

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Texas
COUNTY: Kleberg
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 1 1974

H/S E 669260 E 669480 E 669190 E 669380
 N 3038690 N 3038310 N 3038510 N 3038800

1. NAME

COMMON:
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Dunn Ranch, Novillo Line Camp

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: S of Corpus Christi in Padre Island National Sea shore
 (See continuation sheet)
 CITY OR TOWN: Corpus Christi vicinity CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 15th District - Texas
~~Padre Island National Seashore~~
 STATE: Texas CODE: 48 COUNTY: Kleberg CODE: 273

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. AGENCY

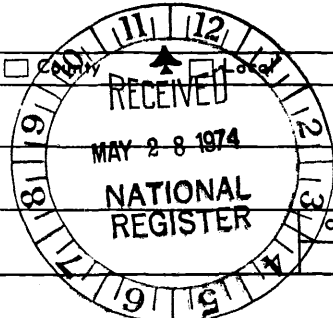
U. S. Government, National Park Service, Department of Interior
 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Southwest Regional Office
 CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe,
 STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 728
 STATE: NM, CODE: 35
87501

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kleberg County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Kingsville
 CITY OR TOWN: Kingsville STATE: Texas CODE: 48

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved
 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Novillo Line ~~camp~~ underwent some changes during the long period of its use. These changes were occasioned mostly by changing techniques, such as the introduction of trucks for the transporting of cattle. Thus, one may see truck loading chutes, a windmill, etc., which were not part of the line camp at its beginning, but which were added through the years as techniques changed. Novillo remained a viable part of the Padre Island cattle industry from the time Pat Dunn first established his ranch in 1879 until the cattle raising industry was phased out in 1971, and remains in appearance just as it was left at that time.

With the exception of the windmill, which Pat Dunn did not use, but which was introduced by his son Burton Dunn after his father's death, and the loading chutes, which were introduced along with trucks after WW II, the basic elements of the line camp have remained the same. They consist of the traps, holding pens, corrals, two bunkhouses, a kitchen, and a windmill and tank.

The two bunkhouses are the only completely enclosed structures. These are of board and batten construction, with pitched roofs covered with corrugated metal roofing. They are constructed on piers, with the floors being about two feet above grade, presumably to keep the floors dry and sound due to the extremely high water table, and also to provide some protection against snakes. The kitchen is an open structure, consisting of a pitched roof of wood planks supported by posts. It served primarily as shelter from sun and rain. The pens were generally fenced wood plank rails on posts, while the traps were fenced with barbed or woven wire. The conditions of these structures vary from good to deteriorating.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1879

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Novillo is the best single remaining artifact of the primary historical land utilization activity on Padre [Island], namely, cattle raising from 1805 to 1971. ... Novillo documents and graphically illustrates a level of man's historical interaction with the island's environment. Novillo is a symbol of man's adaption of an agricultural economic form to Padre Island."¹

Ranching on Padre Island began with the Spanish, was continued during the period of Mexican ownership, and came into the hands of Anglo-Americans after the establishment of the Republic of Texas. In 1879, Patrick Dunn moved from the Texas mainland and began his ranching operations. He eventually acquired almost all of Padre Island.

Ranching on the island had features unusual to the Texas cattle-raising industry. Because of the environment ~~no heavy brush grew on the island~~, thus this major obstacle and hazard did not have to be contended with by the cowboys. Perhaps more significant, no fencing was required as the entire range was surrounded by water which provided a natural barrier for the cattle. This removed considerable expense which almost all cattlemen faced with the end of the open range system in the late nineteenth century.

The unusual length of the island meant that cattle could wander south more than a hundred miles from the ranch headquarters near the island's north end. To operate in these particular circumstances Dunn built his line camps at fifteen-mile intervals along the upper (north) portions of the island. Novillo was his northernmost line camp and it is the only one which remains generally intact.

As a part of the plains cattle industry, the ranching activities on Padre Island and other nearby islands involved environmental features unique to the industry. The Novillo line camp, as the chief remnant of this activity within the park area, has considerable interpretive potential and represents a ranching effort which because of its uniqueness, has local and regional significance.

¹ James W. Shiere, "Padre Island National Seashore, Historic Resource Study," p.73.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Shiere, James W., Padre Island National Seashore, Historic Resource Study, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1971

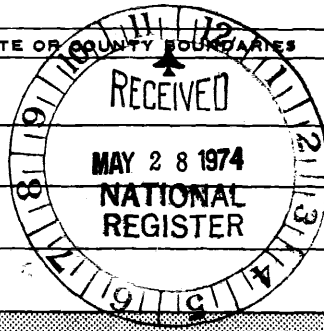
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	27°	27'	51"	97°	17'	09"			
NE	27°	27'	46"	97°	16'	58"			
SE	27°	27'	33"	97°	17'	05"			
SW	27°	27'	38"	97°	17'	16"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 22

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Historian** DATE: **Feb. 1974**
David G. Battle, Historian, Architect, Richard W. Sellers,
 BUSINESS ADDRESS: **National Park Service, Southwest Region**
 STREET AND NUMBER: **P. O. Box 728** PHONE: **(505) 988-6501**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe, New Mexico** STATE: **New Mexico** CODE: **35**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

Paul O. Jacob
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

Paul O. Jacob 5/78/74
Federal Representative Signature Date
Active REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Al R. Neustetter
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/1/74

ATTEST:

Wm. R. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9-25-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
KLEBERG	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 1	1974

(Number all entries)

2. LOCATION

The Novillo Line Camp is located near the east shore of Padre Island N. S. approximately 2.2 miles south of the north boundary along the access road and approximately 0.2 mile east along a Shell Oil Co. service road.



