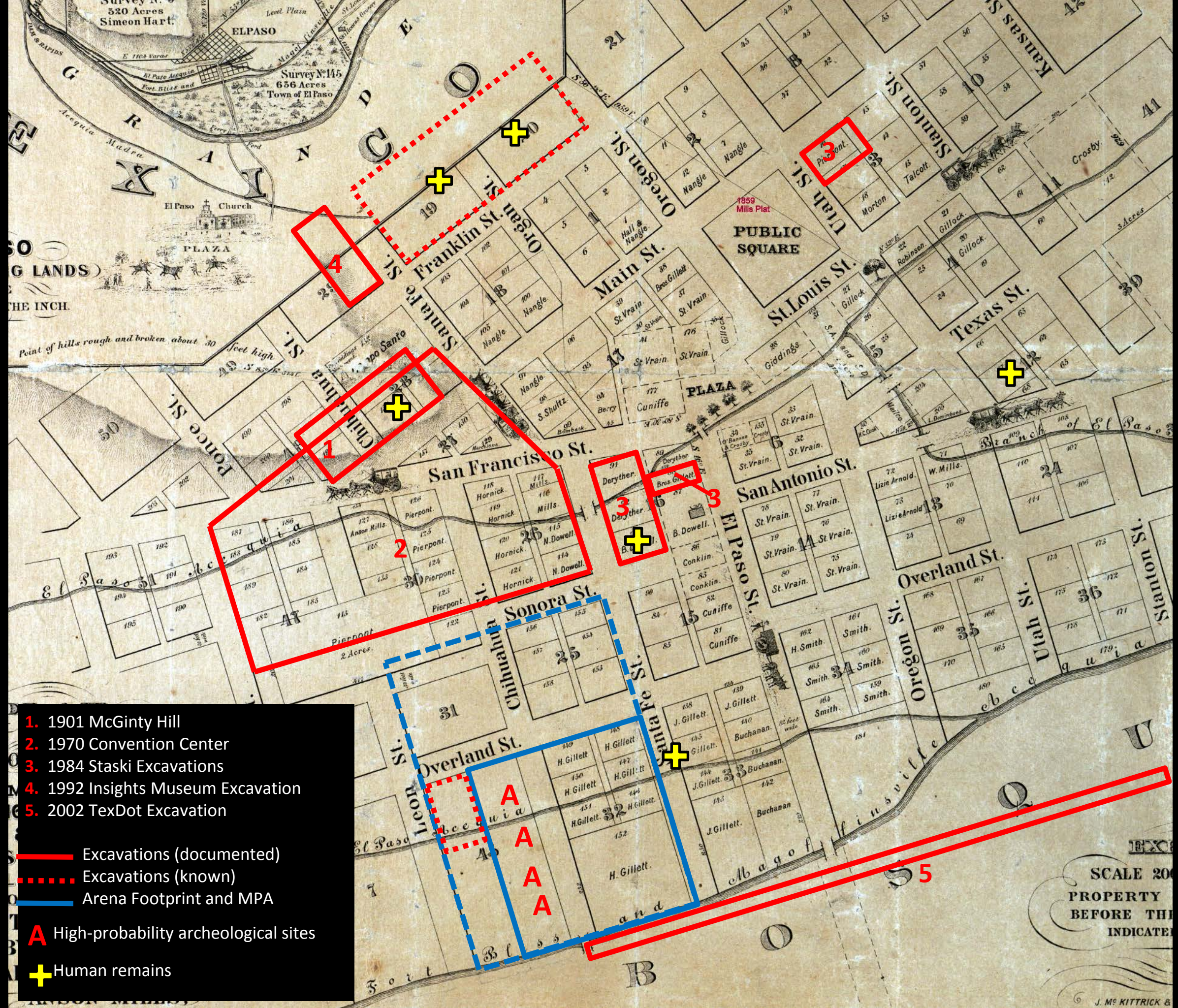
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MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

[2014]