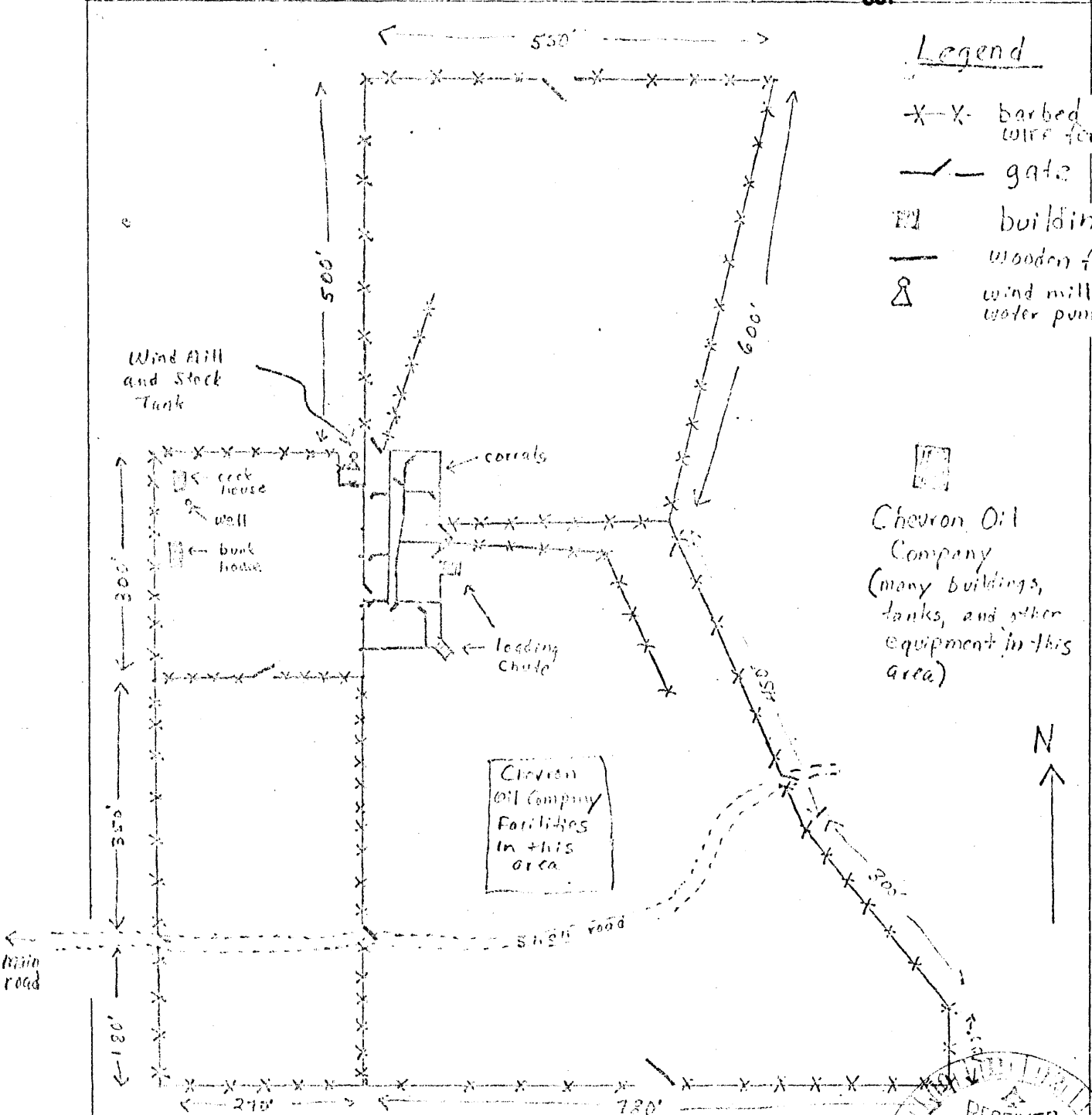
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Legend

- X-X- barbed wire fence
- /— gate
- ▭ building
- wooden fence
- ⊙ wind mill
water pump



Chevron Oil Company
(many buildings,
tanks, and other
equipment in this
area)

NOVILLO LINE CAMP
Padre Island National Seashore
1" = 200 ft.

(distances are approximate)

sketch by James Arnott