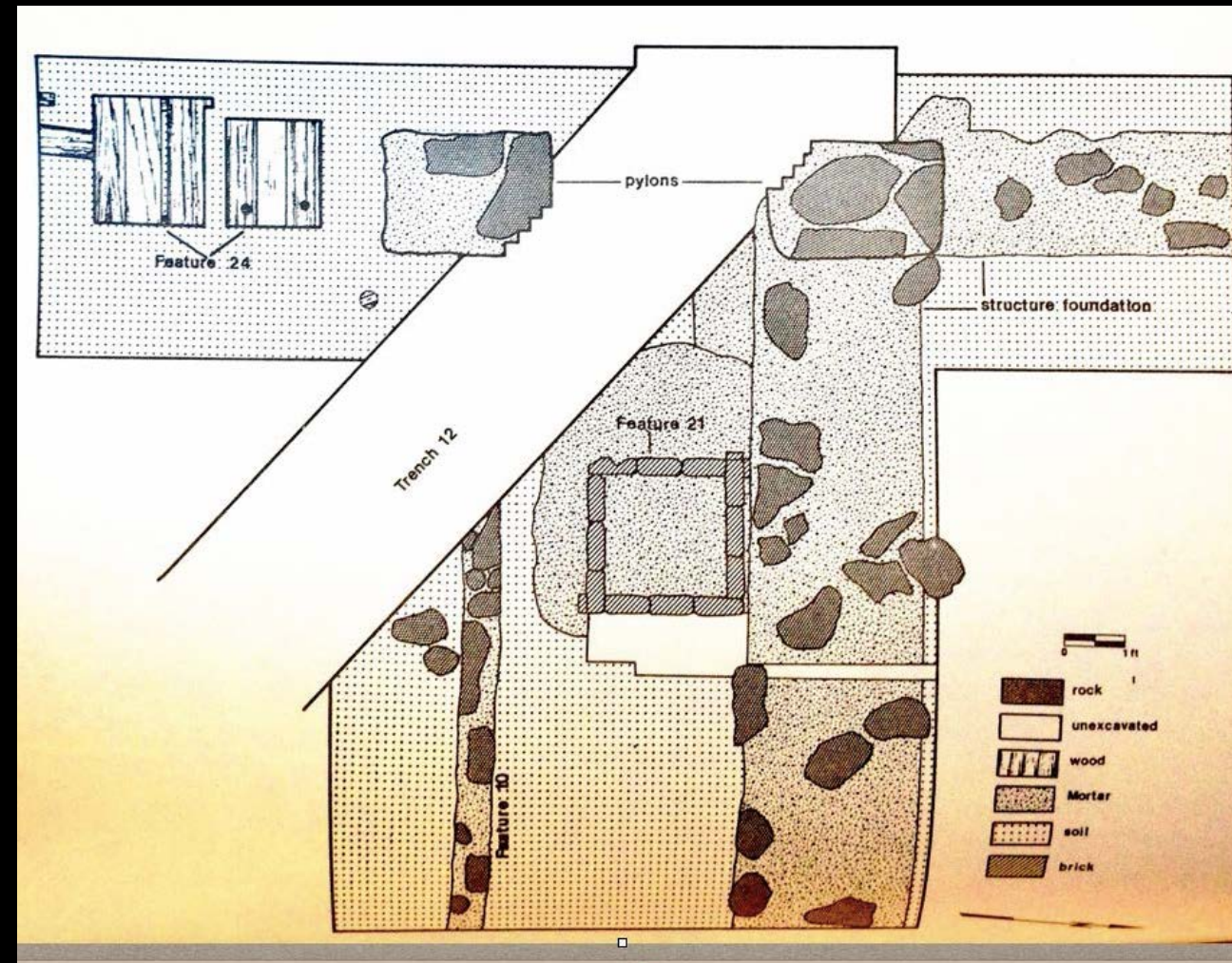
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

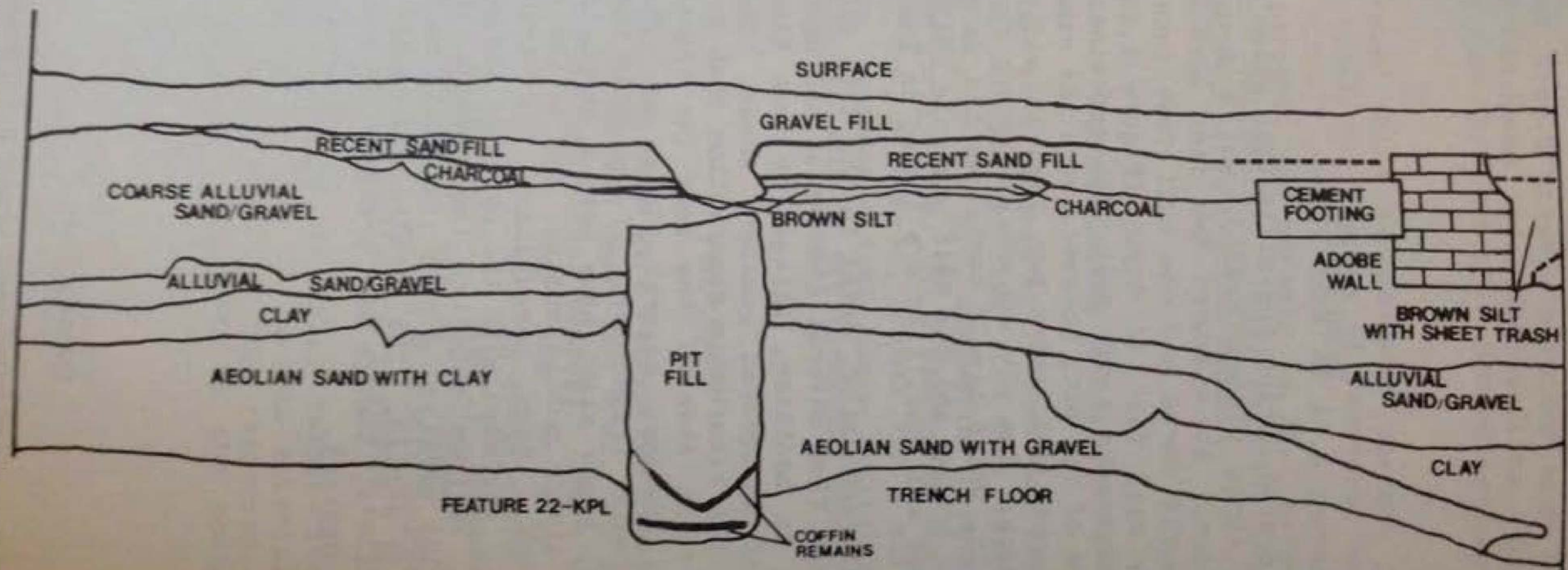


Cortez Site, Edward Staski, NMSU 1984



- Staski: Kohlberg Parking Lot Archaeological Survey, 1983





HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS (SANTA FE & SAN FRANCISCO STREET)

"...at the bottom of the KPL-22 were the remains of a wooden coffin that measured just under two feet in width and just over three feet in length. The pit was dug for the purpose of burying this coffin, which itself contained the partial skeleton of one and one half to two and one half years old. ...Includes with the bones in the coffin were eight buttons, three clay marbles, special glass bauble, and two .30 plus caliber bullet shell."

—Beneath the Border City: Urban Archaeology in Downtown El Paso, p. 195

CONFEDERATE CEMETERY IN DURANGUITO

